



Fitting an EDIX Saddle

WELCOME TO EDIX

We hope you enjoy the trial or purchase of your EDIX saddle!

To assist you we have created this fitting guide.

However, you're not on your own, we pride ourselves on providing a free fitting service with all trials and purchases and we will guide you through our process, which is simple and fully interactive.

Following the fitting, if you need any help or have a question please contact us for free advice.

WAYS TO CONTACT US

Website www.equinepartnership.ie

E-Mail treeless@equinepartnership.ie

Phone 066 979 0528 (office) 085 877 2543 (mobile)

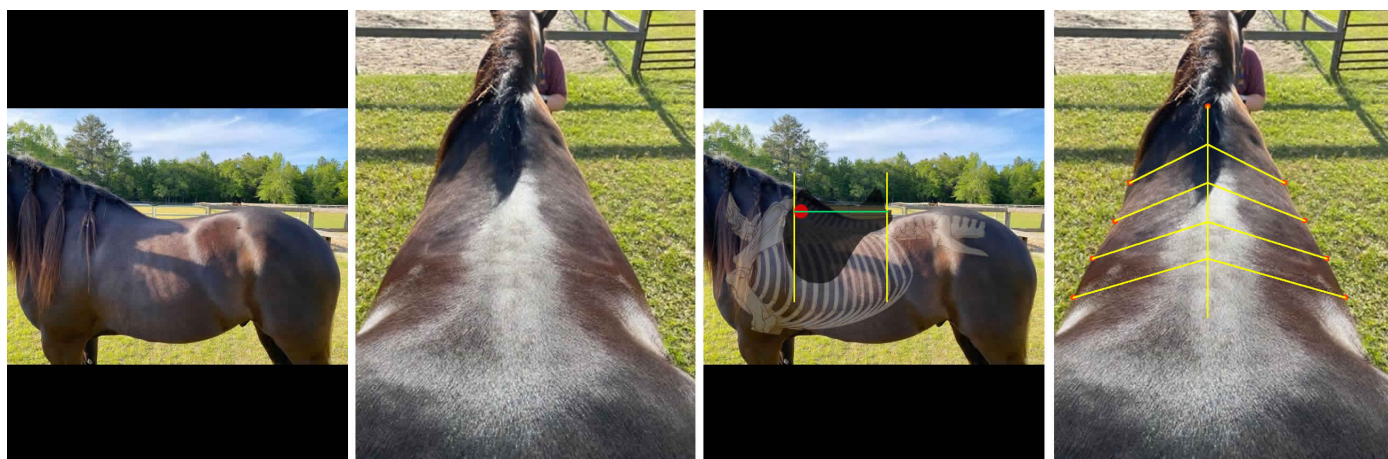
International calls 00353669790528 (office) 00353858772543 (mobile)

Please note that you may require an international package or could experience high call charges. If in doubt send us a message requesting a call back, and we will call you asap.

PRE-TRIAL CONSULTATION

This consultation service is completely free of charge with Equine Partnership, EDIX Saddles Ireland.

Before trialling a saddle, it is helpful to send us photos for us to better grasp the anatomy of your horse. We require a side profile and back profile. Once received, we will send you back edited images as shown below at your free consultation. This is to help you understand the placement of the saddle and to take an approximate measurement the last rib. From this information, we can estimate the saddle length and size and recommend the type of pad and shims required for the trial or purchase. To trial a saddle, we must receive a signed trial agreement, trials are available on demo and new saddles, subject to the terms and conditions.



THE VIRTUAL FITTING PROCESS

Please contact us when the saddle has arrived to arrange a virtual fitting appointment. We will do our best to be flexible around your times.



STEP 1 Pommel Fit

Please send us photos of the pommels and fit, for us to help you establish the best fit for your horse. We will need photos of each pommel with side and back views for us to check the fit. We will edit and send you back our findings as shown below.



STEP 2 Saddle Only Fit

Insert your pommel into the saddle and position the saddle alone on the horses back. Please send us side and back profile photos of the saddle correctly position without the pad. We will then direct you to insert shims (if needed) into the pad.



