

SKILL OF THE MONTH

BY KAREN HOLIK

This month's exercises will focus on the weave poles. You can certainly substitute 12 poles for the 6 shown if you have the space and the extra set of poles.

STARTERS/NOVICE EXERCISES

Remember to make sure your dog is skilled in the weave poles and is confident before you start any sequencing. You should be able to recall your dog through the weave poles, send him to the end of the poles, and have him do the weaves with you on the right and also on the left. If you start sequencing too early, you might make your dog lose confidence. You want your dog to drive through the weave poles happily and with an understanding of his job.

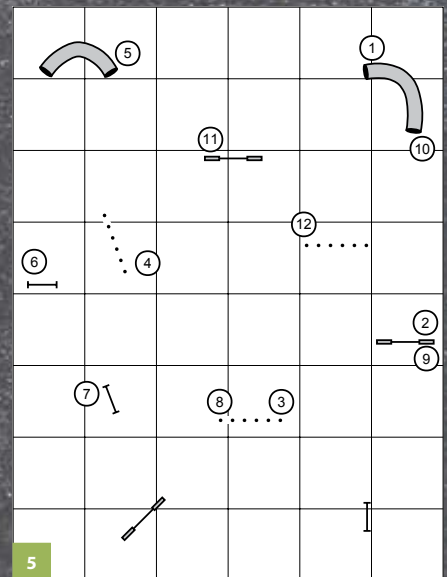
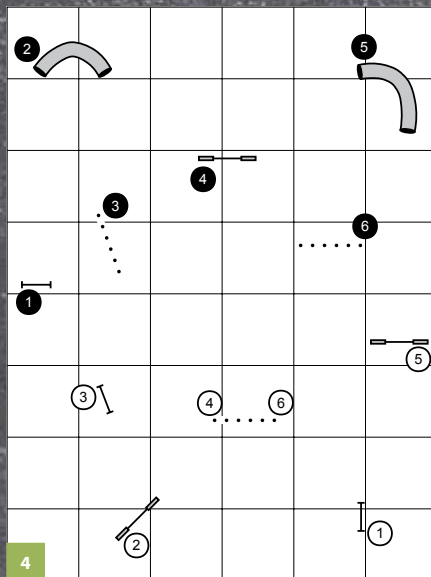
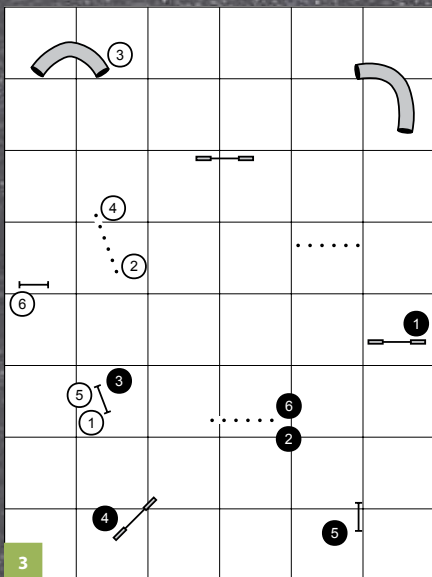
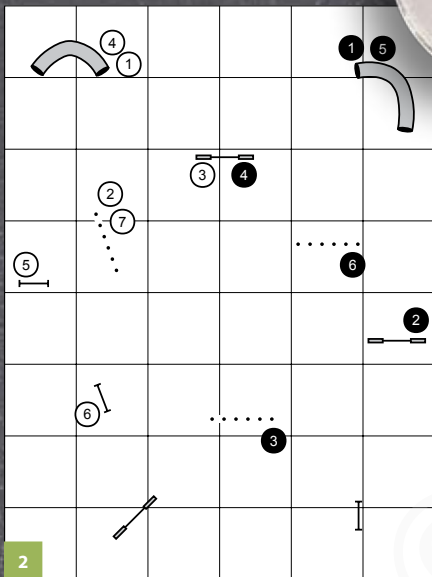
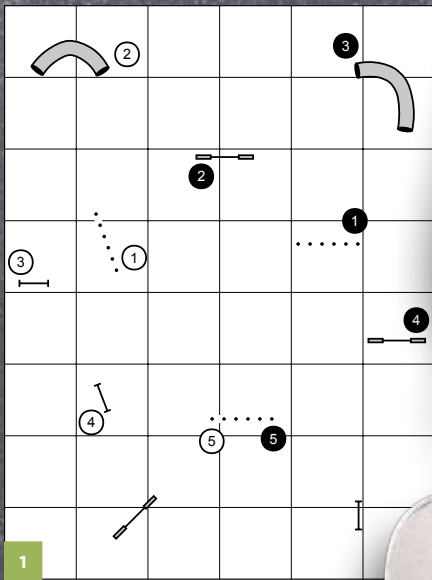


