

THANK YOU FOR ORDERING SADDLERY FROM J. B. WIEBE III, LLC.  
**BEFORE DOING ANYTHING WITH YOUR ORDER, PLEASE CONFIRM THE FIT.**

Please do not fold or bend new unconditioned straps back on themselves, especially the ½ Round and Fancy stitched straps as this can cause irreparable damage to new unconditioned straps.

Do not oil or condition the leather until fit is confirmed. Oiled or conditioned leather cannot be returned.

**WARNING: DO NOT PLACE LEATHER IN HOT OIL OR HOT STAIN.**  
**THIS WILL DESTROY THE LEATHER.**

You may exchange new unused standard size stock **21<sup>st</sup> Century**® strap good items that are not Made To Order that have not been oiled, stained, soaped or otherwise conditioned, or blemished from handling for alternative sizes of equivalent value to give a nearly custom “made-to-measure” fit. Please return any new unused and unblemished **21<sup>st</sup> Century**® stock parts that were not made to order for exchange within 2 weeks of delivery. We do not charge a restocking fee. We charge for shipping and handling on exchanges.

Items made to order regardless of size, including **Bennett’s Hunter**®, **Jimmy Wiebe Memorial**®, and **20<sup>th</sup> Century**® **Custom** items, are **Final Sale** and may not be returned or canceled.

**CAUTION: I do not recommend oiling our leather**, but if you must oil it, please use as little oil as possible. Oiling can cause the aniline dye we use to stain the edges to bleed into stitching and this may also stain your hands. Wear rubber gloves when oiling and avoid drawing edge stain into the stitching, especially the ½ round fancy stitching.

Begin by applying **no more than 3 very light coats** of Fiebing’s™ Neatsfoot Oil Compound with a new clean paintbrush. **Do not use Pure Neatsfoot Oil**. Only oil in moderation. Do not soak, dip, or otherwise overoil the leather. Excessive oiling can damage the leather resulting in more stretching, shorter leather life, and can damage the leather.

**Do not use colored stain which will ruin the appearance of the fine hand stitching.**

Light oiling will help start to darken our Light Havana and Newmarket color English equestrian leather and will begin the conditioning and breaking in process. Using Fiebing’s Yellow Paste Saddle Soap will also help start to darken the leather.

**Oiling will not change our darker Nut Brown color much at all and we do not recommend oiling it.**

After initial oiling and conditioning with Fiebing’s yellow paste saddle soap, do not oil the leather again. Continue to condition your saddlery as noted on the next page with regular use. This will give the best long-term results.

Sincerely,  
*Jim Wiebe*  
Managing Director

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## J. B. Wiebe III LLC's fine quality English equestrian leather care instructions

We do not recommend oiling the leather, but if you must oil the leather, begin by applying 2 or 3 **very light coats** of **Fiebing's™ Neatsfoot Oil Compound** using a new clean paintbrush. **Do not use Pure Neatsfoot Oil.** Do not soak or dip the leather in oil. Excessive oiling can result in more stretching as the parts break in and reduce the durability and life of the leather. Excessive oiling can damage the leather.

**CAUTION: oiling may cause the edge stain to bleed into stitching and may stain your hands.** Wear rubber gloves when oiling and use as little oil as possible to begin darkening our lighter leather colors: Light Havana and Newmarket. Do not oil our Nut Brown color leather which will not darken with oiling. **NEVER HEAT THE OIL.**

Next, being careful not to draw edge stain into the stitching, especially the fancy stitching, apply **Fiebing's™ Yellow Paste Saddle Soap** to the grain and flesh sides of the leather as a conditioner with a **dry natural sea sponge** or other **dry** soft sponge. There are fats and greases in this yellow saddle soap that condition the leather, but won't over-oil it or make it too soft. This soap also removes excess grease and wax from the English leather currying process that is laying on the outer surfaces leaving a semi-tacky finish. Continued use of Fiebing's Yellow Paste Saddle Soap will further condition and break in the leather and continue to darken it.

Note that any oiling, conditioning, cleaning, use, and handling will change, soil, or discolor thread appearance somewhat. This is normal wear and should be expected. Avoid handling the stitching, especially the fancy stitching, as much as possible to keep it looking its best and it will last longer.

We don't guarantee darkening of the leather to a specific color. Our intent using Light Havana and Newmarket color English equestrian leather is to give a good starting point. Darkening will take some time.

