

Saddle Cover Instructions

(Aka 'The Saddle Mask'©)

Pattern 36A

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The following pattern is for a simple cover for a saddle to limit surfaces that can be touched by the rider. There are five patterns pieces. The seam allowance is 5/8" unless otherwise marked on the pattern piece. This cover is made from a single layer of fabric. Depending on the fabric you use you will want to use pinking shears to cut out the pattern. This will reduce the unraveling of the fabric. I used a home decorating fabric of 100% cotton. I prewashed to get the shrinkage out. I pinked the raw edges and top stitched 1/2" from the edge before washing. This helped keep the unraveling to a minimum and took out most of the shrinkage of the fabric. Otherwise it would have unraveled badly. So during construction I finished all the seam allowances by stitching them under so no raw edges were exposed. The exception was the seam of the hood. That I double stitched the seam and zigzagged the edge. If your fabric doesn't ravel badly you can skip finishing off the seams if you want. It does make the seam stronger finishing off the seams.

The pieces are:

- The saddle seat pad - cut one
- The under saddle strap - cut one
- The saddle flaps - cut two
- The saddle hood - cut one
- The facing for the stirrup openings - cut two
- The straps for the saddle flap when elastic won't work - cut four

Construction Steps:

1. Sew the saddle seat pad to the under saddle strap at the short, notched edge with a 5/8" seam. Finish the seam by turning under the seam allowance and stitching it down.
2. Sew the 1 inch narrow hems on the 3 sides of each saddle flap. Press under 1 inch. Press under the raw edge so you have a narrow hem. Miter the corners Top stitch along the edge. Top stitch the corners again 1/4" from the finished edge, one inch out in both directions. This helps stabilize the corner.
3. Sew the flaps onto the saddle seat pad with a 5/8" seam allowance, matching marks and notches. Make sure the front of the flaps end at the same place for each side. They should be even.

4. Sew the 1-1/4" hem on the straight edge of the hood piece. Press under 1-1/4", then press under 1/4" on the edge. Stitch down close to the pressed edge of the 1/4" edge.
5. Sew a basting stitch at 1/4" and 1/2" along the curved edge of the hood. Pin the hood piece onto the curved part of the saddle seat, matching centers and placing the fold on the hood mark on the seat. It should be 1 inch from there the side flap is sewn. Pull up your top basting threads until the hood piece is the same size as the curved part of the saddle seat pad. You will not have to gather very much. Pin in place. Baste together. Check the seam for imperfections. Stitch together with a 5/8" seam. Stitch again 1/4" inside the first stitching. Trim seam. Zigzag to finish the edge of the seam.

We ended up making the hood in several different sizes. This allowed us to have multiple saddles be able to use one cover.

6. Finish off all other seams sewn so far by turning under the seam allowances and stitching down (Except the hood seam). You will do this to the edges of the saddle flaps at the back side and to the edge of the saddle seat pad between the flap and the hood.
7. ** Elastic was out of the question for our farm for some of our saddles. Too many different lengths of elastic to try and work with. We have 59 saddles and did not want to make a cover for each saddle. So we used sewn straps with Velcro across the middle of the strap.

The straps are cut 4" wide by 9" long. You'll need 4 straps - two for each flap. The seam allowance is 1/2" for all seams. Sew the raw edges of the long side, right sides together. Turn right side out. Press. Turn the end seams to the inside and stitch down. Press. Place 6" of Velcro on each strap from one end, down the middle. Sew to the right side of the flap, one inch up from the bottom hem at each corner, and one inch in from the side hem. One to be loop Velcro and one to be hook Velcro. Make sure they face each other so the strap doesn't twist. This size seems to be fitting all of our saddles.

You may have to adjust the length of the straps to fit saddles larger or smaller than these measurements.

8. Sew the hem of the under saddle strap. Press under the 1.5" hem. Turn under 1/4" on the raw edge. Stitch down close to the pressed edge of the 1/4" edge.
9. Sew the loop Velcro to along the hem on the wrong side of the under saddle strap. Sew the hook Velcro to the right side of the straight edge of the hood along the edge of the hem. The Velcro is cut 6 1/4" long. We ended up having several lengths of the loop Velcro at 2" intervals on the under saddle strap. This enabled us to use that cover for several saddles.
10. Sew the stirrup facing to the saddle flap. I used a technique used to make the leg openings on baby shopping cart covers.