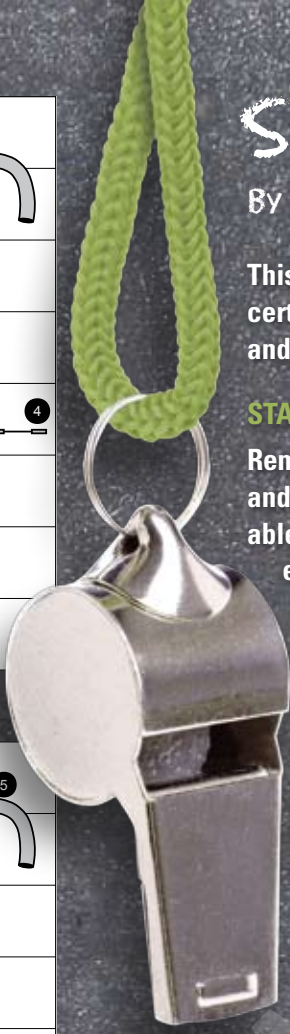
Figure 1: This sequence is fairly straightforward.

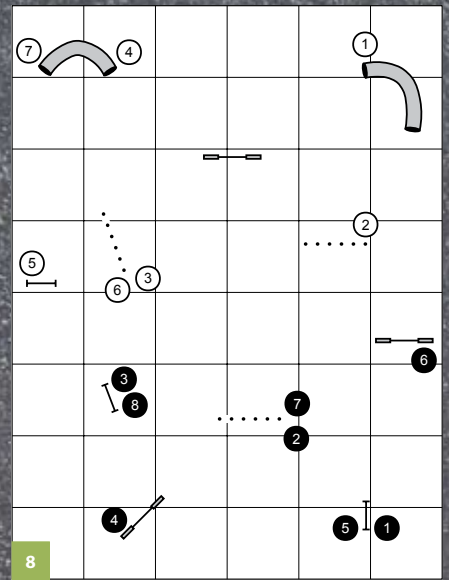
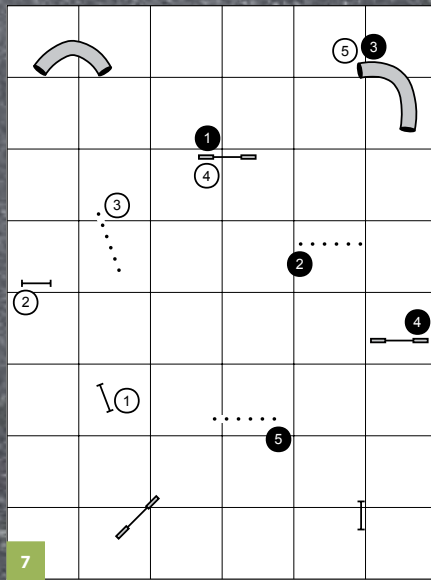
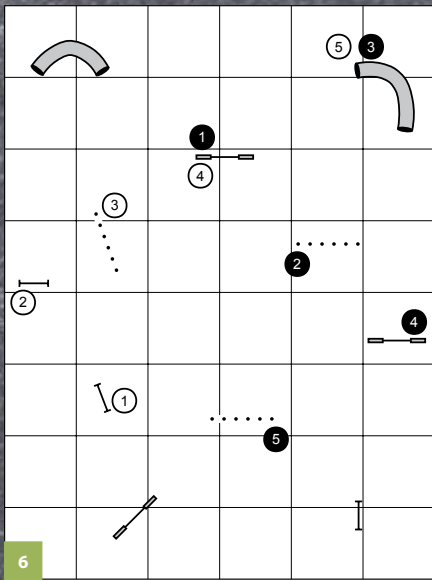
Figure 2: In this sequence the dog accelerates to the poles after tunnels and over jumps. You should try to get your dog as revved up as he would be in a trial situation.

