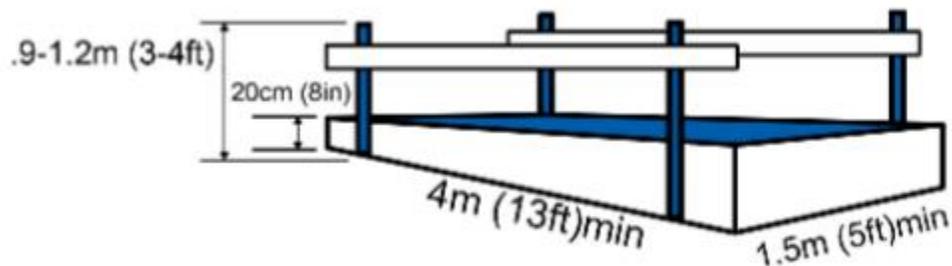


Building Working Equitation Obstacles

Bridge

From the Rulebook: The bridge should be made of wood and be solidly constructed to ensure that it is not a danger for the horse or rider. The deck of the bridge must not be slippery. The bridge may be arched or angled in its rise. Recommended dimensions are minimum width: 1.5 m (5 ft); minimum length: 4 m (13 ft); minimum height: 20 cm (8 in.). The bridge may have side rails. If side rails are used, for safety considerations the rails must be constructed such that they can be quickly and easily removed without the use of tools. Side rails should be between 91 cm (3 ft) and 1.2 m (4 ft) in height.



I built mine as a single flat bridge using three 8" x 8" 13 ft. long lumber as a base with boards 5 ft long (2 ft x 8 inches by 5 ft long). I purchased 2-inch x 8-inches by 12 feet long pieces and cut two boards from each piece. I slotted them sideways until the bridge was covered. The final piece needed to be cut in half (4" instead of 8"). Once built, a tractor with forklift attachments can easily pick it up and place it where it needs to go for the course. We built detachable side rails that slotted into the sides of the bridge using two by fours. These inserted into 4 places so the rails are sturdy enough.



Many people build angled bridges with a rise from 8" to approximately 18" at the middle. These are often built in two pieces because they are heavier and more difficult to move. They require angled Sides. Take care to ensure that it is not slippery.



Barrels for Figure 8 and Drums

Food Barrels can be used for the Figure 8 or the Drums. They are typically 3-4 ft tall and 2-3 ft in diameter. You can buy them (the 55 gallon size at Uline https://www.uline.com/BL_8154/Plastic-Drum) but you can often find them by asking Restaurants, School Cafeterias, Hospitals or any large food service institutions. The good thing is that you do not need them to be brand new. It is likely to get them from institutions for less than you can buy them new if you offer above the recycling price. For both the Figure 8 and the Drums, you would need 5 of them.

Upright Poles

You will need a lot of upright poles. You will need them for Rounding Posts, Switch Cup, Single Slalom and Double Slalom. You can also use them for Start/Finish Markers. At a minimum you will need 15.

There are many ways to make upright poles. One easy way is to use three-gallon buckets saved from horse feed supplements. 5 gallon buckets are good too, but don't fill them up all the way or they are too heavy to move. First, spray them with PAM nonstick spray or use plastic so you can remove the cement after it is set. You would fill them with concrete and put a 6.5 ft (2 meter) tall PVC pipe roughly two inches in diameter into the cement when it is still soft, but thick enough so the pole stays upright. You can make them all at once, or do 3 or 5 at a time until you have enough.

One handy hint is to also put two nylon ropes approximately 18 inches long and embed approximately 6 inches of both ends to create a loop that sticks out of the cement so that when it dries, you have handles to move/carry them.

Building a Bull (Copyrighted material from Andalusian World)

<https://andalusianworld.com/site/the-working-equitation-bull/>

I have been asked several times about HOW to create a bull for Working Equitation, and creating the pattern seems to be the biggest hurdle, so we will address that here!

There are several options when deciding what you would like your bull to look like.

The most common is a silhouette cutout of a bull, though you may also see printed or 3D versions. For this example, we will cover the traditional silhouette version.

Your first task will be to find a picture of the bull that you would like to create.

This can be from the internet, a picture of someone else's bull.... the options are unlimited!