STEP 3 Complete Saddle Fit

Send us side and back profile photos of your horse wearing the saddle, pad and fully girthed (or cinched).

This part can take a little while if shimming is needed, so do be patient, we try to be as responsive as possible.



STEP 4 Ridden Fitting

This step is optional but recommended.

Send us a video of you riding your horse in the EDIX Saddle in walk and trot from both back and side angles. Try to keep the saddle well in focus as possible. We also rely on your feedback for how the balance feels.

POMMEL FITTING

Regular Pommel Size/Colour

- XS = Red
- S = Blue
- M = Grey
- L = Green
- XL = Orange

Soft Pommel

- Small (saddles under 14")
- Large (saddles 14" & over)

Pommel Types

- English (no horn)
- Western (with horn)



POSITION OF THE POMMEL

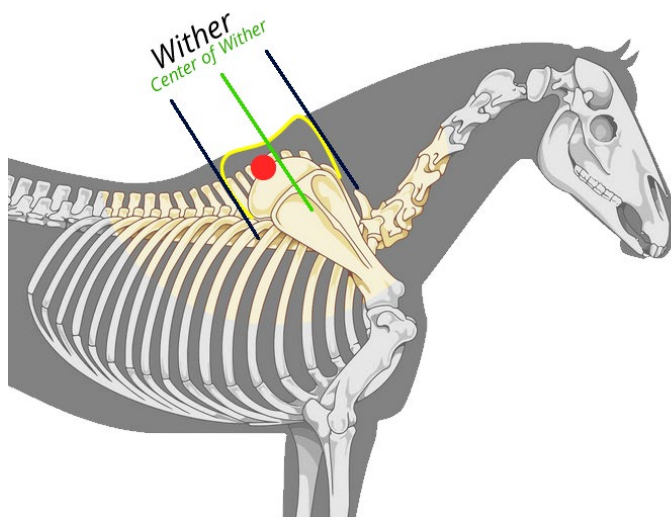
The pommel should sit just behind the central line of the wither.

Unlike treed saddles, which sit behind the shoulder, the treeless saddle will sit over the shoulder allowing for free movement. This is only possible because there is no tree.

A treed saddle should not be fitted in the same position.

Instructions to find the centre of the wither.

- First use your hand to feel in front, around and behind the shoulder.
- This area of the shoulder blade is called wither, it is helpful if you can mark in chalk.
- Mark the central point between the two at the top of the shoulder
- The pommel placing is just behind this centre line.



POMMEL FACING

There is a right and wrong way for the pommel to face. The inside width at the front of the pommel is wider than the back.



The 2 important areas to check include:

