



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF Arena Set-Up

“Thank you” to the United States Pony Clubs for providing the text from which this description was derived.

Setting Up a Dressage Arena

Letters and arena fencing can be constructed or ordered from companies that sell equipment for dressage rings.

- 1) Companies that sell equipment for dressage rings advertise in *USDF Connection* and in other dressage and eventing publications.
- 2) Refer to the USEF Rule Book, DR126 for a description of legal fencing. The Rule Book is available at www.usef.org.
- 3) There are some arena layout tools available commercially that may simplify the process described next.

Suggested Methods for Laying out Arenas

First, establish the approximate locations of the rings. Stride out approximate distances or use a measuring wheel. Check the footing, determine the location of the judge relative to sun and confirm whether there will be adequate space for the judge's booth and for a comfortable circle at entry. Relocate as required. It is highly desirable to NOT have the sun in the judge's eyes.

Using Measuring Tapes

Metric/English fiberglass measuring tapes in reel-type plastic cases with flush-folding handles are available from contractors' supply stores, lumber yard supply stores, or surveyors' supply stores. These measuring tapes are available in 60-meter (200-foot) and 100-meter (300-foot) lengths. In addition, for measuring corners, 100-foot builder's tapes are available at a nominal cost from hardware stores.

Materials

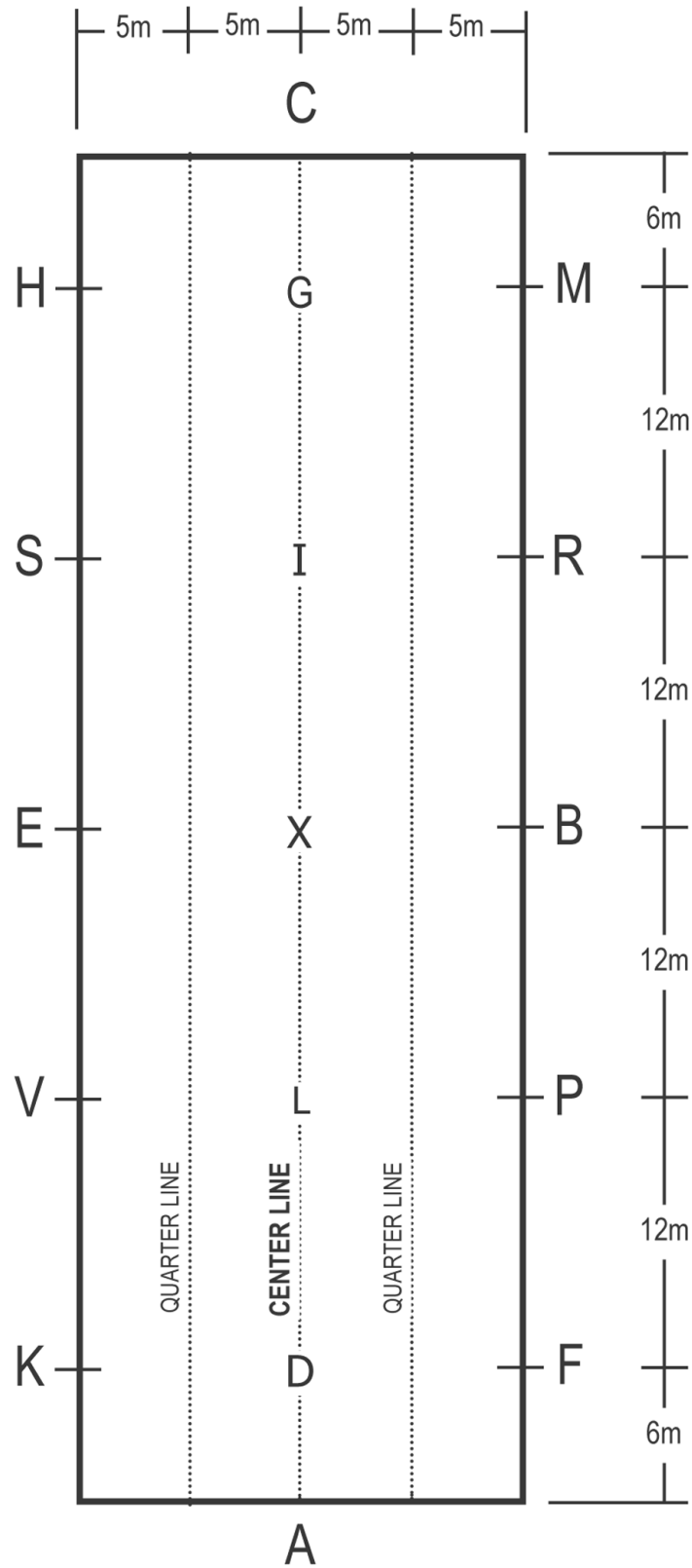
- 1) At least one 60-meter (200-foot) surveyor's tape, preferably marked in meters on one side of the tape. Two 60-meter tapes are ideal.
- 2) Also, two 100-foot builder's tapes are used to set corners and short walls.
- 3) Six stakes or long nails to establish corners and measuring points.