STEP 1

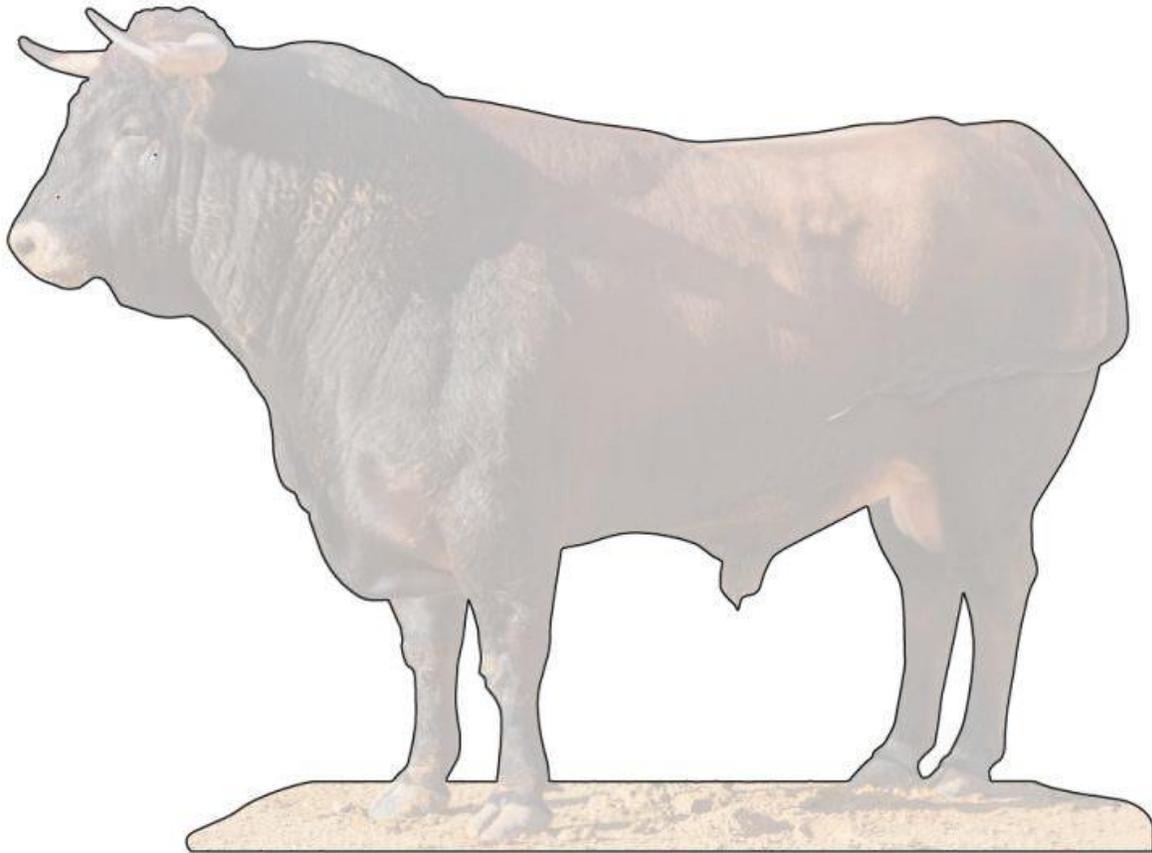
Print out your bull on a standard piece of paper as large as you can make it.

Note: A high contrast between bull and background makes the following steps much easier!



