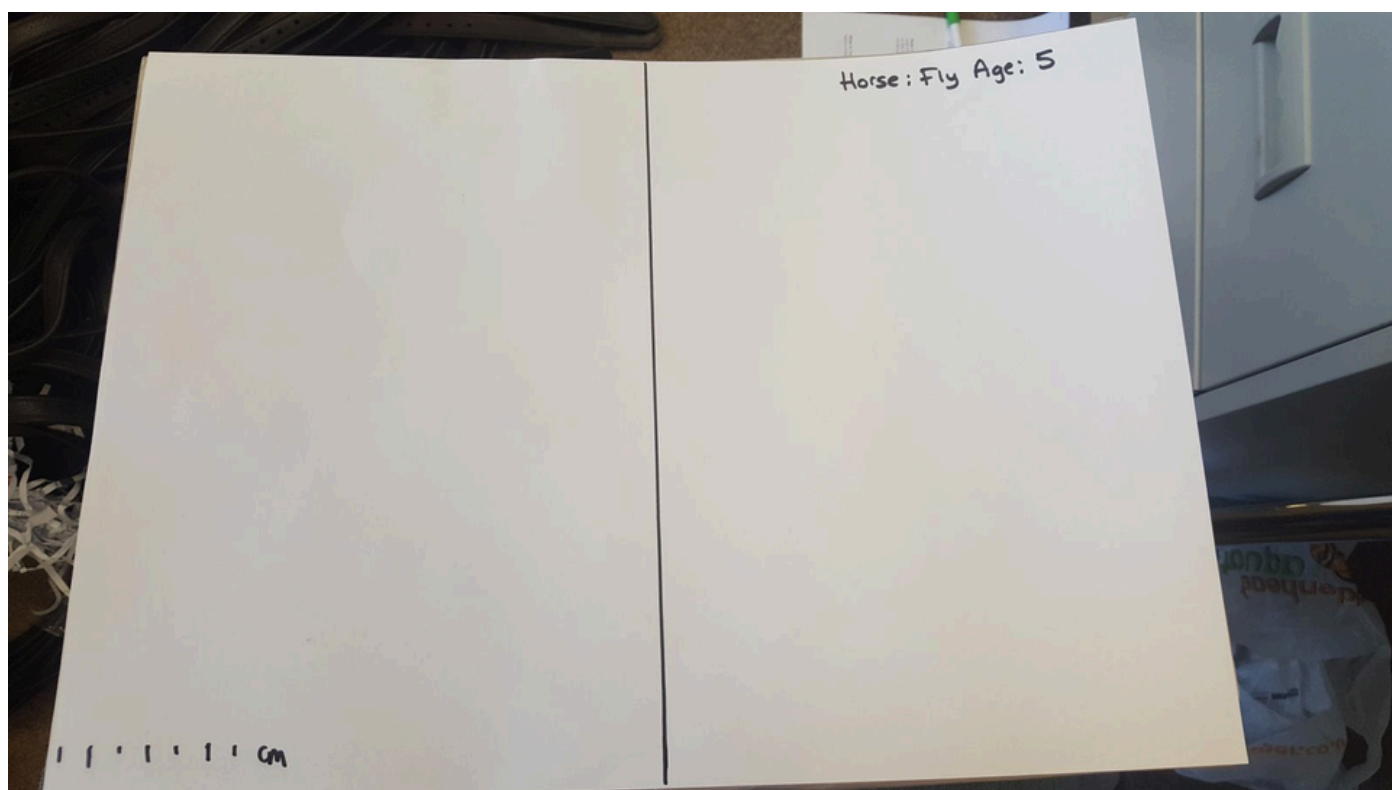


DDS DAVID DYER — EST 1979 — SADDLES

Please be aware that this is a very simple and basic guide to taking a template. Your SMS saddle fitter will take a comprehensive version of this process including templates of T-18 and true drop. This is a basic guide for a horse owner to be able to take a template of their horses back

You will need:

- A3 Paper with a vertical line down the centre of the page and a cm scale along the bottom edge.
- Pen
- Flexi curve or metal coat hanger



Set up your sheet A3 paper or card. Write your horses name and age on the top. Remember to include the date if you are doing this template as a way to monitor your horses fat and muscle coverage.

Stand the horse on a flat level surface either concrete or tarmac are ideal. Make sure they are standing square with weight on four legs. Make sure you have a handler to hold their head facing forwards and the neck level



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Put the A3 paper weighted down near the horse so it doesn't blow away, also make sure it is on a surface you will be able to write on. Find the point of the scapular or shoulder blade just below your horse's withers. If your horse is well covered you may need to use a little more pressure to locate the end.

Place 3 fingers (about 2") behind the point of the shoulder and place your flexi curve or metal coat hanger over the withers at this point. Gently mould the flexi curve or hanger with your fingers, so that it replicates the shape of the horse's back on this side. Ask your handler to hold the flexi curve or coat hanger steady, so that you can walk around to the other side of the horse and mould the other side.



Once you're happy that you have a true likeness, lift the flexi curve or coat hanger off the horse's back and lay it down on the A3 paper. Try and place it down so that the vertical line is in the centre of your horse's withers. Trace along the inside edge of the template with a pen or a marker, make sure you go over a few times to have a clear line on the page before you lift it away.

Pro Tips

- Be prepared to do a couple of practice ones especially the first time.
- Remember to label the template left and right for each side of the horse, for comparing to past and future templates.
- You can buy flexicurves in most art shops, or Amazon, and it would be a good investment if you plan to do this regularly.