

Description of the 1st part of the saddle combination:

the saddle itself is build up out of a top and a sub-structure.

- The top-structure of the saddle, the saddle seat, a leather seat with the first material that distributes pressure: a high density foam of a dense cell structure and a rubber plate of 4 mm. The underside of the leather seat is finished with leather and synthetic wool.
- The substructure of the saddle, the part the saddle seat is on, is made of important components for further pressure distribution. In this part we find several separate anatomically shaped and pressure distributing layers of distinguished materials, left and right. This separation is the first step towards the ultimate formation of a free spine.

From the bottom to the top:

1. Synthetic wool, not separated (fleece);
2. Separated 16mm thick foam (hd foam) of high density , in some models a layer of 6mm felt.
3. Separated 16mm thick shock-absorbing neoprene;
4. A nylon strap that connects the girth of the left and right;
5. A pressure distributing rubber sheet (polymer layer) of 4 mm thick;
6. finish, leather, or a synthetic leather
7. The pressure distributing suspension for the fenders

The 2rd part of the saddle combination, a contoured pad with inlays. This part of the saddle combination maximizes the final pressure distribution.

Here also, distributing layers, from bottom to top:

1. Finishing is made of woven synthetic wool or a Merino sheepskin .
2. Quilted cotton fabric, where there is an option for foam or felt both offering two separate big pockets for inlays.
3. Pressure distributing material (inlays); where there is an option for Neoprene, felt or the unique material 3 Mesh.
4. Through separation of the left and right side of the pad, there is a spinal clearance.

The EDIX® treeless saddle combinations are made of high-quality components and materials. All of these together, guarantees optimum pressure distribution via the EDIX®

saddles. This technique describes EDIX® saddles as EDIX® MPDS (multiple pressure distribution system)

Does a treeless saddle combination always fit?

The fit of a treeless saddle naturally requires attention. The pommel is available in various sizes and can easily be changed. When purchasing a treeless saddle combination, choose the pommel that fits well on the flank of the shoulder muscles of your horse. That is why EDIX® have several sizes of pommels. EDIX® saddle dealers can determine the correct size of the pommel on site. For example, the back of a Haflinger horse breed will ask for a different pommel than the back of a KWPN horse breed with a high withers. The EDIX® saddle dealers also have various other tools outside the different pommels to advise and guide you in the right choice for a suitable saddle. Prior to this purchase you have the opportunity to try out a used saddle and even have the possibility to use the saddle for a longer period of time.

Sometimes with the influence of the right training in combination with the increased freedom of movement, the muscles of your horse increase and in time it is possible you have to change to a different size of pommel.

When you follow the recommend purchase route of fitting, testing, purchasing and after-service EDIX® saddles guarantees a perfect fit of the saddle for you and your horse which will result in many years of pleasure.

EDIX® recommends a fully elastic girth for a consistently fixed position. A durable elasticity tailored to your horse's strength, which will save your saddle from undesirable forces that are caused by the varying abdominal circumference of your horse while driving. A fully elastic girth always adjusts itself in length and has the possibility to keep the saddle in place with constant tension. EDIX® saddles has an high quality elastic girth of F.R.A. in its range.

EDIX® saddle dealers give you a comprehensive after-sales service over a longer period and offer a no-obligation consultation at a later stage for inspection.

**Are there accessories and parts?**

EDIX® saddles has various accessories to match with your treeless saddle. All saddles as well as all parts and accessories are separately available and at stock. Ask a dealer or visit the EDIX® saddles webshop. EDIX® saddles recommends you strongly to purchase a treeless saddle after consulting an official EDIX® saddle dealer.

Consult the EDIX® saddle website for an overview of a network of professional and experienced official EDIX® saddle dealers. Besides advise, they can also guide you through the purchase process and offer you the option to ride in a test saddle for a short or even a longer period. This all to assure you to buy the best saddle combination for you and your horse.

EDIX® saddles:

- EDIX® MPDS (multiple pressure distribution system)
- Constructed from very durable high-quality materials
- Professional and experienced official dealers
- After-service
- 2 years Warranty on manufacturing defects
- Saddles, accessories and spare parts available from stock

EDIX® treeless riding is a conscious choice based on complete freedom of movement for you and your horse. A choice to more mutual feeling between you and your horse.

