



Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide

Taking horse traces on your own could be intimidating but it shouldn't be! Our How to Guide provides a quick step by step process that you can follow and be done in 15-20 minutes. Use the Traces worksheet provided at the end to keep track of each measurement, see page 7:

You'll only need a few tools to make the tracings:

1. Measurement tape
2. Pen or marker
3. Sheet of or cardboard
4. Painter's tape
5. Bendable tracing "Flex Curve" or a piece of wire that will hold its shape when you bend it. Approximately 45 cm or 18" long.
6. You'll also want your horse tied, standing on a level area

Step 1: Identify the area available for the saddle as shown in the picture below, add painters' tape on both ends, measure the area available for saddle and write it down for your records. See page 6 check list.



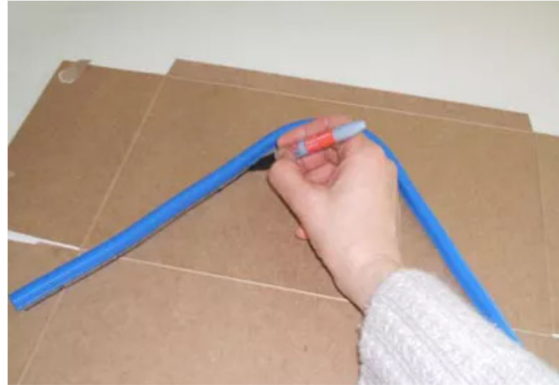
Step 2: Find your horse's shoulder blade (scapula). For the first point of measurement, you'll want the wire to lay about **two inches** behind this. Use painter's tape to mark this as your reference point for Trace #1. Bend the wire so that it lays snugly over the horse's withers against the skin. Carefully lift the wire off so it does not bend.





Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide

Step 3: Trace the shape of the wire onto cardboard. Once you've bent the wire to the shape of your horse's withers lay it down on your cardboard. Carefully, without bending it out of shape, trace with your pencil along the inside of the curve. You might want to mark this drawing **Trace #1** to know which position the tracing represents on your horse's back, also label the **right** and **left** side.

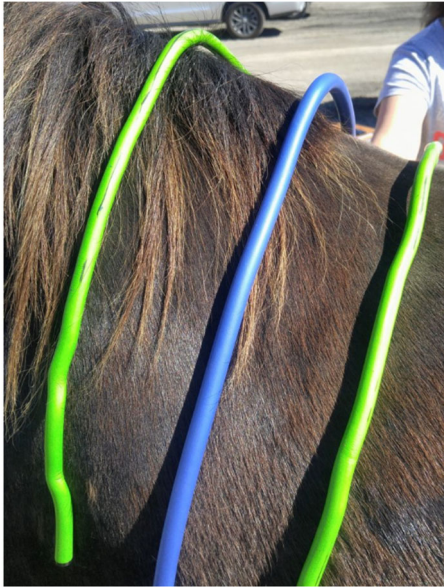


Step 4: Take two more tracings. For **Traces #2** and **#3**, make sure they are 3 inches apart from each other, use painter's tape to mark both reference points. Bend the wire so that it lays snugly over the horse's back against the skin. Carefully lift the wire off so it does not bend and repeat **Step 3**, trace both shapes of the wire onto cardboard and label the right and left side.





Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide



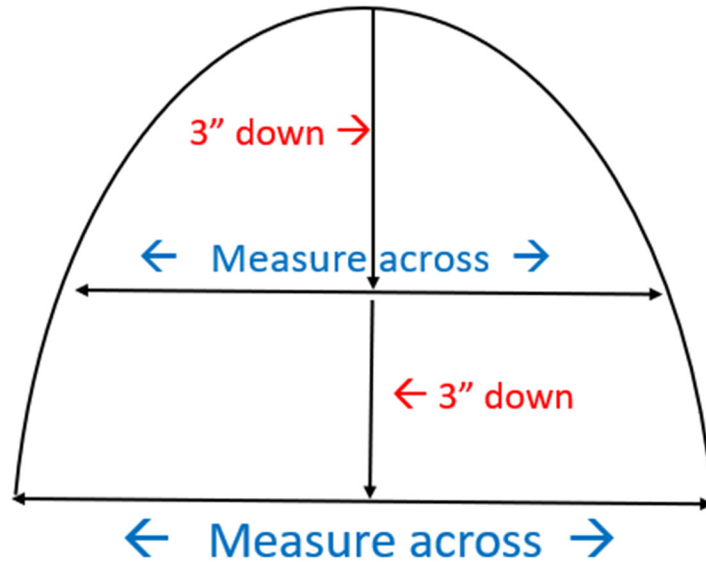
Step 5: Trace the shape of the wire onto cardboard for tracings **#2** and **#3**. Once you've bent the wire to the shape of your horse's withers lay it down on your cardboard. Carefully, without bending it out of shape, trace with your pencil along the inside of the curve. You might want to mark this drawing **Trace #2** and **Trace #3** respectively to know which position the tracing represents on your horse's back, also label the **right** and **left** side on both tracings.



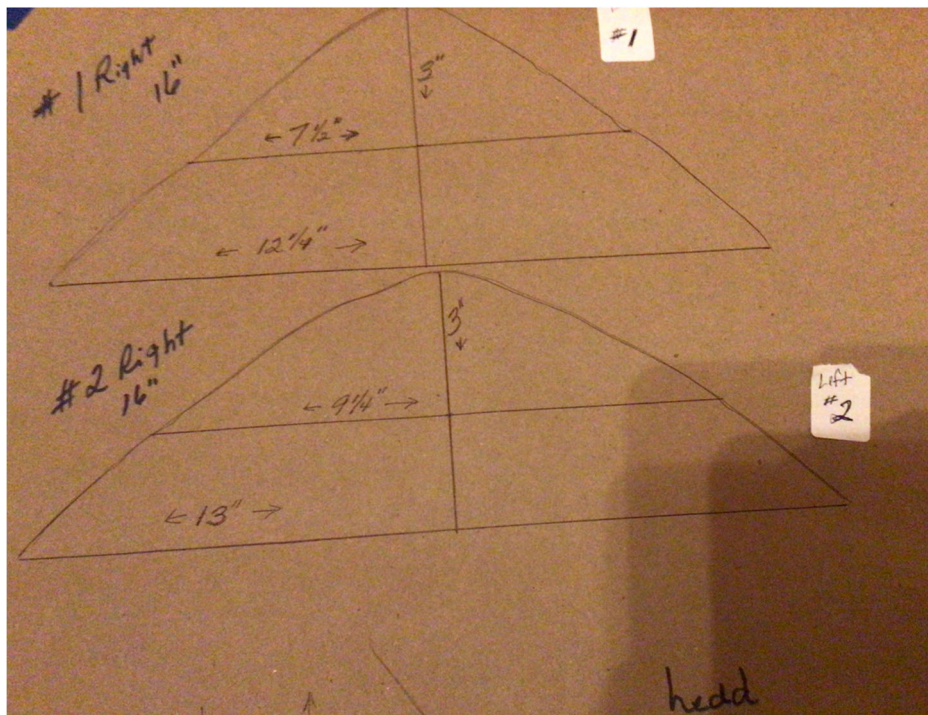


Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide

Step 5: Measurements on cardboard. Make a mark at the top of the curve of each tracing, measure down 3 inches and trace a line across. Measure across to find the gullet width. Measure 3 inches down below the first line and trace the second line, measure across one more time. Here is a sample for your reference:

