



[www.blackcountrysaddles.com](http://www.blackcountrysaddles.com)



# The History of the Black Country

The “Black Country” is a historical name given to the industrial area of the Midlands around Birmingham.

The region gained its name in the mid-nineteenth century after Elihu Burritt, the American Consul to Birmingham, described the area as ‘Black by day and red by night’ due to the smoke from the many thousands of iron working foundries, collieries and forges which were alongside the lime pits - key for tanning leather, hence Walsall became the centre of the leather trade.

There is also a famous but dubious anecdote about Queen Victoria ordering the lowering of the blinds on her carriage as the royal train passed through the area.



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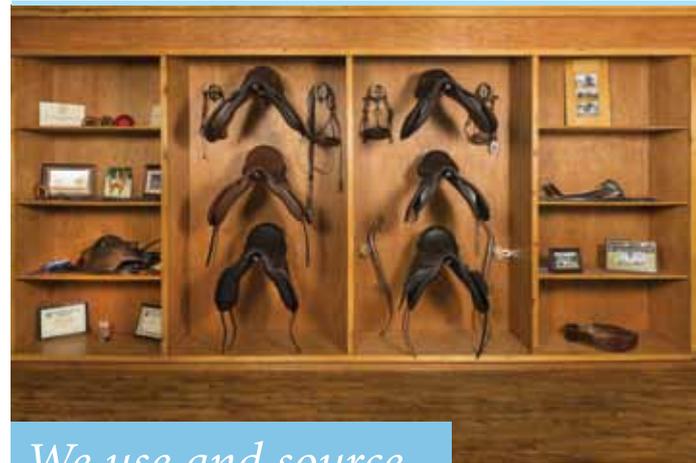
# About Us

With more than 80 years of combined experience as Master Saddlers, Rob Cullen and John Hartley have made the name of Black Country Saddles synonymous with innovation and quality throughout the equestrian world.

Extensive knowledge and understanding of saddle manufacture allow the team to produce a range that can be fitted to all types of horses and ponies. Our saddlemakers work closely with saddle fitters to ensure the best possible combination of fit for both horse and rider.

Committed to providing owners and riders with the best possible product available today, we have declined the demands of mass production and remain with tradition continuing to use and source quality British materials.

From the initial stages of our very own wood-laminated spring trees (complete with 10 year guarantee), 100% pure wool flocking, English leathers and highly skilled craftsmanship, our saddles are personally made at the benches of our factory in the borough of Walsall, England.



*We use and source  
quality British materials.*







# The Vinici Dressage

The Vinici Dressage saddle's single/mono flap offers an outstanding closeness, maximizing the contact between you and your horse.

The absence of an outer flap helps to achieve the feeling of a narrower twist, especially beneficial on wider-fit horses.

The medium deep seat and knee roll configuration offer non-restrictive security and support for the correct posture. The flexible overlay girthing system lies neatly above the cushioned sweat flap so as to avoid any discomfort.

Panels are designed to distribute weight evenly across the surface and a wide selection of trees and panel options allow us to adapt the fit for all types of horse.

Flap lengths and rolls are custom built to suit each individual.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Vinici Solare

Providing an outstanding closeness to your horse, the Vinici Solare jumping saddle is certainly one that stands out from the crowd.

This saddle is high-spec\* throughout and has been developed to incorporate the well-established Vinici single/mono flap design.

Feeling at one with your horse is key to success and the hugely popular Vinici design has now been incorporated into a jumping saddle with a slimline, one-piece tree making it ultra-lightweight.

This increasingly popular saddle includes the highly regarded flexible overlay girthing system with the straps lying on top of the panel helping to aid rider feel.

Designed to enhance rider position when show jumping, the Vinici Solare is a fine example of the craftsmanship and technological advances available today.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*





photo by: Amy Drago



# The Vinici Tex Eventer

A favourite in the US, this superb saddle is specifically targeted at event riders.

The forwardness of the flap and the long sloping seat allow plenty of space behind the rider to move around in and also give support when leaning back over drop fences – no more sitting on the cantle! The tree is designed as such that the extra length in the seat is not reflected in the panels.

The girthing system lies neatly on top of the cushioned sweat flap so as to avoid any discomfort. Small triangular blocks are standard.

The Vinici Tex Eventer is designed with pure wool panels to help shock absorption when landing and also allowing the horse freedom to stride out without restriction on the shoulders.

