



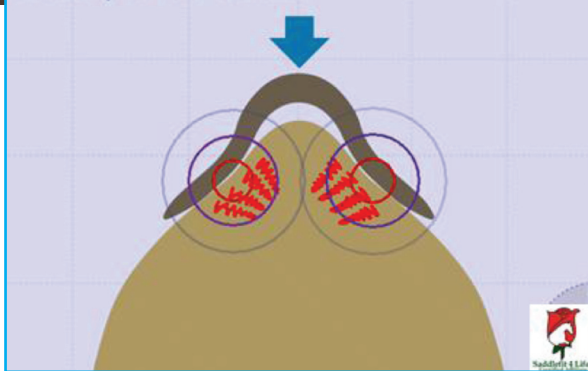
Saddle Fit Q and A

by Jochen Schleese Certified Master Saddler, Saddle Ergonomist

Q Why do I need to buy an adjustable saddle? I can't afford a custom saddle!

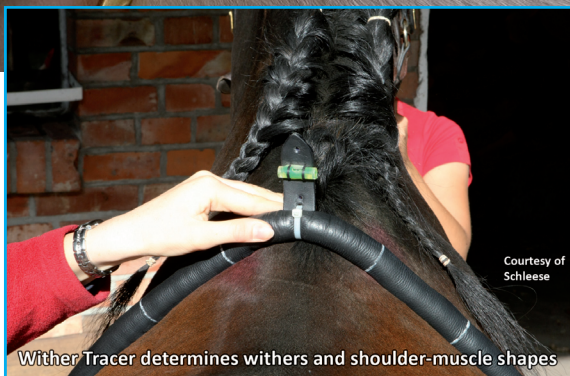
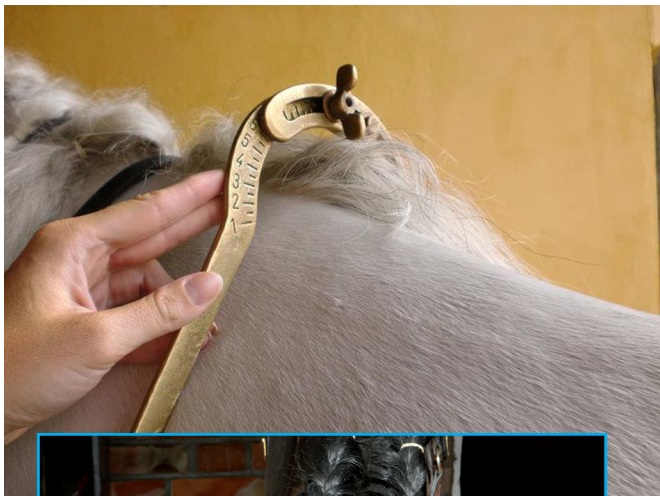
A Saddle fit requirements of a specific horse may be ignored – maybe because the rider has set him/herself a strict budget that cannot be exceeded, or maybe because the seller/saddle fitter has a different (economically driven) agenda with targets to achieve.

Vice-Grip of the Saddle



Unfortunately this is sometimes accomplished without really taking horse and rider needs into consideration. Obviously, every horse owner knows that there will be a ton of expenses beyond the initial purchase of the animal – including buying tack that fits. A good quality adjustable saddle (in tree width and tree angle as well as in Panel flocking) is a smart investment. If taken care of properly and maintained/adjusted regularly it should work for the horse over its whole life. The fit should be evaluated and adjustments made to keep pace with changes in your horse's conformation as it reacts to training, nutrition, and the maturation process.

Would you buy an expensive car and never change the oil or buy new tires? Too often we hear "I bought a custom saddle; I expect it to fit forever!" Doesn't buying a saddle which can be adjusted to accommodate your horse's changes in conformation make more sense than constantly having to go through 'saddle buying hell' to find a new



Courtesy of
Schleese

Wither Tracer determines withers and shoulder-muscle shapes



Adjusting flocking ensures
optimal fit to horse's back

Photo by Saddlefit 4 Life



Saddle Fit Adjustment to
Tree Angle & Tree Width

Courtesy of Saddlefit 4 Life

saddle? Physical or behavioral issues may arise from a saddle which has become too tight at the withers or too narrow in the gullet – meaning the horse misses another lesson and remains in his box.

Brought to you by Jochen Schleese,
Certified Master Saddler;
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www.SaddlesforWomen.com
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