

---

## Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/03 21:19

---

My western saddle is puzzling me..

I have a very solid 15.2 QH and a full quarter tree 16inch seat wester sadddle for him. I bought it nearly a year ago and he has been wearing it around all the time, although I have backed him bareback I have not ridden him in it (he is three). I would like to start riding him in it but I am a bit worried about the fit..

When I put it on him it looks fine, and to my English trained eye it looks like it fits, but, when I do the cinch up tight enough for riding, the back of the saddle tips upwards, and looks as though its sitting up a little bit off his back.. A friend who also rides western has told me she thinks that is fairly normal for a western saddle, and I should get a second cinch for the back D rings (ok you probably dont call it the second cinch - excuse my ignorance!).

Trouble is, I just cant bring myself to get on him in it and give him weight to bear, when I cannot be sure the saddle fits.. The friend who imported it said it would fit him, but she never actually came down and checked it (geography again....).

So, my questions are:

Is it normal for the back to tip up slightly when there is no weight on the saddle (it goes down again if you push it..)?? Secondly, being based in Exeter, is there anyone I get get to look at it on him, who is experienced with western saddles that anyone knows of??

I can take a photo of him in it and post it if anyone would like to see it..

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Dingbat - 2008/07/04 12:14

---

How far back is the bit that goes up? The very last bit of the saddle shouldnt be putting any pressure on his back. But there is no tree in that last bit.

Put the saddle on with no pad and feel under it. follow the contour of his back with your hand and feel where the tree in the saddle is. the tree and his back should be touching all the way down and with equal pressure. if the tree towards the back isnt on his back at all and lifting up then that would indicate it doesnt fit?

Also look at the angle of the front of the saddle. is it the same angle as his shoulders?

it lifting at the back would indicate it is too wide (at a guess) but then it sounds like it shouldnt be if hes fairly wide.

Posting some pics would help. (i'm not expert by the way, this is just the little bit i know).

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by QQH - 2008/07/04 12:26

---

Hi ya, have alerted maria - the western saddler:) .....she will contact you and tell you what photos she wants. Then she can advise you as best she can without seeing the horse. I have offered to transport you to shows in the past, I am certain I could arrange a visit to Maria when she has had the baby.

Jude

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Jills - 2008/07/04 14:10

---

I really struggled to find info too everyone just seems to encourage giving up the hunt for the perfect fit adn to pad the saddle out or try a treeless. Neither of which I wanted to do and like you I won't ride in anything that's not perfect.

---

I bought the Fitting Western Saddles DVD by Dr Joyce Harman and trawled the internet for info.

my main problem was that I didn't have access to a variety of different makes, styles and sizes of saddles to try.

Thanks to Rodeoange, the most thorough ebay seller ever, I bought a saddle the fits like a dream and every inch of it and the horse was measured before I bid.

Dr J Harman now has a new book on fitting western saddles out, I have her "english" book and it's a really good tool. I definitely recommend the book and DVD if you are struggling the same way I did.

Good Luck!

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/05 10:01

---

Thanks for everyone's replies, contact from The Western Saddler would be great. Its great of you to offer to run us around QQH but I always feel awful that I am right out of your way! I took some photos of him yesterday in his saddle. Would be greatful for opinions! I did wonder if it was a bit too far forward, but when i put it on further back it was sat right on his kidneys - he is as you can see fairly short backed. You can just see in this one that it is tipping up slightly at the back. I will post another where he is moving and it really sticks up!  
(Note its July and he is stood on mud, thanks English summer...!!)

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/05 10:04

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/05 10:04

---

[http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/P1050894.jpg](http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/P1050894.jpg)

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/05 10:06

---

[http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/bim.jpg](http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/bim.jpg)

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by LizSwitzer - 2008/07/05 15:51

---

Hi there, Maria will be the one to sort this I am sure, but looking at your pics and comparing with my horse who is a pain to fit as she is a wiiiiide:blink: mare, I would say your saddle is too far back, which makes it seem too wide... BUT I think if you pulled it forward to where it should be it would be too narrow and all the weight would sit on two points on either side of the wither and the hips - bridging, and also it may not be rigged in the right place for your horses shape.

