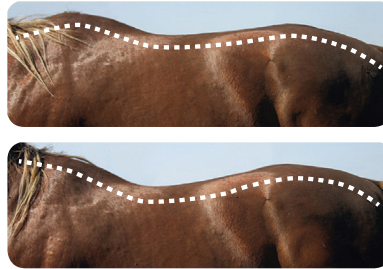


# Using the Barefoot Saddle System

## No two horses' backs have exactly the same shape.

There are big differences even within specific breeds, so there is no single saddle type which will for example, fit every Haflinger, although this kind of thing can be found on the market.

The shape of a horse's back is can change constantly according to. Its age, type of fodder available, through more or less intensive training and, within seconds, by altering the position of its head.



These pictures show the same horse only with two different head and neck postures.

## This is why we have developed the Barefoot Saddle System to accommodate for such changes in the shape of your horse.

**Exchangeable pommel insert**

- Adapt the saddle to fit the shape of your horse's shoulder in one simple step.

**Saddle + Saddle pad = Saddle System**

- Saddle can be adapted to fit different horses' backs by using padded inserts.
- Suitable for difficult backs and for swaybacks.
- Ideal for use during convalescence when muscle mass is being built up.

**vertebrae protecting system**

- Avoids back trouble. Prevents many common back ailments.

**Variable stirrup attachments**

- Allow you to vary your seat and leg position.

**V-Girth**

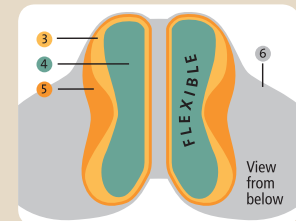
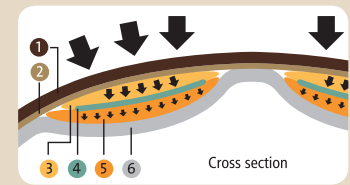
- This special girth keeps the saddle firmly in place and avoids slipping.

**Healthy horseback**  
with spine protecting system

**vps®**  
vertebrae protecting system

- spinal clearance
- no weight limit
- no pressure points under stirrup bar

The Barefoot Saddle System adapts due to the VPS® System in its core which, with use of the saddle, adjusts to the body shape of the horse and rider. The Barefoot Saddle-System will readapt again and again – one saddle can be used on several horses.



- Components of the VPS® System:**
- top material (leather or DryTex™)
  - cushioning PU foam layer
  - shock absorbing elastomer, layer 1
  - pressure distributing polymer layer
  - pressure absorbing elastomer, layer 2
  - Cross section equalizing fleece lining

## Using Barefoot Saddle Pads

The saddle pads we recommend include padded inserts which can be individually adapted to position the saddle correctly and give an optimum fit for each individual horse. The padded inserts also provide additional pressure absorption and ensure even pressure distribution.

Depending on the rider's weight and individual riding style, the padding will need time to settle; you should be able to notice a considerable difference after about three hours in the saddle.

The surface materials we use in production – especially our leathers – are porous and have the capacity to adapt their shape and become suppler with use, like leather trousers which feel like a second skin with frequent wear.

## How to "break in" a new Barefoot Saddle

- The saddle will settle considerably with use. During the first few hours in a new saddle, you will need to tighten the girth by several holes. Please take care to tighten the girth immediately after mounting to prevent the saddle from slipping.
- If at first the saddle is too high, the saddle pad can be used without the inserts. These can be put in place later when you feel the saddle has settled sufficiently for you to feel comfortable.
- At first the saddle may slip when mounting. We recommend using a mounting block (whenever possible to make mounting easier on your horse.)
- It is advisable to shorten your stirrups at the beginning. Shorter stirrups will give you a more secure seat until you get used to the saddle.



At first, the construction of the saddle looks very high and seems perched on the horse's back.



After a few hours in use the saddle has adjusted to the shape of the horse and a deep seat has formed.