

Sharon Saare Saddle Bare Tree Fitting Service and Sales

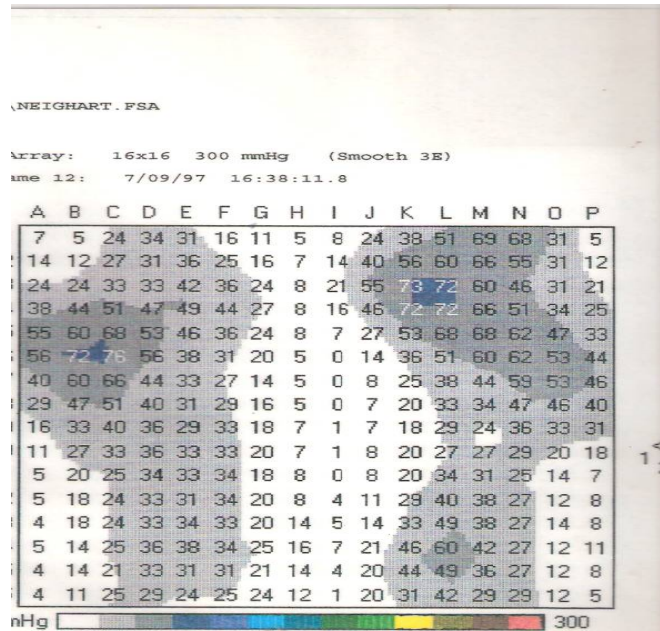
Trail Saddle, Endurance Saddles, Pleasure Saddles, Cutting & Reining Saddles, Roping and Parade Saddles

For ordering saddles and saddle fitting contact:

Ray Miller 1-608-633-3300 certified saddle fitter

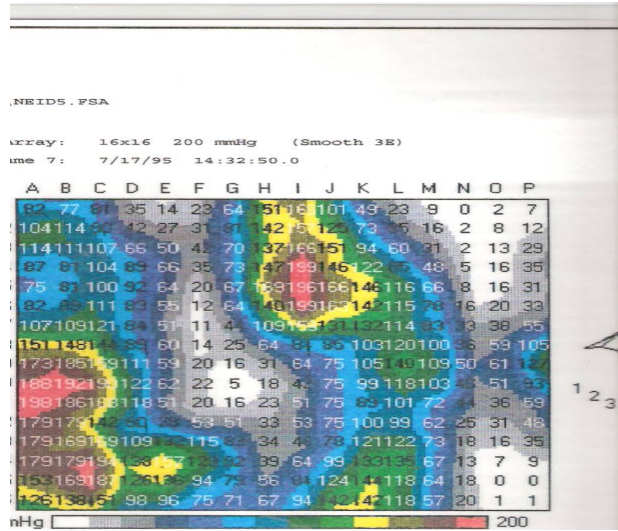
Bobbie Hazard 1-608-633-3301 certified saddle fitter

Which Saddle Fit would you want your horse to have?



Sharon Saare Bare Tree Fitted Saddle. Equal low pressure, spine open, equal pressure from the bars on both side and from withers, all along the back. Top of scan is the withers/pommel of saddle.

OR



An off the rack factory or custom made high price, saddle that has uneven high pressure along the bars.
Pressure on the spine of the horse.

Sharon Saare Saddle Bare Tree Fitting Service and Sales

[Sharon Saare Saddle Representatives](#)

Sharon Saare Saddle Information page 2



~Rigging~

Long hours of continuous travel require a rigging position that keeps the cinch far enough back so that it won't gall a horse behind the front legs. Our standard in-skirt rigging offers 7/8, 3/4, and 5/8 rigging options that accommodate horses of various sizes and weights and *eliminates bulk between the rider and horse!!* It also *eliminates pressure points associated with fixed rigging assemblies*. Your horse will truly appreciate this feature!! *And so will your knees!!* We also offer dropped "D," flat plate, and "C" rigging options.

~Swells~

The saddle horn has been removed on my trail models so that it doesn't interfere with the rider while in the standing position, either going uphill or at the trot or gallop. The tapered 12" western type swells remain to give the rider something to lean into while going uphill or at the trot. This gives the rider support and provides an opportunity for relaxation--*Yes--Relaxation!!* If the rider doesn't have to spend the day fighting either horse or saddle--there is no reason why fatigue from even a supreme effort can't be substantially reduced!! Saddles with the McClellan type front do not provide this important support and also cause abrupt contact with the rider when a horse stops suddenly or shies.