A further forward option is also available for taller riders.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Adelinda Dressage

The Adelinda is an exquisite addition to our dressage range and is styled throughout in the finest calf leather.

The close contact designed flap allows for greater communication between horse and rider.

Security is achieved with an anatomically contoured knee block on the top of the flap which can be custom made for each individual rider.

Uniform weight distribution with pure wool flocking, and via our full range of in-house trees, is provided to suit all types of horse.

Available in Black, Brown and Oxblood.



Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Optima Deluxe Dressage

The new Optima Deluxe Dressage Saddle is made from luxurious calf leather, providing the ultimate finish. This exciting addition to the range from Black Country Saddles is made to the highest standards and showcases the latest technological advances in saddle design and manufacture.

Key features in this bespoke saddle include a knee roll which can be placed exactly to the preferred position of the rider and is custom-made for each individual. This unique knee roll allows for greater rider flexibility but still offers maximum support providing enhanced communication.

The Optima Deluxe has been designed to be a close fitting saddle that is perfect for both horse and rider and is made to the highest level of expertise. It has uniform weight distribution with pure wool flocking and is made on the full range of Black Country Saddle's trees to suit all types of horse.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*





*photo by: Amy Drago*



# The Eloquence Dressage

The Eloquence Dressage saddle has proved to be the most popular dressage model in this range for whatever level you are riding. It offers a medium deep seat giving stability without restriction and excellent centre of balance. Knee rolls are of medium depth but can be custom built if required.

A wide selection of trees and panel options allow adaptability of fit for all types of horse.

Endorsed by Kirsty Mepham, Sydney 2000 Olympic Team Member, Claudia Tarlov, dressage rider and trainer, USA and Rob Oakley, Paralympic Team, Australia.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*





*photo by: High Time Photography*



# The Eden Dressage

The Eden is another of our well established dressage saddles. The design of the tree in this saddle lends itself to 'swayed back' horses, helping to avoid 'bridging' and maximising the weight distribution. This is reflected in the deep seat, giving far more security and encouraging a long, classically correct leg position. The narrow twist of this saddle is also a favourite.

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Available in:

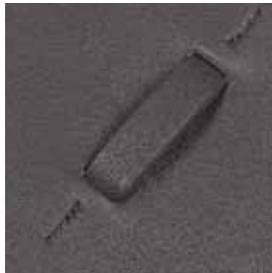
- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Tra-li Jump

Looking for a jumping saddle with a difference?

The Tra-Li has been developed with a unique system where the blocks have been placed on the outside of the saddle to provide riders with increased support.

Whether competing at international level or at your local show jumping arena, the Tra-Li offers all riders extra assistance to stay in perfect balance.

Developed using a slimline tree, this exciting new saddle is one of the most up-to-the-minute models available today being both modern and highly stylish in appearance.

The Tra-Li is made using vintage leather and comes right up to the mark when performance counts!



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Solare Jump

We are proud to introduce you to the new Solare Jump Saddle - ideal for those riders looking for a quality saddle with the latest innovations.

Made with vintage leather, the Solare offers excellent value for money with the saddle combining cutting edge design and technology providing riders of all levels and ability with a close contact saddle and a forward-fitting seat that allows freedom of movement.

Custom-made as always, this saddle has a discreet knee roll providing support without blocking the leg position whilst the forward cut flaps help the rider's balance and security.

The pure wool flocking in this versatile saddle helps to offer the perfect fit and allows greater adjustment options.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*





photo by: High Time Photography



# The Ricochet Jump

The Ricochet is a bold amalgamation of our two most popular jumping saddles, the Quantum and the Wexford.

It has a low-profile, square-cantled seat giving an aesthetic and close-contact continental look much sought after in the Jumping world. Hunter-Jumpers love this saddle enhanced as it is with its pure wool flocking.

The panel and tree combination lends itself to many high wither profiles from hunt horses, thoroughbred eventers through to some of the more modern warmblood jumpers.

Also available with an extra forward cut flap for taller riders.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*

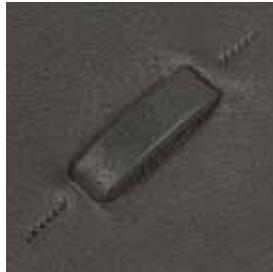




photo by: High Time Photography



# The Wexford Jump

The Wexford is a deep-seated jumping saddle, similar to the GP range, offering a wider seat for more comfort than most traditional jump saddles.

This superb saddle comes with large supporting knee and thigh blocks for the ultimate in rider security with a forward flap option for taller riders.

