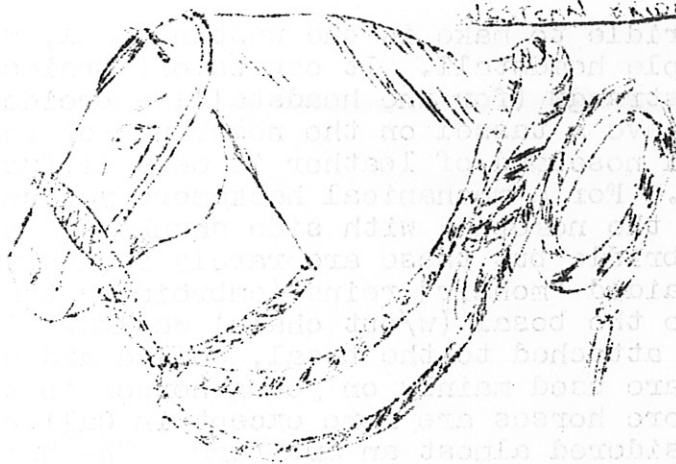


The simplest type of bridle to make is the western bosal, without a bit and only a very simple headstall. It can be off braided (for the noseband) and single strands (for the headstall) embroidery thread and you may even leave a tassel on the noseband for parade or Arabian horses. A braided noseband of leather is more difficult, but usually worth the trouble. For a mechanical hackamore you can use a wide strip of leather for the noseband with side shanks and curb chain like for a bitted western bridle but these are rarely seen at a real horse show. The bosal with braided "mohair" reins (embroidery thread) will have two reins, attached to the bosal (w/out chain) ~~with a chain~~ along with a matching lead line attached to the bosal, coiled and hung from the saddle horn. Bosals are used mainly on young horses in training. Older, well reined hackamore horses are rare except in California where the training is considered almost an art form. The horse is ridden with the reins ~~in~~ quite loose so be sure they are long enough. The bridles are usually undecorated except for the often colorful reins.

Most western bridles have curb bits. Headstalls are usually leather and can be very plain or very fancy with tons of silver and silver conchos on browband and bit. The big problem is keeping the bit at the horse's mouth since there is no noseband. On ~~the~~ models some of the are given open mouth, allowing for a bit that actually does go through the mouth. Some people will also make a small hold at the corners of the mouth and slip a straight pint through to hold the bit without making such a drastic change in the model. I have also seen bits made to stay in place by being tight against the model's mouth. A stiff headstall will also work. However, a noseband can be used. You may also either use a curb strap of leather, or curb chain, attached with leather straps to go under the chin. With real horses the bit won't work without a curb strap or chain, so don't forget it. Neither is prealized in showing through chains are more common. You may find it hard to get chain fine enough though. Western bridles may have a browband, or a split ear headstall, which only goes around one ear. Be careful when making your bit - a bit with long shanks is more severe on a horse's mouth. Most are shown with fairly short shanks. Reins can be single, or braided leather, embroidery thread to be mohair, and may even be decorated with bands or ~~with~~ or chain. Syrian wrap can be used for this if you put in on nice and smooth. Western bridles are also often buckstitched in a contrasting color and this is quite easy to do for models. It also gives you the opportunity to actually sew in ~~bits, buckles, etc.~~ more realistically

~~the~~ the usual procedure of gluing!
English bridles are somewhat more complicated, but also, strangely enough, easier for the modeler as the cavesson noseband can be used to hold the bit near the horse's mouth on closed mouth horses. We will deal with the huntseat bridles first. Most huntseat horses are shown with a snaffle bit, which is much easier, with its rings, to make, than the long shanks for the curb bit. A simple jump ring like you used on the halters will often do the job. Some hunters are ridden with pelham bits which are simple straight bits with short shanks and using double reins, but this bit is used for the harder to handle horse, being more severe, and is rarely seen in model showing. If you try one, be sure it is clearly a Pelham and not the Weymouth used in saddleseat!



WESTERN BRIDLE

Western
bit goes with
snaffle type
connecting

Curb bit

Best
in There!

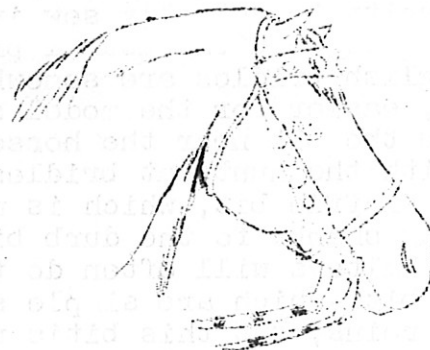


Snaffle
OR CURE
the
open mouth
metal



Small bit
/ mouth of the
closed mouth

Leather lace
and harness
between
stomach



Snaffle bit made of
PIERCED EARRING

Drop
of liquid
S.W.R



WESTERN TAIL

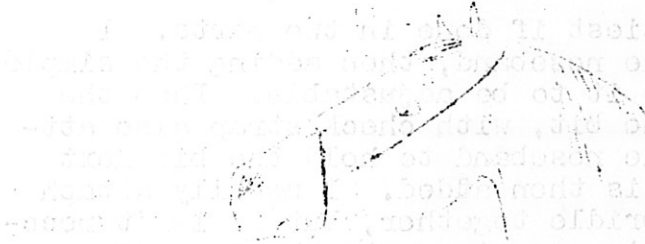
Making snaffle bridles is the easiest if done in two parts. I usually make the cavesson first. The noseband, then adding the simple headstall, with buckles if you want it to be adjustable. Then the headstall with ring attached for the bit, with check strap also attached. The lace can be glued to the noseband to hold the bit next to the horse's mouth. The browband is then added. I usually attach it to both headstalls to keep the bridle together, but it isn't necessary. A simpler, if less realistic, version puts the cavesson noseband on the same headstall just behind the bit. Reins should be slightly loose, but not as loose as with western bridles.

Now for the biggie! Not so bad, once you've managed a snaffle bridle, is the double bitted Weymouth bridle used on Saddlebreds and any other gaited horse in Saddleseat or Park classes. You already know how to make the cavesson, and use it to hold the bits in place. If you want to be exact you will have three headstalls, one for the cavesson, one for the snaffle bit (which fits furthest back in the horse's mouth), and one for the curb bit, which will have straight shanks unlike a western curb. The browband is attached to all three headstalls and checkstrap. ~~Reins~~ Reins are attached to the large rings of the snaffle (top set) and the smaller ring at the end of the curb shanks (bottom set). I should make the point that on curb bits the headstall is attached to the bit above the point that the bit is actually in the mouth. A simpler, and more common, way is to use two headstalls, one for the cavesson, and one for both bits, using one piece of wire to simulate the snaffle rings and curb shanks. If you are showing the horse at halter, the bottom set of reins, attached to the curb bit, go over his head and rest on his neck, the top set of reins, attached to the snaffle, are held by the handler. In riding classes the reins should be shown taut and clearly separated, not tangled. Browbands and noseband of Weymouth bridles are often different colors of leather or decorated with silver.

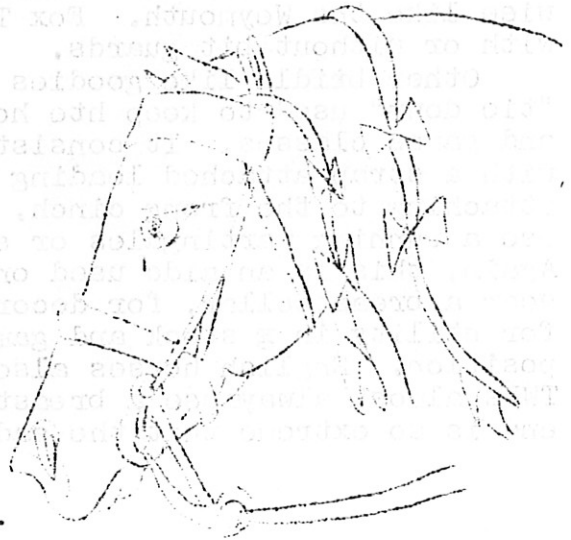
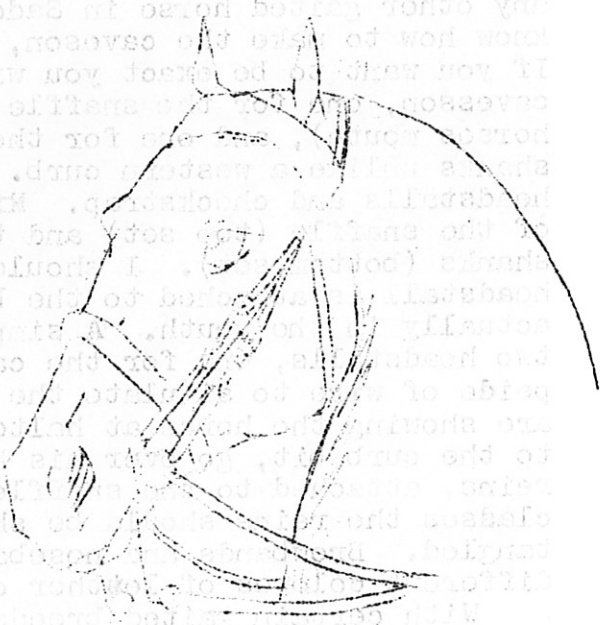
With certain gaited breeds, such as Tennessee Walkers, a special bridle is used. This bridle is a single reined curb bit with long shanks. On TWHs, bit guards are always used (sequins or a tiny circle of construction paper). The browband and noseband is usually decorated, as is the matching breastcollar also worn. The bridle is otherwise like the Weymouth. Fox Trotters are shown under similar bridles with or without bit guards.

