

What the heck are we trying to do here?

We are going to make a 3-D drawing of the horse's back that will give the saddle maker all the information he needs to know for saddle fit. Here is what a saddle maker needs to know about your horse:

- The shape of the horse's top line
- The overall orientation of the horse's conformation (Is he level, or going downhill, or going uphill?)
- Size of the saddle bearing area
- The angle and shape of the ribcage
- The size and shape of the wither and shoulder area

To do this we will need to define the shape of the top line and figure its orientation to sea level. Then we will need to define the shape of the wither and rib cage by finding the contours at certain areas of the horse's body.

Those areas are:

1. The beginning of the wither
2. The base of the wither
3. The last rib

Finding these points will give us two big areas on the horses back, then we will divide the two areas in half.

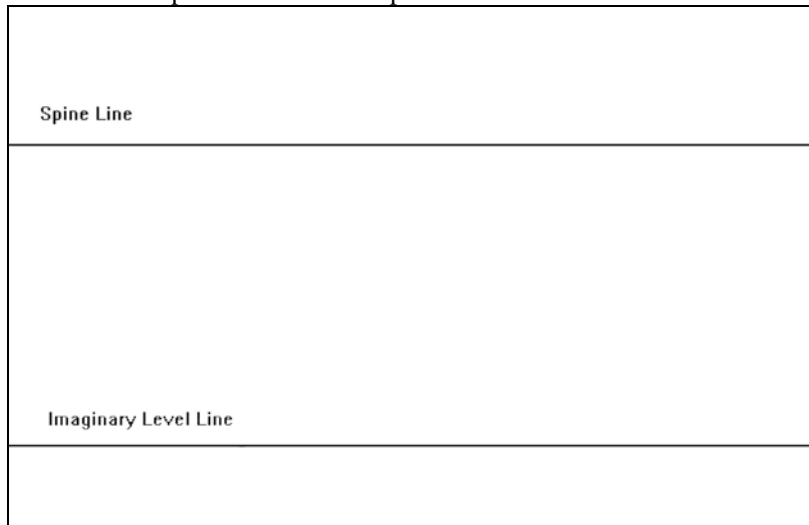
Preparation: Supplies you will need:

- Large sheet of paper: 36"x36". Don't despair; it doesn't need to be perfect. You can tape several sheets together.
- Marker: Make sure it shows up good against the paper you choose.
- Yardstick
- Level
- Square
- 24" Flexible ruler, or a few pieces of solder twisted together, or anything that will hold the shape long enough for you to get it on to paper. Place a line in the center to line up with the spine
- Masking Tape

Step One: Find a level area for your horse to stand. **Get your horse used to all the supplies.** Remember, this is not a big deal, but if you think it is, your horse will too. **Your confidence reassures your horse.**



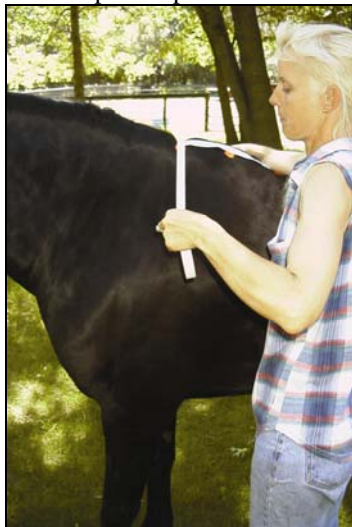
Step Two: Draw two **Parallel lines** on the piece of paper. One of the lines represents an imaginary level line and the other represents the horses spine.



Step Three: Tape the horse off with masking tape. Begin by running one piece of tape along the spine.



Then find the beginning of the wither and drop the tape down about 14 inches on both sides.



Then go to the base of the wither and tape another cross section.

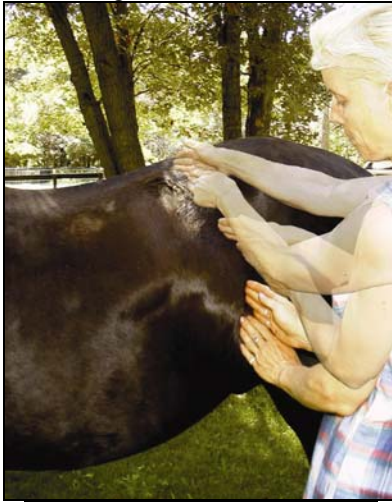


You now have two cross sections on the marked on the wither area. Divide that area in half and tape on more section .



Depending on the length of this area you may need to divide both the areas you just created in half again. You will now have five cross sections marked with tape that will allow us to define the shape of the wither.