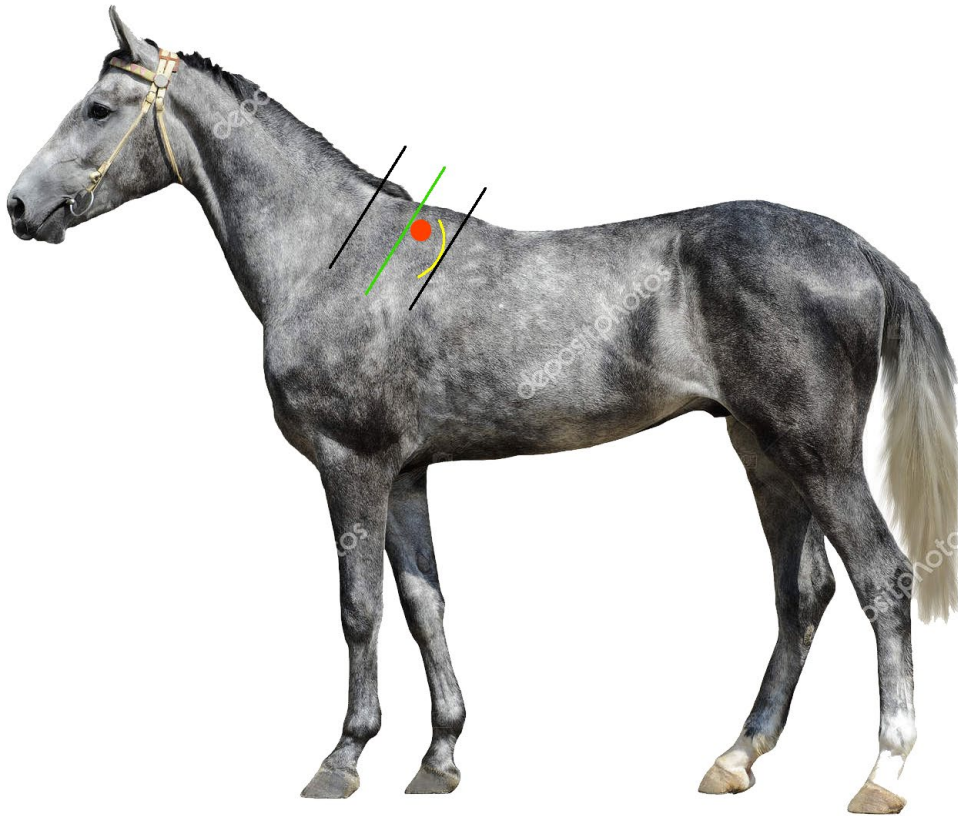
Clearance : A minimum of 2-3 finger gap (photo 2 red line) between the wither and the pommel.

Contact : The surface of the pommel end should lay flat against the horse. If only part of the pommel's end surface contacts the horse, then this would exert greater pressure on the small area and could lead to soreness.

When you send photos of the side and back, we will evaluate the contact of the pommel and give you our recommendations. You can send us additional video of the pommels, but we still need photos.



EXAMPLES OF POMMEL POSITION



HIGH WITHER FIT



These horse shapes are more difficult to fit. In cases where none of the fibreglass pommels fit, it would be advisable to use a soft pommel.

The other difficulty which arises is that the saddle is pommel high. To counterbalance this, use additional shims in the rear pockets of an 8-pocket pad. If the saddle slips backwards, one way to counter this is to use a chest plate.



X-WIDE FIT

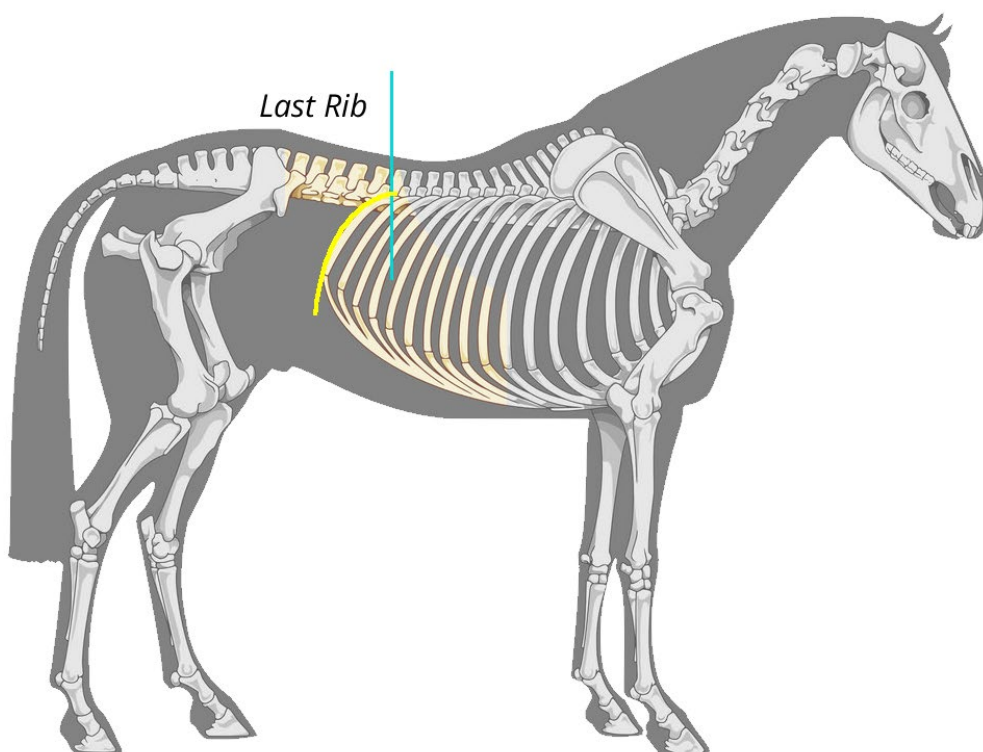
If you experience that the X wide is too narrow, then it would be advisable to use a soft pommel combined with 3Mesh in a 2-pocket pad.

