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Thank you for asking about the saddlemaking class. I teach here at my home, where the shop is located, which is near the small town of Saint Joe, Indiana. Saint Joe is about 22 miles northeast of Fort Wayne. The closest town of size is Auburn, Indiana, which is the County Seat. Auburn is located at the junction of Interstate 69 and Indiana State Road 8. Auburn was the home of the Auburn, Cord and Duesenburg autos of the past. Quite a few motels there, where most of my students choose to stay. Super 8, Day's Inn, LaQuinta, Holiday Inn Express and several others. These are all within a short distance from a Walmart Superstore. Food places like Applebee's, Ponderosa Steak House, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, Taco Bell, McDonald's, KFC and several good local ones.

Saint Joe is about 12 miles slightly Southeast, located on Indiana State Road 1, and is about 4 miles south of Indiana State Road 8 and can be reached by coming south on County Road 59.

The course is planned over a two week period of time, spending at least 8 hours per day, Monday through Friday and about a half day on Saturday. Do not normally work on Sunday, taking the day of rest, as the Good Book suggests.

During Day One, a few hours are devoted to getting to know each other, and my introducing you to the tools that will be used in the building of a saddle of your choice. Tools that, although you and most of my students have done some leather work, may not be familiar. Then, after this, we get started.

I say the saddle of your choice, as you are, in most cases, the person that you are going to be making the saddle for. And, although I keep a small inventory of popular saddle trees, most times a tree will need to be ordered. Currently it will take around 6 weeks from the time I order the tree to the tree being delivered. The trees that I use are from either Batie Custom Saddle Tree or from Bowden Brand Saddle Trees. These are the wood base, wrapped with rawhide. The leather that I use is that which is tanned by the Wickett & Craig Leather Tannery in Curwensville. I also keep a small inventory of stirrups, but sometimes, will need to order a pair if what they want is different from what I have on hand.

Here are the links to the two saddle tree companies, where you can view some of the tree styles. <http://www.batiessaddletrees.com/> and <http://www.saddletree.com/>. The majority of my students are riders, will will often select the style of tree that has been used in the saddle that they are riding.

I have had some students who have had no prior experience with leather, thus, a part of the class has been the teaching of them to do a simple border design, which adds a little ornamentation to the saddle. Most often a border bead and then a sunburst stamp.

Most often I have started a saddle for my own inventory, that will be of a different style from what the student is making, so that you can learn the ways that the pommels on different style of trees are covered. I try to teach you as much as I know about this topic of western saddlemaking, it taking me over 50 years to get to where I am today.

During the course, you will learn how to make the patterns that are needed for the cutting patterns. I have my own set of patterns, which we use as a base, which some use, if for the same size tree that they were designed for, but, if the student needs a longer seat or wants a different shape to a part, such as the outline of the seat jockey, a new pattern must be made. As said, the patterns are basic. These will be made of a heavy pasteboard matting material that I keep on hand for that purpose.

The course is \$100 per day plus the cost of the materials that are used. I only charge the actual cost, but currently it is approximately \$800.00.

Here is my website address, <http://www.rosaddlery.com> This link will take you to the photo album of some of my past students, <http://www.rosaddlery.com/instruction.shtml>

In addition, I am attaching several pictures of one of my recent students, Kelly, who has been riding horses for quite a few years, but who had never done any leatherwork. One of the pictures above show her stamping the border design.

The saddle that she built was on a Buster Welch style of tree, which, with my guidance, she built as a Reiner style saddle.

Will close with giving my telephone number, 1-260-337-5607, if you would like to have other questions, of which I feel sure you will have, be discussed and answered.

At the time of reserving a date for the schooling, I do require a deposit equal to the cost of the materials, which, when the tree and leather order is placed, becomes a non-refundable item, for neither can be returned. Personal check or money order is accepted.

Please use the above telephone number to call, when questions arise.

Thank you again for your inquiry.