

## How to fit and rig up your new Lynn McKenzie saddle

When you take the saddle out of the box and see the double rigging for the first time you question how and where to put the saddle on the horse. These instructions are to help you find the perfect fit on your horse.



1. At the end of my fingers is the back of the horse's shoulder blade. That is where we want the ball of the bars on the tree to sit. Not on the shoulder, but behind it. (Sometimes it is hard to tell, after you get the pad and saddle on the horse, where the shoulder blade is, find this point before you put your pad on)



2. Here I have put my hand on the should blade so when I set my saddle on there without a pad I know where to put the ball of the bars on the saddle compared to the horses shoulder blade.

3. I put the saddle on the horse without a pad at first to check the fit.



4. Then I take my hand and feel all around and under the saddle to see how much room I have and make sure there are no pressure points from the tree of the saddle on my horse. I want to be able to put my hand on the point of the shoulder and feel no pressure from the tree, only the skirt of the saddle should be touching the shoulder blade. The ball or the start of the tree not the saddle should be behind the shoulder blade. If you have too much room you will need to put a shoulder shim to take up room on your pad so that the saddle does not drop down to far on the horses withers. Make sure the horse's withers are not touching the gullet of the saddle. This means the saddle is too wide for your horse in the gullet.





5. A perfect fit is even pressure along the bars of the saddle. Make sure you have room between the bars of the saddle and your horse. If you have more than a hand fit of room you will need a center shim on your saddle pad to take up the room between your horse and the saddle. If you can not get your hand between the bars and your horse at any time you need a wider tree to fit this horse. (The Lynn McKenzie wide tree is now available, please call for more information.)



6. Make sure the tree is not pressing down on the back of your horse or that the back of the skirt is not touching the horse's spine. Too much room and you will need a rear shim on your saddle pad for the saddle to fit your horses back. Your saddle should not go past the 18<sup>th</sup> rib on your horse.



7. Now we put the pad on and find our shoulder blade so we know where to sit the



saddle on the pad.

If you look close you can see on the pad where the cinch has been going.

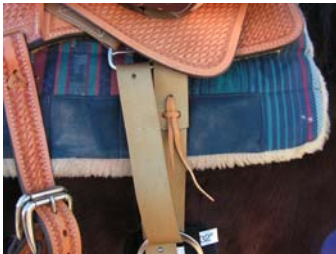
## Cinching up the saddle for the 1<sup>st</sup> time



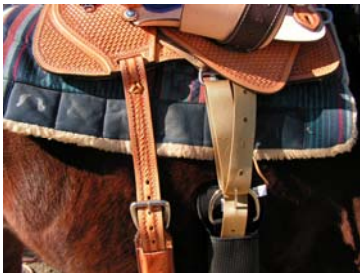
1. Starting on the right side of saddle, undo the front and back cinch and connect



them together with the hobby strap.



2. Take the front cinch latigo strap to the back slot on the double rigging to form a V.



3. Then back to the front of the V on the double rigging and then buckle, tuck end of latigo strap in cinch pocket.



4. Do the same on the front cinch on the left hand side. The back cinch is optional. It is designed to angle toward the front cinch.



5. When you first cinch up the latigo strap may not be long enough to go up to the keeper so I tuck it back over the top of the V rigging and back through.



6. This is a good distance from your cinch to the horse's forearm. Your horse will be able to stride out nice and long without hitting the cinch. Cinch up the saddle tight enough not to be too loose to ride at first, then ride the horse around for a while then get off and tighten your cinch. The saddle will find its correct spot on the horse's back if the saddle fits properly.

7. Here are pictures of the shoulder bone on your horse and proper placement of the saddle and point of tree, marked by blue half moon:



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