Directions

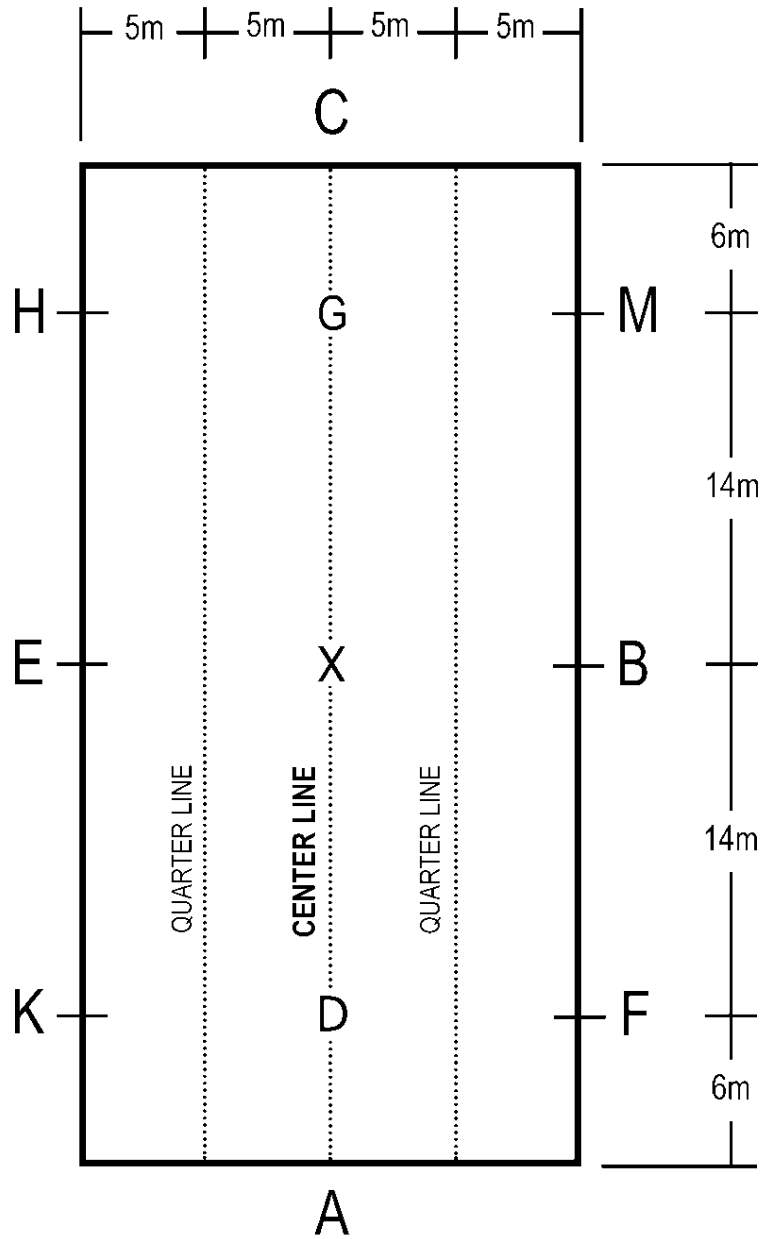
A 90° corner is established by using the Pythagorean theorem, which states that the sum of the squares of the sides of a right triangle equals the square of the hypotenuse. Tapes are used to establish a right triangle with sides of 40 feet and 30 feet and a hypotenuse of 50 feet.

