

Measuring Wither Angle for Saddle Fitting using a Flexicurve



Step 1 Tools for the Job

Flexicurve to obtain wither profile

A3 graph or plain paper on which to make the tracing (two A4 pages taped together will do)

Marker pen to mark flexicurve reference points

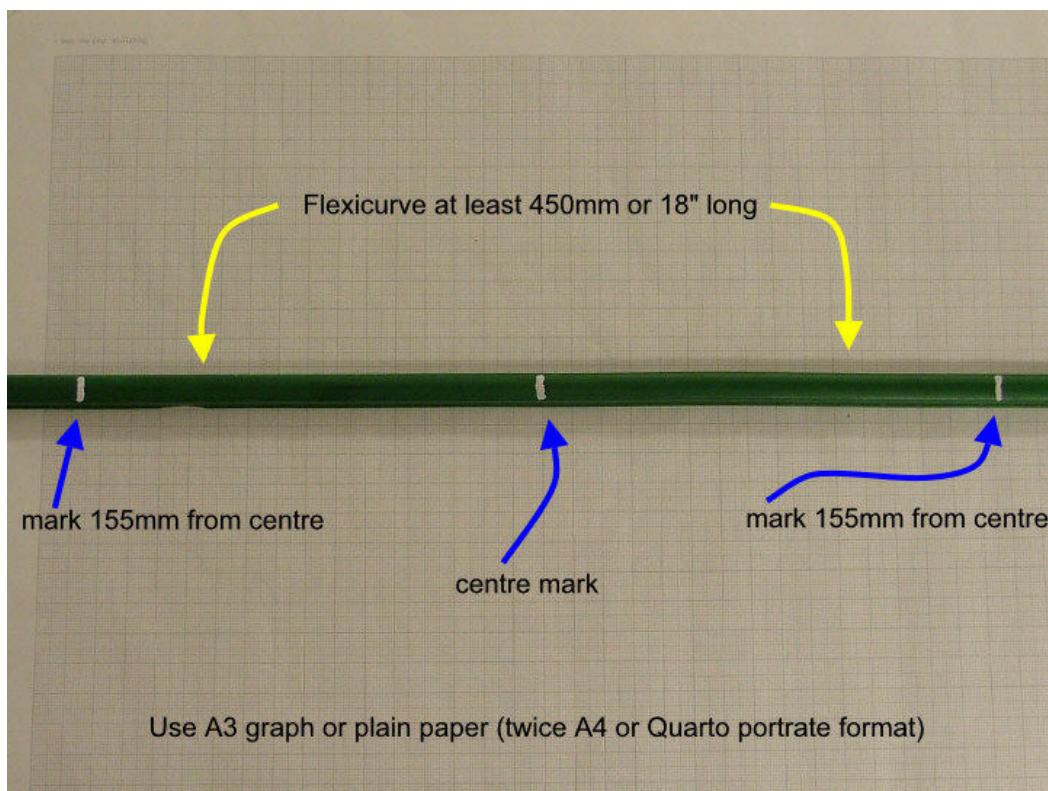
Pencil or pen to trace the flexicurve profile

Firm flat surface (board same size as paper)