In case you don't know that simply means the cinch is not attached in a place that works for your horse, unlike English saddles, western saddles can have different points of attachment for the cinch, back a little, forward a little, check out the web or a good book and you'll see "3/4 rigged" or "center-fire" and stuff... makes fitting all sorts a little easier... for those

---

with an unlimited budget and huge selection of course! ;)

Either way, if that saddle does fit, or you are getting another synthetic, I HIGHLY recommend you invest in a set of stirrup leavers as those fenders will KILL your ankles and knees. They are not expensive, dead easy to fit and you'll be so very glad you did.

Hi Ho Hi Hi it's off to work I go... have fun with your horse he looks real nice!

=====

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by westernsaddler - 2008/07/05 16:33

Hi :)

Well, there has been some great replies so far :)

The photos are a little small to get a proper idea of what is happening but it is definitely too long from what I can see in the pictures. Also, it looks like it may be a little too wide at the front. The main reasons for saddles coming up at the back are that they are too wide in the gullet or the tree is the wrong shape for the horses' back. Do you have any photos with no saddle on?

On a young horse I will often fit a little wide at the front (to allow for growing room), and it may come up a little at the back. (On a mature horse you would not look to fitting wider.) BUT once the rider is sat down in the seat it should not move. You should see no evidence of the saddle coming up at the back with a rider in it. I always like to see riders in sitting and rising trot to ensure the saddle is nice and stable.

Is it leather or synthetic? (Photo a little too small for me to clearly see.) Sadly the majority of synthetic saddles I have seen do not fit. Our horses backs are not usually flat enough so normally do bridge (like Liz was saying). Could you get any pictures standing looking towards his tail from his shoulder showing how the saddle fits over the withers and shoulders? In fact, if you could email them to me so they are bigger - that would be great [info@western-saddler.co.uk](mailto:info@western-saddler.co.uk) (also put them here as I am sure it will be interesting for others too. :)

BTW Jude did you get my text? My phone ran out as it was sending it and I am not sure if you got it?

Post edited by: westernsaddler, at: 2008/07/05 17:35

=====

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/08 11:51

Many thanks for your replies, it would seem the addage that western saddles will fit anything is just a myth!! I was told this saddle would fit him by someone who had seen the horse and sold it to me, but due to his age he does change shape all the time (three rugs in one winter - NO FUN!!) It is a synthetic saddle yes, a wintec western which is a "full quarter tree" (what does that mean please?!!!)

I will post some more photos as soon as the rain stops and I can take them!!

=====

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by LizSwitzer - 2008/07/08 13:22

Well... imo a Wintec synthetic FQHB basically means it MAY fit your clothes horse...;)

In the real world, a FQHB should be wider in the gullet and possibly flatter in the angle of the bars then, say a semi QHB but it's kind of like buying jeans... buy from one store you fit a 10, another you keep trying til you just about burst out of a 16... I think there is supposed to be a standard formula for gullet widths and angles, but I have yet to find out the saddle makers that agree on it!unsure: I'm sure Maria will be able to explain the technical stuff better... I just know the only synthetic that would fit my ever widening baby was a Weaver that Ray Cooper got in for me... he hates synthetics too,

but agreed that it was best of a bad bunch if you don't have the cash for a "baby" saddle. Nice and wide.

I have to say... I have found an awesome CHEAP saddle over here ... I know some will groan, but it's a Royal King roughout with a "veriflex" tree... I love it. and more importantly so does Molly. Her movement has changed so much, and she feels so comfortable and relaxed in it.

First time I rode in it I had not ridden her since before she shipped out in December, and it was now near June... I put it on her, it looked ok ... that new saddle stiff thing had me a little concerned, but I stepped up, it didn't move despite loose-ish cinch, and I rode her for a bit, all paces, she loped off on the lead I asked for every time... she even managed a nice slow jog, and when I asked for a back up she dropped her head and rounded up beautifully... considering I was barely asking for this stuff as I had been unable to brush her back end properly cause she was having such a sore muscle day... I was thrilled!

