

# SADDLE PAD TUTORIAL

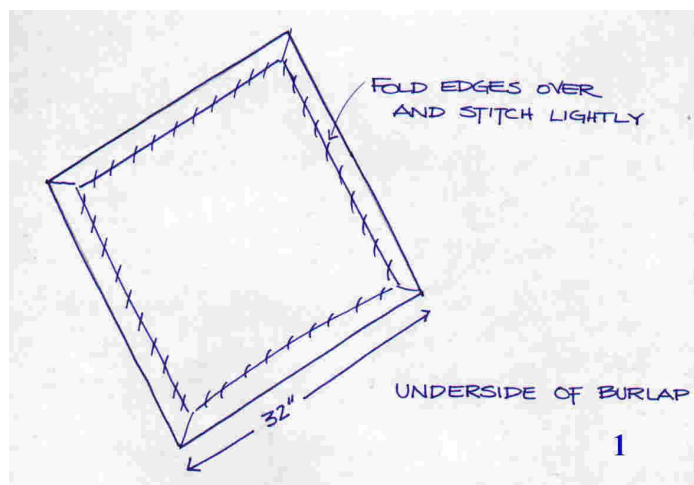
## Introduction

I've made many saddlepads, both plain and fancy. I've made them for rodeo people, bull-doggers, cattle penners, horse trainers, ranchers, and trail riders. Some saddlepads get hard wear. Others have never been lifted from the back of a favourite easy chair. I've seen them used as floor mats as well as wall decorations. My three children have all slept on them.

I've still got the first one I made. I didn't wear it out. It endured several hundred horseback miles, trail rides, use on the farm, hunting trips in miserable weather, and many soapless washings in the creek. You will get the same durable service out of yours.



- Size the burlap and seam the edges.
- Fold every edge and hand-stitch to create a square, approximately 32 inches by 32 inches.
- Your doubled-over edge will prevent fraying and give you better edge strength.

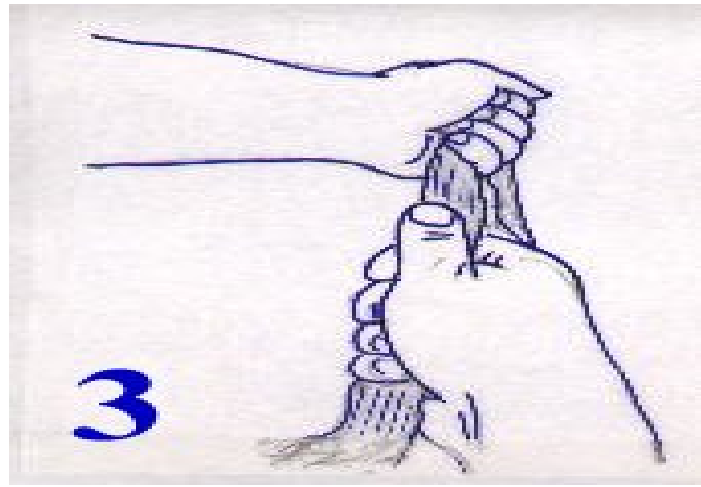


## Size a length of the roving...

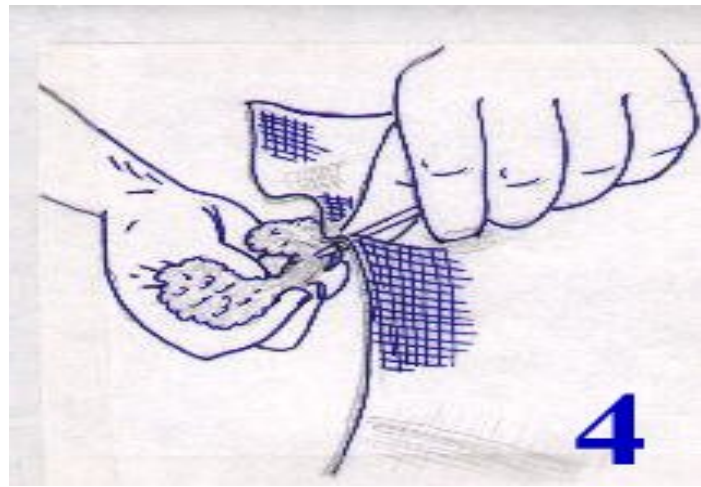
- This is where you will learn from a little practice and experience.
- I split a length roving in two or three, depending on how thick it is. You need it thin enough that it will fit the latch-hook and pull through the burlap fabric, but not so thin that it has no bulk.
- Similarly, it can't be so thick that you can't get it all on the hook, nor pull it through the burlap without straining your wrist.
- Keep in mind a finished saddlepad has about 3,800 loops of wool hooked into it. 3,800 strained repetitions will leave you in pain.



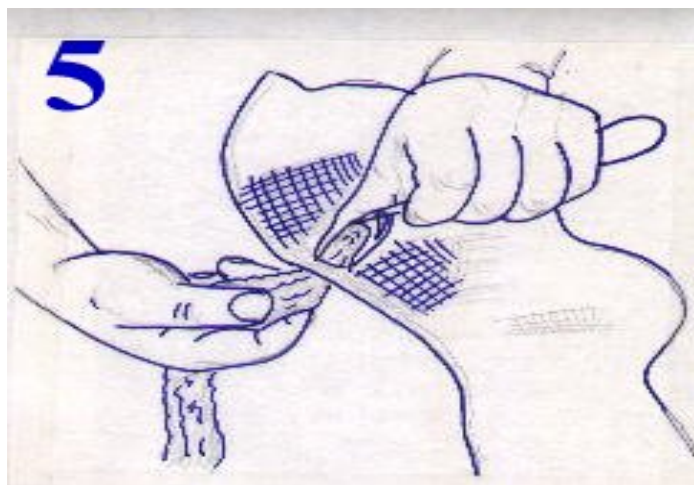
- Carefully run each of the split lengths through your hand to even it. You'll want each length to be as consistently even in its feel as possible.



- Start the latch-hooking at the edge of your burlap, and continue along the edge, giving about 1/2" to 3/4" spacing between your loops.



- Pull each loop so that loop depth, both sides of the burlap, are about equal. I like to make my saddlepads 1 1/2" thick, so I pull my loops about 3/4" either side of the burlap material.



- Continue latch-hooking in the same direction, going all around the edge to complete your first row, then... allowing the 1/2" to 3/4" spacing, continue in the same direction beginning your second row, and so on.
- Be persistent, you'll do fine. It won't take long for you to develop the knack.

**good luck!**