~Seat~

Our standard seats are padded with sponge rubber. Our standard seat size is 15"--however we do make 16's, and we now offer hard seats.

It is most important that the rider have the option of more than one riding position on a long day. Our bodies are designed to carry weight best when we are in a standing position. Without a rise, the rider's back is more inclined to have to bend to maintain balance. *Bending* - particularly into a reverse arch as can occur with a perfectly flat seat, *produces fatigue*. Our standard *High-Low* rigging slot options enable the rider to adjust the angle of the rise--in essence the seat--to suit. Horses recover from exertion at the walk. It's restful to the horse's back if the rider isn't always in the same position. It's restful to the rider too. Our endurance seat is constructed so that the rider can easily maintain the forward position but can "get away" from it and sit comfortable when desired. The western saddle seat is more traditional.

~Cantle~

My 12" wide cantles are 3 1/2 inches high. I use a small Cheyenne roll because it keeps whatever the rider is carrying behind the saddle -- *Behind the Saddle!!* I don't use a high cantle as that encourages a rider to lean back into it which is very hard on a horse's back. A 6" cantle, popular on many of today's saddles, also can injure the rider's back. We will, however, make a 4" cantle on western models. I provide a comfortable seat, but not one that sacrifices the horse for the rider. We also make saddles with rawhide cantle binding without the Cheyenne roll.

~Fenders~

The standard western type fenders give support to the rider's legs simply not available in English saddles or partial fenders with detachable stirrup leathers. *Extra Long Fenders* are available by special order for the rider over 6 ft. tall. And for those *Little People*, extra short fenders are also offered!

~Stirrups~

My standard stirrups are 5 1/2" by 3" nylon with leather covered sponge rubber padding. I use nylon, not because it is cheaper, but because it's lightweight. Heavy stirrups create an insidious pressure on your foot, but you feel it in your ankles and knees. Using lightweight nylon, I can give you a broader bearing surface without the pain creating weight of old-time bell bottoms.

I also have fully leather covered stirrups used by many pleasure and show riders. All my stirrups allow the rider to move the foot from ball to arch over a long ride exactly the way the old-time cowboys rode when they did it all day--for a living--day after day. That option helps prevent neuromas from developing which may over a period of time if you ride only on the ball of your foot.

~Lining~

I use only real wool shear linings instead of the artificial fleece used by most saddle makers today. After fleece has been in use for only a short time, it packs down and offers the horse no protection whatsoever. Also, three independent tests with heat sensors have determined that most artificial fabrics generate considerably more heat on your horse's back than do natural fabrics. Using real wool adds to my production costs, but your horse will know and appreciate the difference every time you ride!!

~Attachments~

Six trigger snaps, one big D ring, two mini-D's, and four footman's loops are a great help in securing canteens, jackets, saddle bags, a crupper, and breast collar if necessary.

~Weight~

The endurance saddle is lightweight--under 24 pounds--and the western saddle ranges from 28 to 32 pounds, so that the horse need not be handicapped by extra weight, however, shortcuts that would reduce the comfort of the rider (or horse) have been excluded. There are lighter weight saddles available, but few of them offer good weight distribution or adequate support. They often give the rider a backache and can do the same thing to the horse. Some are made with artificial fabrics that are abrasive to the horse and rider. They are initially inexpensive--but in a short time are throwaways--which can make them very expensive in the long run. *We now make the new Sharon Saare Light 22 lb. Racing Model--available in all 15" and 16" trees.*

~There Is No Substitute for Quality~

Most saddles today are produced by people who have never done endurance, competitive trail, or show riding. Some by people who don't ride at all!! Not so with mine!! I've done all of that, I've been where you've been! I know what you and your horses need!!

~Finish~

My standard saddle, the one you have seen along the trail since 1972, is smooth leather with a natural oil finish.

And now--For the rider who wants that top of the line look--

~The Primo~ Hand carved floral "*the old fashioned way*"--It's beautiful!! In fact, it's a knockout!! Available by special order in all sizes and widths.

~The Mini-Floral~ Hand carved front and rear and a dab on the fender, but, smooth leather under the rider's leg. For the rider who wants the class but uses the saddle long hours!

~The Basket weave~ Hand stamped--Understated elegance!! Ask for our color photos, It's Stunning!!