Pin the right side of the facing to the wrong side of the flap, matching the stitching lines. Sew along the stitching lines all the way around. Press under the hem on the outside facing edges and corners. To do this fold the outside edge

of the facing until it meets the stitching . Press, making sure you do mitered corners. Cut through all the layers of fabric to create the opening. Clip to each corner - but **not** through the stitching. I found some of the fabric ravel badly. Clip to no closer than 1/8" if your fabric ravel a lot. Trim the seam to 1/2". Turn the facing through the opening to the right side of the flap. Press the seams. Pin the facing down and stitch it to the saddle flap along the edge of the hem. Top stitch next to the opening.

We made the opening on the stirrup facing 5" wide. The allowed it to fit more saddles.

11. We made sew on labels stitched on quilt seam binding. We embroidered the saddle numbers that fit the saddle cover in the middle of the binding. It is placed just above the hook Velcro on the back of the saddle hood.

Notes:

For the saddle seat pad the pattern was the same for small and medium saddles except for the under saddle strap. The large saddle has its own separate pattern pieces for the saddle seat pad, the saddle flaps, and the under saddle strap. We had one extra-large saddle that got its own special made cover.

Our saddles are all numbered. For ease of anyone finding the right cover we put those numbers on our covers. Most of our covers have multiple saddles that they fit. We ended up using a sewing machine to embroider the numbers on a strip of quilt binding to show what saddles would fit in that cover. It is sewn on the hood just above the Velcro.



** Attach the elastic to the lower edge of the saddle flap 1 inch up from the bottom, and 1 inch in from the side. The same as the straps. I measured our saddles for the amount of elastic. For the small I cut it at 13.5", for the medium I cut it at 11", and for the large I cut it at 9" . These measurements were based on the width of the saddle flap. I chose the best length to fit multiple saddles in each size. Boy did that change!

The elastic lengths will be adjusted for the width of the saddle flap it is going under. The measurements I gave are what we are starting with. If the size doesn't work they are easy to change. Cut your elastic in the middle. To shorten cut off the desired length and re-sew the ends together. To lengthen add a new piece of elastic that gives you the desired length. Sew the new piece of elastic to each of your cut ends.



Pattern Revision June 7, 2020

INCHES

BACK

1" UNFRAID HEM

FACE ELASTIC 1/4" FROM
FINISHED EDGE

SEW FLAP TO SADDLE SEAT
(How much width?)

2

GRAIN LINE



1" NARROW HEM

change size

3/4" A SADDLE FLAP
CUT 2

LARGE

THE SADDLE MASK @
SMALL SEW GOODS

FRONT

1" NARROW HEM

FACE ELASTIC
1/4" FROM FINISHED
EDGE

ELASTIC PLACEMENT

1" NARROW HEM

BACK

SMALL + MEDIUM
SEW FLAP MEDIUM
HERE

SEW HERE
HERE

4"

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

THE SADDLE MASK

36A SADDLE FLAP
cut 2

TOP EDGE OF SADDLE FLAP OPENING
OPENING IS 4 1/4" X 2 1/2" RECTANGLE

SMALL + MEDIUM

2

GRAIN LINE

ELASTIC PLACEMENT
5/8" FROM EDGE

1" NARROW HEM

1" NARROW HEM

FRONT

THE SADDLE MASK ©
JMM SEW GOODS

36A

Cut 1

SADDLE SEAT
PAD

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

PLACE ON FOLD

1

LARGE

GRAIN LINE

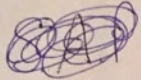
SEW FLAP
TO HERE

SEW HOOD
TO HERE

CENTER LINE

1" LOWER
SADDLE
JMM

THE SADDLE MASK ©



36A

CUT 1

5/8" SEAM
ALLOWANCE

SADDLE SEAT PAD
JMM SEW GOOD

MED + SMALL

PLACE ON FOLD

GRAIN LINE

SEW SADDLE ↓
FLAP TO HERE

SEW HOOD
TO HERE ↑

①

CENTER LINE

5/8" SA.

SMALL

GRAIN LINE

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

Cut 1

THE SADDLE MASK (4) 3MM SEW GOODS
36A SADDLE COVER PAD
UNDER SADDLE STRAP
FOR SMALL SIZE

(4)

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

1 1/2" Hem

5/8" SA

MED

GRAIN LINE

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

THE SADDLE MASK @
JMM SEW GOODS
36A SADDLE COVER PAD STRAP
FOR MEDIUM COVER
cut 1

7

5/8" SA

1 1/2 HEM

5/8" S.A.