Other bridle like goodies you may want to make is the western "tie down" used to keep the horse's head down, only allowed in stock and games classes. It consists of a headstall rather like a cavesson with a strap attached leading from noseband, between the forelegs and attaching to the front cinch. Huntseat and gaited horses sometimes use a running martingale or standing martingale to "set" the head. Again, this is an aid used on a problem horse. Western horses often wear a breastcollar, for decoration in pleasure classes, sometimes for utility in stock and games classes, to help hold the saddle in position. English horses also use breastcollars for the same reasons. TWHs almost always use a breast collar for the elevation of their front end is so extreme that the saddle would otherwise slide backwards.

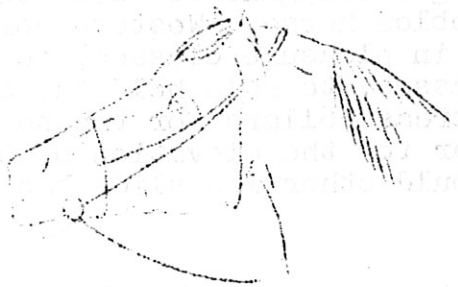
BRIDLES



WELHAM



WETMOUTH



STRAIS

WALKER

When making saddles, the opposite is true, the english saddles are easiest, while western are more complicated. In fact, both types of english saddles (saddleseat and huntseat) can be made from the same basic pattern by altering the size, shape and position of the flaps. English saddles are basically flat, but you may want to add padding of pommel and cantle for hunt seat, and knee rolls as well if it is being used in jumping. A saddleseat has no need of these and may have only a slight rise in the cantle. A word is necessary here about saddle pads. They are a Must under a western saddle, riding without one under that heavy and hard a saddle is pure cruelty to a live horse. Saddle pads are so easy to make I don't see why a model should have to do without. I have seen horses ridden english without a pad, but only for a short time and with a great deal of anxiety on the part of the rider. I certainly wouldn't expect a horse to jump with one! A western pad or blanket can be as simple as a square of material, perhaps with a bit of fringe sewn on the end. An english pad is usually the same shape and just a tad larger than the saddle it will go under. Any sort of soft material, white or off white would be acceptable. Back to saddles, they can be of any soft pliable leather or imitation leather material. You can even get away with felt on occasion.

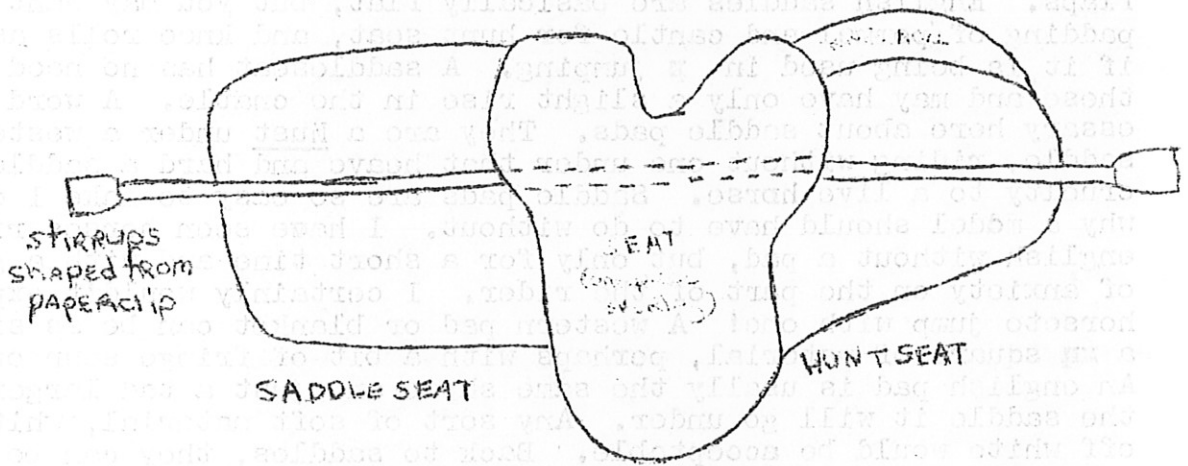
A simple western saddle can be made using a stiffer type of leather to give it shape. It won't win a live show perhaps, but some look quite nice in photos with butckstitching added. A roll of leather turned down at the ends can serve as the cantle. The pommel can be curved a bit and on edge to hold itself up, or be padded with leather underneath. The horn can be made using the appern shown. Glueing the round parts together on all three, then glue two of the straight parts together their full length and the third to them about halfway down. Allow it to dry well, then dampen and bend to proper shape. Let dry, but be sure it stays in position. If desired wrap lacing around for thickness. Then glue the two straight parts to front of pommel, single to the back (near seat). This pattern is for traditional size. The same thing smaller will work for Classics.

When making your saddle, check it on a model often, to be sure it will be positioned properly on the back and the girth (front and back on western saddle) will be in the right place. If I see one more girth in the middle of a horse's belly I will SCREAM! (What was they far off noise???)

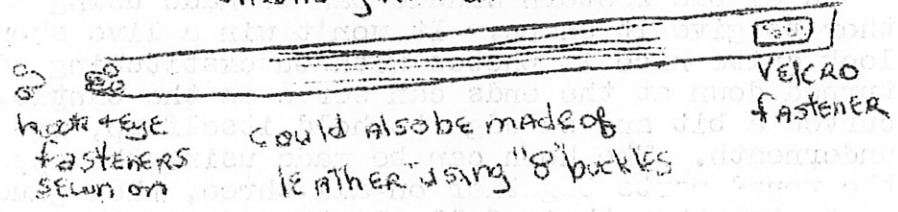
After the patterns, diagrams of the different types of equipment on horses will be illustrated. I show the proper positions and also point out the differences in the tack.

As you've probably noticed I added Dressage and Sidesaddle. Sidesaddles I leave up to the expert, but if you want to try one get all the info you can on them, try to find and see a real one if possible, and go to it. The dressage saddle is rather similar to the huntseat and with a few changes, the same basic pattern would work. First through Fourth level dressage horses are shown in a snaffle bridle, but a double bridle is required in all international competition. As you can see, however, it differs from the Weymouth by having short shanks on the curb, denoting a less severe bit.

