

PAUL PEARMAN

# Buckle Up

Artist Paul Pearman makes art for your hips with wickedly stylish mosaic belt buckles.

By Sonny Williams • Photos courtesy of Paul Pearman



**“H**ave a margarita!” Paul Pearman offered as I was busy photographing him toward the end of the Augusta Futurity at his booth in James Brown Arena. What the heck, I thought. I could use a short break, and maybe a dash of tequila would even help oil the wheels of inspiration.

With his black taco hat, shoulder-length locks and stubbled chin, Pearman looks as though he would fit right in with the likes of rockers Keith Richards or Kid Rock, just a few of the celebrities who buckle up with Pearman products.

I soon found out, however, as I sipped his tasty concoction, though this gregarious artist, animated as a colt in May, exudes the personality of a partyer, Pearman is all business when it comes to his art. There is little time to roll with the jet set as he is always on the move, searching for new stones, glass, fossilized teeth and gems to use in his colorful and often whimsical creations. A single buckle can take up to 40 hours to create, depending on the intricacy of the design, and since his vibrant buckles are some of the most collected, he is assiduously making them year-round, working 16-hour days.

“I have to produce all the time,” he said. “Basically, it just turned 2010. Every piece I did for 2009 is gone.”

Even as the Augusta Futurity was winding down, Pearman was constantly moving about, busy selling his buckles. During moments of seeming respite, he would transform from a zigzagging, loquacious butterfly into something akin to a scientist, pulling his hair into a pony tail, slipping on his magnifying glasses, intently hunched over a jeweler’s bench with high-end stainless steel tweezers to micro inlay glass.

## Mosaic muse

A whirlwind of energy, Pearman’s own life is as intricately inlaid as his mosaic buckles. He holds the 1989 Guinness World Record for the lon-



Pearman is engaged in the ancient and lost art of micro-mosaic, which is the inlaying of small pieces of colored glass, tile and stone. He has reinvented the art form to create new and vibrant pieces of art, like this intricately designed butterfly belt buckle.

This life-size Glass Mosaic Horse is a Van Gogh-inspired version of the South Carolina flag. The horse was part of the project “Horseplay,” presented by the Aiken Center for the Arts and the United Way of Aiken County in South Carolina.





Pearman's buckles may consist of fossilized shells and shark teeth, moose horn, stained glass, and precious gems like opal, jasper and turquoise.

gest skateboard jump (over 26 barrels). He is also a third-degree black belt and has both state and national championship belts in amateur kickboxing.

"I've always been an athlete, but the whole time I was an athlete, I would always doodle," he said.

Pearman, 49, is originally from Bakersfield, Calif., but he moved to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga., when he was a child. His father was in the Air Force. Pearman has always been an artist of some sort, and he originally began as a painter, first working in oils.

"I did oil paintings for 20 years before I started dabbling in the glass. It's one of those things where you don't really have a choice. I've always rendered," he said.

But it was when he was inspired to cover his paintings with glass and hand-nipped tiles that his first mosaics evolved.

"I wanted to do something that looked like a painting, but it was glass," he said. "It's the mixing of mediums that can create the most elegant pieces of art."

Pearman discovered his buckle-making niche when searching for a buckle to go with a '70s vintage Tony Lama leather belt he bought at a flea market. When his search came up empty, he used his experience in making jewelry and mosaic home décor items to design his own belt buckle.

"What motivated me to make belt buckles was that I couldn't find one that I really liked," he said. "I decided I would make myself the coolest belt buckle on the planet. Then people saw it and wanted it. So I made another one and another one, and that's how it started."

Pearman has worked in mosaic art



Josh Todd (right), lead singer of the Grammy-nominated rock band Buckcherry, wears Pearman's buckles.

for more than a decade, and his abilities go far beyond belt buckles. He has created designs for residential and commercial customers, making mosaic home décor items like mirrors, kitchen back-splashes, flooring, fireplace surrounds, and home and garden accents. He has also carved foam, creating an Irish castle with stained-glass windows for his dog, Pupster.

In fact, he is now building a new art studio on Lake Olmstead, in Augusta, from the ground up, which will be designed with Pearman's inimitable vision. The building will consist of brick, rock, wood, stucco, shell and high-tech architectural foam. Some of the amenities include a round foyer, an art nouveau hand-carved door he found in Chicago and a 40-foot-wide, two-story-high window.

"It's gonna be crazy," he said. "There won't be

## Pearman's Progress

Mosaic buckle-maker Paul Pearman just completed his sixth year at the Augusta Futurity, and his booth with his uniquely crafted buckles on display always draws a crowd.

