



c o u n t y
s a d d l e r y

t h e s o u n d n e s s s o l u t i o n





county saddlery

by and for riders with distinctive taste

Resisting the trend toward cheaper production methods using foam rubber panels and plastic trees, County saddles continue to be painstakingly handmade on our laminated beechwood spring trees, covered in the worlds finest leather, and flocked with pure wool to maximize your horses' comfort and fit. As one of the few saddlery companies in the world which actually make its own trees, County sets the industry standard in design and innovation.

Our traditional methods take longer and require a higher degree of craftsmanship, but once you sit in a County, we know you will agree that the results are clearly worth it. Although we custom make saddles for many of the world's leading riders, our commitment to quality and detail is reflected in every saddle we make, including the one we will make for you.

Gene Freeze
President





the perfection

How would you describe it?

When we asked many of the world's top riders what they felt when they sat in our newest dressage saddle, they exclaimed it's "Perfect". So we named it "Perfection". When customers asked us to explain the difference between the "Perfection" and other saddles, we realized that the feelings are indescribable. You have to experience it. "Perfection" is a feeling you don't want to miss.



the fusion

Every rider, like every horse deserves a design that is especially suited to their needs. The Fusion's popularity is a testament to its effectiveness as an alternative to conventional designs. Featuring an external knee roll and a carefully balanced seat to leg flap relationship this saddle is a delicate blend of design art and science. Fusion, it brings you and your horse closer together.

www.countysaddlery.com



*Fusion*TM



Competitor™ the competitor

Before you sit in it, clear your mind, close your eyes and prepare for fit, comfort and feel that you have never experienced in any dressage saddle before. The “Competitor™” blends the best of the old with the most significant improvements in dressage saddle design in decades. This saddle is incomparable in material quality: featuring the worlds finest leather, pure wool flock and our patented laminated beechwood spring trees with lifetime warranties.



the connection

Connection[™]

The sitting trot becomes almost effortless in the Connection[™]. The narrow twist, seat profile, optional leg positions, and the extreme close contact leather all combine to create a feel you would not have thought possible. Before you buy anything try this saddle and find out how much easier riding becomes when you have the right Connection.





the innovation

Why will you love the Innovation™? If you are an instructor you will love how it puts your students leg in just the right place so they remain balanced like never before. If you are an international competitor you will love how your horse uses himself like never before. If you are a horse you will love not being in pain every time you're tacked up. Innovation™, you will love it!



the stabilizer

Stabilizer^{cm}

“The Soundness Solution.” When you combine our patented tree, which eliminates twisting on the landing side of a jump; our specially designed wool flocked panels with unique features which can eliminate saddle shifting; and our unmatched knowledge of saddle fitting, your horse will tell you almost immediately: The Stabilizer™ is unquestionably “The Best for Backs.”



the stabilizer xtr[™]

How close is your close contact saddle with a stack of pads under it? Not very. If your close contact saddle needs a stack of pads to be balanced or to keep your horse from being sore, it's time for you to try the Stabilizer XTR. Our specially designed tree, wool flocked panels and unique leather fits without all those pads, putting you as close as you can get and helping you stay there over the biggest jumps. The perfect saddle for the rider who is constantly looking for something eXTRa to improve their performance.

www.countysaddlery.com



the eventer

Eventer[™]

The Eventer continues to be one of the most popular multipurpose saddles ever designed. The Eventer allows your horse the freedom to run and jump as well as the balance, comfort and security necessary for you to meet all the challenges of the various riding disciplines. Made with top quality hides and wool flocked panels, the Eventer reflects County's tradition of the best possible value, without compromising quality.





the drespri

Proper flap position is essential to proper leg position. Conventional all purpose saddles compromise by placing the flap somewhere between jumping and dressage positions. The Drespri eliminates the compromise with a flap that simply and securely adjusts to three different leg positions. So if your all purpose saddle is really a no purpose saddle, eliminate the compromise with the Drespri.



the conquest

Conquest[™]

The Conquest is the ultimate cross county or stadium jumping saddle. It features a beautifully profiled seat with an extended balance point which allows the rider to effortlessly lower themselves into the seat or move into a two point position while remaining in perfect balance. The uniquely designed leg flap is an ingenious blend of optimum support and close contact feel unlike anything you have experienced before. As with all County saddles, the Conquest features our patented tree and wool flocked panels to insure your horse's maximum performance, fit and comfort.

www.countysaddlery.com





cut for more elbow room & direct
alignment to the billets
patented

the logic girth[™]

Since the beginning of horseback riding, man has failed to make a girth that lines up with the billets and gives the horse more elbow room. Until now. The Logic Girth is anatomically designed to provide clearance for the elbow and line up with the billets, thus preventing the saddle from being pulled down and forward into the withers when the girth is tightened. Achieving more comfort for the horse and a more elegant look for the rider is simple when you apply Logic.

www.countysaddlery.com

saddle fitting guide*

Saddle Fitting

Fitting saddles needs to be done correctly to allow for movement without pinching or pain. If you are noticing discomfort or changes in your horse's attitude or behavior under saddle then it may be time for a professional assessment of how your saddle is fitting. All of the following steps need to be done with your horse standing squarely on level ground with his head and neck straight ahead, so an assistant may be necessary. Perform all the steps on both sides of your horse (most horses are asymmetrical) and with the saddle in direct contact with your horse's back, no pad.

step one – position of the saddle

Place the saddle slightly forward on the horse's withers. Next, press down on the pommel and slide the saddle rearward until it stops at the resting-place which is dictated by each horse's conformation. Repeat this procedure several times until you feel the saddle stop in the same spot repeatedly, with the tree points approximately 2.5"–3" behind the back edge of the shoulder blades. Resist the temptation to place the saddle too far forward on the withers. This is a very common fitting mistake and can interfere with your horse's soundness and movement. The need to place the saddle too far forward can be eliminated with the Logic Girth.