SADDLE LENGTH

The Last Rib

It is important that the cantle of your EDIX saddle (not including the skirt or housing) does not sit further down the spine than the last rib as indicated in the diagram.

It is important that the seat area of your saddle does not exceed this area.

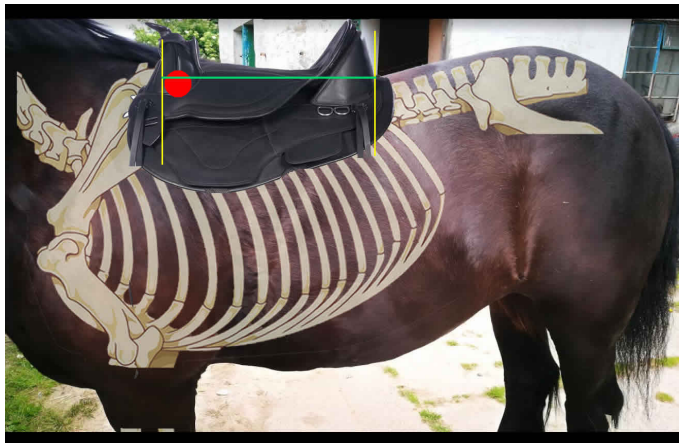
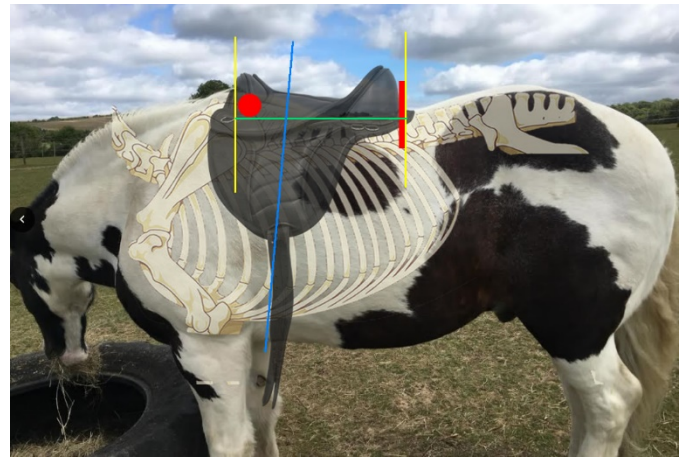
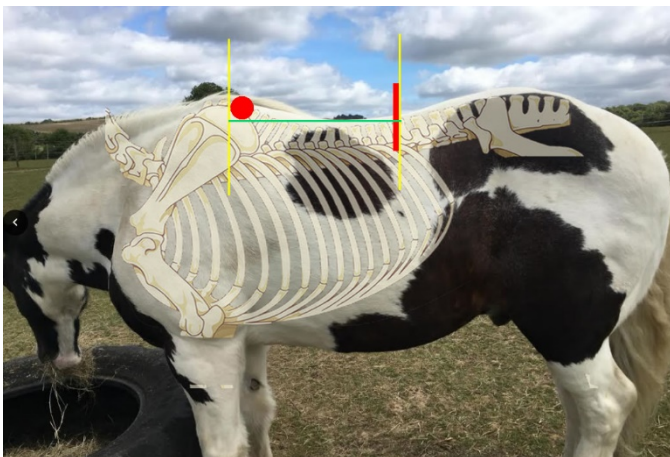
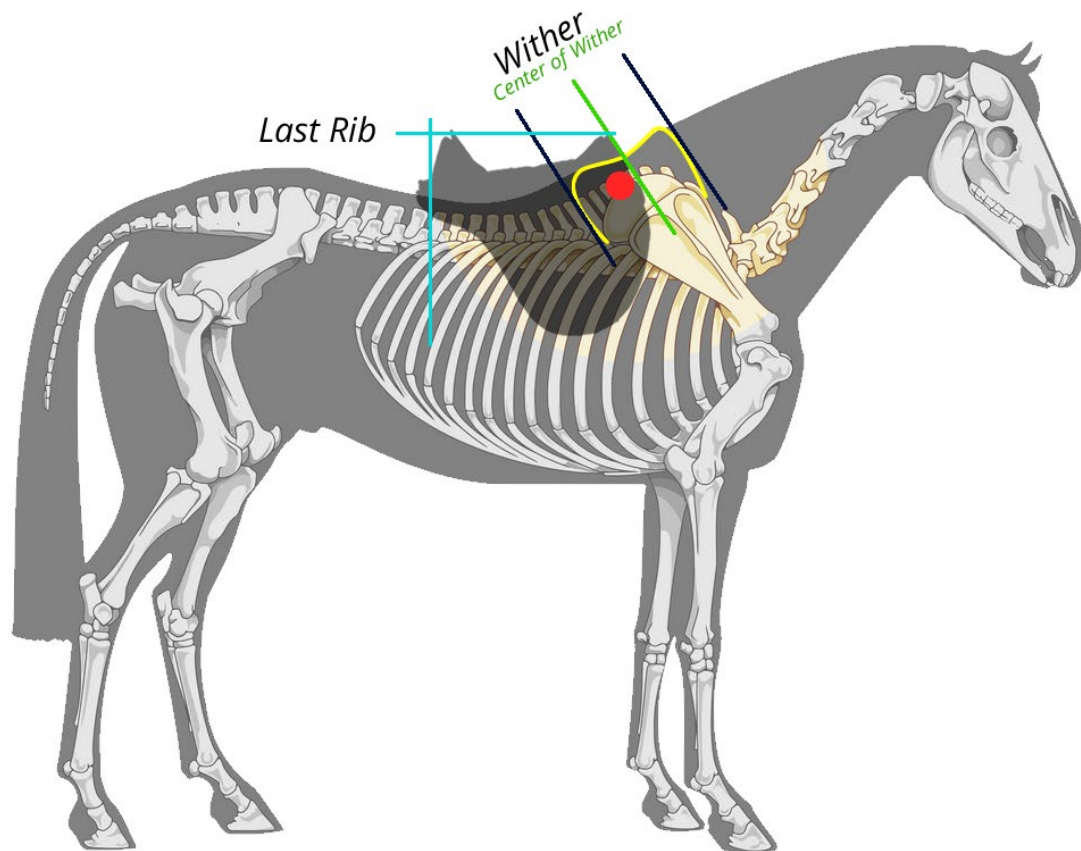


You may find the last rib by following the curved hairline of the flank until you meet the opposite hairline, following the hair up in a 35-40 degree curve you may be able to feel the rib.

If you are unsure about the position, we can create and send you an approximation based on a photograph, which you can measure on your horse. (see next page)



SADDLE POSITION



CORRECT BALANCE

For common issues where physical problems are ruled out, we can use inserts to support the horse and rider for correct balance as part of rehabilitation of the muscles.

In this example we see a horse that has mild a-symmetrical muscle mass and may need additional layer of padding on the near side.

Conformational Challenges



Sometimes, we face conformational challenges that require a keen eye and understanding of equine anatomy. This could include horses with a-symmetrical muscle mass (common), hollow shoulder and high wither.

