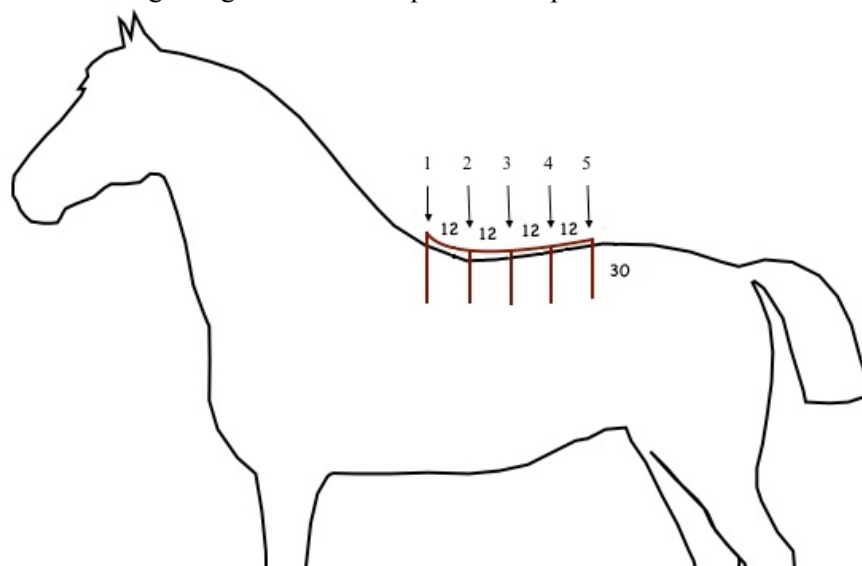


How to measure horse and rider for a custom saddle fitting

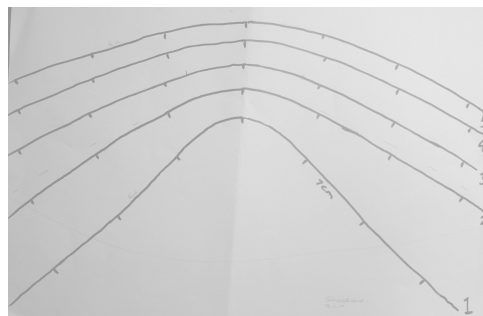
The Horse

With your horse standing flat footed on level ground, follow these steps.

1. Using soft chalk or some similar marker, draw a line down the centre of the horse's spine.
2. Commencing at the wither just behind the scapular where the front of the tree should lie, mark a series of 5 transverse lines at right angles across the spine line. Space these lines at intervals of 12cm.



3. Take a 60cm long strip of a flexible material that will hold a bend and mark the 12cm intervals on it. (Domestic mains electrical wiring is quite good for this as the white insulation is easy to mark.)
4. Bend it until it follows the contour of the spine with full contact along its length. Note where the rib cage ends.
5. Lay the wire on a suitably large piece of paper and draw along it, clearly marking the ends and intervals, and where the rib cage ends.
6. Mark the centre of the strip and 5cm intervals out from that centre in another colour.
7. Bend it until it follows the contour of the first transverse line with full contact along its length.
8. Draw that contour on the paper with the 5cm intervals and number it.
9. Repeat the previous two steps with each successive transverse line, drawing all on the one sheet of paper, and numbering them 1 to 5 front to rear. Example at right.



If you have used a modern, off-the-rack saddle, please also tell me what size fitted best.

The Rider

For earlier military saddles, especially Age of Chivalry war and jousting saddles, we must ensure that there is sufficient space within the high pommel and cantle boards for the rider and his equipment. Hence:

1. Measure around the person's hips just above groin level. This should be done over the armour, if that is expected to be worn. Mark the number on the size sheet.
2. Using the wire as for the horse's back, bend it to match the curvature of the riders rear along the line just measured, once again over the armour if necessary. Again, trace this curvature onto a suitable piece of paper.

Send the information to

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