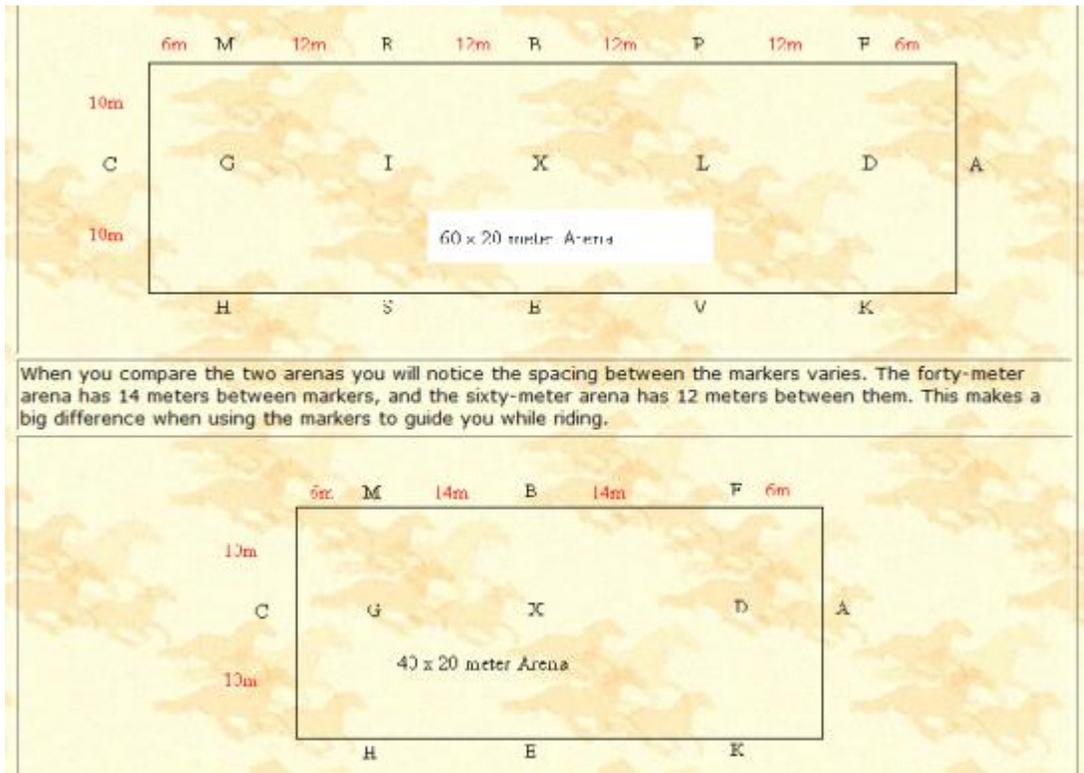# DRESSAGE ARENA DIMENSIONS AND LETTERS

1 meter = 3.2808399 feet 20m = 65.61ft   40m = 131.23ft   60m = 196.85ft

Standard dressage arena dimension are 20m x 60m (66' x 198') and small dressage arena dimensions are 20m x 40m (66' x 132'). If you are building a riding ring and have the space, stake out the larger arena size. If you actually plan to ride dressage tests you will probably start out riding in the smaller arena. You can move in the end markers for the shorter distance. But the larger arena is nice to have for general schooling or if you plan to jump and don't have room to build a separate ring for your fences.