step two – angle of the points

To find the points, lift the flap of the saddle and look for a little leather pocket into which the wooden processes of the tree are fitted. This is the point pocket and there is one on both sides of the pommel of the saddle just under the stirrup bars. These points should lie parallel to the sides of the withers. If the angles are too narrow, the points will dig into the musculature, also causing the middle of the saddle to be in uneven contact with the horse's back. If they are too wide the saddle will sit down in front putting pressure on top of the withers or at the top of the points. To assess the point angles, stand looking from the front with the flap lifted; the points should be parallel with the musculature within 10 degrees of the heaviest side. Some points are concealed making it difficult to determine their angles. If this is the case, you will have to rely more on the panel pressure procedure to determine if the point angles are correct.





step three – panel pressure and contact

(Note: The panels are the wool stuffed underside of the saddle, which rest on the horse's back.) Place one hand in the center of the saddle and press down lightly to secure the saddle in place as you test for panel pressure. Run your other hand between the front of the panels and your horse's musculature and feel for any uneven pressure under the points. The front panel should not pinch the withers in any area. While maintaining pressure on the top of the saddle, run your hand, palm up, under the entire panel along the back feeling for even pressure. You may also raise the sweat flap to check for bridging and to ensure that the panels fit snugly and evenly throughout. Bridging is a space near the center of the panel where it does not make good contact with the horse's back. Wool stuffed panels are almost universally considered superior to foam for the following reasons: assuming correctly designed panels, wool conforms to the many shapes of the horse's back and can be adjusted if necessary to correct for a multitude of fitting problems. You can not, however, correct for a poorly designed or incorrectly fitted tree.

step four – pommel to cantle relationship

Visualize a straight line parallel to the ground from the pommel to the cantle. In saddles with deep or moderately deep seats, the cantle should be between 2 to 3 inches higher than the pommel. In shallower seats, such as close contact jumping saddles, the cantle may only be approximately 1 to 2 inches higher than the pommel. In almost any saddle, if the cantle is level with or below the pommel, the saddle is not properly fitted.

step five – level seat

Visualize the same straight line parallel to the ground and look this time at the deepest part of the seat. This area should be level in order to put the rider squarely on their seat bones and in balance.

step six – wither clearance

There should be adequate clearance between the pommel and the top of the horse's withers, approximately three fingers. More than three fingers clearance may mean the pommel is too high, ie: the tree is too narrow. A saddle with less than 3 fingers may mean that the saddle is too wide. With wool stuffed panels, make allowance for the saddle to settle a half inch or so. There is an exception to this indicator: horses with flat, round withers may have more clearance than usual under the pommel. In these situations you may need to rely more on the balance of the seat and pommel to cantle relationship. On horses with high narrow withers maintaining proper clearance is something that has to be monitored and maintained.

step seven – channel clearance/gullet width

There should also be adequate clearance over the spine and connective tissue throughout the channel of the saddle. A channel that is too narrow will impede the horse's movement dramatically and may even cause the spine to be observably sore. Feel the width of the spine and connective tissue with your fingers and estimate its width. The channel of the saddle should completely clear this width, resting on the long back muscle called the longissimus dorsi. Repeat Steps 6 & 7 with the rider in the saddle, checking for adequate clearance over the withers and spine.

step eight – stability

The saddle should not shift excessively from side to side or up and down. Keep in mind that such shifting may be a function of your horses symmetry or mechanics and not the saddle. A qualified saddle fitter should be able to make suggestions to minimize or eliminate the problem.





step nine – seat length

The bearing surface of saddle should not go behind the 18th thoracic vertebrae, which is the vertebrae corresponding with the last rib. Behind this vertebra are the lumbar vertebra, which are the weakest, non-weight bearing area of the back.

step ten – horse response

Throughout the whole saddle fitting process, monitor your horse's response. Watch his ears and body language. Does he try to step away from the saddle or flinch when it is placed on his back? Or is the opposite true: is he more accepting of the saddle? How does he move when he is ridden? Does he seem freer or more restricted? The horse is the most honest indicator we have when fitting a saddle so pay attention to it and note any changes. *Girthing: Some horses object to the girth. The Logic girth is proven to dramatically relieve problems associated with girthing.

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warranty

Lifetime warranty on all County® trees even against accidental damage, parts only. Five year unconditional warranty on County® trees under normal use and conditions as determined by manufacturer, parts and labor. One year warranty against defects in all other materials and craftsmanship leading to failure of the product to perform. All other claims must be reported within 15 days of purchase. Shipping costs to and from factory for repairs, not included. To insure quality, all repairs must be authorized by County Saddlery, Inc. and performed at our factory or by an approved County Saddlery repair person.

Care and cleaning

Dampness, dirt and extreme dryness are leathers worst enemies. Clean saddles actually ride better. After each use, wipe all surfaces clean with a slightly dampened sponge and glycerine soap. Then wipe completely dry and store in a dry place. Lightly oil light colored saddles before use to darken to preferred color. Oil should be allowed to dry completely before another coat is added. Oil or condition leather as needed to prevent excessive dryness. Never saturate leather with oil or any leather care product. Products with ingredients similar to those occurring naturally in leather, such as fat and tallow, are generally preferred. Petroleum based products are not recommended. To avoid abrasion, wipe inside of boots before mounting. To supple flaps and reduce break in time, roll them them tightly inward and manipulate as you unroll it.



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