~The Mini Basket~ Like the Mini Floral, art work fore and aft, but not under your leg.

All above are available with sterling silver conchos!! Most of the silver you see on saddles today peels. I use only sterling!!

Popular demand for my good fitting saddles has resulted in the production of my ~Horned Saddles~ with endurance skirts or western skirts and double rig. Both are available with the various floral and basket weave patterns and with silver!!

~What Put Me Into Saddles~

When I became interested in endurance riding in 1965--started competing in 1967--there wasn't much tack available. The first time I completed the Tevis Cup, it was with a forty five pound stock saddle. The

next year, I was able to find a lighter weight western saddle, but it was still a far cry from what was needed.

For the preceding 20 years, most of the saddles produced had been tailored to the needs of the show ring and arena. While the principals of design were correct for those uses, they were definitely not appropriate for the long distance trail. There was one very good quality saddle being produced on a special order basis, however, it was obvious that there was a tremendous need for moderately priced, good equipment. With that in mind, I started research and development and produced prototypes in 1972.

Sharon Saare Saddle Information page 3



Models

My original interest in saddle production was directed towards endurance. However, as riders from other disciplines recognized the importance of correct fit, my business has expanded dramatically to include western and english saddles.

We offer a large variety of single and double rig western saddles, padded and hard seat, plain and tooled, silver conchos and matching breast collars, etc.

Our G seat is a favorite of gaited horse owners as well as all breed riders dealing with downhill horse problems. It is available in all models.

Our special Mounted Police saddles are durable and time tested with some models in use over a dozen years.

Ask for separate information on English models.

Trees

I use only Mountain Yellow Pine wood trees to give support that simply does not exist in traditional English and Australian models. Our trees are fiberglass covered for extra strength.

The question most asked about our multi size tree system, "If I get a saddle that fits one horse, can it be used on others?" The reality is, any tree only fits one body type, but nobody ever tells you that. There is no such thing as a universal or one size fits all tree. That is purely a myth sprinkled with a heavy dose of wishful thinking!!

Horses simply have different shaped backs. I currently use seven different trees with many variables to accommodate those different shapes. For instance, if a horse has a flat slab shoulder, the last thing you want is a tree with lots of flare at the front of the bar as you are reducing bearing surface. If the horse is bunched shouldered, then, yes, flare is desirable . . . but there is no single answer for all horses!! Our trees, like shoes, fit specific body types and are identified accordingly. This greatly enhances exchange and resale ability!

You should think of a saddle on a horse's back very much as a shoe on a person's foot. Pressure and fit in both situations have much the same effect. If one size fit all, there would only need to be one size shoe for all people. Obviously, that is not the case!!

Originally, my saddles were designed to fit only very narrow, high withered horses because in the 1970's there were so few saddles on the market for them. However, after the pleasure trail riders discovered my saddles, and other uses developed, we provided more options. The gullet and bars now come in:

A width Prominent on Thoroughbred type withers--well defined goes on narrow Arabs and Paso's, those with shoulders that blend into their sides.

B Width Horse has well defined withers, but is a dab thicker set, and shoulder may be more prominent. This works for many Arab's, Morgan's, Tennessee Walkers, Foxtrotter's, and some Quarter Horses.

C Width Accommodates a wider backed horse, but still of the breed type . . . just a thicker set. Used more on Arabs, Morgan's, and Tennessee Walkers.

The above trees work best on horses whose backs slope away from the spine. The following are for flatter backed horses.

CC Width Like the C tree, but better for horses that are flatter over the back and loin. Also good if horse is slightly sway backed or bunched shouldered, or whose croup is higher than withers.

D Width For the really thickset horse. Some of these individuals have good withers and top lines, some are very flat over the withers . . . all are broad over loin and back. It is the angle of the bars that makes this tree work. Ideal for Quarter Horses, and many of the new thicker Arabs, and quite a few of the BLM Wild Horses.

DD Width For wider back horse then the D width would fit.

DDD Width for wide back like the Morgan and horse with draft horse cross.

E Width For the horse that is very broad backed but requires shoulder flare.

F Width For the horse that is very straight backed but requires shoulder flare.

There is a real problem with assigning trees to breeds in that all breeds have all sizes and types of backs. Type is far more relevant than breed.

When ordering, indicate the height and weight of your horse. For best fit, either order sizing trees from the shop, or better yet, have your horse personally fitted by one of my trained fitting specialists. Also, if your saddle needs change, you can trade your old Sharon Saare saddle in for a new one!!