The panel and tree combinations within this saddle allow for a multitude of profiles.

This is a saddle for the hunting season or maybe for the novice jumper or for those of us who just like an “arm-chair” ride!



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Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Tex Eventer Jump

The Tex Eventer is a true cross country saddle. The forwardness of the flap and the long sloping seat are designed to give the rider ample room behind to lean back and still feel the security without the cantle interfering.

The tree is designed such that the extra length in the seat is not reflected in the panels.

Flocked with pure wool, this saddle also allows the horse freedom to stride out without restriction on the shoulders when landing.

A further forward option is also available for taller riders.

Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range  
of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Jumping-LL

The Jumping-LL is designed to provide more room for riders with longer legs.

The issue for longer-legged riders in forward-fitting flaps is that they tend to move the block further forward. We have therefore created more space with a longer pad below the knee rather than at the thigh!



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*





# The Equinox

In association with Trumbull Mountain Tack Shop USA we are proud to offer this endurance and trail riding saddle. With breeds such as Arabian, Morgan, Warmbloods and Quarter horses in mind, this is designed to fit the 'plus size' horse.

The Equinox features further set-back stirrup bars and a new material for an even more cushioned seat. It offers both a wide gullet and fit for the horse and yet a narrow twist for the rider, with the contact benefits from a single/mono flap.

This impressive saddle has pointed straps to eliminate rocking and it comes in buffalo leather (in black or brown) which is soft, grippy and durable or in vintage leather (which comes in black, brown, havana or oxblood).

The panels are made of 'serge' which has proven itself to offer multiple benefits for the horse's back.

A Crupper D and lots of D-rings will also assist you on your way.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Available Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Celeste

The Celeste is a long awaited addition to our other endurance saddle - the Equinox.

The triangular knee block is built on the outside of the standard flap to give greater support without restriction.

As not all endurance horses are wide we offer 3 different tree options in this saddle to suit the needs of most, with panels adjusted accordingly to encompass the usual difficulties in fitting.

The style of the Celeste will also lend itself jointly for general riding and dressage, making this another versatile saddle .

This fine-cut and sturdy saddle also comes with a choice of short or long billets.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Classic

The Black Country Classic Show Saddle is the epitome of elegance and style. Straight cut with a subtle knee roll, soft comfortable seat and flocked with pure wool, this exquisite saddle is made using vintage, pre-oiled leather.

More than 20 years of experience and expertise have been combined to develop this saddle using a specialist tree and the very best materials available today.

The low cantle helps provide a flatter seat for a neater appearance, with the close profile of the saddle helping to show off and enhance the overall picture, so important in the world of Showing.

The Classic Show Saddle has been developed with leading Show rider and Producer Katy Carter, to provide the perfect Show saddle for both pony and rider.

Says Katy: "The new Black Country Classic Show Saddle is simply the best saddle available for Show ponies. Soft leather makes it comfortable to ride in from day one and the design and craftsmanship help to put the rider in the correct position, to produce the perfect winning picture."



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Hartley

The very successful Hartley Show Saddle is designed with considerable input from the Showing world.

The emphasis is on providing a close profile on the horse or pony. Unlike many Show saddles this is still pure wool-flocked to allow for greater bearing pressure and fitting adjustment. The low cantle gives a flatter seat allowing flexibility in a full range of rider sizes.

Built on a tree best suited for “showy types”, everything about this saddle is designed to show off the horse rather than the saddle.

The Hartley does not have a knee block, giving a very neat appearance from the front.



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Working Hunter



Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*

This traditional Show Hunter is a real showman's saddle. It has the same profile as the Hartley and the straight cut is styled to enhance the horse's appearance whilst the feature of a knee roll gives the rider that little extra security in the ring.

Unlike many Show saddles this is still pure wool-flocked to allow for greater bearing pressure and fitting adjustment. The low cantle gives a flatter seat allowing flexibility in a full range of rider sizes.

This saddle is produced in a variety of leathers and pad designs - for you to choose as individually as you require.





## The GPX

The GPX is our foundation all-purpose saddle lending itself to many disciplines.

This saddle features a medium-depth seat, as do all saddles in the GP range, and has a slightly more-forward knee position than the GP Event allowing a longer hip-to-knee measurement for the taller rider.

The variety of trees available for this saddle allow us to work with all profiles of horses and ponies.



