

Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum

2025 Bit, Spur & Rawhide Romal Reins Contest

Rules and Guidelines

The 2024 Bit, Spur & Rawhide Romal Reins Contest makers have the first right of refusal to enter the 2025 contest. If a maker forfeits their spot, the first completed application including received payment will be accepted and will fill the vacant spot. Entry fees are non-refundable. All bit, spur, and rawhide maker bios and photos are to be uploaded with the 2025 entry form. Entries should be dropped off or mailed to the museum: 542 Commercial St., Elko, NV 89801. Late entries postmarked after November 10, 2024, will not be accepted for the contest.

ENTER THE CONTEST → <https://cowboyartsandgearmuseum.org/2025-contest/>

The 2025 Gear Museum Contest will include:

- Bits: 15 professional/5 amateur
 - Entry fee is \$250, split between museum and contest purse
- Spurs: 5 professional/5 amateur
 - Entry fee is \$250, split between museum and contest purse
- Rawhide Romal Reins: 10 professional/5 amateur
 - Entry fee is \$150, split between museum and contest purse

All bit, spur, and rawhide items will be professionally photographed for use on the website, auction, program, and all other media sources and outlets. Nicole Poyo Photography has graciously donated these photographs and continues to offer these professional images to the individual makers for their own marketing use for a nominal fee.

Makers will be responsible for the return shipping on any items that do not sell.

If you have questions about contest rules, please contact Erica Beck at 509-592-5444.

Rules for the 2025 Bit and Spurs Contest

This year's theme is Sinners & Saints with a lady leg cheek piece and lady leg spur band. All bits and spurs will be individually marked with the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum logo "CA". Makers are asked to mark their bit or spurs with their individual maker's mark.

Every maker will start with the same blank cheek piece or spur band and may design them in any manner they choose (inlay, overlay, steel engraved, etc.). Each maker can add or remove metal on the cheek to his or her liking. The mouthpiece styles will be chosen by the maker. Maker may add rein chains if they choose. Starting bid for all bits and spurs will be capped at \$2,500.00. In the Museum's experience, bits priced below the \$2,500.00 threshold are the first to be bid on and generally exceed the maximum threshold. **Contest entries must be postmarked by November 10, 2024!**

Rules for the 2025 Rawhide Romal Reins Contest

The 2025 rein requirements are as follows:

- Professional: 12 plait Santa Ynez, (3 strands of 4 plaits through the hand), with an Oklahoma button pattern (long knot, 4 smaller buttons, long knot etc.). The romal will be a solid 16 plait with a button pattern matching the rein. Color is the braiders choice but will be constructed from rawhide only. The rein will be 42" or bridle chain length.
 - o *Professional braiders are those who are established with many years of working rawhide to their credit*
- Amateur: 12 plait solid braid with an Oklahoma button pattern (long knot, 4 smaller buttons, long knot, etc.). The romal will be a solid 16 plait with button pattern matching the rein. Color is the braiders choice but will be constructed from rawhide only. The rein will be 42" or able to accommodate rein chains.
 - o *Amateur braiders are those with less than 5 years working towards becoming an artisan with rawhide braid work*

All reins will require the makers individual mark on the popper. Starting bid for all professional reins will be capped at \$2,000.00, and amateur reins will be capped at \$1,000.00. **Contest entries must be postmarked by November 10, 2024. Any attempt to alter entries after they are received will result in that piece being pulled from the contest/auction and returned to the maker.**

Contest Judging

Bits and spurs are evaluated by three different judges that specialize in the horse industry. All judges' decisions are final.

Categories evaluated during judging: Balance, function, visual appeal, design/detail, and finish work. No rough or sharp edges.

Rawhide reins are judged on uniformity, correct parameters, balance, and finish.

Auction

Bits, spurs and reins will be listed for sale at the price set by the maker and sold via online auction hosted by Western Trading Post. 20% of sale proceeds will be retained by the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum as a charitable donation. This is 100% deductible as a 501(c)(3) donation.

ALL MAKERS: Please keep in mind this is a fundraiser for the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum. We are a 501(c)(3) museum, and we provide this contest as a way to showcase makers and help launch or further their talents.