And it put me in the right position, my feet are under me, which helps me get the weight off her back if she is a little tender... and keeps me on her back if she wants to test out my ability once in a while!:blink:

Every other saddle I have owned she would fight a little if she was sore because it wasn't helping her, but this one, even she seems happy to wear it. She doesn't wring her tail or give me dirty looks now when I cinch her up, and I am pleasantly surprised with the quality... it's actually really nice... which is weird as I am certain I have seen a Royal King that was like compressed cardboard... but anyway... I know it's not my usual standard, but it's a real nice saddle if you just want a work saddle you can trail ride with and not freak out every time a branch whacks it... which is alot over here!:woohoo:

Changing subject for a second... anybody use Equine America More Muscle? Well I do, because the stuff in it "gamma oryzanol" helps Molly's muscles alot... some protective thing, don't understand, just see it... anyway, in England I was paying 80.00 gbp +... over here... \$21.00 yeah.. TWENTY ONE DOLLARS! Can you even believe that? 80. gbp is near enough \$150 dollars...we are ALL in the wrong business people.

Still miss ya. Hope show season is going well. x

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/08 20:53

It sounds like you have found the perfect saddle! Must feel lovely! I wish I could I am dying to ride my boy in a saddle!! Your story makes me very glad I have not got on him in this saddle though.. I have never heard of more muscle but do you think it might help my 30 year old boy? He has arthritic back legs which makes his quarters get tight sometimes.. ..For 80 quid I would expect him to start asking me to take him hunter trialing!! Ha ha ha!!

I have got an English (highly regarded) saddle fitter coming to fit him for an English saddle next month (Yep total strumpet and going to do English and Wester with him) - does the Westernsaddler think its worth letting her have a look at the western wintec even though she is an English saddler?

I have posted a few more pics which will hopefully help, and as requested, side on with no saddle..

[http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/shiny\\_saddle\\_front.jpg](http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/shiny_saddle_front.jpg)

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/08 20:53

[http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/shiny\\_saddle\\_side.jpg](http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/shiny_saddle_side.jpg)

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/08 20:54

[http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/shiny\\_side.jpg](http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/shiny_side.jpg)

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by LizSwitzer - 2008/07/09 16:46

---

Hi again, I wouldn't sit on your horse in that saddle... it's way to narrow and your gonna either end up on the floor when your horse objects to the pain, or, if you have one of those ultra sweet guys he'll take the pain, and do his best and you'll get the "English saddle wither" thing that I hate so much... you know, when you look at like 9 out of 10 English horses that have been "fitted" with a saddle that then kills the muscle and you get that nice pronounced wither... that horses aren't supposed to have?! Sorry, my pet peeve...

English fitters seem to like the saddles wedged in behind the shoulder, just bear that in mind when your being fitted... the only English saddle I ever used in the end was my reactor-panel.. it has western style panels under an English saddle. Awesome.

Your guy looks a lot like my girl when she was that age... kinda shapeless on top, and if your looking for a "cheap" alternative for now, then do check out the weaver synthetic, it's wide and flat compared to the others.It really helped us out at an awkward time.

The only other saddle I found that fit then was my Continental equi flex... loved that saddle and highly recommend... I should have kept it as it was a great work saddle... I just wanted a slightly different set for the stirrups, I like the more classical position and they were set a little forward for my liking... as are so many western saddles...and I fell in love with and had to pay for, a circle Y show saddle.. ended up too narrow for my Mol, but oh how I loved that saddle!

Ray Cooper also made me a show saddle, drop dead gorgeous, and with his standard tree, which I believe is a true FQHB, it also fit her,so when you have some pennies spare, if you still can't find an off the peg saddle give him a call...

As for the more muscle, I don't think it will help arthritic issues, but it certainly helps Mol with her EPSM. The Gamma Oryzanol is supposed to coat the muscle fibers, and it def helps her move more smoothly.. I have noticed that's she has been off it for a few months. :sick:

It's supposedly a better anti oxidant then Vitamin E, which is handy with Mols high oil diet, and I guess that could also help with arthritis... its just whether you want to spend the money on the off chance?