## The GPD

This is without doubt our most versatile general purpose saddle. The main feature of the GPD is the straight-cut flap which adapts well cosmetically as a Show saddle and also provides support when riding dressage. The straightness of the panel gives maximum freedom of movement behind the shoulder making it particularly suitable for native breeds, cobs and wide horses.

A popular choice whether it be in the showing ring, dressage arena or pleasure riding.

The variety of trees available for this saddle allow us to work with all profiles of horses and ponies.





# The GP Event

The GP Event saddle is our most widely distributed general/all purpose saddle.

Whether riding for pleasure or combining flatwork and jumping the GP Event will accommodate it all.

Thigh blocks come as standard to help position one's legs.

The variety of trees available for this saddle allow us to work with all profiles of horses and ponies.

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Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*







# The Polo

This fabulous saddle is a unique design which has been developed with the assistance of top international Polo riders and trainers.

The tree has reinforced forged steel to provide extra durability. These saddles can be custom-made outside the realms of the standard narrow medium fits, with natural hand-whipped close-contact foam panels.

Available in full Polo leather or Buffalo.

We also offer this model as one of the world's first truly "custom-made" polo saddles with pure wool-flocked panels allowing for fitting adjustment.

Available in:

- **Black**
- **Brown**
- **Havana**
- **Oxblood**

Sizes:

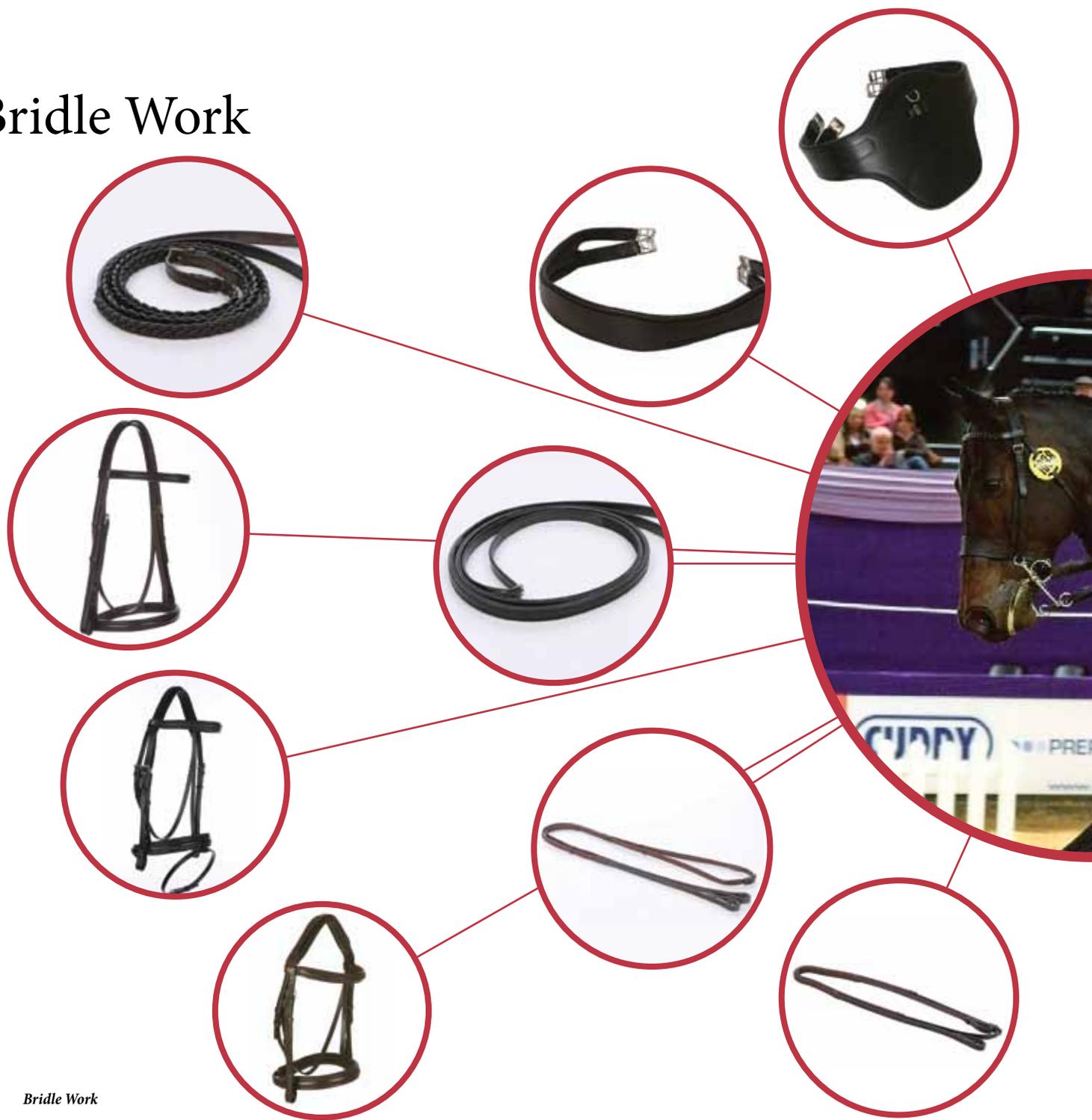
**16in to 19in, in a range of width fittings.**