Masking tape to secure paper to flat surface

See through plastic 12" Ruler to draw straight lines

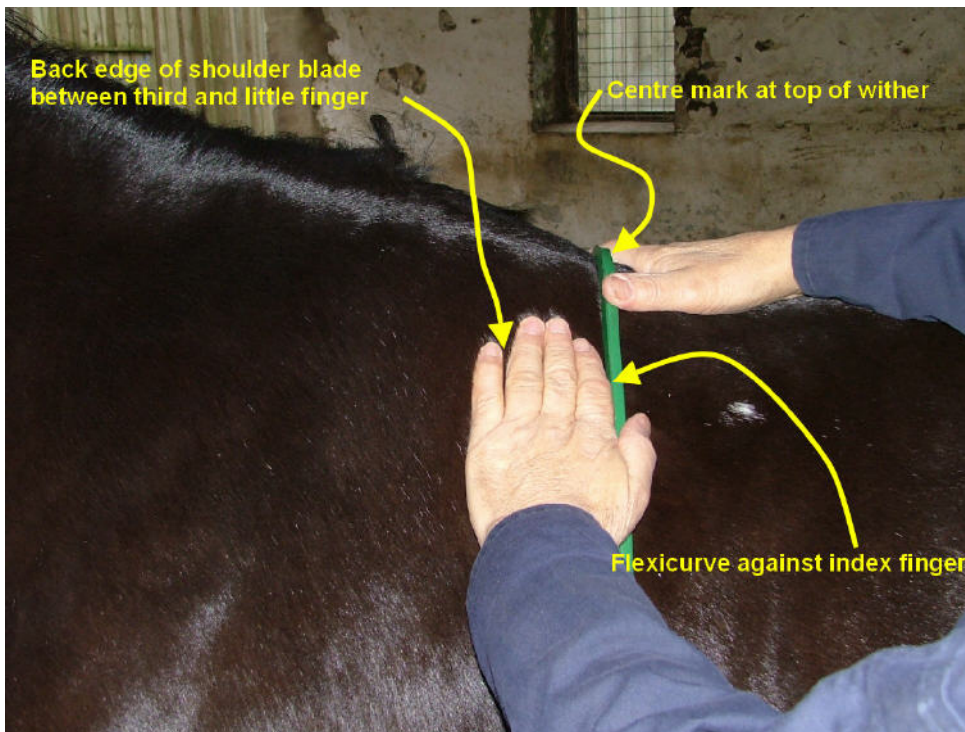
Protractor to measure the wither angle



Mark up the flexicurve as shown in the diagram above. The centre mark will always be placed at the middle of the wither - meaning the highest point or the top of the vertical spinous processes.

Use the masking tape to fix the paper to the firm flat horizontal surface

Step 2 Placing the Flexicurve on the Horse



Horse should be standing on a level surface and square at the front and if possible not resting a hind leg

Smooth the curve gently over both sides of the withers to follow the wither profile

Before lifting off check the position as shown by the yellow arrows

The flexicurve is placed 3 fingers behind the back edge of the shoulder blade

Special Notes:

When lifting the flexicurve off the wither and moving it to the paper use thumb and index finger of one hand only, gripping on the centre of the flexicurve. Doing it this way reduces accidental shape changes while handling.

Remove it from the wither with a smooth action.