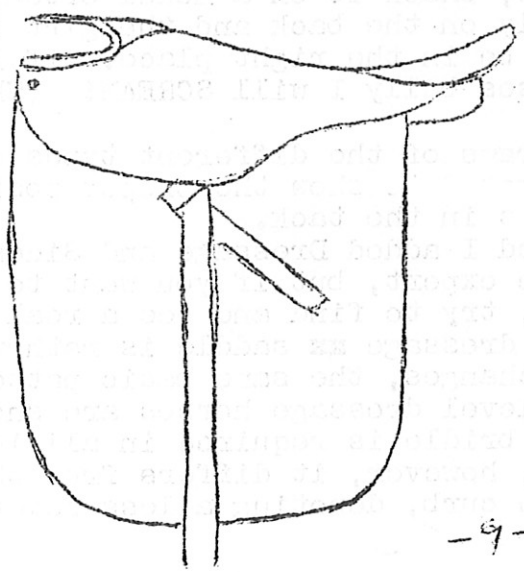
ENGLISH SADDLE PATTERN



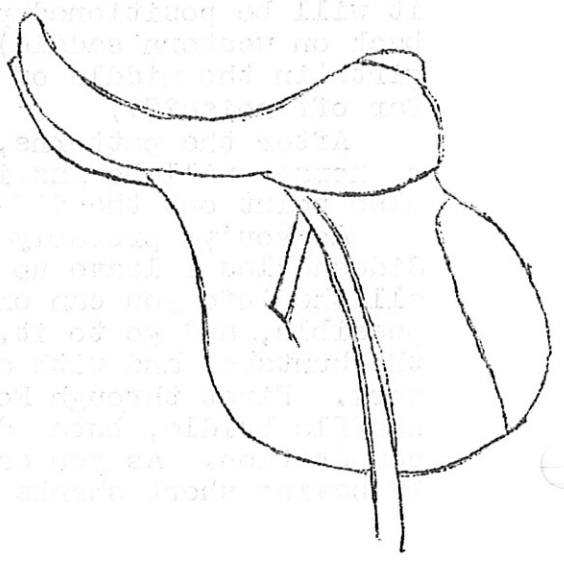
Elastic girth under saddle



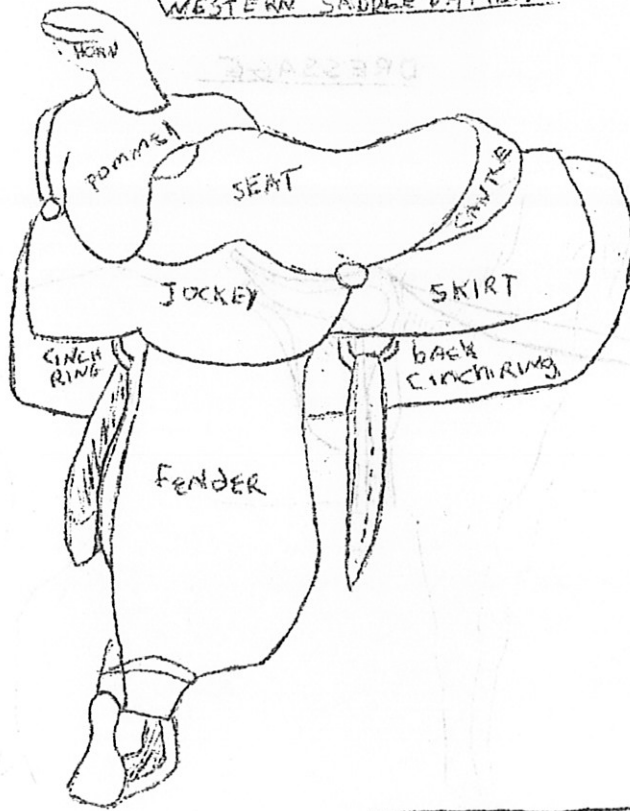
CUTBACK SADDLE
(HUNT SEAT)



FORWARD SEAT SADDLE
(HUNT SEAT)



