CREATE A SIMPLE PACK SYSTEM FOR YOUR LLAMA

Materials List:
3 yds. 14 oz. cotton denim, canvas or similar material, 45” or 60” wide,. 28” each of hook and loop pile Velcro, 1 in. wide (or 14” each if 2” wide).
Thread, marking chalk, measuring tape or yard stick

Step 1: Cutting the Fabric
Cut two pieces of fabric 25” wide by 29” long. These will be the two pack bags. Cut one piece of fabric 18” wide by 15” long. This will be the top piece that goes over the llama’s back and connects the two bags. Cut two pieces 5 1/2” wide by the length of your fabric (108”). These will be your cinch straps and will be shortened later, after measuring your llama.

Step 2: Constructing the Bags
After cutting the bags, mark the triangular seam lines that will, when sewn, create the bottom of the bag. With right sides together, match Point A to Point A/B and then sew from the point of the triangle to those points. Do the same, matching Point B to Point A/B and sewing from the point of the triangle.

Again with right sides together, sew a 1/2” inch seam up the side of the bag from these connected points to the top edge of the bag. Repeat on the other side. Trim away excess fabric from bag bottom, leaving a 1/2” seam.

Turn top edge under 1/4 inch and press. Then turn under 3/4” inch, press and sew all around top of bag. Repeat this same process with the second bag.

Step 3: Constructing the Cinch Straps:
Turn each long edge under 1/4” inch and press. Sew along long edge. Use wide zigzag stitch along one end, leaving other end rough. Repeat with second cinch.
Step 4: Constructing the Top Piece and Connecting the Bags

Side edges: turn under 1/4” inch and press. Turn under 3/4” inch and press again, then stitch.

Connecting Edges: Turn under 1/2” inch and press. Stitch and repeat on other side. Mark center on each end. Use chalk to mark buttonholes 1 1/2” inches from connecting edge and 2 inches from side edge. Make them 2 1/2 inches long. Using zigzag stitch, make two buttonholes as shown on pattern. On underside, pin 7 inches of the finished end 2 1/2” inches from connecting edge. Stitch in place. Repeat with other cinch. On top side, sew 7 inches of hook Velcro (either a 7” piece of 2 inch wide of two 7 inch pieces of 1 inch wide) in place over each cinch connection (see illustration for placement guidelines of cinches, buttonholes and Velcro).

Step 5: Connecting the Pack Bags to Top Piece

Once the cinch straps and Velcro are attached to the top piece, pin one of the pack bags at the connecting edge of the top piece, matching centers on each piece and inside corners of the pack bag to the edges of the top piece. Allow approximately 1 1/4” inches of the top piece to overlap the back of the pack bag. Sew the top piece to the bag, making a large rectangle. Reinforce the outside edges of the connection with zigzag stitching bar tacks. Repeat with other bag.

Step 6: Sizing and Fitting the Pack on your Llama

Once you have completed your early pack training lessons with your llama, you may fit the pack to the llama by placing the pack on his/her back, bringing the cinches up through the buttonholes and laying them over the Velcro. Cinches should fit snugly around the llama. Use chalk to mark the cinch strap two inches past where it covers the end of the Velcro and mark the side of the strap that will come into contact with the Velcro.
on the saddle. Do the same with the rear cinch, which should fit under the llama’s belly, just behind the ribcage and well in front of the male’s penis sheath.

Remove the saddle and trim away the excess strap. Using wide zigzag stitch, finish the end of the strap so it will not unravel. Take your remaining Velcro hook and sew it to the marked side of the cinch straps, leaving a 1” inch of strap as a “pull tab”.

You will have an extra inch of Velcro hook past the pile on the saddle. This will allow for a growing llama or using a larger llama in the future. If this is not a consideration for you, you may adjust the cinch length to a more exact fit.

This pack was designed to fit llamas in the 290-340 lb. range. You may adjust the bag dimensions if you desire a certain size in order to pack a specific item. However, do not allow the bags to hang down too low on the llama’s side and interfere with leg movements. A well-balanced load should ride up on the llama’s side, keeping the center of gravity about on half down from the top of his/her back.