



# A history of EXCELLENCE

## How one saddle maker is improving the industry through education and innovation.

Most equestrians are familiar with the Schleese name; for years it's been synonymous with comfortable, quality saddles. But how did Jochen Schleese, the youngest German master saddler ever to be certified in Europe, end up launching his international vision from North America?

It all started when he was invited to Toronto in 1986 to be the Official Saddler for the World Dressage Championships. A former international three-day event rider, Schleese understood the saddle from a rider's point of view as well as how it should be made.

### Improving the industry


Following on that success, Jochen worked with the Canadian government to develop an authorized apprenticeship for saddlers and saddle fitters. In 1996 he received an international patent for the innovative AdapTree® saddle tree, one of few fully adjustable trees on the market (adaptable both in gullet angle and in gullet width) to provide a custom fit, while accommodating the horse through all stages of development.

After 27+ years as an innovative leader in the industry, Jochen has more recently turned his expertise to designing saddles for women, and speaks to audiences around the world about the unique anatomical differences between the female and male pelvis (while continuing to cater to male riders).

### A commitment to education

Jochen continues to be dedicated to the industry he is so passionate about. He confers regularly with other professionals and speaks at veterinary conferences, equine veterinary schools, and trade shows.

His saddle fitting technique is taught globally (including at the German National Riding School in Warendorf) using the Saddlefit 4 Life® philosophy and system. Schleese now has a team of dedicated Saddle Fit Technicians and associated Independent Saddle Fitters all over North America and Europe. Through Schleese's continuing education endeavours (seminars, lectures, symposiums, and professional training) the ever-expanding network of SaddleFit 4 Life-associated professionals is working to protect every horse and rider from long-term damage.

Building on his commitment to education, Jochen's first book *The Silent Killer* was released in Germany (WuWei publishing) this Fall, followed by his first commercial DVD *Beyond the 9 Points of Saddle Fitting* .

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