WESTERN SADDLE PATTERN



HORN

1 cuts
put gauge on
inside - but do
not cut through

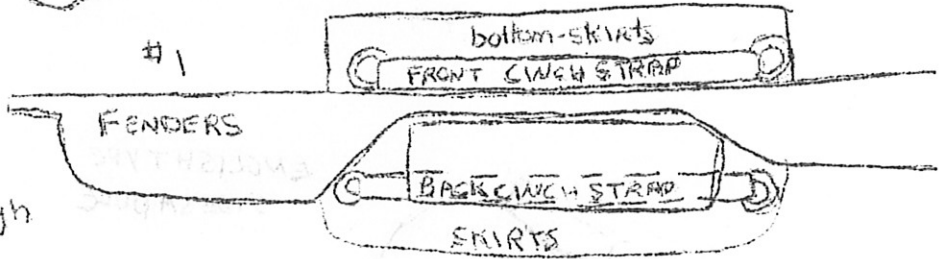
2 glue together

3 glue to pommel

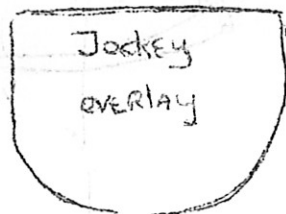
FINISHED SADDLE



#1



#2



#3



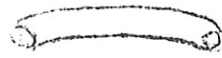
leave extra,
pad, then
turn under

#5

Fold in
half and
glue to fender
OR

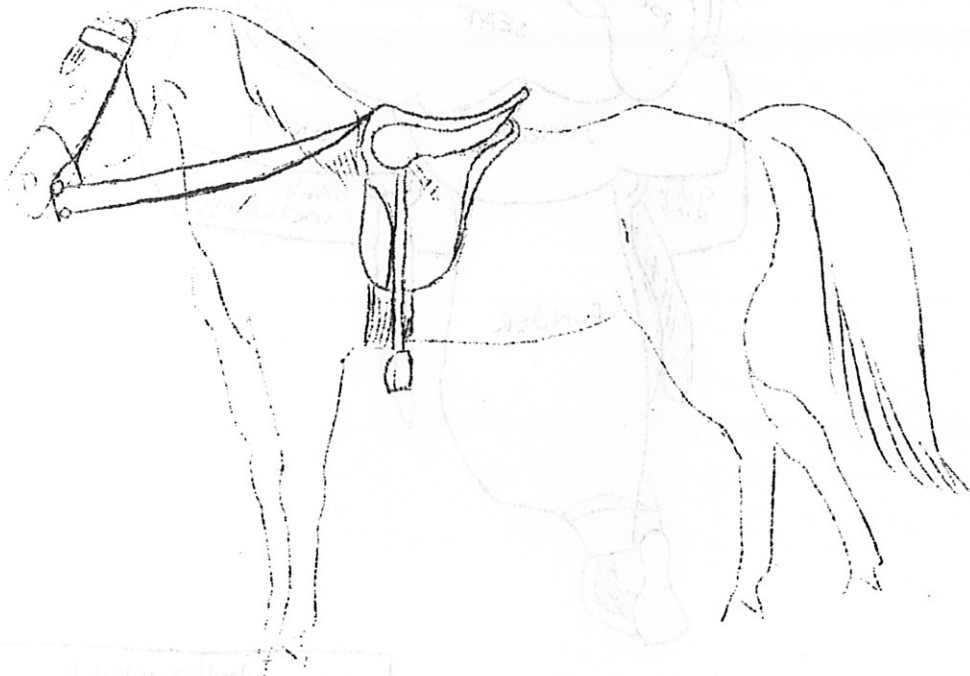


#4

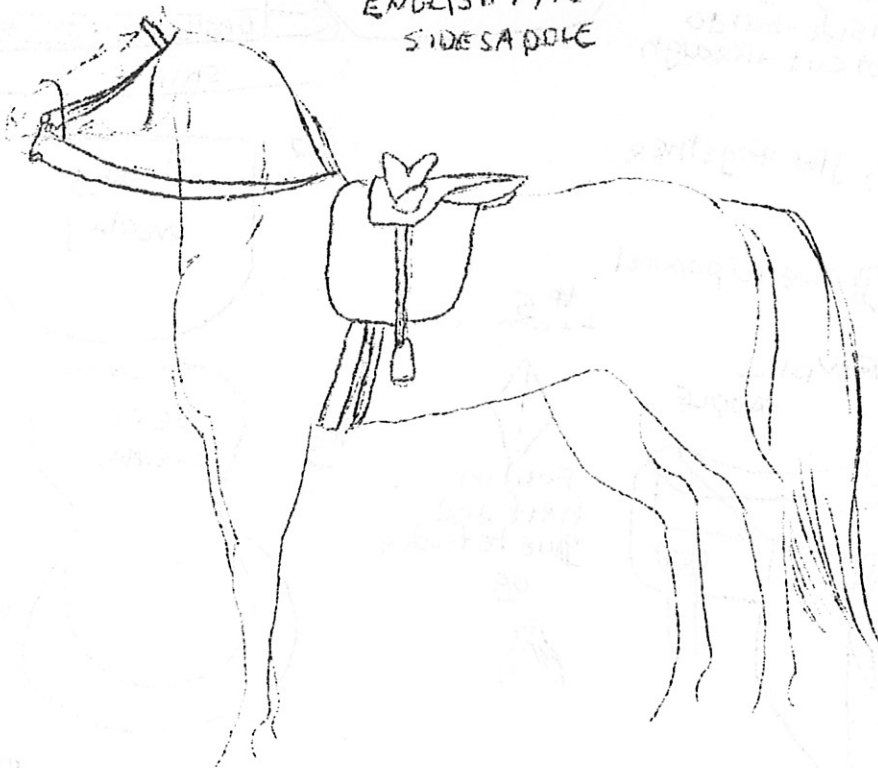


make roll for
pommel + tuck
ends under

DRESSAGE



ENGLISH TYPE
SIDE SADDLE



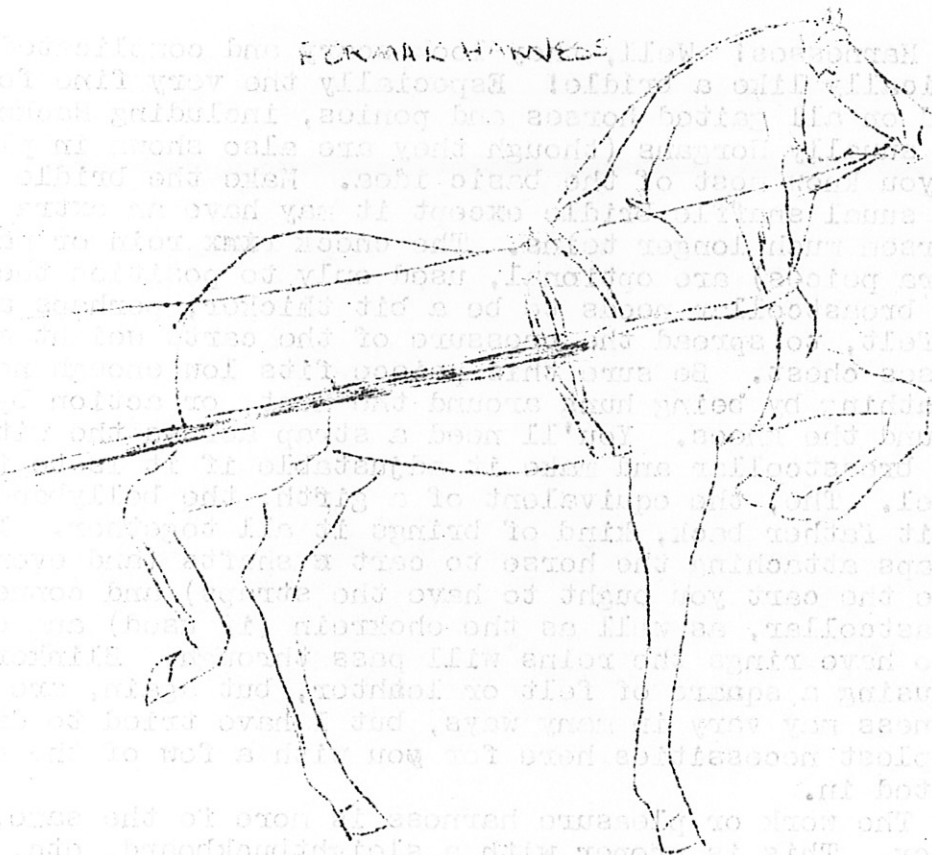
Harnesses! Well, they look scary and complicated, but they're basically like a bridle! Especially the very fine formal harness used on all gaited horses and ponies, including Hackneys, Arabians and usually Morgans (though they are also shown in pleasure harness). So you know most of the basic idea. Make the bridle first, same as the usual snaffle bridle except it may have an extra piece and of course much longer reins. The check rein or martingale (those extra pieces) are optional, used only to position the horse's head. The breastcollar needs to be a bit thicker, perhaps a piece of leather or felt, to spread the pressure of the cart's weight across the horse's chest. Be sure this piece fits low enough not to restrict breathing by being hung around the neck, or action by being hung around the knees. You'll need a strap across the withers to support the breastcollar and make it adjustable if it is to fit more than one model. Then, the equivalent of a girth, the bellyband, though placed a bit farther back, kind of brings it all together. It will have straps attaching the horse to cart shafts (and even if you don't have the cart you ought to have the straps) and connects to the breastcollar, as well as the checkrein (if used) and crupper. It will also have rings the reins will pass through. Blinkers can be added by using a square of felt or leather, but again, are not a necessity. Harness may vary in many ways, but I have tried to draw one with the simplest necessities here for you with a few of the optional goodies dotted in.

The work or pleasure harness is more or less the same, but not as fancy. This is proper with a slight buckboard, etc, and the type of harness for a light breed without high action, such as Quarter Horses, Thoroughbreds, and some Morgans. The breastcollar may be replaced with a work collar and the checkrein is not used as the horse may need to put his head down to pull. All in all, it's just a sturdier looking harness.

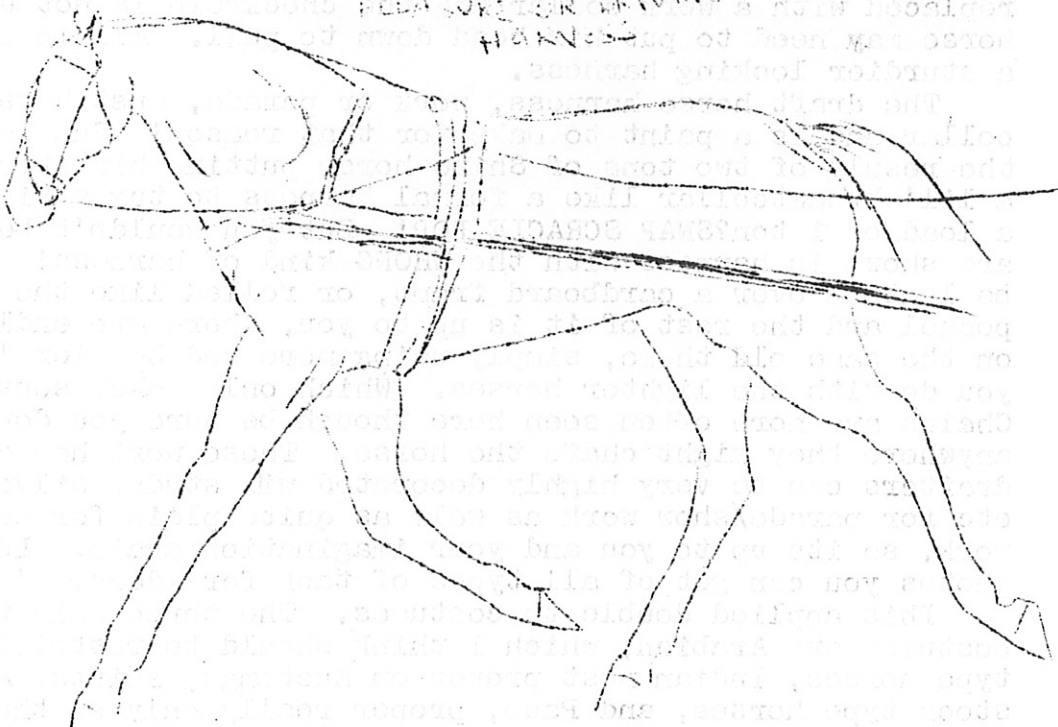
The draft horse harness, work or parade, must have the large collar and is a pain to make for that reason! But can you imagine the result of two tons of Shire horse putting his strength against a lil' breastcollar like a formal harness to tug a big wagon, or a load of 1 ton? SNAP SCRACLE POP! But you wouldn't believe how many are shown in harness with the WRONG kind of harness! The collar can be leather over a cardboard frame, or rolled like the western saddle pommel and the rest of it is up to you, there are endless variations on the same old theme, simply using more and heavier leather than you do with the lighter horses. Which only makes sense after all! Chains are more often seen here though be sure you don't use them anywhere they might chafe the horse. These work harnesses for drafters can be very highly decorated with studs, silver beads, chains, etc for parade/show work as well as quite plain for good ol' farm work, so it's up to you and your imagination again. Look at all the photos you can get of all types of tack for ideas.

