

How to Fit a Saddle

(USPC D Manual p. 278 & 294)



Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1) The Saddle must fit the pony's back without pinching, rocking, or pressing on the pony's _____.
- 2) While the saddle sits on the back, without a saddle pad, you should NOT be able to see any open space under the saddle along the pony's back. True or False
- 3) How to find the tree point:



- 4) The front of the saddle must be wide enough to fit his saddle muscles comfortably.



Correct tree size



Correct tree size
even contact with horse



Incorrect tree size
notice tree points poking horse
and space between horse and tree

- 5) When sitting in the saddle you must be able to fit at least _____ fingers between the saddle head and pony's spine.

- 6) If you can't fit at least 2 adult fingers, the saddle is too _____.



7) If a saddle is too wide it will sit on the pony's _____, causing soreness.



8) As a temporary solution, a _____ can be used to raise the saddle and protect his back.



9) If you can fit 3 or more fingers, the saddle is too _____.

10) If the saddle is too narrow it will press down on the pony's _____.



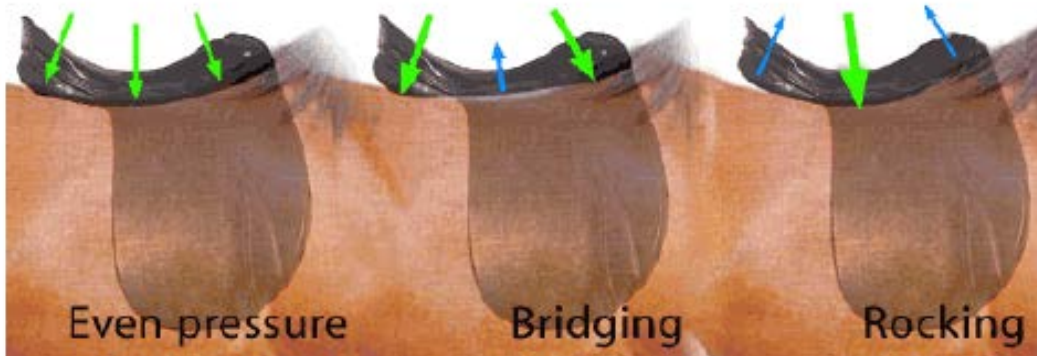
11) Is there a temporary solution for too-narrow saddle? _____

12) The three signs of an ill fitting saddle are:

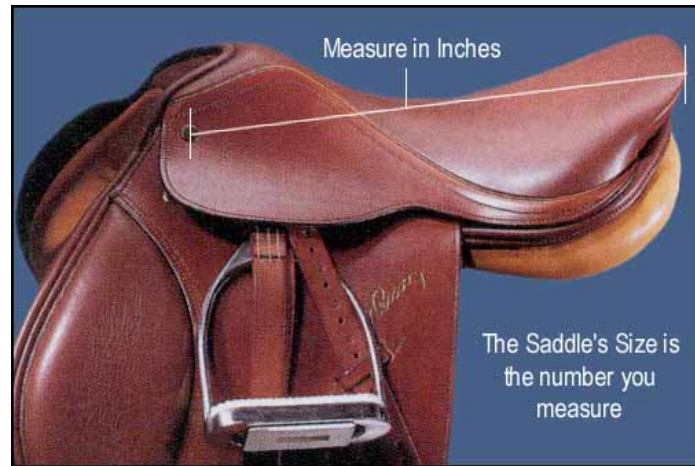
- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

13) What is "bridging" and why is it bad? _____

14) What is "rocking" and why is it bad? _____



Fitting the Saddle to the Rider



The saddle must fit both the HORSE and the _____.

The size of the saddle is measured from the STUD on side of the Pommel to the center of the CANTLE. .

Typical saddle sizes run from 14" to 18".



Saddle fits rider. Rider can sit in balanced position with one hand's width of cantle behind him, knees behind knee rolls.



Saddle too small. Rider is stuck in upright position between cantle and knee roll. No extra space behind seat or in front of knee.



Saddle too large. Dip in seat is too far back and stirrup bars are too far forward, causing rider to sit in "chair seat" with legs ahead of seat.

To check for proper saddle/rider fit:

- 1) sit in the middle/deepest part of the seat.
- 2) with feet out of stirrups and leg relaxed, adjust stirrup leathers so stirrup irons hang evenly and touch the bottom of ankle bone.
- 3) put feet in stirrups, sit in good riding position

- > THERE SHOULD BE ROOM FOR _____ HAND BEHIND YOU ON THE CANTLE.
- > LEGS SHOULD FALL INTO HOLLOW OF FLAP, BEHIND KNEE ROLL
- > STIRRUP LEATHERS SHOULD HANG VERTICALLY