Saddle Pads

"No Slip" Pad Try my endurance and pleasure trail riding pads! They are perfectly contoured to go with my saddles. Covered with high quality wool over a wool felt filler that wicks moisture, they are much

cooler for your horse!! And they don't slip!! They are washable--just turn the hose on them, scrub with a brush, and drip dry!!

"Happy back" Saddle Pad Outside it looks like a regular English, western, or endurance pad except that an intricately sewn wool blend outer pad conceals the plastic encased Flolite™ cells. The Velcro sealed pockets allow for replacement of worn cells and trouble free cleaning. Flolite™--which has the consistency of mayonnaise--flows away from points of high pressure. That process tailor-makes the saddle tree's bearing surface for each horse. Many horses will benefit from this refinement, but it is a must for hard to fit horses. The Happy backs actually achieve what the foam and jell pads try to do but can't!

Beware of "Look-alikes"

Sharon Saare saddles are the most copied and imitated distance saddles in the nation. Many of those copies come from Tennessee. Back in the early 1970's when I was with Big Horn Co., the major difference between saddles from Tennessee and others was simply a lower labor and factory cost. But, saddles coming from Chattanooga today bear little resemblance to those of that earlier time. At this stage of the game, the major concern of many of those manufacturers appears to be trying to "out cheap" each other. The loser is the consumer and the horse.

Today, models produced by some companies are distortions of my original design. That, plus poor quality materials, plus the fact that those saddles are simply stapled together, leaves most purchasers quite dissatisfied.

There are other copies "out there", most use Argentine or Mexican leather. Many of the trees are plastic. Most plastic tree molds were made years ago and few fit today's horses.

While at this time, I do have several authorized dealers throughout the nation, my saddles are generally not found in tack shops, however, once in a while, one may show up . . . For your protection, all of my saddles carry my name. Look for it!! If a tack shop says it's a Sharon Saare Saddle, ask them where it came from. If it was shipped recently--new--from Tennessee or other states--It's a fake!! I inspect each saddle before it is shipped.

Sharon Saare Saddle Information page 4

A Few Facts About Sharon Saare

- Associated with endurance riding since 1965, finishing in the Tevis Cup three times as well as other 50 and 100 milers in this country and abroad.
- Author of 3 books, many articles and made two films about distance riding.
- Conducted clinics on distance riding, trail development, and horse behavior in 47 states and seven foreign countries.
- Implemented distance programs for several breed associations and pony clubs.
- The Saare saddle is displayed at the Kentucky Horse Park Museum as *the* model for endurance equipment.

The Saare Trail & Endurance saddles are the choice of many of the very best endurance Riders in the U.S. and Europe including recent Champions in France, Switzerland, and the U.S.

A saddle is like a letter. The leather is the envelope, but the tree is the message! Most people are preoccupied with the leather, but the tree is the key to success or failure.

Sharon Saare Saddles
44 West County Road 4

Berthoud, Colorado 80513
303-678-5968

Sharon Saare Saddle Information page 5 -- Gallery

Saddle Fitting Scans of Poor Fitting saddles

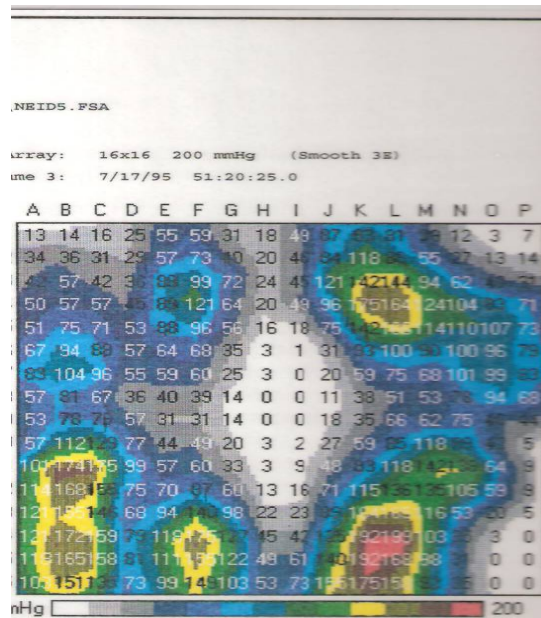
Equiscan Computer Saddle Fitting & Pad Analysis Service