I better get off to work, or I'll keep rambling and wont be able to afford the full quill ostrich boots I am hankering for now...:evil:

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by lottie - 2008/07/11 09:28

---

Hi

I have been wanting to ask this question for a while and so was interested to see your comment about stirrups in Western Saddles often being set slightly far forwards.

I have a Pullman saddle for my QH which I love but I recently had an lesson with an English instructor (in an English saddle!) and she commented that I was sitting on my jeans pockets which was typical of a lot of western riders (sorry everyone just repeating what she said to get my point across :P ) and I wondered if I had just got into a really bad habit or whether the Pullman was causing me to sit incorrectly which I then transferred to English riding too? I am aware that I should be aiming for the English classic position but also wonder if in trying to absorb some of the horses movement I am rounding my back and tucking my bum underneath me??!!

Any suggestions/advice? :)

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by LizSwitzer - 2008/07/11 16:26

---

Well gee... who stole my Karma?:angry:  
What'd I do NOW?? :blush:

---

I am sure I couldn't have offended anybody this time??! Guess that's the Brits for ya huh, just too darn sensitive...:whistle:

(heh heh, ok, now I KNOW some sneaky individual will steal my Karma for that, but I just couldn't resist!:woohoo: )

Hi Lottie, rider position is something I seem to have a lot of issues with, esp when so many UK (and US admittedly) trainers are teaching the "feet shoved home, sit on your pockets" style of western...and then there's the feet forward to stop etc....:sick:

I am going to lose even more Karma for this... :unsure:

The most important thing I can say to you is it does not matter what shape of leather is between you and your horse... what matters is how you can make it easier and more comfortable for your horse to carry you and do whatever job it is you want to be doing.... so, obviously, you start with a saddle that fits as well as possible...

Then you need to look at yourself as a rider... just like on a bike, if you lean, the bike leans, if you slouch, it can be harder to balance and so on... it's the same on a horse, and in my most humble opinion, which on this I flat out refuse to be wrong about ;) I say that correct posture in the saddle applies to both English and Western riders namely ear-shoulder-hip-heel-ball of the foot on the stirrup. (cutters and gamers are excused from that last part)

It's a fact, that you are better balanced with your feet under you, try walking with your feet out in front?

Its a fact, that even ropers need their feet under them, or they cant stand up to throw the rope... try standing (no hands) in your saddle with your feet out in front...now if you managed that, pretend to swing a rope around!

I mean, I know some of the reiners say they need to put their feet forward to stay on in a slide etc etc, but look at the likes of Gricha Ludwig (& other top reiners)... he stays on his horse just fine, and you barely see him move the whole run... yes, your weight needs to go back in order to not go over your horses head in a good stop, but your toes don't have to anchor you by wedging in his nose...

Its a bio mechanical absolute that if your legs hang straight down the sides of your horse and your feet form a stable platform directly under you, you will be better balanced and able to keep your center of balance closer to your horses, thereby making the whole thing easier on your horse and safer/more comfortable for you.

Give somebody a piggyback ride... get them sat high up and central and still... everything's good right... now slide them down a little... to the side a little... now get them to wriggle side to side "using their legs" - if any of you recall my crash and burn with jockey Christy at the Hand... you'll know that it's darn tough to stay in a straight line with somebody on your back that isn't working with you...any motorcycle riders out there? Ever taken a passenger that didn't kow to lean with you on a turn? Same thing. :side:

Anyhow, as for saddles, yes, I am a nightmare when it comes to saddles... I have ridden English and western forever, and I like my legs under me, and so does my horse! In fact, Mol has so many muscle issues sometimes, she just can't lope if I am not able to lift a little weight off her back, which I can't if my stirrups are too far forward.

Same for young horses, how can you lift the weight off a little if you are not in balance... and yes, I have seen some out there do it in a saddle I think is set wrong, but you know HOW they do it...? By tipping their hips forward and pulling their legs BACK and then they have to lean on the swell to stay there...and is that good for the horses balance? I doubt it... at the very least is it good for the saddle... not sure, but probably not long term.