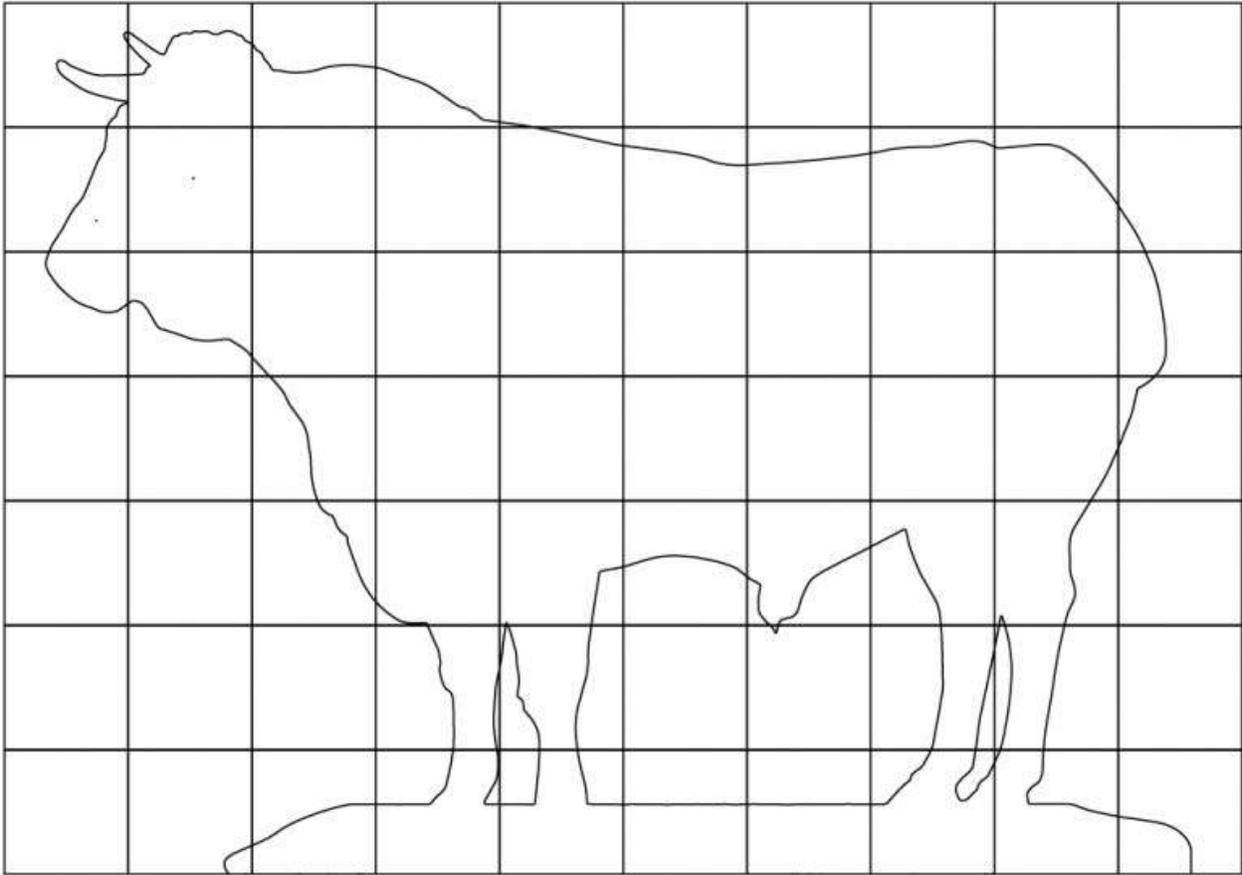
STEP 2

Place another blank sheet of paper over your print and trace the outline of the bull.



STEP 3

Using a ruler, create a grid on top of your new tracing. I generally use a 1 inch by 1 inch grid, but any size will work, as long as it is uniform.



STEP 4

Now it is time to transfer your amazing artwork to your plywood.

Note: It is recommended to use at least 1/2 thick plywood for durability and stability.

First, start by recreating your grid on your plywood, as large as you can make it.