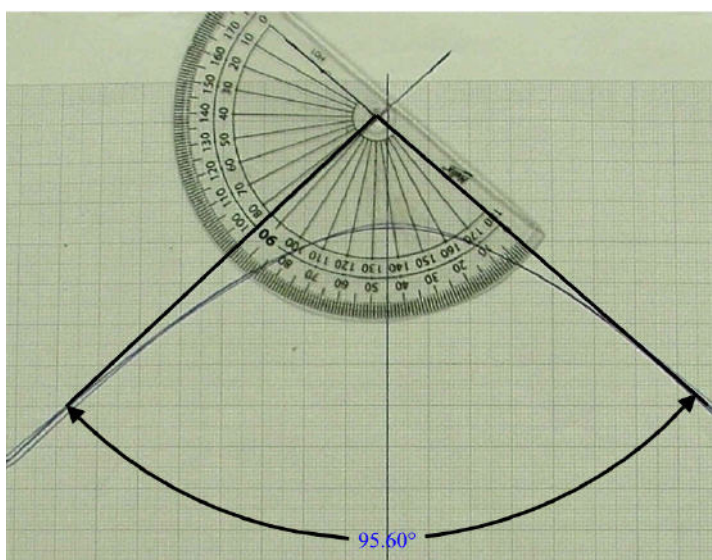
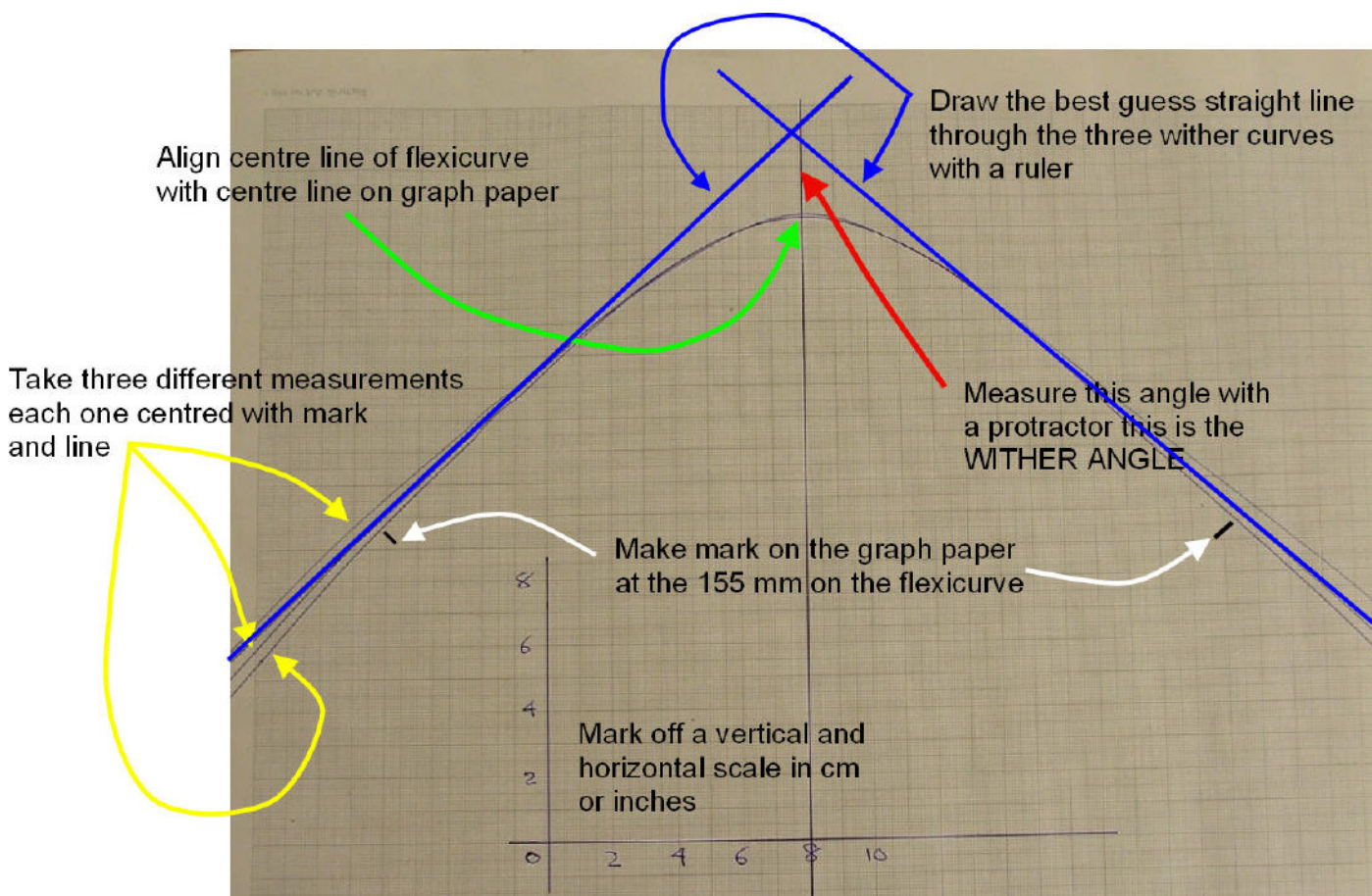
Place it on the paper, still thumb and index finger only, ends first with the flat side of the flexicurve being laid onto the paper.

Once flat on the paper line up the centre line on the paper with the centre mark on the flexicurve as shown on the diagram on the next page and trace the wither profile.

Take three different profiles. All aligned with the flexicurve centre mark and the paper centre line as on shown on the next page. They may be different lower down the wither, do not worry. Using three tracings and drawing the best straight line through them helps to reduce measurement errors.

Step 3 Making the Wither Angle Tracing

**Remember to trace the inside of the flexicurve
This is the edge which has been against the horse**



Using a protractor to measure the wither angle.

The purpose of the vertical and horizontal scale on the tracing is for scaling error correction if the tracing becomes distorted when copied or sent over the internet to

FuE or one of our fitters.

The 155mm marks help *FuE* to estimate the panel position on Withers.

Wither angles are typically between 85 and 100 degrees. Very narrow horses can be 75 degrees and very wide horses 110 degrees.

For more help contact *FuE* Saddles info@fnesaddles.com or contact the fitter directly who sent you these instructions.

Taking pictures of horse for remote saddle fit conformation check

If possible use a level, flat, hard surface



If possible keep the horse straight
for these two pictures

For more information on saddle fitting click here →

