

The Original Double Cinch Goat Saddle

HOW THE TRAIL MASTER
SADDLE WAS BORN



THE MAN BEHIND THE TRAIL MASTER SADDLE

I'm Dennis Willingham from Butt-Head Pack Goat Products. Goats have been in my life since I was a kid. In the early '80s, I began my pack goat Journey. I tried the saddles on the market at that time, but they didn't measure up to my standards. I decided it would be best to create something myself. I took inspiration from other pack animal saddles. I saw double cinches being used for larger pack animals. I thought, why not try it on the goat saddle? After several trial-and-error attempts, I developed my own pack goat saddle and named it the Trail Master Saddle. One of the unique aspects of my goat saddle is it was the first double cinch design made for goats. When I first came up with the double cinch design on my goat saddles; there was a lot of skepticism about how the double cinch would be applied to goats. After many years of educating others, it's nice to see that so many have adopted the double cinch onto their goat saddles.

Both cinches on your saddle are very important

The front cinch does the job of holding the saddle in place. This is going to be your tightest cinch. This cinch is positioned just behind the goat's front legs and on its chest plate. This cinch should be snug but not super tight. You should still be able to slide your fingers in between the cinch and your goat.

The second cinch does the job of keeping the back half of the saddle from lifting off the goat's back while walking on the trail. It's important not to have the saddle bouncing and moving around on your animal which creates more work for the animals, rubbing, and saddle sores.



This cinch should be snug around your goat's body. Do not over-tighten this back cinch. It is not a girdle or corset. You are not trying to suck in his belly. You should be able to comfortably slide your fingers in between your goat's body and the back cinch.

The front and back cinches are hooked together underneath your goat. This should be about 3 inches apart on average. Some goats may require more space and others less, depending on size. I made this connection adjustable to accommodate different goat body types. This connection helps keep the cinches in their proper place.



Now, that you understand the importance of the cinches. Let's talk about what size cinch you need and how to make adjustments. A large front cinch is 26 inches and a small front cinch is 22 inches from ring to ring. The cinches should cover a fair amount of your goat's body.



The more of the canvas cinch that's touching the body the more surface area there is for holding power, this is why they don't need to be over-tight.

I like the rings anywhere from 2-6 inches from the saddle on both sides but can be higher or lower if needed to fit snugly against the body. Ideally, you're going to want to have some space to be able to tighten things up after you've been walking for a while on the trail. If the cinch is already as high as it can go, there is no room for tightening. I make the rigging adjustable so the saddle will fit your goats as they grow. Both cinches are approximately 3 inches wide and made with breathable canvas for comfort. The wide band will create less point pressure. The under part of the cinch that touches the goat's body is smooth. It's made with only minimal thin stitching to reduce rubbing.

I know this article is about cinches but we also need to talk about the rump strap. The back cinch has a strap that connects to the rump strap. This is important for holding the rump strap into its proper place, but it's also important for keeping the rear cinch from moving forward. You don't want the rear cinch to be too far forward because you lose the benefit of the rear cinch. On the contrary, you don't want the rear cinch too far back that it covers or interferes with the urinary tract.

I've Always strived to develop my saddle with your goat's comfort in mind. From the breathable canvas material that will collect fewer stickers. To the placement of the rigging and the thickness of the saddle pads that conform to your goat's shape the more they wear it. Your goat will enjoy going on new adventures with a comfortable trail master saddle.



BUTT-HEAD PACK GOAT PRODUCTS

Est. 1988



A complete line of pack goat products
Handcrafted by Dennis Willingham in
the Small town of Rough & Ready CA



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