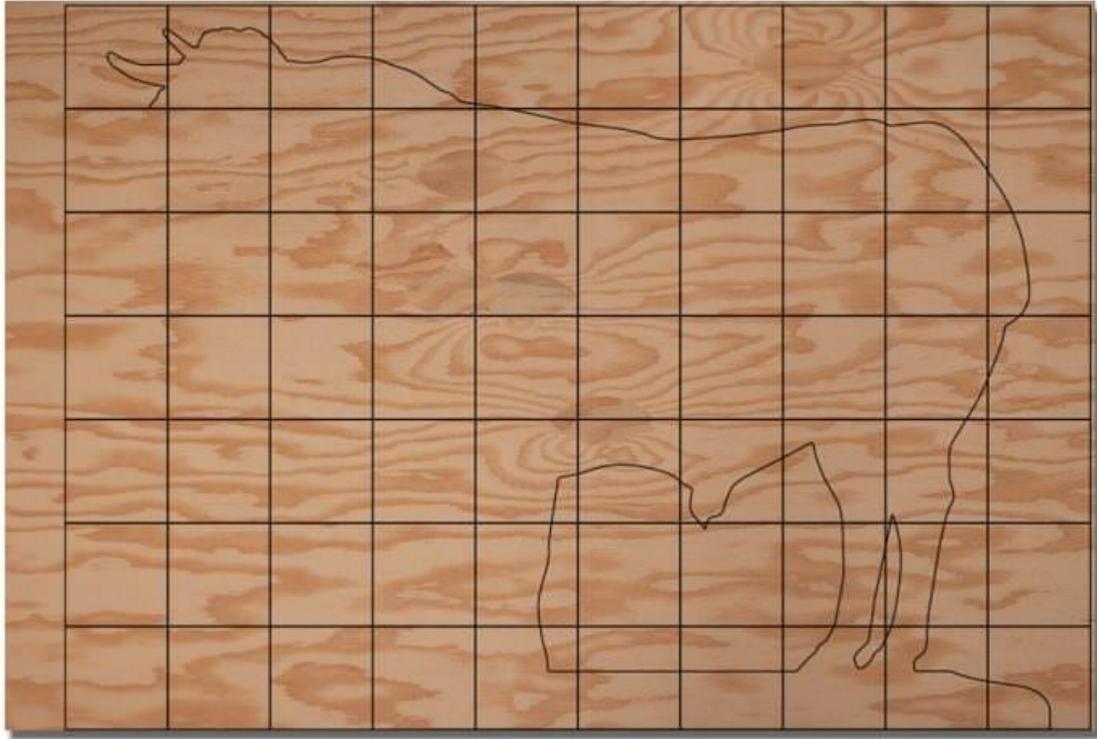
In this example, the squares of the grid are approximately 6 1/2 inches.



STEP 5

With your grid in place, now we will start recreating the bull, square by square. Notice where lines start and stop in each “box” on your drawing, attempting to recreate this on your plywood. A pencil works well for this should you need to erase and redraw.

Don't worry if it is not perfect (nobody will ever notice)



STEP 6

Now that your bull has been traced to your plywood, it is time to cut it out.

A jig saw works wonderfully for this!

Once cut out, it is time to paint!

Make sure to paint/seal all of the cut edges as well to protect the wood from moisture and debris damage.

You will need to build mounts for it to stand in as well as attach a ring. 8x8" pieces about 3 ft long work well for this (use leftovers from 16 ft pieces from building your bridge).

Pool rings work well as the ring for the bull.

Enjoy your new bull!

Remove Replace Pole

Requirements: Two open-topped drums and a Garrocha pole 2.5 to 3.5 m (8 to 11.5 ft) in length. The pole is placed in the drum, butt end down. The tip of the pole should be easily identified as such by a pronounced taper or distinctive coloring.

The IDEAL obstacles for the open-faced drums are wine barrels because they are the right weight and durability. However, they can be expensive and difficult to locate. However, you

can cut the tops off 55 gallon drums and weight them with sand if wine barrels are too expensive or unavailable.

The Garrocha pole can be purchased from a home improvement store. 1.5" x 12 ft and cut down to 11.5 feet. One end should be tapered slightly. You can then paint or apply colored tape to mark the tapered tip of the pole.

Pen

The pen for Working Equitation consists of an inner pen in the shape of a circle surrounded by an outer barrier also in the shape of a circle, with an opening for entry/exit. The inner pen should contain small animals or replicas of small animals.

The inner pen should be approximately 3 meters (10 feet) in diameter. The outer pen should be approximately 6 meters (20 feet) in diameter. The opening for entry/exit should be 1.5 meters (5 feet) wide.

Jug

This obstacle consists of an empty jug with a handle placed on top of a table, about 1.2 meters (4 ft) high. The table may be another common material such as a drum, barrel, or stack of hay bales provided the surface is flat.

I found my jug at a Thrift Store. It should be solid, but unbreakable since it will get dropped occasionally.

You would think it would be easy to find a table 48" H, but in reality that is not a standard size so it is difficult to locate one. After looking for a while, I built a Table using four 2 x 4s four feet high and a Table top out of a 24" x 24" piece of plywood and four 24" long 2 x 4s. Cross pieces half way down made it sturdier as shown below. We then painted it so it would withstand the elements.

By Janice Kall

