

## HOW TO TRANSLATE HORSE MEASUREMENTS TO BRIDLE PARTS

First we must point out that our methods for taking measurements and applying them are geared towards a traditional bridle fit. This means the bridle will fit with the buckles of the cheek pieces and cavesson end up falling in line at eye level when buckled to the middle adjustment holes. If you desire a bridle that has more adjustment to be larger or smaller we suggest that you use either the top adjustment holes as reference for a fit that can be adjusted larger or the last adjustment holes for a fit that can be adjusted smaller.

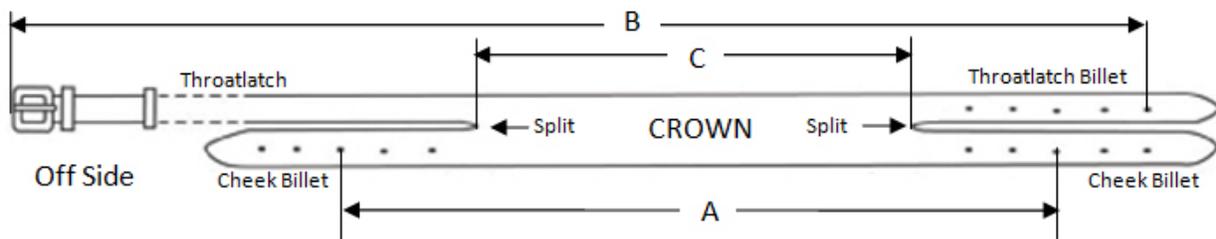
If you have followed the directions from “How to Measure Your Horse for Individual Bridle parts,” you should have a sheet with these measurements:

- Crown - Eye to Eye
- Crown - Corner to Corner
- Cheeks
- Bit Ring
- Browband
- Cavesson - Nose
- Cavesson - Cheek
- Cavesson - Bridge
- Throatlatch

A bridle can have anywhere from five to seven pieces: Crown, Cheeks, Cavesson, Browband and Reins. If it is a Double or Weymouth bridle it can also have a Bradoon Strap or Slip and a Curb Rein.

Starting with the Crown.

When deciding on a crown piece size you want to choose the measurement that is closest to your Crown - Eye to Eye measurement when comparing it to the length between the middle hole of the left cheek billet to the middle hole of the right cheek billet on the crown piece. (A)



The reason for this is because ideally you want the cheek buckle to line up level with the eye while being buckled into the middle adjustment hole. If you desire a bridle that has more adjustment to fit larger or smaller, we suggest that you use either the top adjustment holes as reference for a fit that can be adjusted larger or the last adjustment holes for a fit that can be adjusted smaller.

If your horse has an unusually thick or thin throatlatch you will probably also want to check their Throatlatch measurement against the Crown pieces throatlatch measurement. Measure the entire length of the crown piece on the throatlatch side, from the end of the throatlatch buckle to the last hole of the throatlatch billet on the off side of the crown piece. (B) Then measure the crown from split to split. (C) Subtract the split to split measurement from the length of the entire Throatlatch. This will give you the ideal length for the throatlatch for your horse.

The Crown – Corner to Corner measurement can be used with your Bit Ring and Cheek measurements to give you the measurements needed for a Bradoon strap on a Double or Weymouth bridle or an overall measurement if buckle alignment is not important to you.

Use your Cheek Piece measurement minus your Bit Ring Measurement to give you the near or buckle side of the Bradoon Strap length. This will be the most important measurement as this will assure that the buckle will line up at eye level. For the right or off side of the Bradoon Strap, take your Bit Ring Measurement and multiply it by 2. Take that total and add your Cheek measurement. Now subtract that total from your Crown - Corner to Corner measurement. This will give you the length the right side or off side of the Bradoon Strap will need to be from the end to the middle adjustment hole.

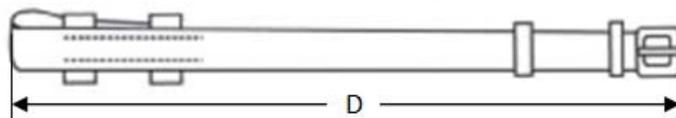
Example: Your Crown – Corner to Corner measurement is 49 inches, your Cheek measurement is 10½ inches and your Bit Rings measure 2½ inches. The ideal length for the near side or buckle side of the Bradoon Strap is 8 inches. ( $10\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2} = 8$ ). The ideal length for your right or off side Bradoon Strap will be 36 inches. ( $2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$ ,  $5 + 8 = 13$ , and  $49 - 13 = 36$ )

You can also use the Crown – Corner to Corner measurement minus your Bit Ring measurement multiplied by 2 to get the overall length needed for your Bradoon Strap.

Example: The ideal overall length of the Bradoon Strap is 44 inches. ( $2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$  and  $49 - 5 = 44$ )

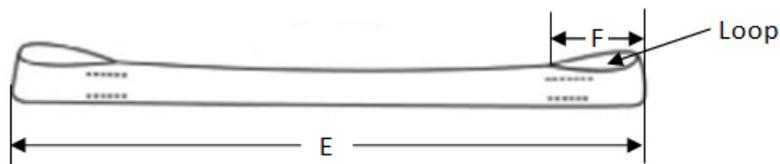
Next are the Cheek Pieces

Take your Cheek measurement and subtract your Bit Ring Measurement. The resulting figure is the ideal length for your Cheek Pieces. This will give you Cheek Pieces that are the correct length so that the buckle will fall level with your horse's eye. Cheek Pieces are normally measured from the bottom of a secured bit end closure to the end of the buckle. (D)



On to the Browband

This measurement is pretty self explanatory. Compare your Browband measurement to the list of the available Browband lengths and choose the closest larger length. When measuring a Browband you want to measure the inside surface of the Browband (the part that lies against your horse's forehead). You want to measure the length from end to end. (E)



Also note that you need to measure the length of the loops on a browband to make sure that they are large enough to accommodate your crown and cavesson straps. (F) It is especially important when considering a browband for a padded crown or double bridle. Padded crowns tend to be thicker than a traditional crown. The Double Bridle will have the Bradoon Strap running through the Browband as well as the Crown and Cavesson strap.

And Last But Not Least the Caveson.

If having your buckles line up at eye level is your goal then the Caveson – Cheek measurement will be the most important to you when choosing a caveson size. Compare your horse's Caveson – Cheek measurement to the buckle strap of the caveson measurement (G) and choose the caveson size with the closest match.

If your horse has an unusually wide or narrow nose then you will want to compare your Caveson – Bridge measurement to the bridge measurement of the caveson (H) and choose the caveson size with the closest width.

For fit around the nose, compare your Caveson – Nose measurement to the nose measurement of the caveson (I). For a fit that allows adjustment both larger and smaller, choose a caveson size where the nose measurement from the buckle to the middle caveson billet hole (I) is the closest match to your Caveson – Nose measurement. For a fit that will adjust larger use the first caveson billet hole measurement for comparison, for a smaller fit use the last caveson billet hole for comparison.

