

MAKING A LARGE DRESSAGE ARENA SET-UP ROPE

Purchase from a sailing/hardware shop:

- 250m X 10mm diameter Silver rope
- 3m x 5mm blue or yellow laid (three strand) rope
- 1m x 5mm white three strand rope
- A large garden hose-winder on which to store your Set-up Rope
- A black permanent marker

Initially, you need to use an accurately laid out 100m X 40m arena, with a diagonal of 107.7m.

Method:

1. Tie or splice a 10cm loop on one end of the silver rope, and place this loop over the peg at the bottom, left corner of the arena, facing C.
2. Drag the rope along the long side, and around the top, left corner peg. Continue along the top of the arena to, and around, the peg at the top right corner. You may need helpers to feed the rope around the corners.
3. Drag the rope across the arena, and back to the bottom, left corner. Ask your helpers to tighten the rope and flick it up and down to get it straight.
4. Loosen the rope and make another loop at the end of the diagonal rope. Place this second loop over the starting point at the bottom left corner of the arena. Cut off the excess rope. You should now have a tight rope triangle.
5. With a black permanent marker, mark the rope accurately at each letter. Add an extra mark 2m either side of C. Additional marks to indicate the corner pegs are necessary.
6. Untwist the coloured rope into its three strands, and cut off 13 pieces of single strands, each 20cm long. Heat the ends to stop fraying.
7. Untwist some of the white rope and cut off two single strands, each 30cm long.
8. Ease the tension of your arena rope, allowing you to loosen the braiding at each marked point sufficiently to feed a piece of coloured rope through. Tie knots in it to secure it at the marked point. Repeat this at each marked point on the long and short sides, including the markers either side of C. These will be for the entrance at A, at the bottom of the arena. Do not put any coloured rope markers on the diagonal.
9. Secure a length of white rope in the same way at the black marks that indicate the corner pegs of the arena.
10. Re-tension your arena rope. Put the loops over the corner pegs again and check the accuracy of all your marks. Make any alterations necessary.
11. When satisfied, wind the rope onto the garden hose winder to store. Start winding it on from the loop end. That way the loops come off last, ready for the next use.
12. To make a Set-up Rope for a **small arena** (80m X 40m), start with 210 metres of Silver rope and work as above. The diagonal should be 89.44metres.