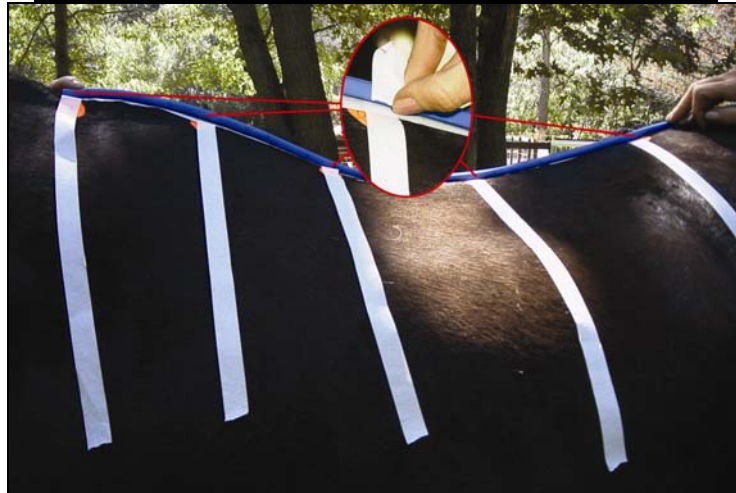
Next we need to define the shape of the rib cage. Find the last rib and tape a cross section at that point.



Divide the area between the base of the wither and the last rib in half again and tape that cross section .



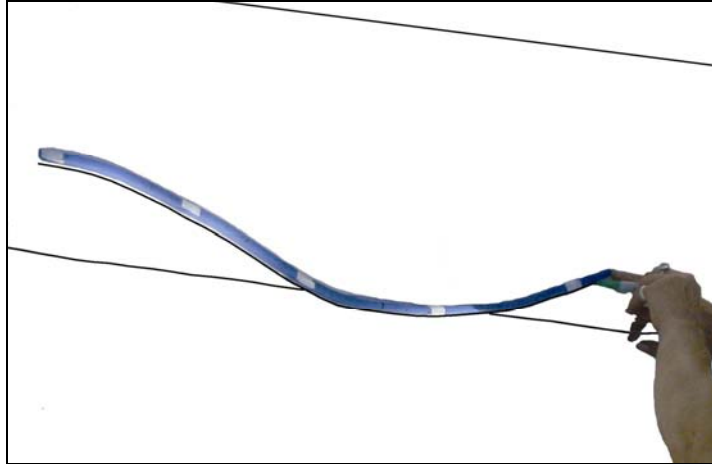
Step Four: Capturing the shape of the top line. Take your flexible ruler, solder, or hunk of wire and press it down on top of the spine. Then take your marker and mark where all the taped cross section intersect with the top line.



Step Five: Finding level. Take the level and place it on the wire that you have bent along the top line of the horse. Mess around with it until the level bubble is on the center of the two lines and use your marker to make marks where the ends of the level are. These two marks are the index points that you will use to align the top line with the imaginary level line that you drew on the paper. We do this so we can figure out the hilledness of the horse, which is a major factor in saddle fit.

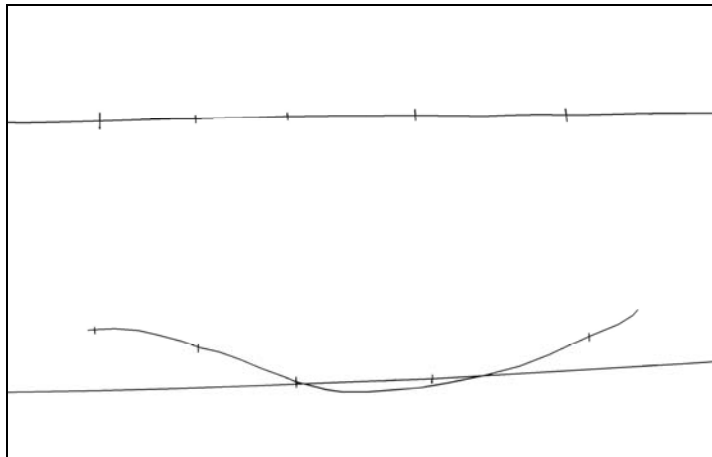


Step Six: Now take the bent wire, pull it off your horse, and place it onto the paper. Align the two level marks with the level line you drew on the paper. Trace along the bottom of your wire. Place a mark on the paper wherever you marked a cross section on the wire.



You have now successfully captured the shape of your horse's top line! Now on to the wither and ribcage.