Figure 3: You can lead out to a position by the poles or run with your dog from the start.

Figure 4: You can practice your crosses before and after the poles.

Figure 5: Have fun with your dog and see how well you have done with his weave pole training.





OPEN/ADVANCED EXERCISES

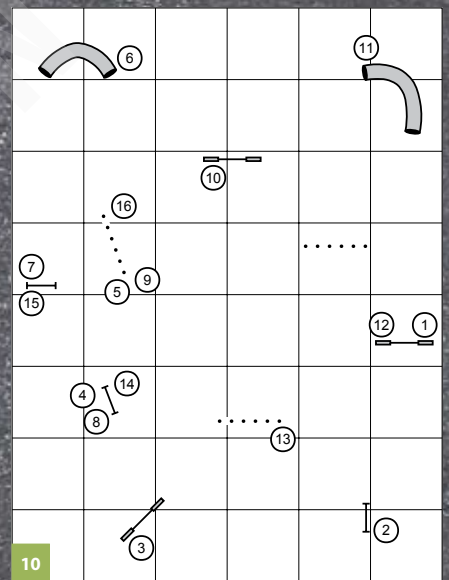
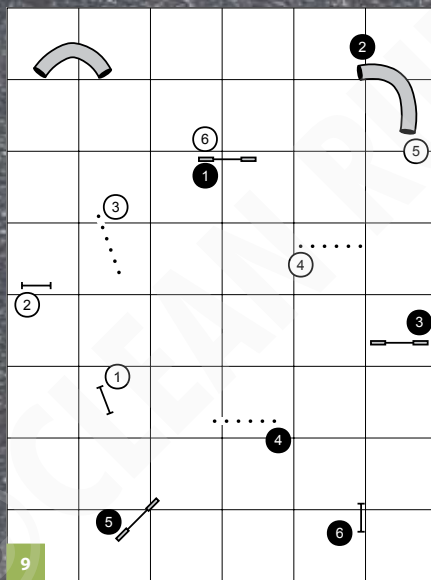
In these sequences, the entries get harder.

Figure 6: The the exit from the poles requires a cross.

Figures 7 and 8: Try starting with a lead-out and also without one (as if you were in the middle of the course). These sequences include some hard crosses/pushes after the poles.

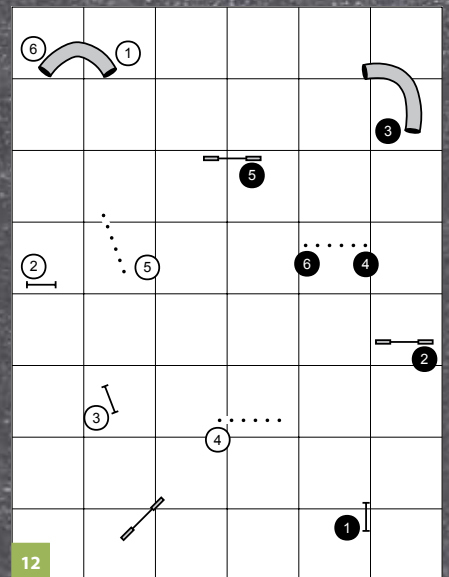
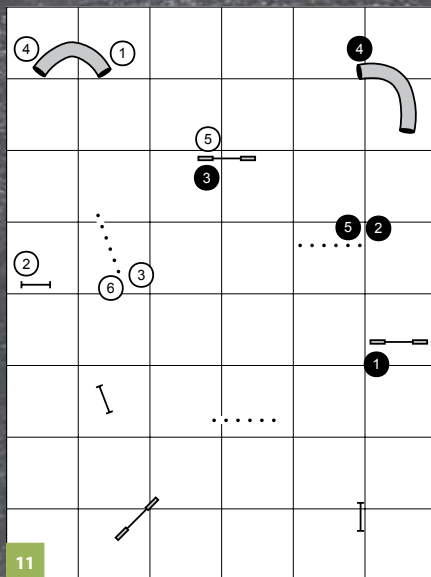
Figure 9: Try sending your dog into the #4 poles on your left and doing a rear cross before the poles to end with your dog on your right.