This applies double to costumes. The three main types of costumes are Arabian, which I think should be restricted to Arabian type horses, Indian most proper on Mustangs, Paints, Apples and other stock type horses, and Paso, proper really only on the Peruvian breed. I've also thrown a few extras under this heading, such as racing tack,

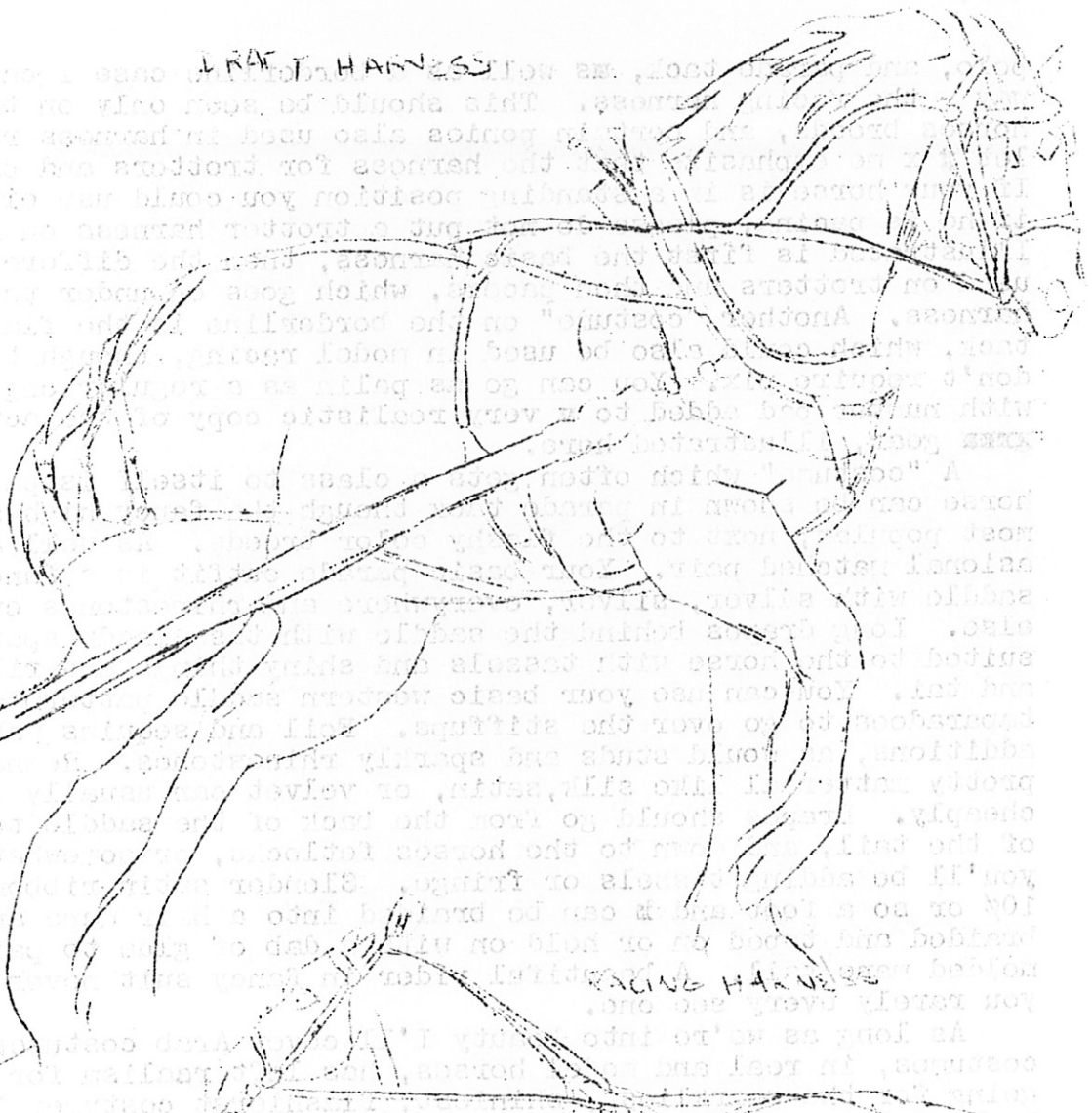
FOR MANKHAWESE



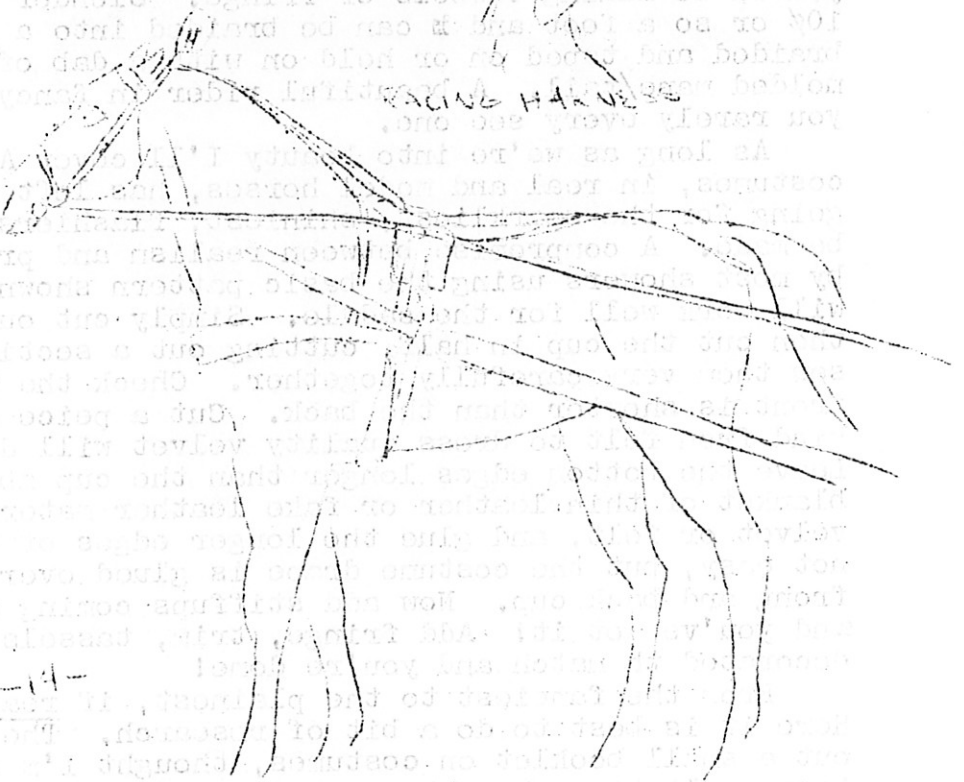
FROM WIKIPIEDIA
HARNESS



LRAIT HARNESS



RACING HARNESS



polo, and parade tack, as well as a borderline case I can see either way - the racing harness. This should be seen only on trotting/pacing horses breeds, and certain ponies also used in harness racing. Also, let me emphasize that the harness for trotters and pacers differ! If your horse is in a standing position you could use either. But if he is pacing, please do not put a trotter harness on him!?

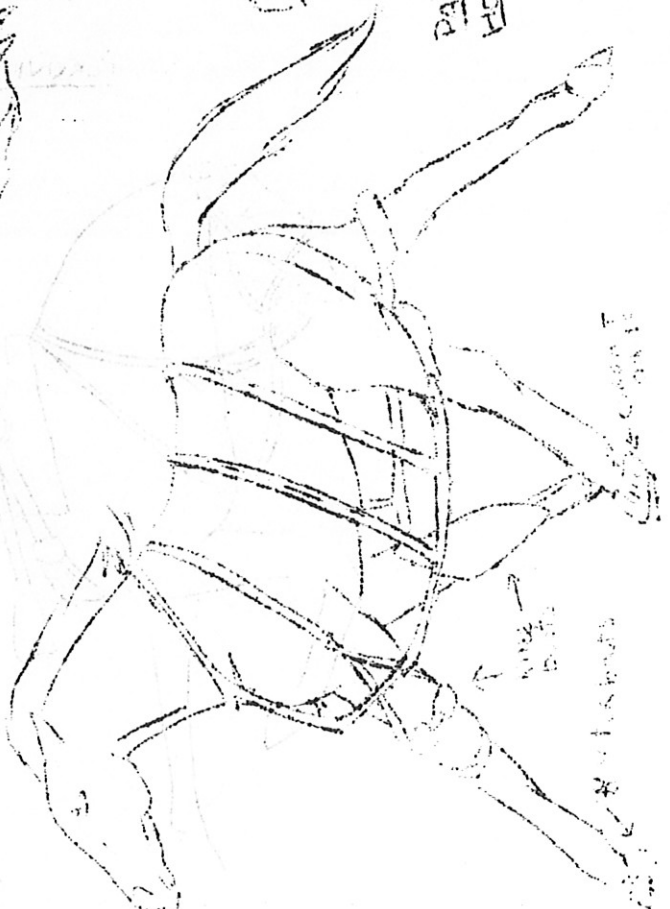
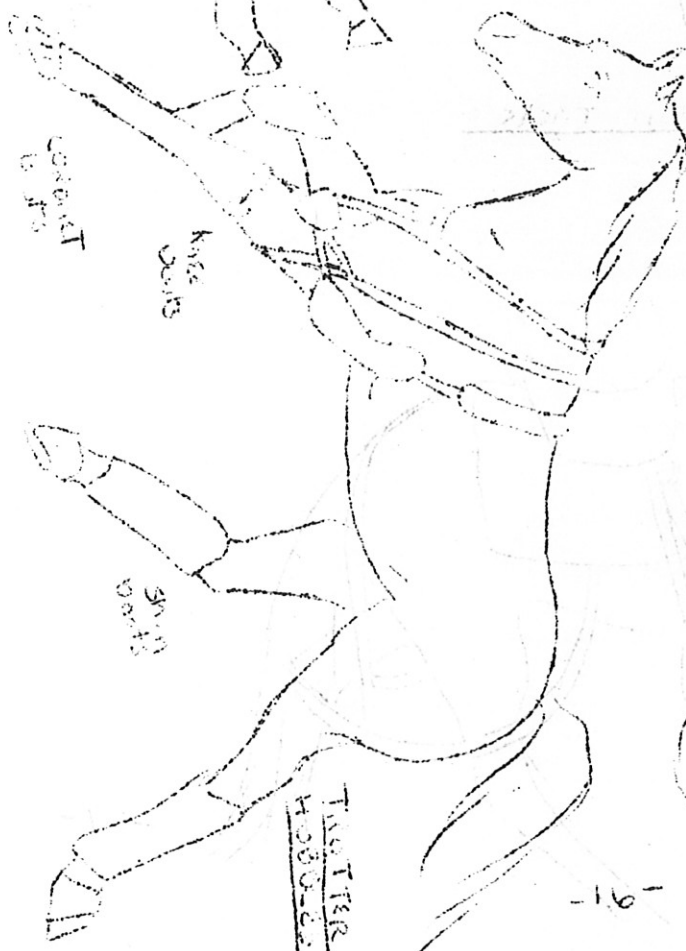
Illustrated is first the basic harness, then the different "hobbles" used on trotters and then pacers, which goes on under the regular harness. Another "costume" on the borderline is the flat racing tack, which could also be used in model racing, though they usually don't require pix. You can go as plain as a regular english saddle with number pad added to a very realistic copy of the actual racing ~~gear~~ gear, illustrated here.