The Pullmans - I think you can slide, with a little brute force, the fenders back a little, and if I remember right, they aren't too bad at all, you need to make sure your fenders are turned properly so the stirrup hangs at a right angle to the seat, then get your saddle on a good stand and look at it from the side, then you'll be able to tell if your able to sit correct or not... if you are, then it's your position you need to work on, if its the saddle... you may need a different one. I am sure I remember Andrew Fox telling me he loved the Pullmans because he could sit right in them, so I think you should be OK with a little bad habit busting.

It really does not help when the big name riders are trashing the look of the sport right now with yet another bad fad... look at the top AQHA pleasure riders now,(I HATE the slouchy look they are adopting now... how does THAT make the horse look better?), and 5 yrs ago, 10 yrs ago... it changes every so often, but the equitation/horsemanship riders... they don't change, and THAT'S the way to sit on a horse. But remember too - don't equate "straight" with "stiff".

Ok, I am going to post this now, went off on another rant as usual... sorry! Hope I helped, alittle?! I rambled so much I probably lost the plot completely!:blush:

=====

---

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2008/07/11 17:48

---

Dont know where your Karma went but I have just given you some back! I really appreciate people's opinions - how else would I have realised the saddle didnt fit (apart from my gut instinct about it of course!)

So that leads me onto my next question - although the saddle doesnt fit Bimmey, its a nice almost new saddle for an English (or just less bus like) horse, so where should I sell it?!

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by lottie - 2008/07/11 17:52

---

Thanks Liz - that's a great help (and maybe your karma might re appear???)

I am going to get someone to video me riding this weekend so I can see for myself what I look like and then assess where to go from there! Will also look at my saddle as you suggested.

Thanks again :)

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by Roland - 2008/07/13 21:50

---

Re English V western , ive been told by English riders that western saddles restrict the horses shoulder is this BS or partly true ....

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by LizSwitzer - 2008/07/14 03:08

---

English riders need to be slapped. Ok, not all of them, but the dense ones for sure. :P

In my most humble opinion...;)

It is absolute BS with a capital BS...

a well fitting western saddle frees the shoulder better than any English saddle, as the design of the English tree almost seems like it HAS to wedge in behind the shoulder blade... and if the western tree was so bad then the Roe Richardson people that developed the Reactor Panel line of saddles would not have based the under side of their English saddles on western panels...

A poorly fitting saddle however... yeah, that is not going to help the cause... the fact that so many people new to western are buying cheap & nasty narrow saddles because "their mate that does western says they fit all horses..." of course, that's the best that a lot of English riders will see, novice western riders on English based yards, and possibly western saddles being "fitted" by English saddle fitters/riders that just don't know the way a western saddle sits and fits is different to an English saddle.

I have to say, I really don't miss having to share space with English riders on DIY yards... I was so lucky the last 8 months I was in England to be able to keep my horses with Penny Brommersma... that was the first time in the UK I had ever been on a yard that never once questioned anything western! Heaven. :laugh:

And now... I am in a great big slice of heaven... but alas, there are badly fitting saddles, and poor riders here... but not quite so venomous about it all... so it helps...

Went to an AWESOME rodeo last night... (some shockingly bad riding there, people kept falling off, and running around...shouting... jeez):unsure:

---

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by horsesfirst - 2008/07/14 08:21

---

I think we need to be a bit careful before we rubbish one thing over another. Whether it be saddle fit, riding style or anything else. The truth is that there are good and bad examples of anything and we should be careful not to generalise. Otherwise we will be seen as nothing better than bigots and that won't do the Western world any favours.

I actually had a limited involvement in the development of the reactor panel as my ex husband and (behind the scenes) my father were heavily involved in its development. The reactor panel, like any saddling system works for some and not for others. It is not a panacea. The panels are actually based on cavalry panels, not Western ones - but it is an easy mistake to make because many of the original western saddles were adaptations of the military 'hardware' of the time.

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by LizSwitzer - 2008/07/14 15:14

---

Oh for petes sake... here we go.

Did I "rubbish" ANYTHING or ANYONE? No I did not... I was JOKING when I said that English riders should be slapped... (you can tell cause I put the sticky out tongue thing there)...I ride English and western, I'll take a pic of my long leather boots if you need proof, they're next to my cowboy boots in the closet...

And I'm sorry, but did I slip into a foreign language without realizing when I pointed out the poorly fitting saddles bit?

