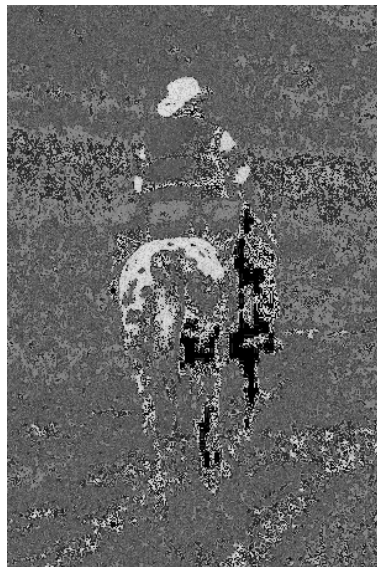


Western Saddle Bedroll – By Paul Kern

1. Start with a 9' X 12' 8 oz. canvas tarp (drop cloth available at Home Depot).
2. Add pair of large canvas saddle bags available at Intermountain Farmers.
3. Ensure that your western saddle is equipped with long saddle strings.
4. Lay tarp out length-wise on the ground.
5. Place sleeping bag, spare clothes and other essentials in the center third (three feet) of the tarp near one of the ends.
6. Fold the two sides over the center of the tarp, enclosing your gear. Your load must be weight balanced from the center of the roll or it will shift on the trail.
7. Roll up as tightly and as neatly as possible. It should weight no more than 10 – 15 lbs.
8. Using a length of nylon cord, tie the roll together at both ends creating a cylindrical bedroll package about 12" in diameter and three feet in length.
9. Place canvas saddle bags on your saddle and secure with the saddle strings (tie off only with forward strings; leave rear strings untied at this point).
10. Place the bedroll on the saddle, over the saddle bags and secure tightly with the rear saddle strings (square knots).
11. On top of the bedroll, place your tightly rolled poncho or slicker and tie off with a half bow knot for easy untying while in the saddle.
12. Carry your tie-line rope on your saddle as you would your lariat.
13. Hang a canteen on your saddle horn.
14. Use the tarp and/or ponchos for informal shelters, ground tarps, etc.



The combination of oversized canvas saddle bags and this bedroll will provide enough carrying capacity for a multi-day trip. Using this method, we have traveled the backcountry for up to a week at a time and have even slept out in the rain. Dehydrated food and lightweight backpacking gear is most suitable for this kind of travel. You will be amazed at the ground you can cover without a packhorse.

Paul Kern - 3/09



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