

# HALTER

## PROPER KNOT AND FIT

STEP 1



STEP 2



The knot should incorporate the single loop of the halter so that if the horse pulls, the knot cannot tighten on itself indefinitely.

The noseband should be resting on the hard, bony part of the horse's nose (not the squishy part lower down).

The throat latch should sit behind the cheek rather than resting on top of the cheek flesh.

STEP 3



STEP 4



E-J LLC



# SADDLE

## SAFETY AND FIT

*It's up to us to keep the horses we ride sound and pain-free. An improperly fitted or placed saddle can cause back pain and saddle sores and therefore could lead to unwanted or dangerous behavior. Longterm use of ill-fitting saddles can cause even permanent lameness.*

A properly fitted saddle has even weight distribution under the pad. Use your hand to check under:

- WITHERS (GULLET)
- BOTH SIDES OF THE SPINE (SEAT)
- LOWER BACK (CANTLE)

Check every part of the saddle for soundness. Don't use a saddle if it has:

- TEARS IN ANY STRUCTURAL LEATHER
- LOOSE RIVETS
- SQUEAKS IN THE SEAT
- MISSING OR BADLY WORN FLEECE

Saddles with the above issues need to have parts replaced or need to be sent to the saddlery for internal repairs.

Remember to check both sides of the saddle, look underneath to check the fleece, and peel up the fenders to check the soundness of the riggings.



## SETUP FOR A LATIGO KNOT

We use a latigo knot because it is the safest, most versatile, and most comfortable for the horse.

- 1) Ensure that you've chosen the correct length cinch. The metal rings or center stripe on the cinch should rest an inch or two to the right side of the horse's midline when the cinch is not tightened. When you tighten the cinch, the rings/ center stripe will find the middle point of the horse's heart girth. Either switch to a different cinch or move the cinch up and down on the short latigo (on the right side of the horse) to find the right fit.
- 2) On the near (left) side of the horse, ensure that the latigo is lying flat and loose and that there are no tangles where it attaches to the rigging. Ensure that the cinch is dangling flat and is not twisted on the far (right) side of the horse.



# SADDLE

## STEP 2

### MAKE YOUR KNOT

1) PASS THE END OF THE LATIGO DOWN THROUGH THE CINCH WITH THE END HEADING FROM HORSE SIDE TO HUMAN SIDE OF THE RING.

2) BRING THE END OF THE LATIGO UP TO AND DOWN THROUGH THE RIGGING, FROM HUMAN SIDE TO HORSE SIDE OF THE RING, STACKING THE LATIGO FLAT ON ITSELF.

3) THREAD THE END OF THE LATIGO DOWN THROUGH THE CINCH, TRAPPING YOUR FIRST PASS AND CONTINUING TO STACK THE LATIGO ONTO ITSELF.

4) BRING THE END OF THE LATIGO UP TO AND DOWN THROUGH THE RIGGING FROM HUMAN SIDE TO HORSE SIDE, THIS TIME SQUEEZING THE LATIGO END BEHIND THE LEFT SIDE OF THE RIGGING D AND LEAVING THE LATIGO HANGING TOWARDS THE HORSE'S HEAD.

5) PASS THE LATIGO TOWARDS THE HORSE'S RUMP IN FRONT OF THE STACK YOU'VE MADE. AT THIS POINT, THERE WILL BE FOUR LAYERS OF LATIGO IN THE VERTICAL STACK.

6) SQUEEZE BEHIND THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE RIGGING D, THIS TIME HEADING TOWARDS THE HORSE'S SPINE WITH THE END OF THE LATIGO.

7) THREAD THE LATIGO END TOWARDS THE GROUND, THROUGH THE "NECKTIE" KNOT YOU'VE MADE.

8) LEAVE THE LATIGO END DANGLING OR THREAD IT THROUGH THE KEEPER IF THE EXTRA BUGS YOU. JUST MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T GET YOUR LEG CAUGHT THROUGH A LOOP IF YOU DO SO.