A "costume" which often gets a class to itself is parade. Any horse can be shown in parade tack though the fancy high steppers seems most popular, next to the flashy color breeds. As well as the occasional matched pair. Your basic parade outfit is a fancy western saddle with silver, silver, everywhere and rhinestones everywhere else. Long drapes behind the saddle with tassels and sparklies, bridle suited to the horse with tassels and shiny things and ribbons in mane and tail. You can use your basic western saddle pattern and make taparadoes to go over the stiffups. Foil and sequins make good silver additions, as would studs and sparkly rhinestones. Remnants of pretty material like silk, satin, or velvet can usually be purchased cheaply. Drapes should go from the back of the saddle to the base of the tail, and down to the horses fetlocks, or somewhat higher if you'll be adding tassels or fringe. Slender satin ribbons only cost 10¢ or so a foot and can be braided into a hair mane and tail or braided and taped on or held on with a dab of glue to painted or molded mane/tail. A beautiful rider in fancy suit never hurts, but you rarely every see one.

As long as we're into beauty I'll cover Arab costumes! Arab costumes, in real and model horses, has left realism for Hollywood, going for the sparkliest, shiniest, flashiest costumes that can be made. A compromise between realism and pretty has been reached by most shows using the basic pattern shown. Leather or egg cartons will work well for the saddle. Simply cut out one of the little cups, then cut the cup in half, cutting out a section in the middle. Now sew them very carefully together. Check the height to be sure the front is shorter than the back. Cut a piece of your material (any kind from felt to dress quality velvet will do) to go over the cup. Leave the bottom edges longer than the cup about $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Make a small blanket of thin leather or fake leather material, even brown or black velvet or felt, and glue the longer edges of the fabric to it. It's not easy, but the costume drape is glued over the leather between the front and back cup. Now add stiffups coming from under the saddle, and you've got it! Add fringe, trim, tassels, and a fancy bridle decorated to match and you're done!

From the fanciest to the plainest, if realistic, Indian costumes. Here it is best to do a bit of research. The App Assoc, used to put out a small booklet on costumes, though I'm not sure if they still do. Less realistic, showy type costumes can also be made if you can find the information or photos for realistic type costumes. Although I

FEET RIGGING TACK



Control
Tongue
to feet

Knife
Doving

Shank
Doving

TWO TIER
HOBBLE

PACK
HOBBLE

Control
Tongue
to feet

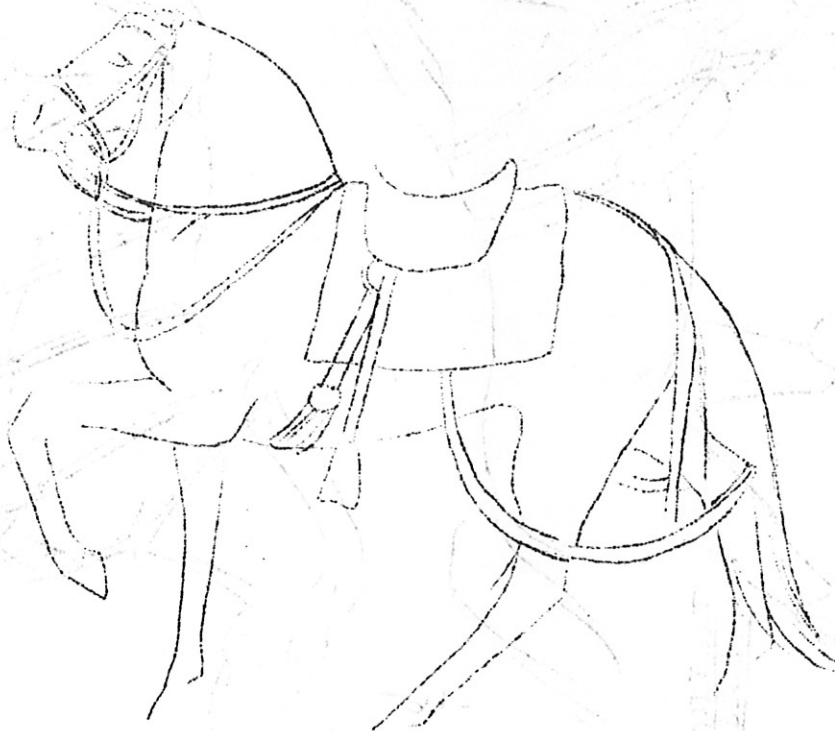
Shank
Doving

Control
Tongue
to feet

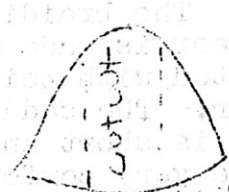
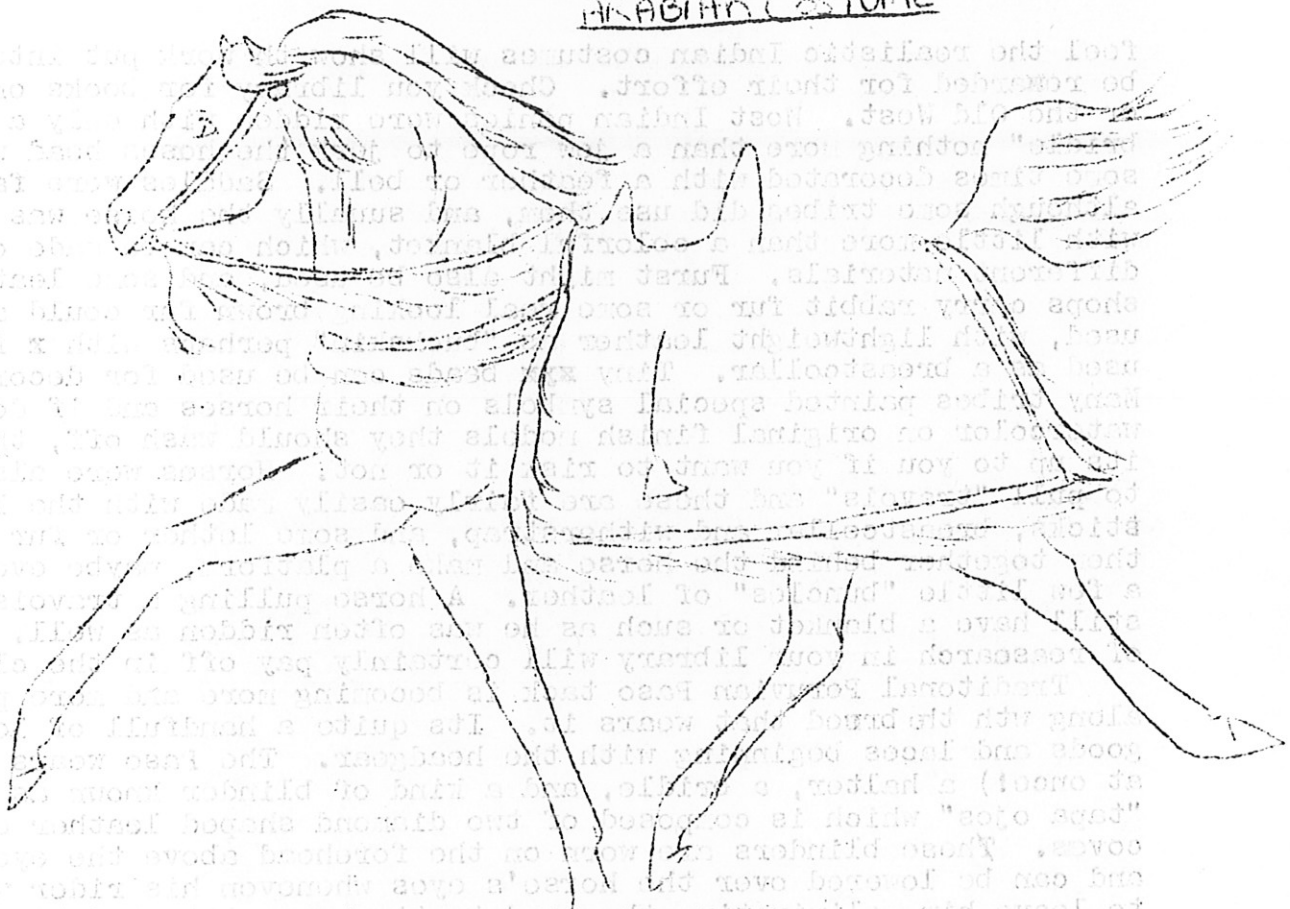
PARADE