Disclaimer

Please note that we are NOT saying that any of the saddles shown here are always bad-fitting saddles, but only that on this particular horse, they did not fit properly. Saddle fit must be viewed on an individual horse/saddle basis. Our findings are; only about 10% of the saddles bought "off the rack" actually fit the buyer's horse. Approximately 30% of western saddles will fit if wither and back tracings are taken to the store to check saddle fit; 60% in English saddles. If working with a professional saddler, on site with the horse, pictures, and/or wither and back tracings, upwards of 65% of the saddles will fit well. When doing a custom, bare-tree-fitted saddle, we find that 99% fit well. To date, we have found no saddle pads, that have been tested, blankets or other concoctions that will correct poor saddle fit and reduce pressure on the horse's back if the saddle/saddle tree does not fit. I have a standing policy that I will test any manufactures saddle pad or blanket and will furnish them with the scan. This is done by private contract.

Equiscan Computer Saddle Fitting & Pad Analysis

Sample Scans 1

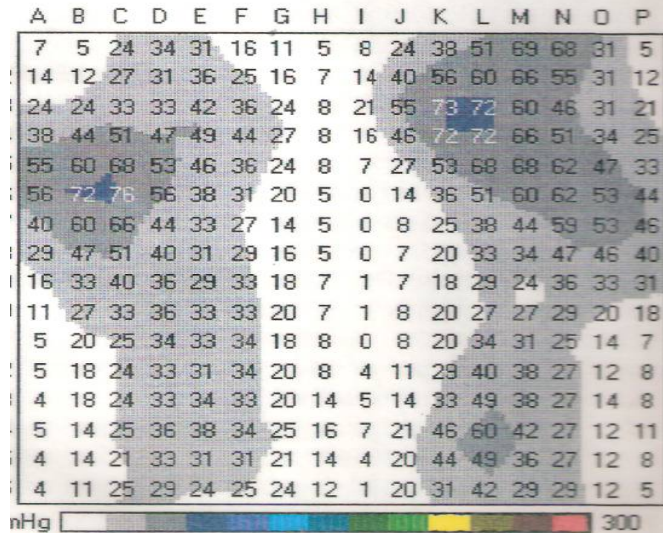


This first scan illustrates a very poor saddle fit. This scan shows high-pressure on the right side of the withers and cantle, bridging of the saddle on the both side (saddle is not making contact with the horse's back), points of high-pressure on the left (red), and an unequal distribution of pressure to the bars of the tree.

NEIGHART.FSA

array: 16x16 300 mmHg (Smooth 3E)

time 12: 7/09/97 16:38:11.8



This scan is the same horse with a properly (bare tree fitted) fitting saddle. Low pressure along the bars of the tree, no pressure on the spine, and equal distribution of pressure to both sides of the saddle mean a comfortable fit for the horse.

Visually, the top saddle appeared to fit the horse well just eyeing the saddle on the horse, while the one below looked to be an improper fit--Just the opposite of what the computer shows us.

The following is a series of scans showing Saddle Fit on the same horse using the same rider, under clinical condition. Same level concrete floor. Horse standing square. (Research completed at Oklahoma State University shows good saddle fit at static is the same fit dynamically)

The horse is a 1,000 pound Morgan horse in good health and physical condition.

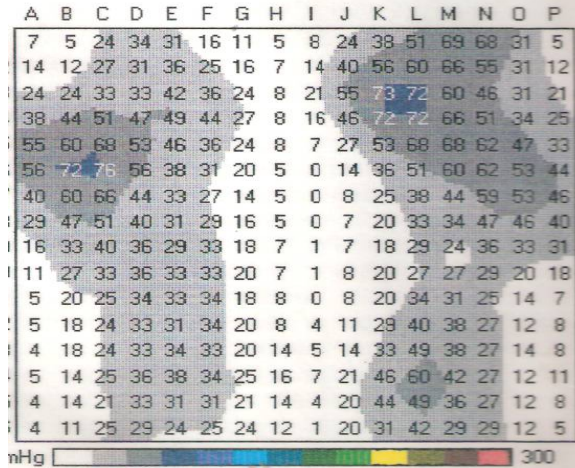
The top of the scan is the front of the horse/wither area. The color from white to the other colors show the amount of pressure, distribution of that pressure along the saddle tree. Read the scale left to right.

You want to find the lowest possible pressure with the most even distribution of that pressure along the saddle tree for a correct fit.