And again, sorry, but if my info on the reactor panel is wrong, it came from the fitters/makers themselves back in the mid 90's when it was still Roe Richardson, which it is no longer...and yea, you are of course right, it does come from cavalry saddles which is where the original shape for WESTERN SADDLES COMES FROM so again, I am so sorry I did not spend 10 minutes explaining that, I didn't think it relevant as frankly, baseline - the panels look western more than English ... and where did I say it's the perfect saddle for all,I like them, I don't like standard English saddles, THAT'S all I said... doesn't mean I have not ridden in them, does not mean I have not owned and loved my English saddles... I just don't think they are made with the horses well being in mind.

Read the post... I pretty much said all this in the last post and my previous post, mainly to avoid people saying I was against English people and or English riding...

I haven't rubbished anyone, or anything, I have not insulted either style or equipment... now if only you could spend some of this energy and track down the English riders that told Roland his beloved sport was bad for horses backs, then we'd all be better off. :dry:

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by elkay - 2008/07/14 17:46

---

Sod the being oversensitive - we want to know whether Maria has had the baby yet!!! Westernsaddler - have you popped it out yet?

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by hunterrookie - 2008/07/15 08:18

---

Have experienced good and bad with both English and Western saddles...not helped by a horse that has decided to put on a growth spurt and develop proper QH style muscling aged 9, for Pete's sake.

I have a top quality Walsall made English saddle, supplied by one master saddler and checked regularly by another, which suddenly started to rub this year. After studying the horse's conformation and action, both with me and the trainer (who was extremely reluctant to get on an English saddle:evil: )this excellent saddler has taken most of the flock out of

---

the back and tweaked the tree IN which she says defies all logic but seems to have worked. Because of their powerful quarters and way of going, it seems to be very easy for a western trained horse to shove an English saddle forward into their shoulder, so if it's sitting there already...trouble! Now because the horse has decided to put on yet more muscle across her loins, her lovely Westwood western saddle no longer fits:S So after being saved from having to buy another English saddle we've now got to buy a new western saddle:ohmy: But at least our lovely trainer sussed it out while I was still wittering around scrubbing the saddle pads thinking it was them rubbing! Anyway, the point of this ramble is that fitting both English and Western saddles is an art, and as we have found, a moveable feast. When you've got a great saddle fitter or a trainer that can help with saddle fitting, hang onto 'em!

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by appynospots - 2008/07/15 14:31

---

Who told Roland western was bad for a horses back? For God sakes!

What we forget is whether our saddles are english or western, their shape is fixed. Unfortunately the horses shape is not! In the UK we are a little short of, firstly truly knowledgeable western saddle fitters. And secondly, english saddlers that can visit, stuff and restuff your saddle when it needs it! I would reckon this would be at least twice a year due to seasonal variations in work load. In a youngster, well could be every month!

Liz i have agreed with all your comments, I really do not understand why people are so sensitive!

I do feel too many english saddles are fitted far too forward, jamming the shoulder, and preventing the horse from striding out.Its so obvious if you look!

If you ask me there are too many 'experts' that know jack s\*\*t!

We struggled to find a western saddle for our horse, it took a year and a lot of research and money to find the right one. In the meantime I bought a treeless, marvellous if you can get over it! When finally we got our Continental, every one instantly commented on how well our mare was going.All assuming it was this miraculous saddle.Actually it was the hours of schooling she had done and the Regumate she was competing under that made the real difference!;)

=====

## Re:Western Saddle Fitting...????

Posted by boova - 2008/07/18 18:44

---

Maria was a great help when I was choosing a western saddle for my 4 year old and so was trekkers.

I completely agree that youngsters change so much and with the fact that finding a decent saddler let alone a decent western saddler is so difficult in the UK I have bought a made to measure english GP for now. My saddler, although about to keel over at 150 years old, is fantastic and the saddle was definately worth the money. For £700 I had something that was specifically made for my youngster and the saddler only charges me diesel to keep coming out and reflock/shape for the 1st 12 months.

[http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/woodysmallrun.jpg](http://www.thewesternshop.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/woodysmallrun.jpg)

=====