Customers buzzed around after ordering a custom-made buckle, hoping to get a peek at Pearman's progress. Part of what makes Pearman's art so desirable is that he is engaged in the ancient art of micro-mosaic, which is an art form of the Greeks and Romans using small pieces of glass, tile and stone. But Pearman has created a new school of micro-mosaic, revitalizing this lost art with his own vision.

Many people will ask for special designs or their ranch brands to be decoratively displayed, and Pearman was busy creating and selling his wares.

"The game of selling is half the fun," Pearman said. "I have loyal customers and I take care of them."

And he's sold to some pretty big names. His buckles are gaining national attention and can be found on celebrities like Cameron Diaz, Keith Richards, Steven Tyler, Kid Rock, Ronnie Wood, Faith Hill, Tanya Tucker, Amy Grant, Marty Stuart and Brad Paisley. Others who are Pearman buckle-wearers are Josh Todd of the band Buckcherry, and Patterson Hood of the Drive-By-Truckers, who are on tour with Tom Petty.

The native Augustan's buckles can take up to 40 hours to be crafted, and they come in many shapes and designs such as tooth, heart, butterfly and paisley.

The gems used include spectacular cabochons of spider-web turquoise, jasper, Australian and Brazilian opals, tiger eye, blood coral and labradorite. The recycled, reclaimed and found objects include stained glass, shark teeth, fossils, moose horn, prehistoric relics, shells, vintage jewelry and more.

No casting is used and all the metal (stainless, brass, copper) is hand-forged, including all the mechanisms.

Pearman's mosaic belt buckles are entirely handcrafted, signed and numbered by the artist. Custom design work is available. Prices vary from \$150-\$8,000, depending on the materials used and intricacy of the design.

Pearman's work can be found at [www.mosaicbuckles.com](http://www.mosaicbuckles.com) or at fine retailers like JW Cooper and Windsor Jewelers listed on the Web site. —SW

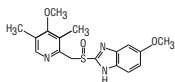


Pearman with another satisfied customer at the Augusta Futurity



# GastroGard® (omeprazole) Oral Paste for Equine Ulcers

Oral Paste for Horses and Foals  
NADA 141-123, Approved by FDA  
Caution  
Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.  
Description  
Chemical name: 5-Methoxy-2-[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl) methylsulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole.  
Empirical formula: C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S. Molecular weight: 345.42. Structural formula:



**How Supplied**  
GASTROGARD® (omeprazole) Paste for horses contains 37% w/w omeprazole and is available in an adjustable-dose syringe. Each syringe contains 2.28 g of omeprazole. Syringes are calibrated according to body weight and are available in boxes of 7 units or 72 units.  
**Storage Conditions**  
Store at 68°F – 77°F (20-25°C). Excursions between 59°F – 86°F (15-30°C) are permitted.  
**Indications**  
For treatment and prevention of recurrence of gastric ulcers in horses and foals 4 weeks of age and older.  
**Dosage Regimen**  
For treatment of gastric ulcers, GASTROGARD Paste should be administered orally once-a-day for 4 weeks at the recommended dosage of 1.8 mg omeprazole/lb body weight (4 mg/kg). For the prevention of recurrence of gastric ulcers, continue treatment for at least an additional 4 weeks by administering GASTROGARD Paste at the recommended daily maintenance dose of 0.9 mg/lb (2 mg/kg).  
**Directions For Use**

- GASTROGARD Paste for horses is recommended for use in horses and foals 4 weeks of age and older. The contents of one syringe will dose a 1250 lb (568 kg) horse at the rate of 1.8 mg omeprazole/lb body weight (4 mg/kg). For treatment of gastric ulcers, each weight marking on the syringe plunger will deliver sufficient omeprazole to treat 250 lb (114 kg) body weight. For prevention of recurrence of gastric ulcers, each weight marking will deliver sufficient omeprazole to dose 500 lb (227 kg) body weight.
- To deliver GASTROGARD Paste at the treatment dose rate of 1.8 mg omeprazole/lb body weight (4 mg/kg), set the syringe plunger to the appropriate weight marking according to the horse's weight in pounds.
- To deliver GASTROGARD Paste at the dose rate of 0.9 mg/lb (2 mg/kg) to prevent recurrence of ulcers, set the syringe plunger to the weight marking corresponding to half of the horse's weight in pounds.
- To set the syringe plunger, unlock the knurled ring by rotating it 1/4 turn. Slide the knurled ring along the plunger shaft so that the side nearest the barrel is at the appropriate notch. Rotate the plunger ring 1/4 turn to lock it in place and ensure it is locked. Make sure the horse's mouth contains no feed. Remove the cover from the tip of the syringe, and insert the syringe into the horse's mouth at the interdental space. Depress the plunger until stopped by the knurled ring. The dose should be deposited on the back of the tongue or deep into the cheek pouch. Care should be taken to ensure that the horse consumes the complete dose. Treated animals should be observed briefly after administration to ensure that part of the dose is not lost or rejected. If any of the dose is lost, redosing is recommended.
- If, after dosing, the syringe is not completely empty, it may be reused on following days until emptied. Replace the cap after each use.