NEIGHART.FSA

array: 16x16 300 mmHg (Smooth 3E)

time 12: 7/09/97 16:38:11.8

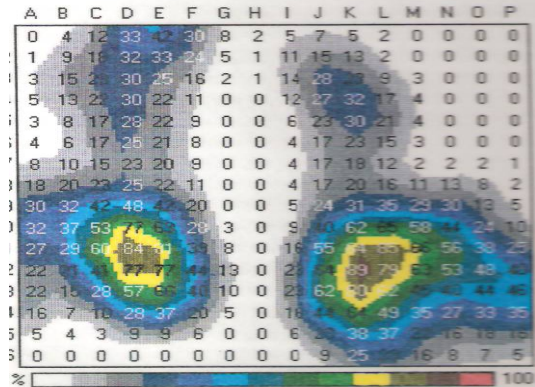


This scan shows a Sharon Saare Bare Tree Fitted saddle. Low pressure and good distribution of pressure. Spine open.

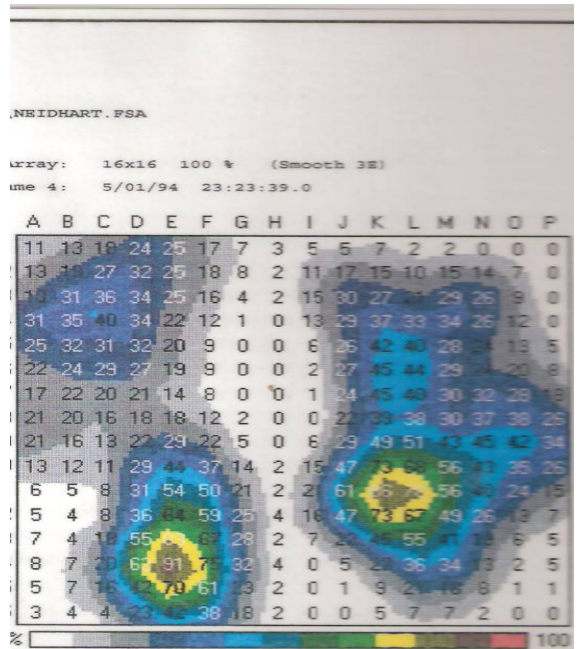
NEIDHART.FSA

array: 16x16 100 % (Smooth 3E)

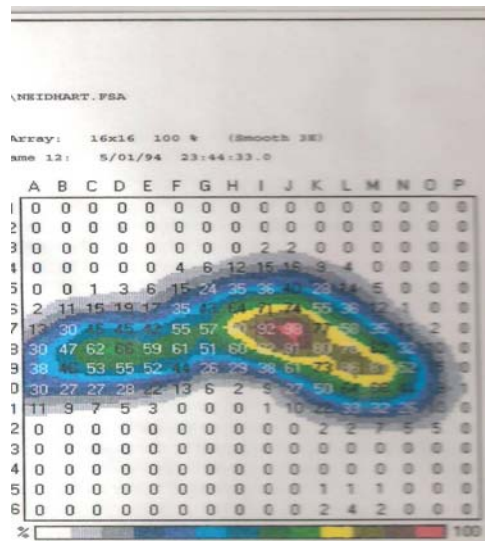
time 3: 5/01/94 23:12:12.1



This is a Custom made saddle fitted with a plaster cast for tree fit, cost around \$4,000.00. Spine open, showing uneven pressure to the rear of the saddle. Some bridging and not good contact along the bars of the tree.



A Circle Y Saddle \$3,000.00 cost, showing uneven pressure, high pressure to the back, some bridging of the tree.



Treeless sports saddle showing pressure on the spine of the horse. The vets tell us to keep the spine clear of pressure. High pressure.