← 1" WIDER FOR
SADDLE 50

LARGE

TO THIS LINE
FOR SADDLE 50 - ADD 1" WHT
SEAMS. TRIPLE 1/4" FLEUR
EDGE TO BACK - BACK
WAS 1/2"

GRAIN LINE

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

THE SADDLE MASK (2) 5MM SEW GOOD 5

36A

SADDLE COVER PAD

WIDER SADDLE STRAP

FOR LARGE COVER

CUT 1

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

-5 VELCRO
MARK
CUT OFF
4" ~~5~~ OFF
OF STRAP

1" MARK

TO THIS LINE
FOR SADDLE 50

1/2" HEM

FOOT M-HALF
THICKNESS

36A CUT 4

STRAP FOR SADDLE FLAP
9" X 4" FOR SADDLES 31

← GRAIN LINE → 1/2" SEAM ALLOWANCE

THE SADDLE MASK @
JMM SEW GOODS

(11)

CUT VELCRO 3" TO OVER LAP ENDS

36A

FOR SADDLE 50 - CUT 10" X 4"
(13.5 ELASTIC)

CUT 2

36 A

8 3/4" x 6"

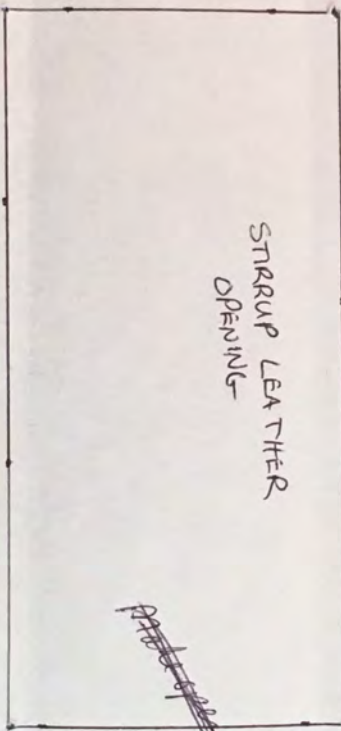
(5)

SMALL - MEDIUM - LARGE -
THE SADDLE MASK

FACING FOR OPENING

JMM SEW GOODS

STRAP LEATHER
OPENING



GRAIN LINE

XL →

4

CENTER LINE

PLACE ON FOLD

GRAIN LINE

GATHER THIS EDGE

5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

THE SADDLE MASK ©
JMM SEW GOODS

36A

SADDLE HOOD

SMALL ONLY

FOR HOOD - 3" or 4" ~~less~~
IN WIDTH

7

1 1/4" HEM

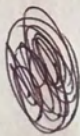
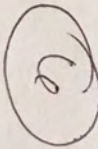
5/8" SEAM ALLOWANCE

THE SADDLE MASK ②
SMALL SEW GOODS

36A CUT 1

SADDLE HOOD

~~SMALL~~ - MEDIUM - LARGE
ONLY



THIS PIECE IS 2" LONGER
THAN PATTERN PIECE #3

HEM 1/4"

GATHER THIS EDGE

GRAIN LINE

PLACE ON FOLD

CENTER
LINE

5/8" S.A.

GATHER THIS EDGE

THE SADDLE MASK ©
JMM SEW GOODS

36A

CUT 1

10

LARGE ONLY

SADDLE # 34

2" LONGER

15" WIDTH

(CUT ANOTHER INCH WIDER FOR SADDLES 55+56)

GRAIN LINE

PLACE ON FOLD

CENTER
LINE

GATHER THIS EDGE

THE SADDLE MASK ②
JMM SEW GOODS

⑧

36 A

SADDLE HOOD

CUT 1

LARGE ONLY

3" WIDER THAN
STANDARD HOOD

(SADDLE 58) (22+29)

HEM 1/4"

PLACE ON FOLD

CENTER LINE

GATHER THIS EDGE

THE SADDLE MASK ©
JMM SEWGOODS

36A

SADDLE HOOD

Cut 1

SMALL - MEDIUM - LARGE

GRAIN LINE

3

PLACE ON FOLD

CENTER LINE

HEM 1 1/4"

5/8" S.A.

GATHER THIS EDGE

9

THE SADDLE MASK © JMM SEW GOODS

36 A

SADDLE HOOD

CUT 1

X-LARGE ONLY

3" WIDER + 3" LONGER
THAN STANDARD HOOD

(SADDLE 50)
IT WAS TOO BIG

1/4" HEM

PLACE ON FOLD

CENTER LINE