



DOUBLE DIAMOND EQUINE/EQUIMapping

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How to make a template tracing of your animals back:

Please follow these simple instructions using a simple “flexible curve or ruler” found in most office supply stores for around \$10.00, or another option is a piece of electrical “romax” wire about 18” long. Either one, fold it in half and mark the center with a permanent felt marker, and on one end R for right, L for left. You’ll also need light colored cardboard such as file folders opened up, and a pen to “scribe” the shape on the cardboard. It helps to have two people so that one can help to hold the shape of the curve while you shape the other side.

You’ll need a helper: your helpers job is to keep the horse four feet on the level floor, it’s head straight ahead not turned, no resting cocked hoof in the rear, straight body, head in a natural travel position. If it is a high headed horse then place your whole hand under the throat latch and lift up. Horses are not too happy about this but it will give a more accurate read of the back.

Begin by marking (with a piece of tape or chalk) the back side (round) of the scapula. The scapula back side is shown with a **blue line** in the photo on the right below. Some animals have a hollow area on the back side of the scapula, which makes it easy to find. Other animals have a flat scapula making it hard to find. If you have difficulty, have your helper pick up the front hoof, you’ll then feel and see the round scapula more easily. Mark the back side of the scapula on both sides with white chalk or a piece of tape on each side (see blue line on photo).

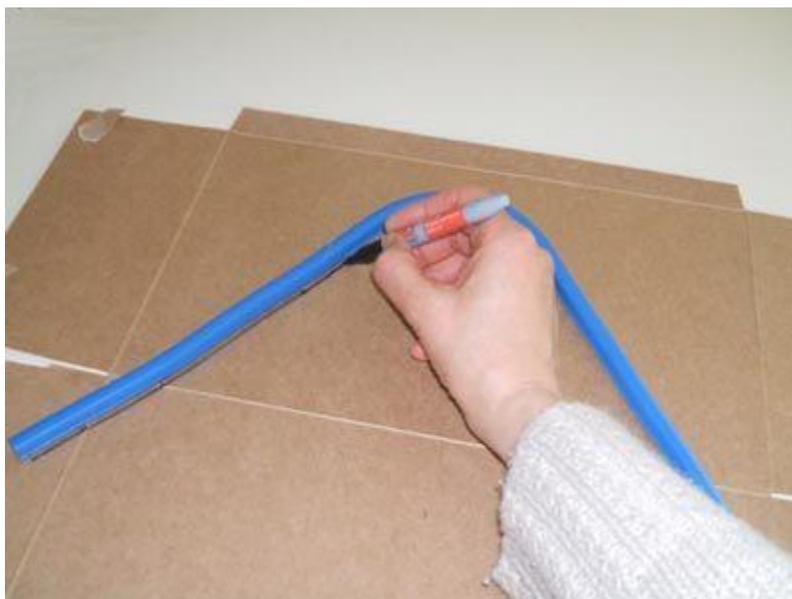




#1 Then move two fingers IN FRONT of the back of the scapula marking, and put tape piece #1. You can now remove the marking of the back of the scapula. Do the same on the other side of the animal. Although our saddles do not sit way up over the shoulder it is important to see how large the shoulder is compared to the flatter area behind the shoulder. Some horses have a deep dip behind the shoulder.

#2 Then, in 4" intervals heading to the rear of the animal, mark with tape on both sides of the animal #2, #3, #4, #5. You may need to ask your helper to be sure you are directly across before you place the tape on the right side of the animal. The tape #1-5 are not curved, they are perpendicular to the ground as in the photo above.

#3 Then take your flex ruler or Romax wire, bend it in half, put R on the right and L on the left, put the center at the center of the horses spine (#1 is often up and over the wither) at #1 TAPE and mold it to the shape of the animal on both sides. It helps to have your helper press from the right while you press from the left side. Lift it up straight (it should keep that shape) and lay it on the cardboard. Mark #1 and L/R and trace the inside edge of the ruler. Try it again to be sure the shape is correct. It should be perpendicular to the ground, straight down not at an angle. Repeat this same process at #2, #3, #4, #5.



#4 The “topline”. The topline is not actually along the spine. It is 4” down from the spine from tape #1 to the end piece of tape. On the back, measure 4” down from the spine and mark a 4” spot on the tape that is on the animals back already. Using your flexible piece of wire, mold it to that shape along the back. It will be a gentle long dip. Place the front of the ruler/romax at #1 to start. It is a horizontal tracing from front to back. This is #6 tracing. You only need to do one side of the animal for this one with the exception of fat packs that some long ears have, in which case do both sides and mark right/left.

You should be sending a total of 6 tracings on cardboard, or file folders. Leave space between each tracing so I can cut them out and the writing also needs to be close to each tracing. On the cardboard write you name, date, and horses name.

#5 Photos: Helper keeping the animal square, all feet on the ground, straight and absolutely no head turn:

- Side photos: your entire animal with no saddle or tack, from each side standing back far enough head to toe shot,
- Neck to the rear photos: standing at the neck aiming toward the shoulder toward the rear (both sides and braid the mane if it’s at all in the way)
- From above photo: Helper stands the animal, you are at the rear with the camera, standing above. Some ideas might be standing on a fence, standing on the tailgate of the truck, etc. It’s very important that the horse be standing straight and level for the photos as well as the tracings. Braid or rubber band the mane so it’s off the shoulder area. Turning the head very much changes the shape.

#6 Videos: A short video taken with a handler at the head walking the animal. Start video as the animal moves in a straight line toward you, passes you, and from behind. The photographer can move to be in front and in back as the animal passes. I’ll need this video at an energetic walk and their next gait. If you can send a video of the ridden animal that’s helpful as well to see the head height and foot fall, rider posture. This is not an equitation class so please ride (hands, feet, back) as you do normally at a walk, and gait. Straight lines, not tight circles.

Mail the tracings to the address above. Email the photos and video.

When your information has arrived we’ll make a time to discuss before taking the next step to choose a tree for your new saddle.