- 1) Drive in one stake or nail to establish the location for the first corner stake. Using the 100-foot builder's tape, measure 66 feet along the potential short wall. Then take a 60-meter tape and for a small arena measure 40 meters down the long wall (or for a standard ring measure 60 meters) and place a stake with the tape secured to be straight and taut. This will be the second corner.

- 2) Then, use the second 100-foot builder's tape. Secure it at the 40-foot point on the long wall, unreel 50 feet and then adjust the positions between the 40-foot location on the long wall and a 30-foot location on the short wall so they are exactly 50 feet apart. (see figure 1) The easiest way to do this is to pivot the short wall while leaving the long wall taut. Mark the final location of end of the short wall with a stake. This is the third corner.
- 3) Use the tapes to measure out the other long wall and short wall. The fourth corner is located at their junction. By making these last two walls the correct lengths, all corners will be square. Optionally, the diagonal of the ring may be measured as a check, as shown in the following diagram.
- 4) Set the arena fencing.
- 5) Refer to the following diagrams to determine placement of letters.
- 6) Place letters approximately half meter away from the edge of the arena.
- 7) On the arena enclosure place a special marker on the fence itself, level with, and in addition to, the letter concerned.

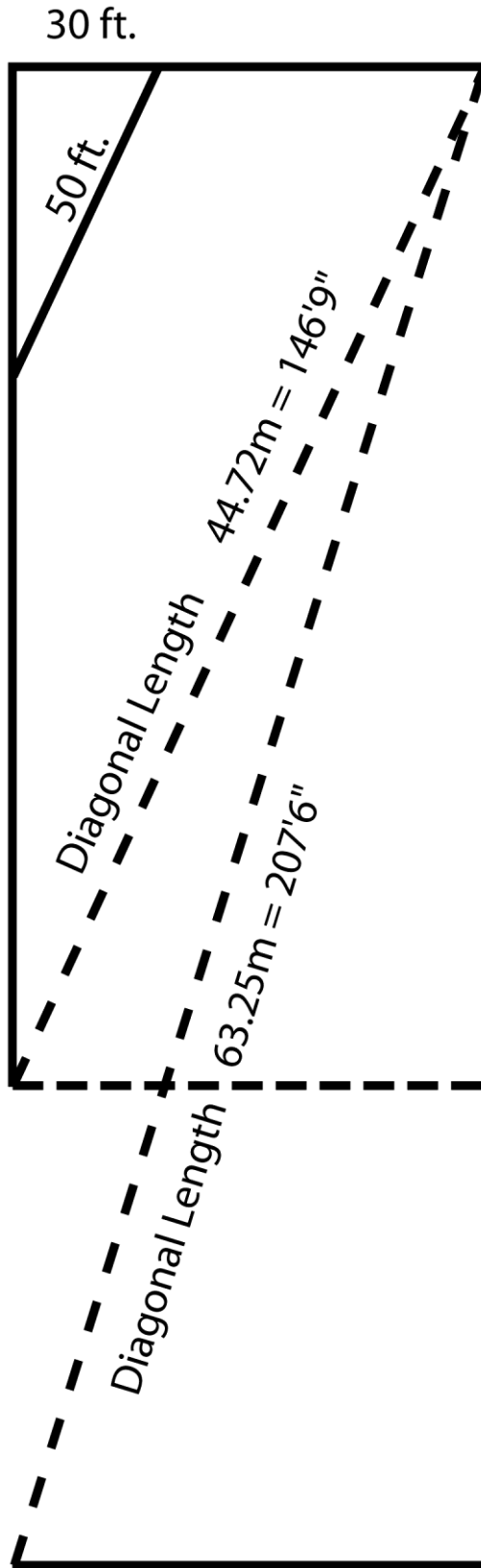


Standard Arena



Small Arena

SMALL ARENA
(20m x 40m)



STANDARD ARENA (20M X 60M)