## STEP 5



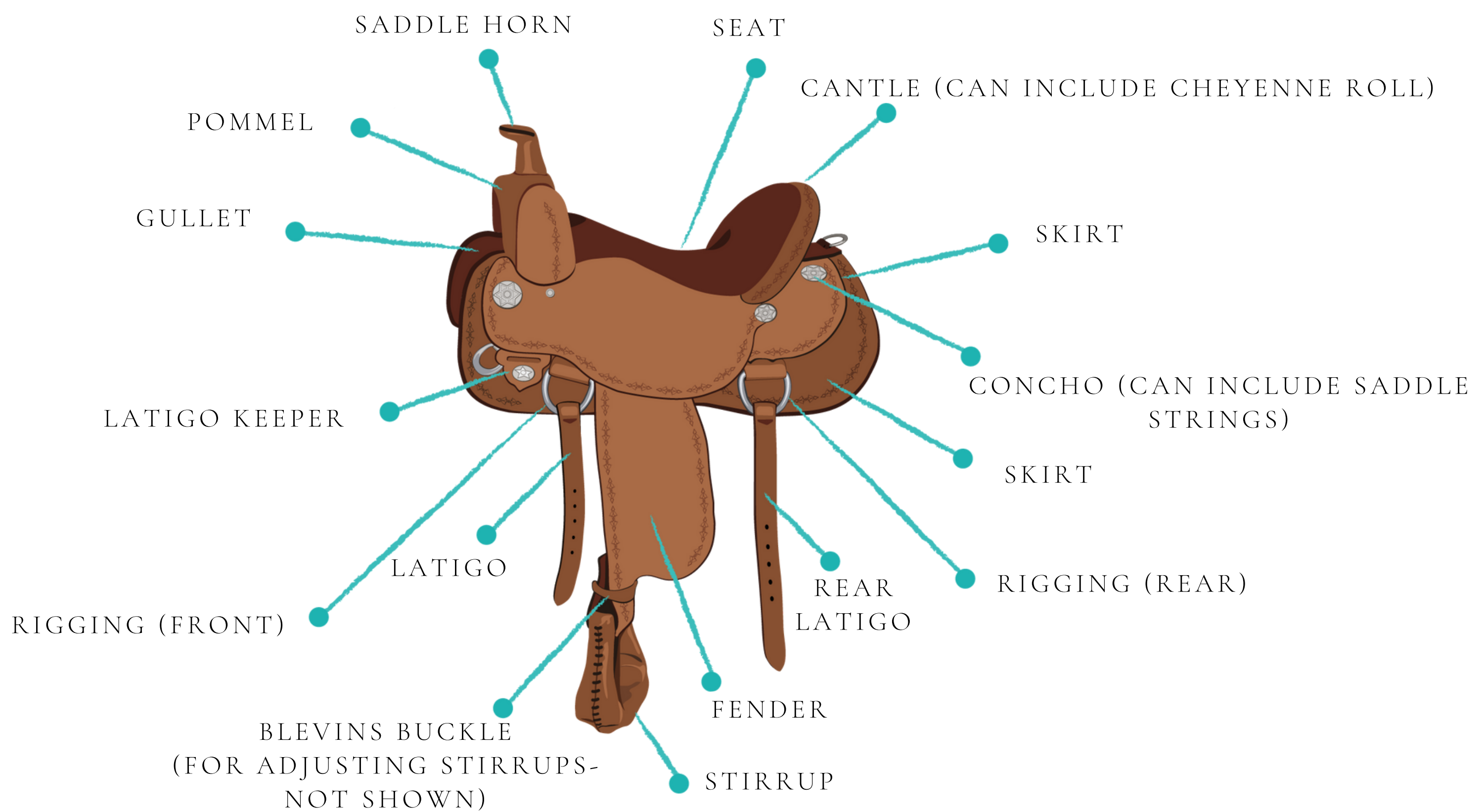
## STEP 6





# SADDLE

## PARTS AND PLACEMENT



Choose a saddle pad or a pad and blanket combo that are big enough that the appropriate saddle fits on top without any danger of direct saddle-to-horse-contact. About four inches of visible pad around the edges of the saddle is a good size to aim for.

Make sure that the gullet sits just behind the withers (highest part of the spine) and that the rigging is just behind the leg at the skinniest part of the horse (called the heart girth).

Look from behind the horse to see that the saddle, pad, or pad and blanket sit parallel to the ground and are even. Check the far side for tangles or parts stuck underneath.

Drive the pad or pad and blanket up into the vacant part of the gullet to make a point of increased friction. I use my left fist to push up under the pad and my right hand to push down with the saddle to create this point.

Make sure your cinch is the correct length and is set on the correct hole on the short latigo on the right side of the horse. The rings/ middle stitching should come to the center of the midline after the cinch is tight.

See "make your knot" for trail riding latigo knot.

Check all fixtures for integrity and tighten cinch again before riding.