*Genuine Leather*



# Bridle Work







# Quality Assurance

## **Eurotrees – 10 year guarantee**

We use only the best quality British wood laminated Spring Trees which are specifically calibrated via our cad-system at our sister company Eurotrees headed up by Managing Partner Pete Dutton. Each tree is crafted to its own specification, depending on the profile requirements of the horse and the design of saddle for which it is destined. All trees come with a 10 year guarantee subject to normal usage against general riding conditions and conform to the latest British Standard BS6635. Our trees are adjustable up to one width fitting either way. This alteration can be made at the factory or by an authorised repair agent.

## **100% Pure Wool**

All our panels are hand flocked with 100% pure British Wool, we have carried out studies to explore the benefits that using a natural flock has over synthetic materials such as the more commonly used polypropylene or latex moulded panels.

- Wool moulds to the horse's back with greater ease.
- Wool absorbs up to 30% of its own weight in moisture without feeling wet, helping to reduce the heat and moisture created from the horse's back, where synthetic fibres will actually reflect the heat.
- Wool provides a softer more shock absorbing filling, with a minimal compression rate over time.
- Wool can also reduce friction and therefore soreness.
- Wool, unlike foam, can be adjusted to achieve the optimum fit.

Always choose a wool flocked panel for better all round results.

## **Leather**

We use, and are constantly sourcing, only the finest high-grade English leathers from renowned and reputable suppliers.

Leather is a natural product but with the right care grows ever more beautiful with age. Some fine scars, wrinkles and sometimes subtle variations in shading may be apparent and enhance the natural finish, distinguishing it as the genuine article. They should not be considered as a defect.

## **Tanning**

The hides that are selected as 'raw hides' have fewer blemishes and are carefully chosen for quality. They are then traditionally tanned, a process which can take up to 12 weeks, but necessary to produce its supple yet strong properties.

## **Dyeing**

A refining process in which the hides require tumbling and dyeing in large drums.

## **Dressing**

The leather is then finished by reputable curriers. Along with the latest technology, combinations of natural oils and greases are used to produce a number of different finishes.

## **Leather Care**

Regularly wipe away any excess dirt and grease with a damp cloth, allow to dry naturally and then treat with our own Black Country leathercare or a leather cream, wax or balsam conditioner as required. Avoid using saddle soaps, solvents or oils as these have tendencies to strip the leather of its finish and natural goodness.

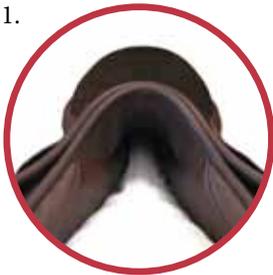
## **Saddle Guarantee**

Saddles carry 12 months warranty against faulty workmanship and materials, subject to fair wear and tear.



# Features and Extras

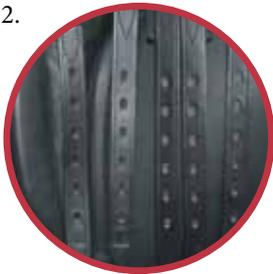
1.



## For the horse

**1:** Front Gusset – additional leather gusset developed by ourselves for horses that have muscle atrophy ‘hollows’ to provide wither clearance without restriction. Also available as a full front gusset.

2.



**2:** Point & Balance Straps – available individually for extra girth balancing, particularly on wide fits.

3.



**3:** Dressage straps/billets - are built on a sliding ‘V’ web system to allow for a flexible girthing position with optional placement of the first strap/billet.

4.



**4:** K-Panel – customised panels allow for a greater bearing surface and additional clearance for horses with lack of definition or muscle atrophy. Also available as a dropped panel. Back gussets depths can also be altered accordingly for balance.