PERUVIAN TACK



ARABIAN COSTUME



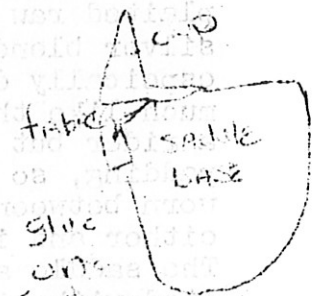
Cup from
EGG CARTON



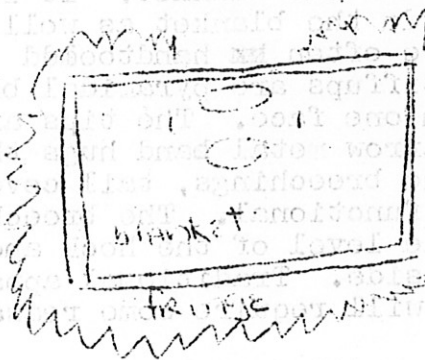
Sew
together



Cup
FABRIC
COVER
with
FABRIC



glue
cup
end
up
one unit



blanket

fringe

openings
left for
saddle
and
stirrups

feel the realistic Indian costumes will show the work put into them and be rewarded for their effort. Check your library for books on Indians, or the Old West. Most Indian ponies were ridden with only a "war bridle" nothing more than a jaw rope to jerk the horse's head with, some times decorated with a feather or bell. Saddles were fairly rare, although some tribes did use them, and usually the horse was ridden with little more than a colorful blanket, which can be made of many different materials. Furs might also be used, and some leathercraft shops carry rabbit fur or some real looking brown fur could also be used, with lightweight leather as "buckskin" perhaps with a fringe, used as a breastcollar. Tiny ~~xxx~~ beads can be used for decoration. Many tribes painted special symbols on their horses and if done with watercolor on original finish models they should wash off, though it's up to you if you want to risk it or not. Horses were also used to pull "travois" and these are fairly easily made with the long sticks, breastcollar and witherstrap, and some leather or fur to tie them together behind the horse and make a platform, maybe even with a few little "bunches" of leather. A horse pulling a travois would still have a blanket or such as he was often ridden as well. A bit of research in your library will certainly pay off in the class.

Traditional Peruvian Paso tack is becoming more and more popular along with the breed that wears it. It's quite a handful of leather goods and laces beginning with the headgear. The Paso wears (all at once!) a halter, a bridle, and a kind of blinder known as the "tapa ojos" which is composed of two diamond shaped leather eye covers. These blinders are worn on the forehead above the eyes and can be lowered over the horse's eyes whenever his rider wants to leave him, eliminating the need to tie up. Attached to the halter is a long lead line. The free end is coiled and tied to the rear of the saddle while still attached to the halter. The braiding of the reins and lead line hitch and all of the headgear is made of intricately plaited raw goat hide and is frequently decorated with pieces of silver blended into the designs of the leather. The saddle is especially designed for comfortable riding and is short and compact, much like the old US Cavalry saddle. These are very comfortable for a rider but often do not fit the horse well and require plenty of padding, so don't forget that! The "corona" is a leather pad which is worn between the saddle and the blanket. It is slightly larger than either and is used to hide the blanket as well as protect the horse. The saddle and corona are often ~~xxx~~ handtooled and may also be decorated with silver. The stiffups are pyramidal blocks of seasoned wood with a toothole carved in one face. The tips are covered with ~~xxx~~ made metal caps and a narrow metal band hugs the wood vertically for strength and beauty. The breechings, tail cover, and crupper are traditional rather than functional. The breechings loosely encircle the hindlegs at about the level of the hock and buckle at the rear of the saddle on either side. Traditional apparel for the rider is also distinctive and will require some research for those of you interested in that.

A diagram for a pack saddle, that just happens to be the right size for Breyers Traditional models is also illustrated. A novel entry could be a riding horse decked out in old "mountain man" gear leading a pack horse. A cavalry costume would be nice also. Also there are clown costumes for ponies, various historical harnesses, etc.

Stables and Stable Equipment

Stables and stable equipment will be used only as props in your pix, but they can do alot for realism and are just fun to have. Stable blankets can also protect from dust and scratches. The simplest stable blankt is made from remants (courtesy you local fabric/sewing/variety store) and the pattern #1 shown. It isn't adjustable but only needs to be sewn, or snapped, or hooked, at the front. Fancier and more realistic ones come from the same basic pattern but use bias tape straps with buckles or hooks and eyes to go around the chest and usually twice under the belly. These can be made ajustable, just like halters and bridle straps with the little gigure eight buckle. Neck wraps and hoods are a bit harder to make, but basic patterns are illustrated though you'll need to work ~~g~~ to get them to fit your horse.

Little brushes and such can come from doll ~~u~~ sets. Many kinds of bottle tops make terrific little "buckets". Larger "water troughs" can be made of tune fish cans (file down edges on the insdæde) Dinty Moor Beef Stew cans, etc. Just take a moment to look at cans, bottle tops, and boxes before you throw them ~~w~~ away. They come in a million different sizes and shapes for dozens of usues and you can think of a few the manufacturer probably didn't!

Boots for gaited horses can be made of white leather or felt and the same for skid boots for your roping and reining horses. A pattern for the gaited bell boot is shown. Skid boots are just a tall rectangle to go round the leg once and lace, or tie, or even a little velcro. Leg wraps are easily made of bias tape, or material cut into strips and simply wrapped around with a bit of tape, or more realistically, the last bit cut in half longwise then wrapped in oppisite directions and tied.

Stables are easy to build if you're good with your hands and some coppanies do sell kits for their models. Light plywood and balsa wood and wood glue would be your best ~~best~~ bets for materials. Plywood is found a lumber stores and balsa wood is sold at most hobby shops in all sizes. Hooks and eyes could be hooks for hanging bridles, as could pictures hanging hooks, small cans or wood great spools ~~u~~ glued on toothpicks or balsa wood legs make "horses" for your saddles. Blueprints for barns are printed in the Western Horseman all the time, and occasional in other horse magazines as well. You can also build only a fake ~~u~~ front or two sides for pix.

Fences can be made of balsa wood in square strips for a regular rail fence, of lincoln logs for a log fence. A range fence of wire can be made of sturdy sticks and heavy shoe thread (heavy duty thread), since regular thread will probaly disappear in pix. Thats about it on making your own...well almost everything. If you're good with your hands and creative you should have no trouble. Those who arent' may experience more frustration, but remember, it does take a lot of practice. These are mostly the simplest and most basic ways, you may will advance beyond them and find you own ways. Much luck to you!

Some companies do make tack for the model sower. Breyer makes tack to fit their models. Their prices are reasonable and the tack can be made quite nice by trimming some of the excess leather, drying, etc.

Below is a list of companies carrying model tack. There are also many individuals who show ~~xxx~~ models and offset their expenses by making tack for other showers. Usually the better the tack, the higher the price. However, nay sturdy, realistic and good fitting tack is going to win, just as a great tack set is notx going to win for a so-so model.