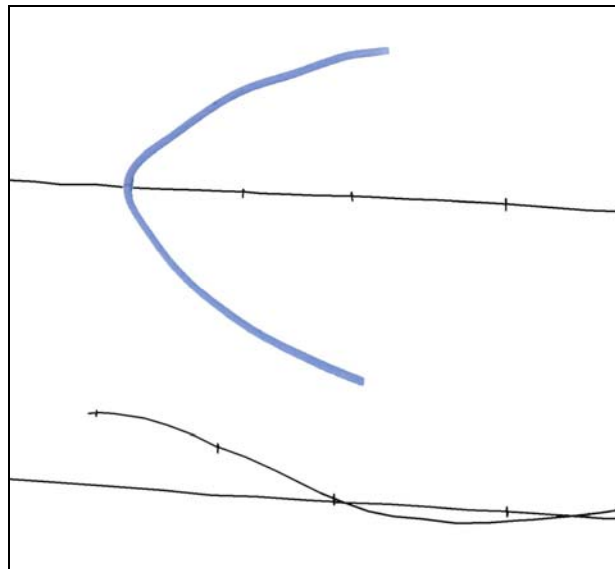
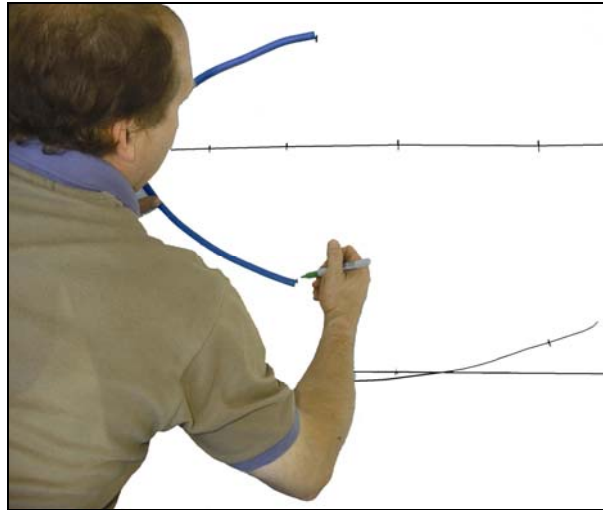
Step Seven: Using your square, transfer the position of each cross section mark from your top line onto the spine line.

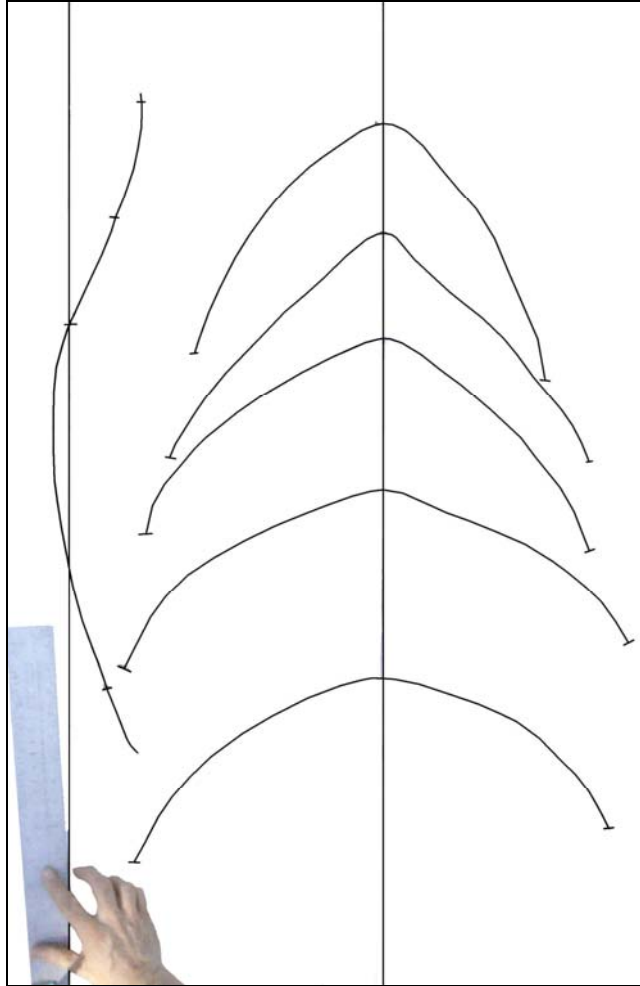


Take your wire and bend it along the first taped cross section.