Saddles are generally made to ‘template’ however standard sizes are available from Narrow through to XXWide. Seat sizes from 15” – 19” in half inch increments.

## Serge Panels

Why not try a serge panel instead of leather? Serge panels are the traditional way of paneling saddles. If you take a look at the old side saddles they will have serge with a linen lining. Serge is natural and made of wool which is the best material to absorb moisture and then disperse this naturally over a period of time. Not only will it make your saddle lighter in weight, but as with any wool flocked saddle in the initial miles of riding the panel forms the shape of the horse’s back and settles down. The process is the same whether leather or serge, although serge, being a little softer, can make the process faster.

Serge helps to eliminate slipping as it is extremely soft and kind to horses’ backs. It can also be suitable for cold-backed horses.

Serge is very popular in hot conditions as the rate of heat absorption is faster than leather, keeping the back cooler as featured on the Equinox Endurance.



## For the rider

Seat size, front and back blocks, velcro blocks, flap length, flap forwardness and choice of leather and colour are just some of the custom options available.





# Leather Finishes

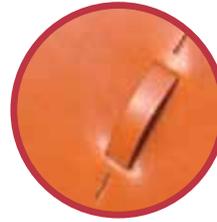
## Flap and Skirt Options

**Smooth Full Grain** - High quality finished leather.

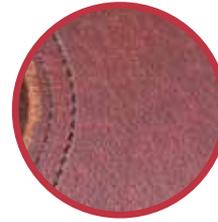
Colours – Black, Dark Brown, Havana, Newmarket.

**Vintage** - Superior quality leather with a natural finish and hair cell print enhancing the beauty of the leather, highly oiled and supple - “No more breaking in”. Colours – Black, Brown, Oxblood.

**Buffalo\*** - Heavy duty printed leather. Colours – Black, Brown.



Smooth Full Grain



Printed Vintage



Buffalo

## Seat and Knee Pad Options

**Standard Hide** - Soft hide with extra grip.

Colours – Black, Dark Brown, Havana, Oxblood.

**Schrumph** - Printed leather for extra grip and durability.

Colours – Black, Brown.

**Suede** - For extra grip.

Colours – Black, Brown.

**Reversed Doe\*** - Deluxe textured hide for extra grip and comfort.

Colours – Black, Brown.

**Doe Skin\*** - Refined texture with “suede look” appearance for softness and extra grip. Colours – Black, Brown.

**Calf Hide\*** - Colours – Black, Brown, Oxblood, Caramel  
Deluxe smooth hide for extra grip and comfort.

## Covered Options

**Schrumph** - Fully covered in schrumph offering extra grip and durability. Colours – Black, Brown.

**Hide** - Fully covered in standard hide for extra grip and suppleness. Colours – Black, Dark Brown, Havana.

**Suede** - Another option on show saddles for extra grip and cosmetic purposes.

**Doe\*** - Ultimate in appearance for the show ring as featured on the Hartley Supreme.

**Calf Skin\*** - Deluxe covered option as standard on the Maelstrom, Bellissima and Adelinda.

*\*Additional costs on some models*



Standard Hide



Schrumph



Suede



Reversed Doe



Doe Skin



# Colour Options



Black



Dark Brown



Havana



Oxblood



Newmarket

## How to Order

We specialize in custom built saddles, so the majority of the saddles we make here are to order – for a specific client and horse. Our worldwide dealers are all able to offer a saddle assessment as well as the all important aftercare service. We work closely with trained and qualified saddle fitters so it is important that you trust and value their advice, experience and expertise. It is in the interest of their reputation as a BCS specialist to ensure the best possible combination of fit for both horse and rider. Not every brand of saddle is suited to every horse, so we offer an extensive variety of saddle trees and panel options on all of our models, giving endless options in which to work with. Your saddle fitter will be able to establish the correct tree “frame work” and panel for your horse on which to build your saddle. Then for you the rider any alterations regarding flap lengths, blocks etc will be discussed and finally a choice of leather finishes and colours to choose from.

These details along with the templates are sent to the factory and discussions on any particular requirements may sometimes follow.

Our manufacturing time is usually 4-6 weeks.

To contact your nearest dealer, please refer to the website for full details. Alternatively visit our Show Stand next time we are exhibiting at The Rolex Show in Kentucky, The Hickstead Show in West Sussex, HOYS at the NEC and various other Shows worldwide.



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[www.blackcountrysaddles.com](http://www.blackcountrysaddles.com)