



Guide Horn Bags



Notice the bright orange bag hanging from the front of Dunrovin Ranch owner SuzAnne Miller's saddle in this photo. This is the *Horn Bag*, which gets its name from the fact that it attaches to the saddle by looping over the saddle horn.

Like humans, it is best for horses to carry heavy weight on their shoulders, rather then on their backs. Saddles are positioned to fit just off of the shoulder bones to be supported by the shoulder muscles. Hence horn bags are the perfect place for carrying heavy objects while riding horseback.

A trail guide's horn bag must be well supplied to meet any emergency and provide for the travel comfort of both horses and riders. One of the great joys of trail riding in Montana's back country is to expect the unexpected. Generally, the *unexpected* is a delightful turn of events, such as spotting wildlife or passing through a field of wildflowers. Occasionally, the *unexpected* brings discomfort, such as sudden thunder storms and swarms of biting mosquitos. Rarely, the *unexpected* brings serious challenges and even life threatening dangers, such a tack suddenly breaking or accidents that injure either horse or rider.

On the trail, the buck stops at the trail guide's saddle. Guides must be first aid certified, know what to do in many different types of situations, and have the essential tools and materials to get the job done.

Guide Bag Contents

- Knife (bring your own)
- Leather for rein repairs shoe lace size
- Collapsible water dish for dogs
- 2 water bottles
- Hoof pick
- Flash Light

- Lighter
- Duct tape
- Bailing twine
- Emergency whistle
- Hand Saw
- Fencing Pliers
- Granola Bars
- Roll-on Fly repellant



First Aid Kit and Comfort Kits

In addition to the guide horn bag, the guides also carries a small first aid kit and each rider carries their own horn bag with a comfort kit provided by Dunrovin as well as any personal items they may want to bring along on the ride, such a cameras or sunglasses.

Horse and Rider First Aid Kit

- antibiotic ointment
- betadine pads
- anti-itch gel
- non-latex gloves
- tweezers
- band aids
- gauze pads
- surgical tape

- vetrap (self-adhesive tape)
- Banamine paste
- Bute paste
- Large Bandana
- Small 1st aid book
- Over the counter pain pills (not to be given out, only to be made available)

Comfort Kit

- Bug Spray
- Sun Screen
- Tissues
- Lotion
- Chap Stick
- Snack
- Extra zip lock bag

Dunrovin's Favorite Guide Bag Tool — Fencing Pliers







Dunrovin saws off the ends of the pliers handles which makes it easily fit into a horn bag. It does, however, make it harder to use for cutting wire. This versatile tool can be used for so many different purposes that it is the ONE tool to have in the horn bag.

According to the ToolGuyTalk website, pliers were invented in Europe about 2,000 BC and were primarily used to grip hot objects. In 1905, Hubert L. Wright invented what is know today as the Hammerhead Pliers which lead to our modern day fencing pliers.

The tool has a hammer head, a pick end, two wire cutters, and pliers that are calibrated to hold items as small as fencing staples. The tool can be used to free horses from fence wires, clean a horse's hoof, put on and take off horse shoes, fix tack, and just about any other emergency need.

In addition to fencing pliers, two of the most useful items in the guide horn bag are duck tape and baling twine. Dunrovin has used duck tape to make emergency horse shoes and baling twine to replace bridles.

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