

🌟 Welcome to your virtual saddle fitting 🌟 Preparation Steps

- **Horse Position:** The horse stands **square**, with even weight distribution, on stable ground. 🐾
- **Horse Comfort:** The horse is **calm and comfortable**; use gentle handling and positive reinforcement.
- **Saddle Cinch:** The saddle is **snugly cinched** to a gentle, consistent hug—enough to simulate ride-ready tension without causing discomfort.
- **Lighting:** Lighting is **natural or evenly lit** to avoid shadows that obscure details.
- **Photos:** **Clear, close-up shots** should be taken in the sequence below, with any notable observations noted in your accompanying notes. 📝

-----Photo Protocol (in order) 📷 1) Gullet Clearance Shot (Pre- and Post-Pad)

- **Purpose:** Assess clearances around the **withers and gullet area**, both with and without a pad.
- **How to Capture:**
 - **First Image:** With the pad removed, saddle cinched to a gentle hug, horse standing square.
 - **Second Image:** With the pad in place, same cinch tension, same standing position.
- **Camera Angles:**
 - **Inserted fingers view:** Place one hand under the saddle at the withers to show space between the gullet and the horse's spine; capture a close-up shot with fingers gently inserted.
 - **Clear view:** Take a parallel shot showing the same area **without fingers** for comparison.
- **What We're Looking For:**
 - **Sufficient clearance** between the withers/spine and the saddle gullet.
 - **Consistent spacing** across the wither area, noting any hotspots or pressure points. 🔥

2) Shoulder View (Both Sides)




- **Purpose:** Evaluate **angle, alignment, and clearance** over the shoulder.
- **How to Capture:**
 - Position the horse **square** with even weight bearing.
 - Take **one shot from the left shoulder** and **one from the right shoulder**.
- **Camera Angles:**
 - **Front-facing shoulder view:** Capture the relationship between the saddle tree and shoulder blade as the horse stands.
 - **Slightly oblique view:** A second shot at a shallow angle to better visualize clearance.
- **What We're Looking For:**
 - **Proper shoulder angle alignment** relative to the saddle.

- **Adequate clearance** at the shoulder for movement and freedom of shoulder rotation.
- **No binding or tipping** of the saddle on the shoulder region.

3) Side Profile View (Both Sides)

- **Purpose:** Assess overall **saddle balance**, **level of the saddle**, and **alignment with the horse's topline**.
- **How to Capture:**
 - Both **left and right side profiles**, ensuring the horse remains square and calm.

4) Channel View

-  **Instruction**
 - Include the **entire horse** in the frame from **hindquarters to withers**, ensuring the saddle sits **clearly** on the horse's back.
-  **Camera Angles**
 - **Slightly forward angle:** A subtle angle to better show saddle cantle/seat position and balance.
 - **Direct side view:** A **Tail to head** line, with the saddle clearly visible in relation to the **spine and withers**.
-  **What We're Looking For**
 - **Level** saddle tree and seat when viewed from the side.
 - **Proper balance:** even distribution of saddle contact from **cantle to withers**.
 - **No rocking, tipping, or bridging** over the **loin area or withers**.
 - **Consistent contact** along the panel and tree as appropriate for your saddle type.

----Once you have this, my friend, let's go to the video portion of your fit. 