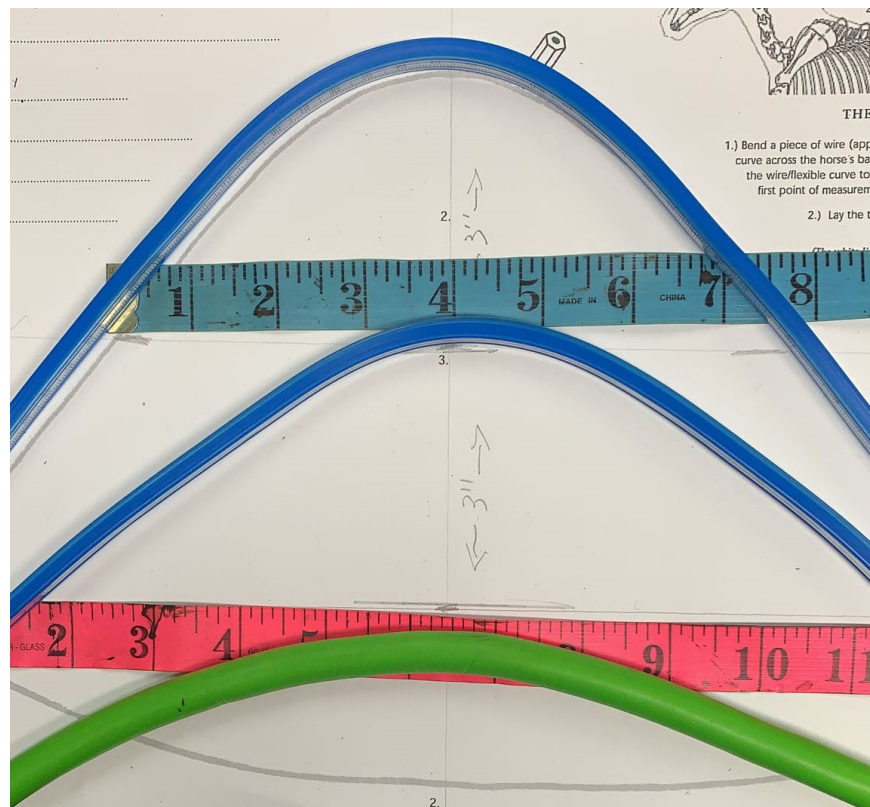
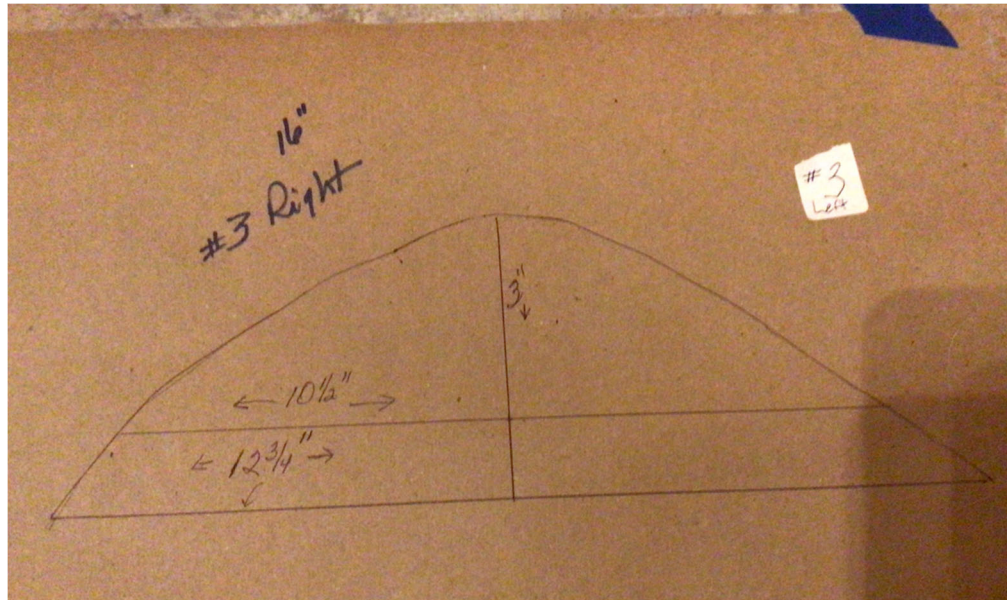


Tracings Sample:



