

How to Fit a Saddle

(USPC D Manual p. 278)



Name: Teacher Copy

Date: _____

➤ *Having a saddle available for visuals is good.*

- 1) The Saddle must fit pony's back without pinching, rocking, or pressing on the pony's spine.
- 2) While the saddle sits on the horse's 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
➤ *Point this out on the actual saddle - put it on someone's back, they will be able to see plenty of 'open space'.*

3) How to find the tree point:



4) The front of 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 2 fingers between the saddle head and pony's spine.



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

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



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

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



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



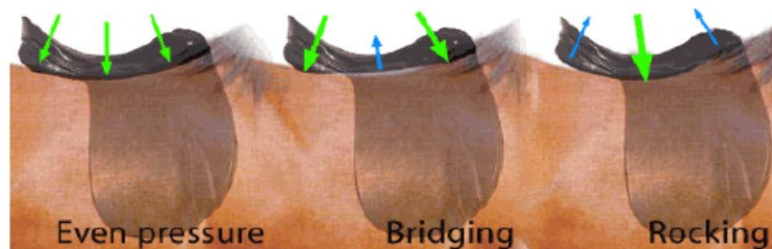
11) Is there a temporary solution for too-narrow saddle? no

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

- 1) Hot spots - dry spots under the saddle surrounded by sweat
- 2) Swelling
- 3) patches of white hair - these are the result of blisters formed from the pressure of the tack

13) What is "bridging" and why is it bad? When the rider is sitting, his weight is on the front and back and not in the middle. Bad because too much weight on withers and mid back - weight not distributed correctly.

14) What is "rocking" and why is it bad? All the riders weight is in the middle and not distributed evenly.



**What to know for
USPC Ratings:**
C1 - Identify tack on
own mount and discuss
fit