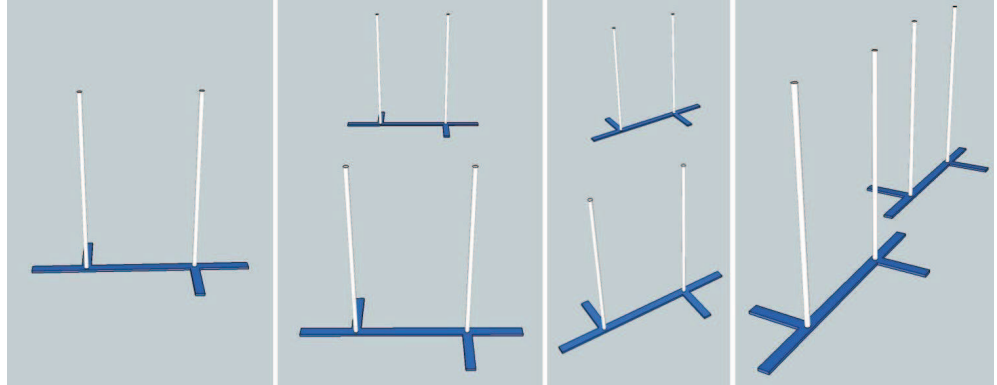


2x2

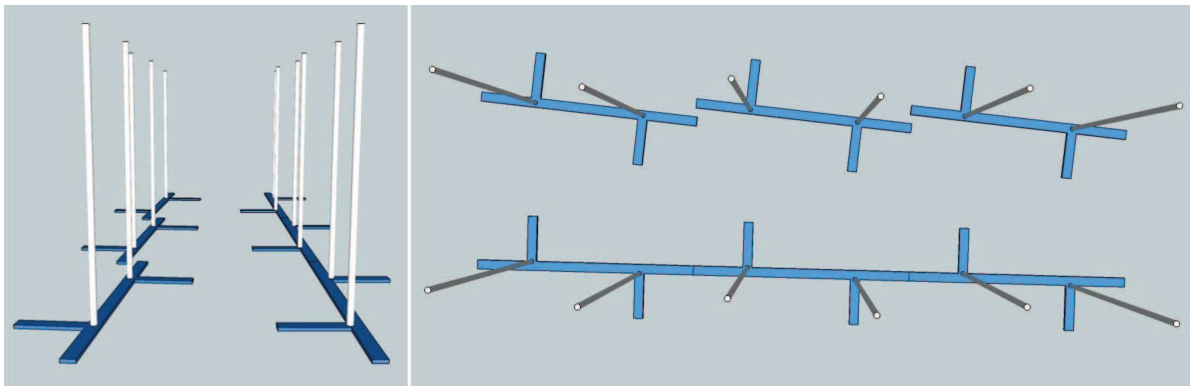
An increasingly popular method, 2x2 training has been extensively developed by Susan Garrett, Canadian agility expert. The dog starts simply with a set of 2 poles. When the dog can fly through that pair, confidently and consistently from all approach angles, then a second set of 2 poles is introduced a few strides distant from the first pair. As the dog becomes more proficient at doing two pairs in sequence, the 2-pole segments are rotated and the spacing between the pairs is diminished until the dog is weaving 4 poles in-line.



2x2 method

Dogs who learn with the 2x2 approach are usually very adept at finding the weave entry, the #1 problem for novices. And probably most importantly, 2x2 training helps teach dogs to collect their stride on entry. For many dogs, 2x2 is also a very quick and efficient way to learn how to do an entire regulation set of 12, correctly and with speed. Moving from 4 poles to 6, then from 6 poles to two sets of 6, and finally to a fully connected 12-pole set can often be accomplished soon after the dog begins training.

At some point in the process, the 2x2 pole arrangement starts to look similar to a Channel, especially if you start your Channel training with groups of 4 or 6 poles. One difference between the two is the view of the base relative to the poles. In most Channel sets, the base is straight and uninterrupted, creating



2x2 vs Channel, same pole spacing

the main axis of the weaves from the beginning to the end of the set, as in regulation equipment. With 2x2 sets, the dog sees each 2-pole unit as an independent part of the base, and there's empty ground between them.

There are probably dogs that 'read' one arrangement better than the other. Many dogs don't even notice the base, just the poles themselves. In some competition venues, the base is covered with dirt anyway. If your dog does seem to be confused by the short 2-pole base segments during this phase of training, then a Channel set might be more helpful.