

Abstract till TeMA Hörsel 2012

Titel:

Ready-Ride: A positioning and communication system to increase the autonomy of riders with visual impairment/deafblindness

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Abstract:

Persons with visual impairment/deafblindness (DB) have difficulties to get information about their position in a riding arena. They have to get information tactually, which is difficult from distance. A personal assistant is often walking at the side of the horse. Sending the positional information and different commands from distance would increase the autonomy of DB rider. The standard position code (11 letters) can be transmitted to a series of vibrations and used to define the position.

In an automatic version of Ready- Ride the position of the rider in the riding arena is determined using IR camera. The rider is informed about her/his position via vibrators anchored in a west mapped as the letters in arena.

The manual version of Ready-Ride consists of two mobile parts, sender and receiver. The instructor can send commands, left, right, forward by pushing on corresponding button on the sender part. The fourth button on the sender can be used to send different commands e.g. Good, Stop, Continue and position letter.

The receiver part is constructed by four vibrators, which can be placed where the rider is comfortable.

The manual system has been tested by three DB riders and is routinely used by one.