Where a-symmetry has been noted, it may require a shim or additional shim to that area to offer more support to the horse and rider. This will also help with saddle slip.

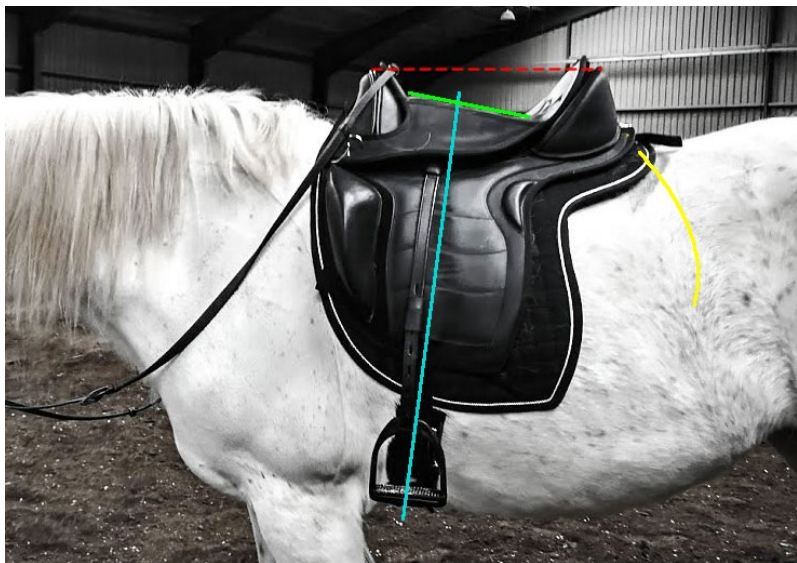
Horses with uneven shoulders (should back/forwards) may benefit from the circle Y girthing system and this has more flexibility. Sometimes this also needs to be combined with the correct girth for optimum comfort and stability.

It is impossible to tell you from a photograph exactly how to fit, because the movement of the horse is also important to check the horse is free from lameness or stiffness.

PLEASE SEND US A VIDEO of your horses walking in the saddle with and without the rider, film walking away and towards. Also filming the trot and canter is helpful for us to see the movement of the saddle and your horse's paces and expression.

In some instances, we may recommend seeking the opinion of a bodyworker or vet before proceeding with a saddle fit.

EXAMINING SADDLE FIT



Here is an example of good saddle fit. The saddle could be situated a couple of inches further forwards so that the pommel is situated correctly. The pommel is level with the cantle. The saddle is comfortably within the last rib, the girth is sitting much straighter and the stirrup is over the girth and only slightly off centre. Ideally, we would like the stirrup to be more central, but in the test of riding, the rider felt good balance and was not tipped.

(Pictured Right) Here the western saddle is positioned slightly more forwards, over the shoulder.

Shims have been placed in the front and middle pockets (8 pocket pad) to correct the balance of the pommel and cantle.

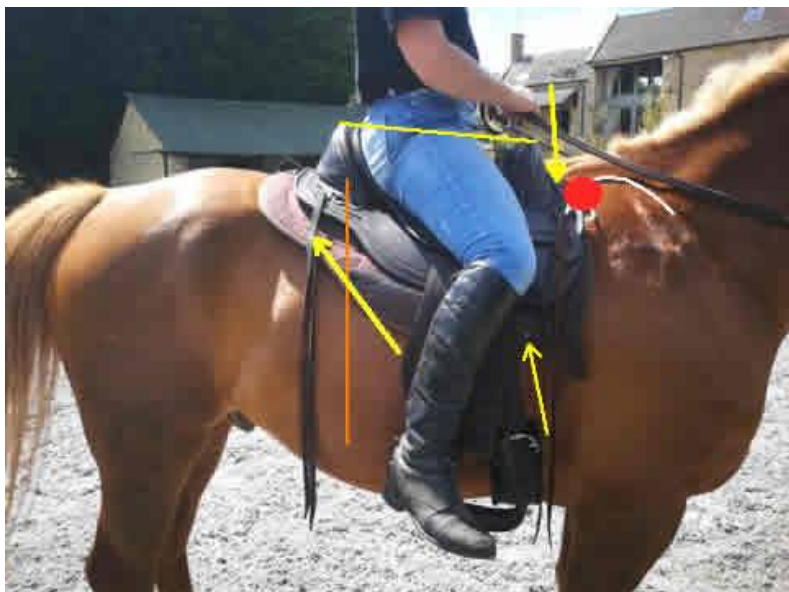
The circle on the girthing system is slightly back, this could be corrected with an anatomical shaped girth, slowing the girth strap further back, maintaining elbow freedom and correct placement.