A good idea is to ask for a photo of the tack with their price-list, most good tackmakers keep extra photos for this purpose and are happy to oblige. Be sure and return the pic quickly. Before making a big order it may be wise to make a small one, like a hlater or bridle, you'll see how long a delay you can expect, how nice and well fitting the tack is, and what kind of condition you get it in BEFORE you send \$20 or so and get something you're not happy with. I do not necessarily reccomend any of these persons or companies. I simply compiled ax listing from about one years worth of model publications in order to help you get started.

Double Diamond Ranch
508 West Maple
Farmington, NH 87401

Cook Saddlery
6900 Floyd
Overland Park, KS 66204

Ray's Mini Harness
1140 Lincoln St.
Waterloo, IA 50703

Jaci Bowman
3334 N. 37th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Horse Country Tack
Rt. 2, Box 115
Anadarko, Ok 73005

Heather Hills Minatures
Ted & Cheryl Abelson
21-16 155th Ave.
Howard Beach, NY 11414 (#1 for catalog)

Sandy Garble
Alexandra RR#1
Charlottetown
PEI: C1A 7J6 CANADA
(Send SA & 17¢ post.)

Maryilyn Rizzuto
25472½ paloma Rd.
San Bernadino, CA 92410

Wild Plum Stables-tack dept.
Julia DeLong
505 Edwards St.
Madras, OR 97501

Bit of Rein Stables
Gayle Presley
6840 N. Chestnut
Fresno, CA 93710

Judy Davinich
2050 Allen Blvd.
Middleton, WI 53562

Sunset Model Tack
Lani R. Keller
10529 Irma Ave.
Tujunga, Ca 91042

Charlene Marshall
2534 S. 59th W. Ave
Tulsa, Ok 74107
(spc. Paso Cost)

Kathy Wells
2440 N. Jerusalem Rd.
Eden, NY 14057

Michele Smith
The Tanelorn(next page)

Nichole Smith
The Tanelorn
212 Seville Rd.
Sayville, NY 11782
(Paso tack)

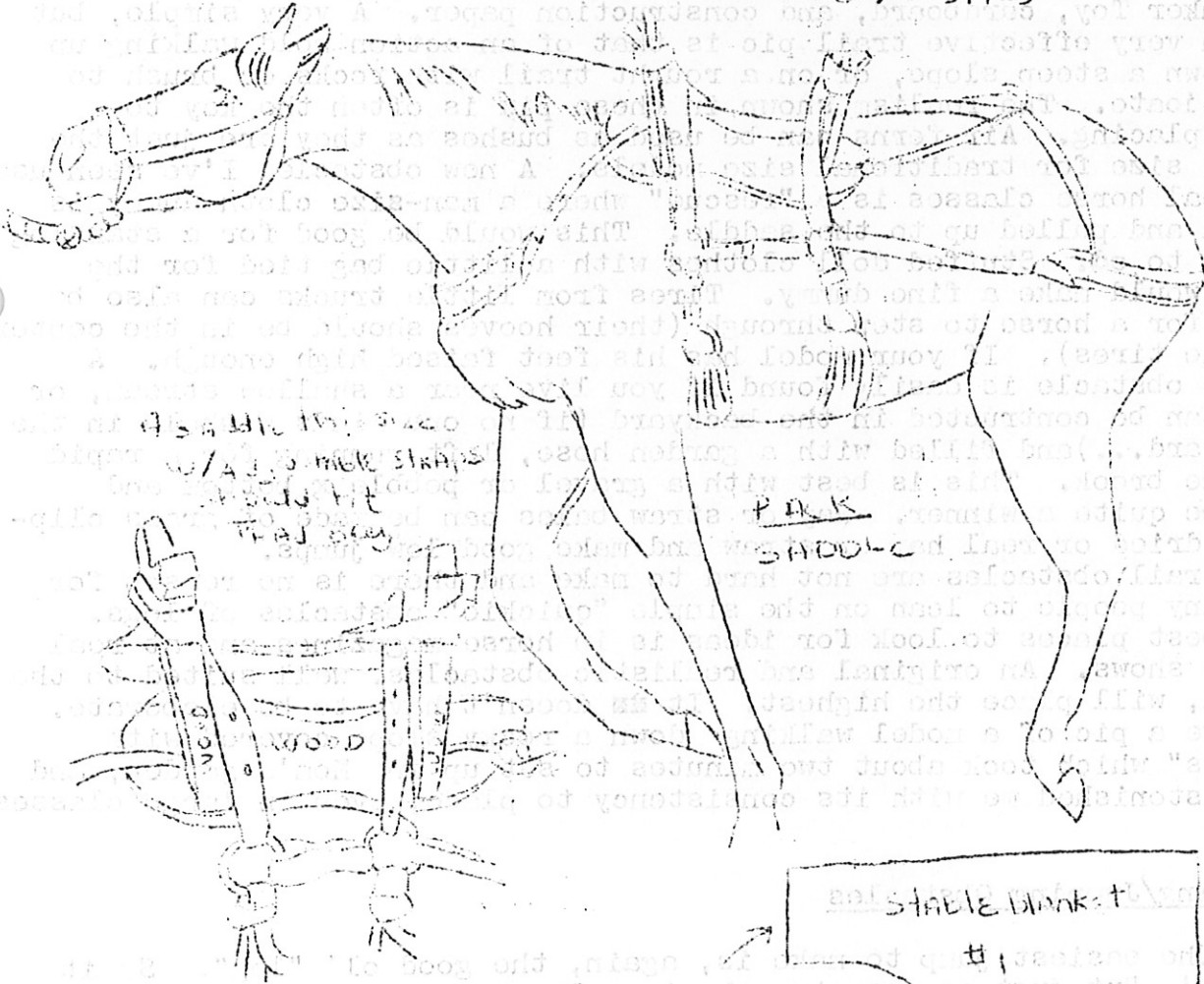
Carol Howard
164 Martin Dr. NE
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(Send \$1 for photo list)

Susan Peplinski
367 Crinona
Winona, MN 55987
(Indian cost & stable blink)

Robin Smuels
260 B. Diamond St.
Deltona, FL 32725
(SASE w/ 2 st.)

Susan Bensen
832 Fox Hills Ct.
Boulder, CO 80303

Mary Ann Sklar
Rt. 2, Box 379
Dandridge, TN 37725



STABLE BLINKER #1

straps cramps
fancy up

OBSTACLES

Trail Obstacles

The most commonly seen trail obstacles of all is a model stepping over logs. Obviously this is the easiest to make, just collect a few sticks and you're ready. The long sticks from Tinker Toys are also used, as well as the red and white striped soda straws, often filled with sand for more stability. If you're going to use those, why not set them up in an L-shaped pattern used to showing backing or side-passing in real trail classes? Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, ice cream sticks, or lengths of ~~bx~~ balsa wood can be used to build a gate for an obstacles. Or arrange them into a bridge. If your model is in a standing position perhaps you could put him by a mailbox made by using a Tinker Toy, cardboard, and construction paper. A very simple, but often very effective trail pic is that of an action mold walking up or down a steep slope, or on a rough trail with rocks or brush to negotiate. The realism shown in these pic is often the key to a good placing. Air ferns can be used as bushes as they are just the right size for traditional size models. A new obstacles I've seen used in real horse classes is a "rescue" where a man-size cloth dummy is roped and pulled up to the saddle. This would be good for a standing model to do. Stuffed doll clothes with a little bag tied for the head would make a fine dummy. Tires from little trucks can also be used for a horse to step through (their hooves should be in the center of the tires). If your model has his feet faised high enough. A water obstacle is easily found if you live near a shallow stream, or one can be constructed in the backyard (if no one minds a hole in the backyard...) and filled with a garden hose, left running for a rapid little brook. This is best with a gravel or pebble g bottom and can be quite a winner. Hay or straw bales can be made of grass clippings dried or real hay or straw and make good low jumps.

Trail obstacles are not hard to make and there is no reason for so many people to lean on the simple "quickie" obstacles of logs. The best places to look for ideas is in horse magazines and at real horse shows. An original and realistic obstacles, well suited to the model, will place the highest. It ~~is~~ doesn't have to be elaborate. I have a pic of a model walking down a rocky slope covered with "trees" which took about two minutes to set up in Mom's garden, and has astonished me with its consistency to place, even in large classes.

Hunting/Jumping Obstacles

The easiest jump to make is, again, the good ol' "log". So it seems! But just as easy to make is a lovely stadium jump using the basic set of Tinker Toys, or Lincoln Logs, glued together and painted. Another simple jump can be made using balsa wood for the sides and cross bars of drinking straws filled with sand for a little more stability. The siderails can be made to stand with a cross piece glued to their botton. The little bushes can be found in the fake flower section of most variety stores, or doll house sets, or even