**Warning**  
Do not use in horses intended for human consumption. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children. In case of ingestion, contact a physician. Physicians may contact a poison control center for advice concerning accidental ingestion.

**Adverse Reactions**  
In efficacy trials, when the drug was administered at 1.8 mg omeprazole/lb (4 mg/kg) body weight daily for 28 days and 0.9 mg omeprazole/lb (2 mg/kg) body weight daily for 30 additional days, no adverse reactions were observed.  
**Precautions**  
The safety of GASTROGARD Paste has not been determined in pregnant or lactating mares.  
**Clinical Pharmacology**  
Mechanism of Action: Omeprazole is a gastric acid pump inhibitor that regulates the final step in hydrogen ion production and blocks gastric acid secretion regardless of the stimulus. Omeprazole irreversibly binds to the gastric parietal cell's H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase enzyme which pumps hydrogen ions into the lumen of the stomach in exchange for potassium ions. Since omeprazole accumulates in the cell canaliculi and is irreversibly bound to the effect site, the plasma concentration at steady state is not directly related to the amount that is bound to the enzyme. The relationship between omeprazole action and plasma concentration is a function of the rate-limiting process of H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase activity/turnover. Once all of the enzyme becomes bound, acid secretion resumes only after new H<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase is synthesized in the parietal cell (i.e., the rate of new enzyme synthesis exceeds the rate of inhibition).

**Pharmacodynamics:** In a study of pharmacodynamic effects using horses with gastric canaliculi, secretion of gastric acid was inhibited in horses given 4 mg omeprazole/kg/day. After the expected maximum suppression of gastric acid secretion was reached (5 days), the actual secretion of gastric acid was reduced by 98%, 95% and 90% at 8, 16, and 24 hours, respectively.

**Pharmacokinetics:** In a pharmacokinetic study involving thirteen healthy, mixed breed horses (8 female, 5 male) receiving multiple doses of omeprazole paste (1.8 mg/lb once daily for fifteen days) in either a fed or fasted state, there was no evidence of drug accumulation in the plasma when comparing the extent of systemic exposure (AUC<sub>0-∞</sub>)→. When comparing the individual bioavailability data (AUC<sub>0-∞</sub>)→, C<sub>max</sub>, and T<sub>max</sub> measurements across the study days, there was great inter- and intra-subject variability in the rate and extent of product absorption. Also, the extent of omeprazole absorption in horses was reduced by approximately 67% in the presence of food. This is evidenced by the observation that the mean AUC<sub>0-∞</sub>→ values measured during the fifth day of omeprazole therapy when the animals were fasted for 24 hours was approximately three times greater than the AUC estimated after the first and fifteenth days when the horses were fed lay ad libitum and sweet feed (grain) twice daily. Prandial status did not affect the rate of drug elimination. The terminal half-life estimates (N=38) ranged from approximately one-half to eight hours.

**Efficacy**  
**Dose Confirmation:** GASTROGARD® (omeprazole) Paste, administered to provide omeprazole at 1.8 mg/lb (4 mg/kg) daily for 28 days, effectively healed or reduced the severity of gastric ulcers in 92% of omeprazole-treated horses. In comparison, 32% of controls exhibited healed or less severe ulcers. Horses enrolled in this study were healthy animals confirmed to have gastric ulcers by gastroscopy. Subsequent daily administration of GASTROGARD Paste to provide omeprazole at 0.9 mg/lb (2 mg/kg) for 30 days prevented recurrence of gastric ulcers in 84% of treated horses, whereas ulcers recurred or became more severe in horses removed from omeprazole treatment.

**Clinical Field Trials:** GASTROGARD Paste administered at 1.8 mg/lb (4 mg/kg) daily for 28 days healed or reduced the severity of gastric ulcers in 99% of omeprazole-treated horses. In comparison, 32.4% of control horses had healed ulcers or ulcers which were reduced in severity. These trials included horses of various breeds and under different management conditions, and included horses in race or show training, pleasure horses, and foals as young as one month. Horses enrolled in the efficacy trials were healthy animals confirmed to have gastric ulcers by gastroscopy. In these field trials, horses readily accepted GASTROGARD Paste. There were no drug related adverse reactions. In the clinical trials, GASTROGARD Paste was used concomitantly with other therapies, which included: anthelmintics, antibiotics, non-steroidal and steroid anti-inflammatory agents, diuretics, tranquilizers and vaccines.