This is an example of a poor saddle fit.

The pommel is much lower the cantle, which will tip the rider forwards and the saddle is slipping backwards. The saddle has slipped back to a dangerous position as now the cantle is well over the last rib. You can notice the pull of the girth. The saddle looks too large for this pony, even if the saddle were correctly positioned.





(Left pictured) The saddle is positioned too far back behind the shoulder. The saddle has dropped at the front, the girth is pulling back, cantle is higher, and rider feels tipped forwards. The saddle is also well past the last rib. This saddle did not slip back here, it was placed here and feedback was later requested, hence we **strongly recommend** that riders adhere to our fitting instructions to involve us throughout each of the steps to avoid this situation in which the rider was not happy and the horse was uncomfortable.

FITTING TIP : Make sure when you're girthing up, that the pad is kept central under the saddle. This can cause unbalance and saddle slip. Make sure that the saddle pad straps are threaded through the D-Rings provided on the saddle. One more reason to choose an EDIX Pad with your saddle.



SCARRING (NECROSIS)

If you notice new white hairs on the horse's back, stop using the saddle and contact an EDIX fitter as soon as possible. This is a strong indication of poor saddle fit as the saddle is putting too much strain and pressure on the area and adjustments may be required.

If the scarring already exists and you have any behavioural difficulties such as napping, bucking or other undesired behaviour related to riding then please get this check **BEFORE** booking an appointment for a saddle fit.



POINTS OF THE ENGLISH SADDLE



POINTS OF THE WESTERN SADDLE



Rigging Straps (adjustable)

Y- Ring – The ring can be re-positioned by moving backwards and forwards.

Off Billet Strap / Latigo

Cinch



2 POCKET PAD

Long Shim Pockets



8 POCKET PAD

Short Shim Pockets

Font | Middle | Back

Long Shim Pockets



INSERTS



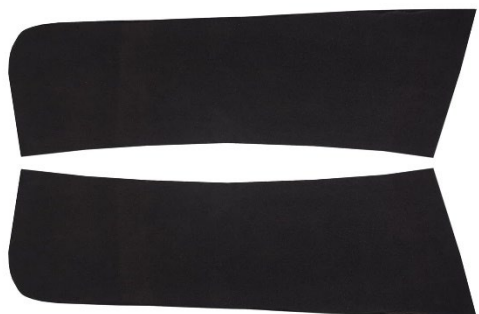
Felt pads are breathable, heat regulating and moisture absorbing. They have a light pressure distributing capacity and are supplied per set.

Depth: 10 mm



The universal EDIX® Poly-Press inserts are made of composite foam, have a light pressure distributing capacity and are supplied per set.

Depth: 15mm



Neoprene pads offer sustainable quality, good adaptability to the horse's back and compressed to a very limited extent under pressure

Depth: 15 mm



The EDIX® 3 Mesh inserts have a high degree of shock-absorbing and adapt to the anatomy yet have the ability to return to the original state. A very high-quality, durable pressure-distributing material with an open cell structure. The honey grade structure guarantees optimum ventilation even when loaded, in all directions.