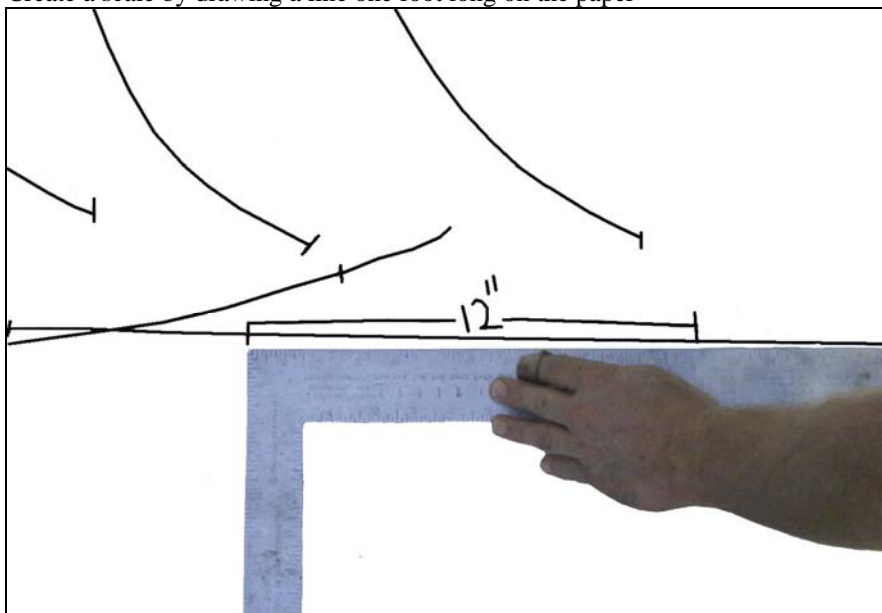
Pull the wire off and align the centerline of the wire with the corresponding mark on the spine line, and trace the line with your marker. Make sure to make a mark at the end of the wire. Repeat these steps for every cross section.



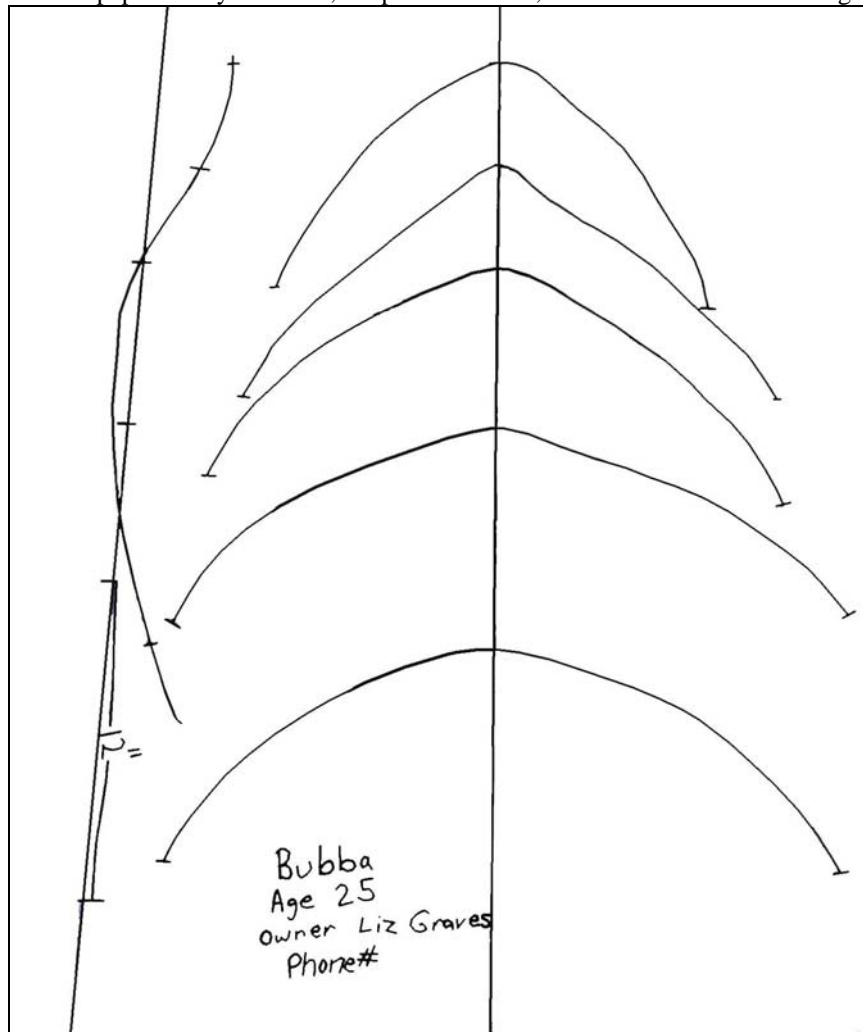


You now have captured the shape of your horses wither and ribcage! There are just a few more things to do.

Step Eight: Create a scale by drawing a line one foot long on the paper



Step Nine: Label the paper with your name, telephone number, and the horse's name and age.



Step Ten: Tape the paper to a wall and take a picture of the drawing. E-mail me the photos dave@aboutthehorse.com and fold up the tracing and send it to:
About The Horse Inc
14377 Poppy Drive
Spring Valley MN 55975

Take pictures of the horse:

- Side
- Front
- Back
- Top
- ¾ Shot

Side



Front



Back



Top