Small Arena

The letters you'll need to make or buy for the small arena are AKEHCMBF. (Read counter-clockwise in image) (Remember this by the acronym All King Edward's Horses Can Make Big Fences or make up your own.) If you want to measure out your arena accurately A and C mark the center point of the short side of the arena at 10 m (33'). Place letters H, M, F and K 6m (19'8") from the ends. E and B mark the middle of the long sides and are 20 m (65' 7") from either end. Down the center line between A and C are letters DXG with X the center of the arena. These aren't generally marked unless you have a way to do it overhead.
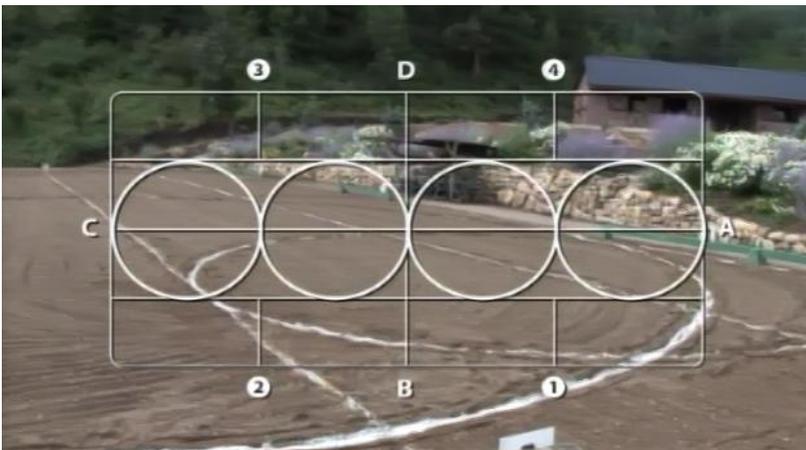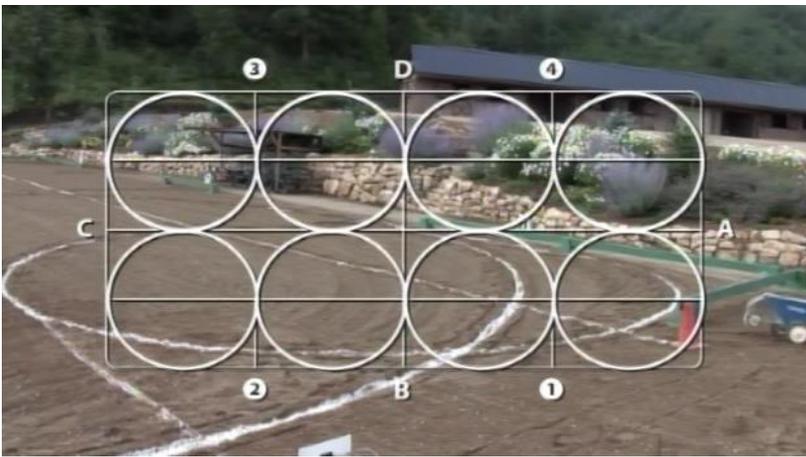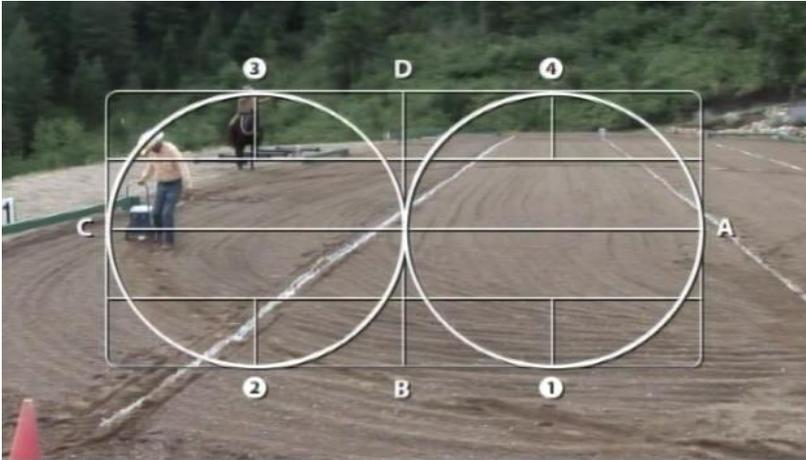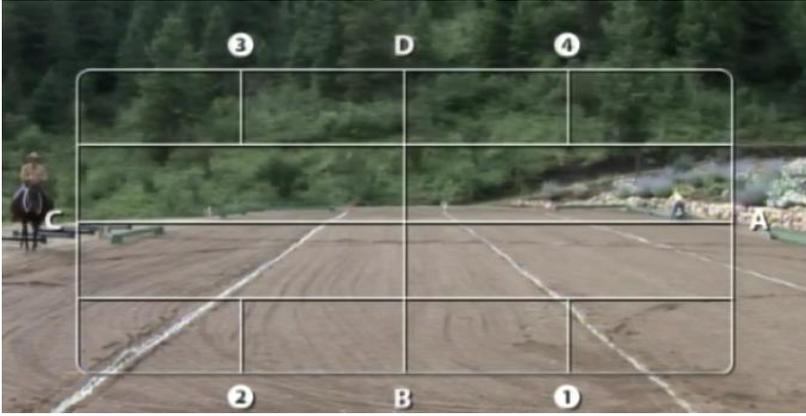
Standard Arena