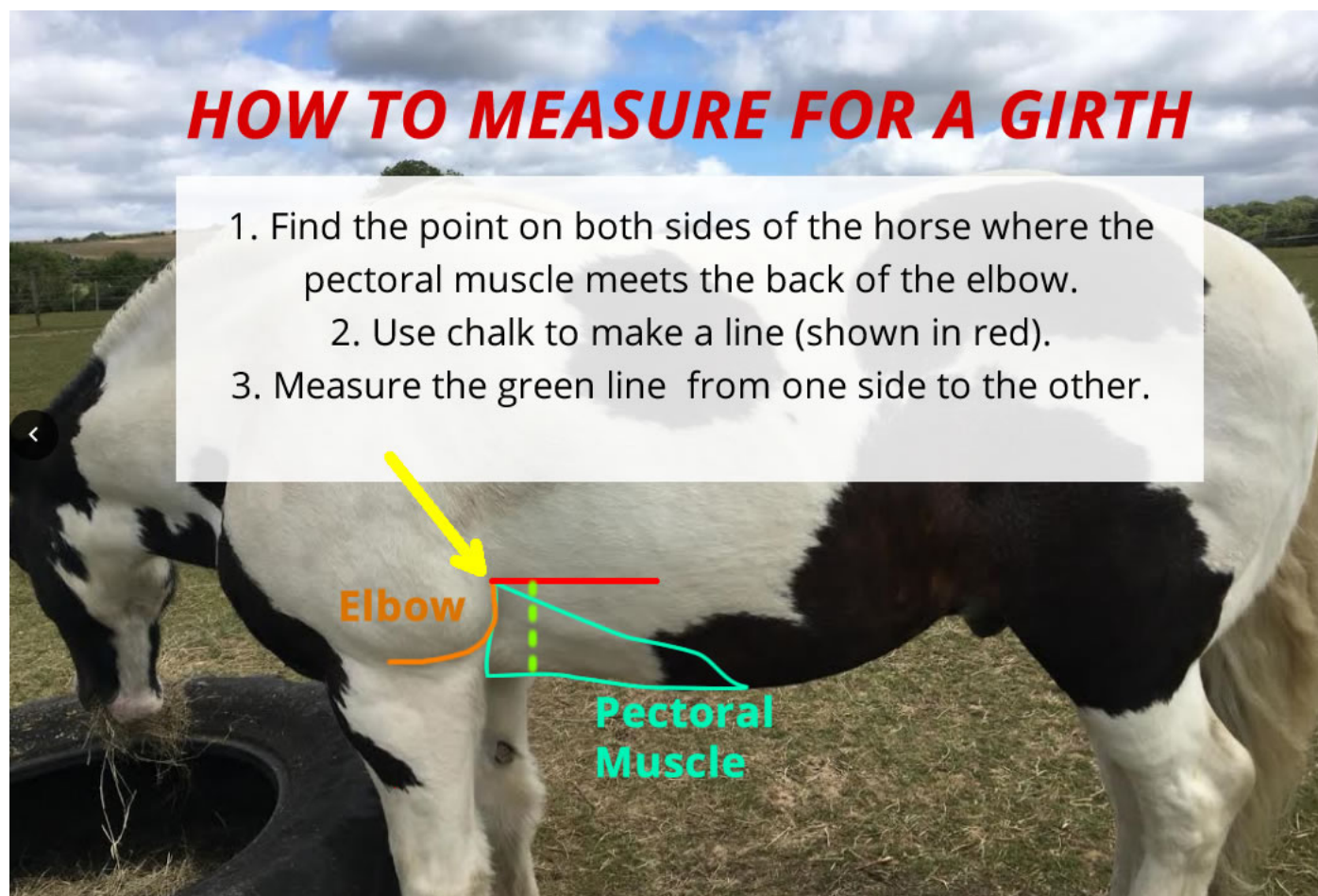
You can test the resilience by taking the material between two flat hands and then applying pressure with equal flat hands. The material will not last or you cannot press it flat.

This load is comparable to the load that we issue with our seat on the saddle or riding bareback and indirectly via the 3 mesh on the horse's back.

Depth: 22mm

MEASURING FOR A GIRTH

This is specifically for the dressage and western girths used.



The length of the girth is measured in a straight line between the buckles, not the leather.