NEIDS.FSA

rarray: 16x16 200 mmHg (Smooth 32)
me 3: 7/17/95 51:20:25.0



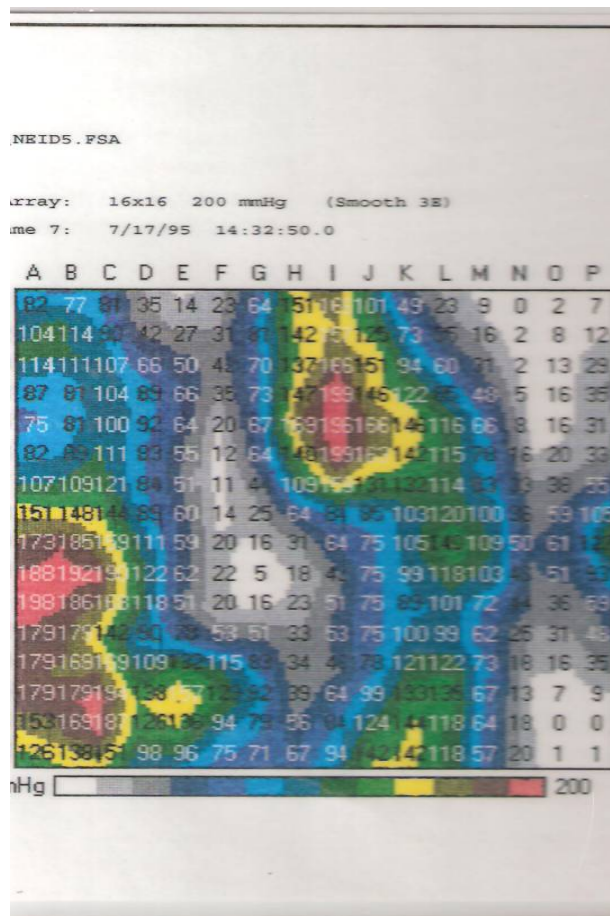
Ortho Flex Saddle, with no shims or booty. Showing uneven pressure along the panels, pressure against the spine of the horse. High pressure points.

NEIDS.FSA

rarray: 16x16 200 mmHg (Smooth 32)
me 1: 7/17/95 44:38:36.0



Ortho Flex Saddle with shims. Pressure points and closing over the spine. High pressure.

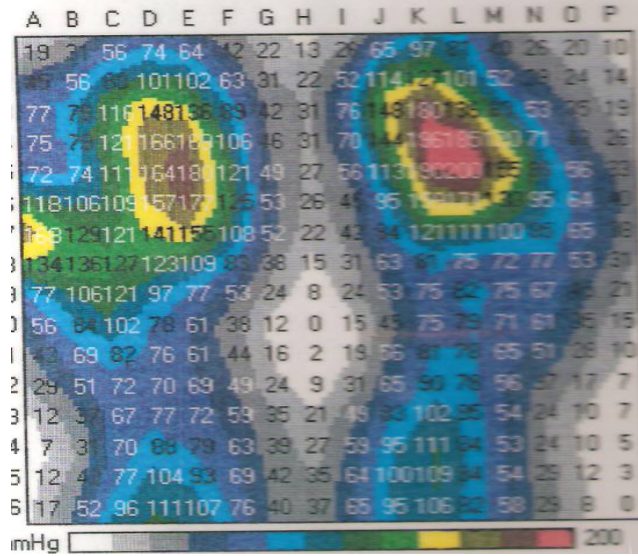


McCall custom rack saddle. \$1,500.00. High pressure to the wither area. Some bridging. Spine open, but starting to close at back of saddle.

NEID3.FSA

rarray: 16x16 200 mmHg (Smooth 3E)

me 6: 6/22/94 17:33:30.7



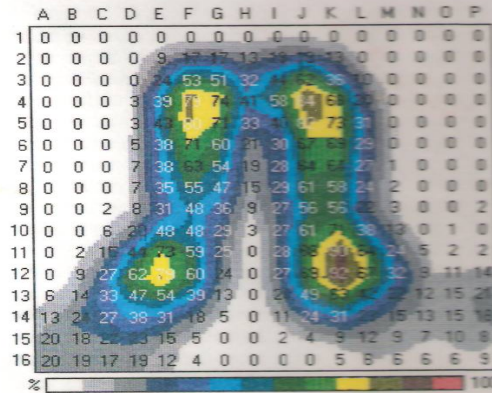
English Stubben Saddle. The bottom of this scan is the withers area of the horses.