The letters for the larger arena are AKVESHCMRBPF with DLXIG assumed but not marked down center line between A and C. (Remember this one with All King Edwards Horses Can Make Big Fences with an RSVP). (See image 2) Place H, M, F and K 6m (19'8") from the ends.
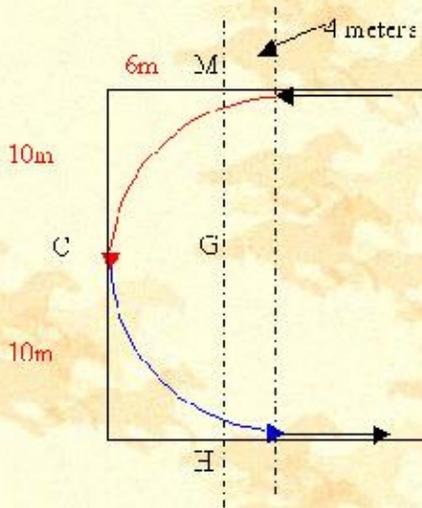
B and E on the middle of the long sides are 30m (98'5") from the end of the arena and the other letters RSVP are spaced 12m (39'4") on either side of B and E. X is the center of the arena and D lines up between F and K with the other letters lining up with the letters on the sides of the arena.

Nice website about dimensions: http://www.horseoz.com/riding_articles/Riding_Circles/riding_circles.html

Parelli's "new arena dimensions" Everything is symmetrical at 10m and 20m markings… (20mx40m arena)
One problem is that it shortens diagonal changes by ~26.2ft (8m) since the first letter is placed 10m away from the end instead 6m…
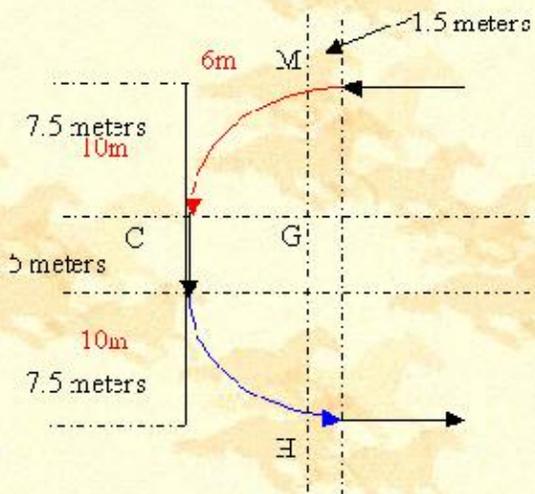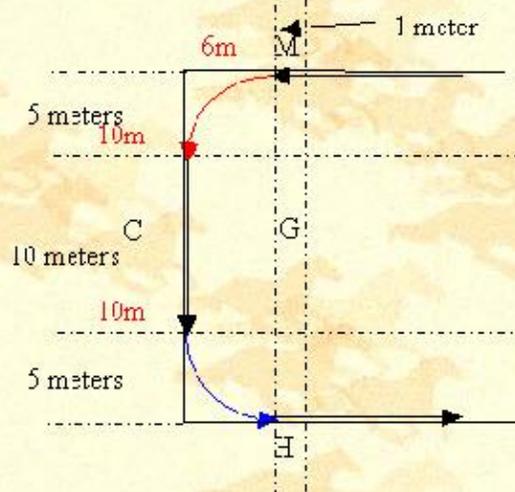
20 Meter Corner

The most basic turn. It really is half a 20-meter circle. So the way it would be ridden at the end of the arena is over two quarters, starting the turn 4 meters before the last marker on the long side. The next point is either A or C, with the final point being the point on the long side 4 meters past the first marker

15 Meter Corner

This turn is slightly more complex as you don't get the luxury of starting or finishing turns on markers. If approaching the short side on the left rein you would start making the turn 1.5 meters from M and finish the turn 2.5 meters before C, or 7.5 meters from the long side. Another way of thinking of where the finish point should be is to divide the 10 meters before C into quarters. So the point on the short side to aim for for the finish is three quarters from the long side. All this means that you have a 5-meter straight section before you start to turn again.

10 Meter Corner – Turns up the Center Line

This turn is the size turn you need to make when turning up the centerline regardless of what level you ride at. If approaching the short side on the left rein you would start making the turn 1 meter past M and finish the turn 5 meters before C, or halfway between the long side and C. This means that you have a 10-meter straight section before you start to turn again. Unless of course you are turning up the center line, in which case you would just ride another quarter 10 meter circle, the end of which is 1 meter before the M – H line on the center line.