



Fitting your Trekker Saddle

Place the saddle on the horses back in the correct position. Feel with a finger that there is no pressure under the ends of the pommel on both sides. Check the channel under the saddle is open so a whip or twig can be pulled through.

We will see the rest in the photos we'd like you to email us:

The saddle is in the right place i.e. the shoulder is free.

The length is right; the saddle should only reach the point where the last rib meets the spine; no further back.

The saddle is in a balanced position.

The girth is in the right place for this particular horse so the saddle will stay put.

Once configured and in the correct position the saddle will adapt according to the horses shape under the riders weight.

FLAPS:

A treed saddle usually has flaps that are rigid therefore the width of a treed saddle must be exactly right. A rule of thumb with a treed saddle is there must be room for a hand between the saddle and the horse under the front side of the flaps. This rule doesn't apply to flexible saddles. As the whole saddle is flexible and soft it may surround the horse in a tighter manner than a treed saddle with a fixed width.

Think of a girth that is used to keep a blanket in its place, or a long girth of a jumping saddle, they surround the horse tightly. A soft saddle will do the same. A flexible saddle is not too narrow as long as the pommel is of the right size and the saddle is in the right place behind the withers.

ADAPTING:

It doesn't matter what the saddle looks like on the horses back without a rider. It may look too straight or too narrow. How a flexible saddle fits can be seen only after there is weight in the saddle. The rider's weight will make the saddle flex and adapt.

GIRTH:

It's a good idea to tighten the girth gradually and check it after mounting. When the saddle gets warm between the horse and the rider it will flex and give way so that the girth will loosen a little.

CHANNEL:

Please check there is an open channel under the saddle so that you can pull a whip or twig through.

POMMEL:

Feel with your finger that there is no pressure under the ends of the pommel when the horse moves.

Sometimes a saddle can seem narrow because the saddle is on the withers. The withers should be in front of the saddle, not under it, then the saddle is in the right place. If the pommel is too narrow the saddle will lean backwards. If the pommel is too wide the saddle will lean forward. There should be several centimeters of empty space between the highest point of the pommel and the horse.

LENGTH:

The rider weight is allowed to reach the area where the last rib meets the spine. The last rib is where the flank of the horse starts to sink towards the area where there's no bone under the skin to support it. Here the rib curves forward towards the horse's head to meet the spine.

PHOTOS:

To assist us with fitting we ask you take photos of the whole horse, directly from the side, so that the head and legs are in the photo and the head is up, firstly without the saddle then with the saddle before and after a ride. It's also useful to send a photo where the rider sits in the saddle.

MOUNTING:

It's a good idea to mount from a stand. If you always mount from one side from the ground that side of the saddle (any saddle) could be subject to greater wear. Mounting from a stand saves the saddle and is more comfortable for the horse. Mounting from the ground may easily cause a yank on the girth area and around the spine.