

Mounting Aid

We've all been there....mounting a horse who has a sweaty slippery back, or a wide flat withered horse, and the *saddle slips to the side*.

Perhaps we need to work at being more flexible and strong for mounting, but there are still times when a saddle will slip. Or the times when you can't find a mounting block or a convenient rock or tree - been there, done with THAT!

Pulling the saddle to the side while mounting is uncomfortable for the horse and studies show it can damage their spine over time. Not to mention that it's dangerous!

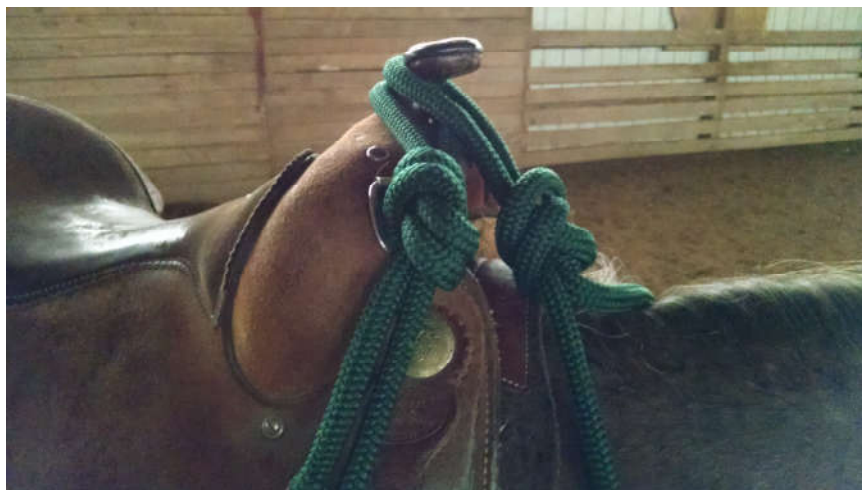
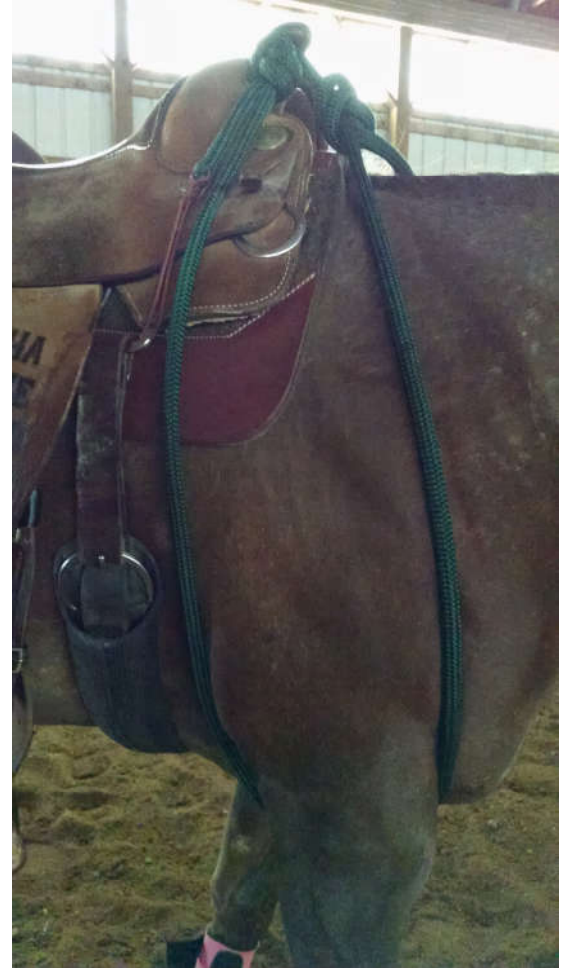
My solution is to make a **MOUNTING AID** using a lead rope.

Take your lead rope and make a simple loop on one end and put it over the horn. Take the other end and bring it under your horse's elbow on the off side. Tie it back up to the horn with a couple of half hitches or just tie another loop. Be sure it's fairly tight. A tight rope will disperse the weight more evenly.

Now you can mount without the saddle pulling over. Yes, it will put pressure on your horse's opposite shoulder and the soft tissue under the elbow. But the pressure is momentary and with a thick rope, should not cause any problems. You need to be the judge of your horse's comfort. Practice this at home a few times to get your horse used to the feeling.

Once mounted you can un-tie the lead rope from the horn, slide it out from under your horse's elbow, and store it in your saddle bag or hang it on the fence for your next ride.

Enjoy the Ride, my Friends!



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English Saddle Version

The same concept works with an English saddle.

All you need is the addition of a carabineer to snap the loops to the Dee ring on the saddle.

Or you can use 2 carabineers and snap each loop to the Dee ring individually.