**Diagnostic and Management Considerations:** The following clinical signs may be associated with gastric ulceration in adult horses: regurgitation or decreased appetite, recurrent colic, intermittent loose stools or chronic diarrhea, poor hair coat, poor body condition, or poor performance. Clinical signs in foals may include: trismus (grinding of teeth), excessive salivation, colic, cranial abdominal tenderness, anorexia, diarrhea, sternal recumbency or weakness. A more accurate diagnosis of gastric ulceration in horses and foals may be made if ulcers are visualized directly by endoscopic examination of the gastric mucosa.

Gastric ulcers may recur in horses if therapy to prevent recurrence is not administered after the initial treatment is completed. Use GASTROGARD Paste at 0.9 mg omeprazole/lb body weight (2 mg/kg) for control of gastric ulcers following treatment. The safety of administration of GASTROGARD Paste for longer than 91 days has not been determined.

Maximal acid suppression occurs after three to five days of treatment with omeprazole.

- Safety**
- GASTROGARD Paste was well tolerated in the following controlled efficacy and safety studies.
  - In field trials involving 139 horses, including foals as young as one month of age, no adverse reactions attributable to omeprazole treatment were noted.
  - In a placebo controlled adult horse safety study, horses received 20 mg/kg/day omeprazole (5x the recommended dose) for 90 days. No treatment related adverse effects were observed.
  - In a placebo controlled tolerance study, adult horses were treated with GASTROGARD Paste at a dosage of 40 mg/kg/day (10x the recommended dose) for 21 days. No treatment related adverse effects were observed.
  - A placebo controlled foal safety study evaluated the safety of omeprazole at doses of 4, 12 or 20 mg/kg (1, 3 or 5x) once daily for 91 days. Foals ranged in age from 66 to 110 days at study initiation. Gamma glutamyltransferase (GGT) levels were significantly elevated in horses treated at exaggerated doses of 20 mg/kg (5x the recommended dose). Mean stomach to body weight ratio was higher for foals in the 3x and 5x groups than for controls; however, no abnormalities of the stomach were evident on histological examination.

**Reproductive Safety**  
In a male reproductive safety study, 10 stallions received GastroGard Paste at 12 mg/kg/day (3x the recommended dose) for 70 days. No treatment related adverse effects on semen quality or breeding behavior were observed. A safety study in breeding mares has not been conducted.

**For More Information**  
Please call 1-888-637-4251 and please visit our web site at [www.gastrogard.com](http://www.gastrogard.com).

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## PAUL PEARMAN



Pearman's buckles are unique and often whimsical, taking on a variety of shapes and subject matter.

a square edge or flat line in the entire house. The inside of this house will look like a gigantic open area. It will just flow, from stucco to glass to wood.”

## Those killer buckles

At first glance, Pearman's buckles possess the characteristics of an impressionistic painting, with fluid, dynamic curvilinear designs and vibrant brushstrokes. On closer observation, the natural forms of shells, fossilized shark teeth, stones and gems provide an organic and timeless dimension.

“Buckles are something you gotta put in your hand,” Pearman said. “You need to feel them, feel their weight, to truly appreciate them.”

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Pearman uses recycled and found objects for his buckles. He attends a variety of shows to gather materials, and he's made the trip for the last five years to the Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase, known as the world's largest treasure hunt, where vendors from around the world display

everything from precious gems to mastodon tusks, and other more unusual finds.

“It's the biggest fossil and gem show on planet Earth,” Pearman said. “You can buy a Tyrannosaurus rex. One actually sold there three years ago,” he said.

Apparently, a farmer found the bottom jaw of the T. rex after a flood washed over his property. He hired some archeologists to dig it up, reassemble it and put it on the open market.

“Some of the ammonites, fossilized nautilus shells, turn into solid opal, and some of them are gigantic. The big ones that are intact, they keep them in the bedrock, and they expose the pretty half when they cut into it. You'll have a 495-pound opal. It's killer,” Pearman said.

Pearman has been attending the Augusta Futurity for six years, and he also displays at national shows such as the American Craft Council Show in Atlanta, one of the most distinguished fine craft shows in the United States. He has also hosted trunk shows at prestigious boutiques in Los Angeles, New York, Dallas and Nashville.

Pearman's partner in his thriving business is his wife of six years, Michele, and he credits her with the business acumen necessary to make the buckles move. Dark-haired and businesslike, Michele moves with quiet assurance behind the scenes, and is the yin to Paul's yang.

“She is instrumental. Without Michele, none of this would happen,” Pearman said. “She's making me this huge book of all my designs. I've learned so much about design over the last five years. I just want to make the most beautiful pieces I can.”

I'll drink to that. ■