574

A:\NEIDHART.FSA

1 Array: 16x16 100 % (Smooth 3E)

Frame 10: 5/01/94 23:40:57.4

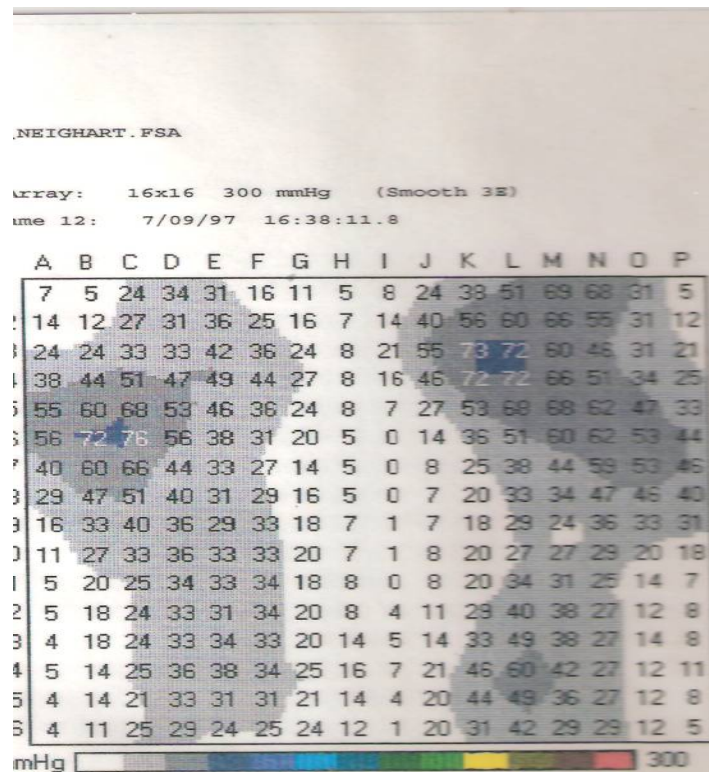


This scan shows us the saddle needs to be re-flocked in order to fit the horse. Flocking is a bit tight to the rear of the saddle. Spine area is nice and wide. After re-stuffing, it would be an excellent fit.

That is the advantage of an English Saddle using good wool flocking. In a lot of cases, it can be adjusted to fit the horse. Any other type of flocking in an English is hard for the saddler to work with.

A proper fitted bare tree Sharon Saare Saddle,

low pressure, equal pressure on the back of the horse.



Sharon Saare Bare Tree Fitted Saddle. Equal low pressure.

Saddle and Pad Fitting Clinic

Two to four-hour classroom lecture with questions and answers about how a saddle should fit a horse. Learn what the pad and saddle manufacturers don't want you to know. See bare tree fitting and how a tree does and does not fit the horse. History has taught us that a saddle should be bare tree fitted to the horses back in order to have a good to excellent fit.

· Ray K. Miller, Jr.
 50 years full-time professional within the horse and cattle industry. Master Farrier/Plater, Race Track License AZ, U.S. Dept. of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ratings of Master Farrier, Senior Packer/Wrangler, Senior Horse Specialist, Senior Wild Horse Specialist. Colorado State Board of Colleges: Teaching Credentials for Farrier Science, Equine Management, Equine Science, Secondary, Post Secondary and Adult Education. U.S. Forest Service Permitted Outfitter, License Outfitter Guide Wisconsin. Former

Licensed Outfitter and Guide, AZ, CO, MT Lic. Member, American Farriers Assoc., Working Brotherhood Farriers. Certified Expert Witness in Federal and State Court System for Equine and Equine Related Legal Matters -- Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Texas, New York. Former Superintendent/Paddock Master at the American Royal, Livestock, ASHA Horse Show and PRCA Rodeo 18 yrs. Former VP Equine Services at Resort Development International 3 yrs., General Manager/Senior Wrangler/Packer Rocky Mountain Outfitters, Glacier National Park 10 yrs. Former owner of Spring Creek Ranches and Ute Peak Horse Center, Colorado, Former Director of C & R Packing, Guiding and Outfitting School, 8 yrs. Owner of commercial riding, outfitting and packing stables and ranches in AZ. and Co. Horse Boss/Wrangler for Glacier Gateway Outfitters -Co Manager with owner Truman (Mouse) and Joy Hall. Accredited Equine Appraiser, Certified Expert Witness for state and federal court systems in equine related matters.

Roberta K. Hazard

Forty+ years experience within the horse industry. Experienced in horsemanship and riding instruction, training under saddle and in harness, breeding operations. Management with commercial stables, English and Western Tack (retail store 19 years), buying and selling tack and equipment. Management Background in Equine and Bovine Animal Health. Certified Bare Tree Saddle Fitter. Co-Manager Glacier Gateway Outfitters.

For information contact Ray Miller or Roberta (Bobbie) Hazard at 1-608-633-3300 or auction@execpc.com