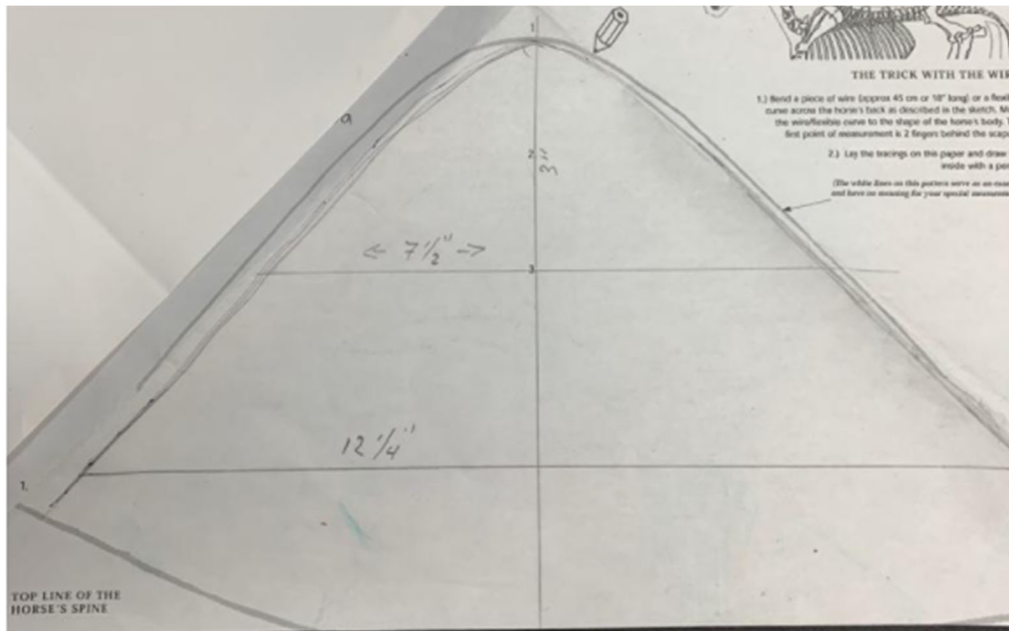


Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide

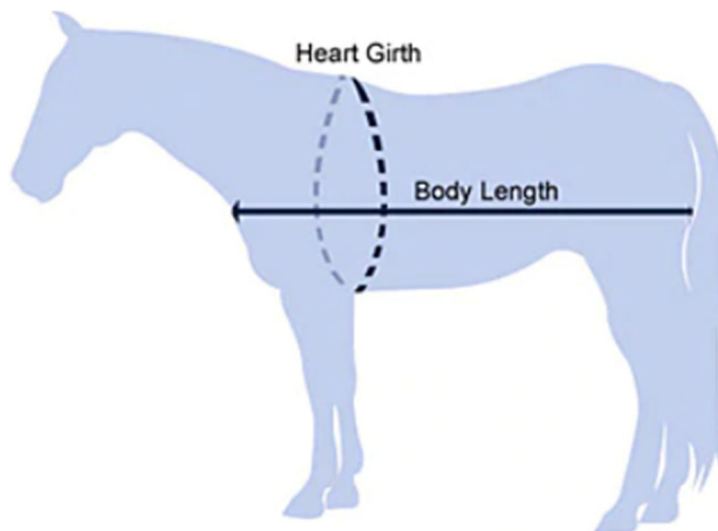




Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide



Step 5: Measure heart girth and body length as





Appaloosa Saddlery- Wither and Back Tracings How to Guide

Traces- Worksheet

Trace's date: _____

Rider's Information:

Name:			
Phone Number			
Address:			
Email Address:			
Height:	Weight:	Length of leg:	

Horse Information

Horse Name:	
Breed:	
Height:	
Build:	

Measurements Check list

1. Area available for saddle: _____
2. Trace 1:
3. Trace 2:
4. Trace 3:
5. Horse's heart girth measurement: _____
6. Horse's body length: _____

Attach pictures of the horse's topline and a good shot taken on level ground with the horse square. Photos that show the identifying painter tape marks of where you took the tracings are a bonus!