Figure 10: This is a fun sequence to test your training.



MASTERS/EXCELLENT EXERCISES

Figures 11 and 12: These start with some very hard weave entries. You may not see these entries at a trial, but practicing harder weave entries in training enables you and your dog to be more confident in the poles.



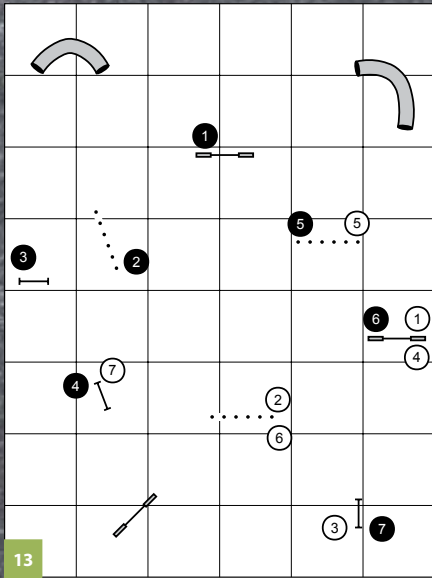


Figure 13: Try sending your dog into the #2 poles on your left and then doing a rear cross before the poles.

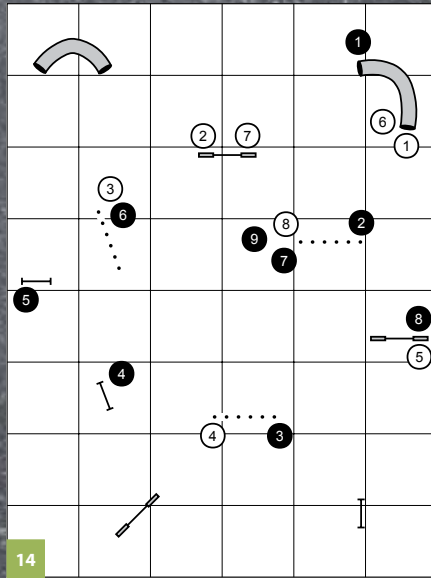


Figure 14: Try handling the white numbers with your dog entirely on your right and the black numbers with your dog entirely on your left.

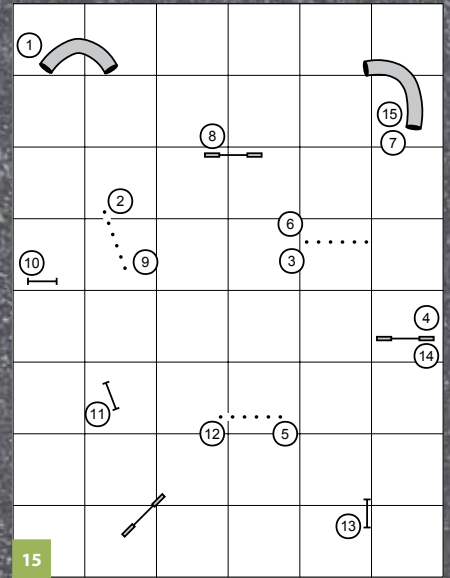


Figure 15: Have fun with this sequence! 🐾

Karen Holik, involved in agility for over 15 years as a competitor and a USDAA and AKC judge, has competed in the finals of the USDAA World Championships many times with all her dogs: two Shelties, a Border Collie, and an All-American. Her youngest dog, ADCH MACH3 Triune's Feelin Hot Hot Hot, a.k.a. Sizzle, is a four-time champion at the USDAA World Championships and a five-time member of the AKC/USA World Team. Karen offers private lessons and seminars; contact her by email at oncourseagility@comcast.net.