



Lorien Stable
Equine Consulting
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Saddle Fitting
Flocking
Tack Alterations
and Repair

Website
Articles and Advice
Instruction Training
Equine Sports Massage

Using Template Measurements

- Templates (5 “triangle” and one long)
 - Chalk
 - Measuring Tape
 - Scissors
-
- Use scissors to carefully cut along traced lines of template and rocker.



- Find the “pad” or “burr” of the saddle.



- Mark an X in the center of the burr/pad on each side. (It's chalk; it'll wipe off easily.)



- Measure 4" back from the X on each side and draw a line.



- Repeat 3 more times, measuring 4" more each time. You will have 4 lines.



- Draw a line down the center of the panel/bar.

It is important to compare the left side of the horse's back to the left side of the saddle:

- Sit with the saddle in your lap, facing away from you.
- Use each template with the printed side facing you.



- Compare template 1 at the burr/pad. Make sure the line in the middle is straight up-and-down.

- If it's a GOOD MATCH:

The edges of the template should sit flat against each side.

The template should touch at the middle of the bar or panel. The bar or panel should curve away from the template on both sides.

- If it's a POOR MATCH:

When the template is flat against one side, it does not lay flat against the other.

The template does not touch at the middle of the bar/panel; instead, it touches toward the inside or outside edge.

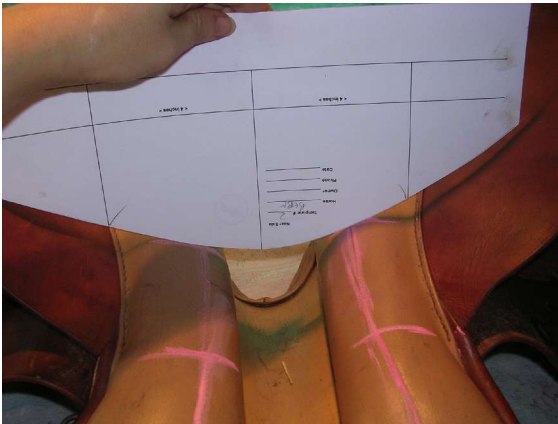
GOOD:



(touches at the middle, both sides
curve equally away)

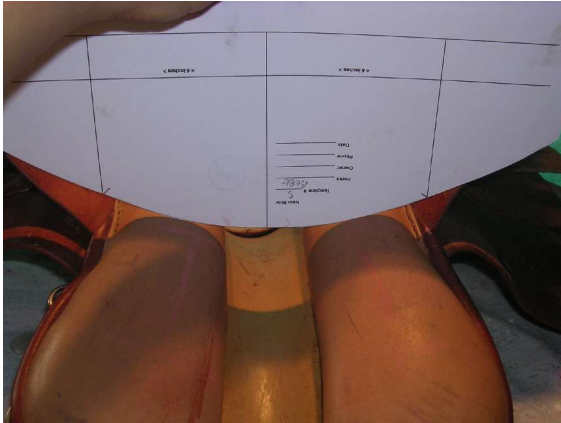
- Compare template 2 at the 2nd set of marks.

POOR:



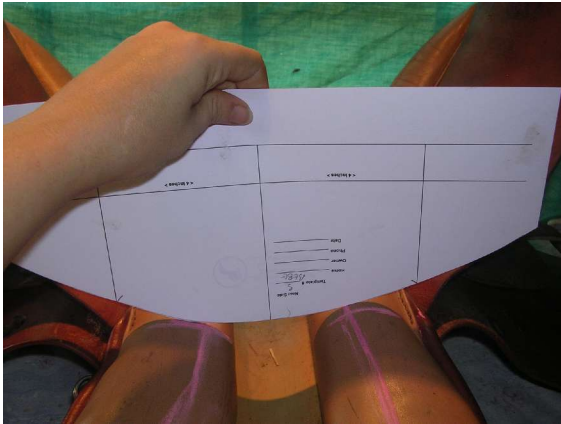
(touches too far to the inside)

GOOD:



- Compare template 3 at the 3rd set of marks.

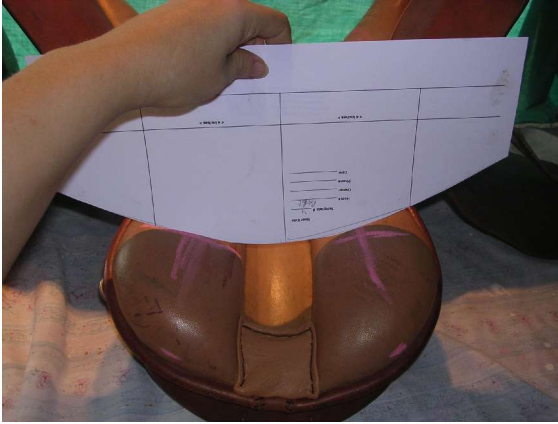
POOR:



GOOD:

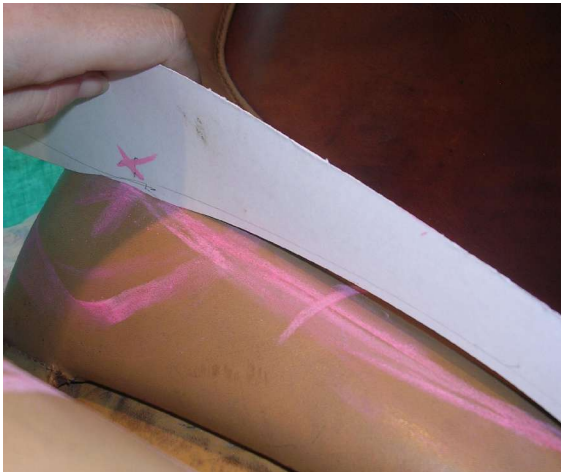


POOR:



- Compare template 4 at the 4th set of marks.

- Compare template 5 at the 5th set of marks.
Some saddles will be so short that template #5 doesn't touch. That's fine.



- Lay the long strip (rocker) across the bar or panel lengthwise. Match up the X at the front with the X at the burr/pad.
- Lay the rest of the rocker along the line down the middle of the bar/panel.

- If it's a GOOD MATCH:

The edges of the rocker should sit flat against the bar/panel from the pad to the back.

- If it's a POOR MATCH:

There will be empty space under the rocker (saddle is too flat) or the rocker only touches for a few inches then lifts away (saddle is too curved).

When a saddle passes all these tests, it is a good candidate for testing out on your horse. These tests don't *guarantee* an absolute match, but they're a good way to find saddles to take on trial.