Clean after every use with mild castile soap and a little warm water (**don't soak leather in water**). For cleaning, **unscented Ivory™ white hand bar soap** works well or mild Belvoir Castile Glycerin Soap. We do not recommend using other glycerin or "one step" soap-conditioner which will build up a black slime of soap, dirt, and sweat on the leather and thread.

After each cleaning, use **Fiebing's™ Yellow Paste Saddle Soap** with a **dry** sponge **before the leather dries**. Pull from the middle of the strap towards the strap ends with the sponge and finish up with a clean linen stable rubber or soft cotton cloth in the same direction to keep edges and flesh side of the straps smooth. This will do the best job conditioning the leather and setting you up to have it last the longest with a firm supple feel and minimal wear.

To restore old leather or leather that was in storage and is dry, hard, or brittle, several light coats of our **J. B. Wiebe III, LLC, English Currier's Dubbin** (tallows, greases, and wax) is the best option. We sell small jars of this premium leather conditioner. It is the best on the market, sourced from our English equestrian leather curriers in England and is only available from J. B. Wiebe III, LLC.

**A word regarding repairs:** We repair what we sell. We strongly encourage our customers to send our finely hand stitched custom bridles and other saddlery to us for any needed repairs. We have had customers send our custom bridles to us for repair after trying to get them repaired at a local tack shop or horse show tack trailer vendor for repair, and the parts repaired were damaged by tools too large for our finest hand stitching. This kind of damage is often not restorable, so please return any items requiring repair to us to repair.

We hear from customers that are still using Jimmy Wiebe's bridles sold over 60 years ago, and my bridles sold in the mid-1980's. A customer contacted me in 2016, to let me know she was taking a custom monogrammed lead shank I made for her in the early 1980's to the 2016 Olympic games for use with the US Olympic team. She was still using that lead shank in 2021. Another lifelong friend contacted me in 2024 to tell me she was still using a bridle I made her in 1983.

The quality craftsmanship together with consistent care and regular use will give many years of service. Thank you for your order. We wish you many years of use with our handcrafted **Wiebe Heirloom Quality®** bridle work.

Sincerely,

*Jim Wiebe*

Managing Director

J. B. Wiebe III LLC

429 E. Commerce St., #112, Hernando, MS 38632

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<https://jbwiebe3.com/shop>

# SADDLERY HORROR STORIES

(What **not** to do if you want your tack to be safe, to last, and look its best.)

Told by Jimmy Wiebe, “*The Stitcher*,” and his son, Jim Wiebe, of J. B. Wiebe III, LLC

What follows are true accounts of what some of our past customers did to their tack.  
We saw the results first hand.

**DO NOT DO ANY OF THIS! SOME OF THESE POOR CHOICES ARE DANGEROUS AND CAN LEAD TO INJURY OR DEATH AT HOME ON YOUR FARM OR IN A SHOW RING!**

1. French frying a new bridle in hot oil
2. Staining a bridle with gasoline. **This is a fire hazard** and can damage leather.
3. Soaking a new bridle in Pure Neatsfoot Oil or Neatsfoot Oil Compound
4. Soaking a new bridle in olive oil
5. Soaking a new bridle in mineral oil
6. Dipping a new saddle in oil
7. Cleaning and conditioning tack with vegetable oil based “one-step” Murphy’s Soap
8. Conditioning and cleaning with a “one-step” cleaner/conditioner
9. Leaving bridles under the rear window of a closed car on a hot summer day in central Arizona
10. Bending raised or half round straps 180° back on themselves and splitting at the center of a hand sewn fancy stitch
11. Scrubbing a bridle with an Emory sandpaper dish washing pad and damaging thread and leather’s grain surface
12. Washing a bridle with soapy water and leaving it to dry without conditioning the leather
13. Riding in the rain, soaking the bridle in water, and leaving it on a tack hook to dry without conditioning the leather
14. Placing wet tack in a closed tack trunk and leaving it to grow mold
15. Using an open flame to burn back the end of a loose thread – and burning the leather
16. Attempting to repair loose saddle billets without the tools or skill to do so
17. Punching more holes in a stirrup leather or bridle strap using a pocket knife, heavy nail, or ice pick and tearing the leather
18. Putting away tack dirty, covered with mud, manure, sweat, sand, and other filth