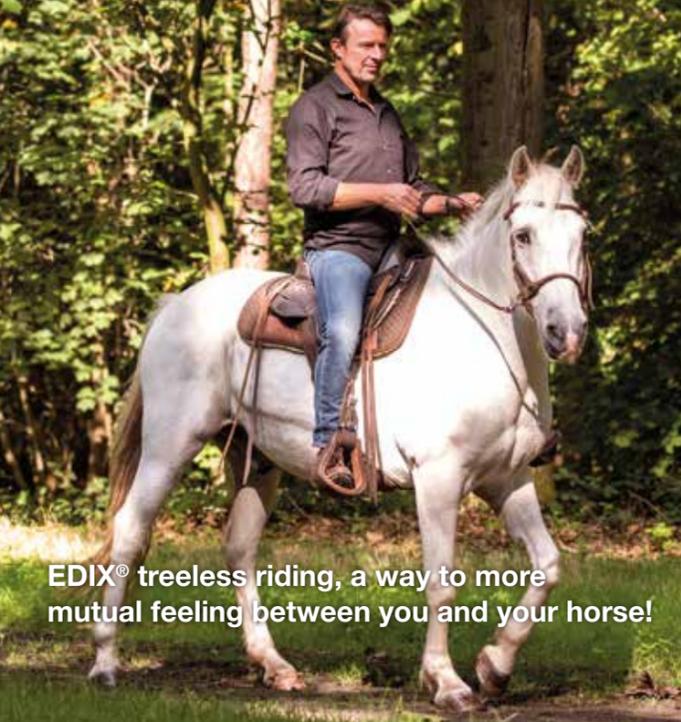


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EDIX®
saddles

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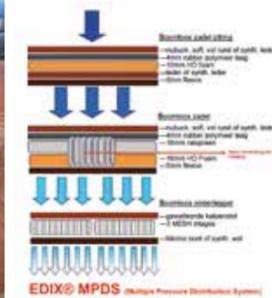
Treeless horse riding: the past, the present and it's benefits

Information treeless saddle / treeless riding - basis

On this page you can read about the differences between a treed- and treeless saddle, treeless horse riding and aspects related to the technical construction of a treeless saddle. Written with more depth, the same topics as in this brochure, a more extensive information is available on the next page. Do you still have questions after reading the information? Feel free to ask and send an e-mail to info@edixsaddles.com or contact an official EDIX® saddles dealer. Enjoy reading!

Treeless horse riding is not new, it is just another way. On images from far before Christ we see horsemen riding on animal skins, held together with some kind of rig. A development of hundreds of years eventually brought some kind of saddle made of felt and leather, held together with leather belt. These saddles are still without an inside construction of wood or metal. Despite the very simple construction of these primitive saddles they were already equipped with 2 softly padded cushions to keep the spine free of pressure. These kind of saddles are still being used in Argentina.

Treeless horse riding is actually a reintroduction of that primitive way of horse riding. By using new modern techniques in the manufacture of a treeless saddles, the treeless saddles nowadays offers sufficient protection for the horse's back and a very well close contact with your horse. It is through this close contact, read more mutual feeling between you and your horse, from which a refined communication with your horse is possible. Due to the technical construction, a treeless saddle has the unique possibility to fully adapt to the anatomy of the horses



back and rider's posture. The construction of a treeless saddle can be best described as a build-up of various soft flexible layers of distinctive materials, It is through this construction the treeless saddle, has the ability to offer you and your horse a very close contact. A contact that you may know by horse riding on a bareback pad or on the bare back of your horse. Despite the fact that a treeless saddle is made up of soft flexible different materials, you'll experience the ergonomic comfort of a traditional saddle.

Accountability for our horses

As lovers of horses and horse riding we will always aim to be friendly and careful with our horses. As much as we love and care we have to realize that we burden our horses with our weight. This is our responsibility.

A factor of great influence on this load is the riding quality of the rider, whether he uses a treed- or treeless saddle, the degree of balanced pressure distribution is influenced by the quality of the independent position of the rider. Where an inexperienced rider falls by a startle reaction of his horse, the experienced rider will remain stuck in his saddle. There is no noticeable disruption of the balanced pressure distribution for his horse, this phenomenon is known under the term independent position. Put simply: "rumbling" in the saddle, whether it is a saddle with or without a tree, disturbs a balanced pressure distribution.

It goes without saying that the proportions between posture rider, size of horse and saddle combination have to be in line with each other. Your EDIX® saddle dealer can provide you with his expertise.

Tree-less saddle vs traditional treed saddle

A traditional saddle consists solid stiff parts in its construction, mostly made of wood or iron, called a tree. Besides shape to the saddle, the inside construction provides direct stability to the position of the rider. The two well-filled cushions under the inside construction of the traditional treed saddle, are meant to distribute the load of the rider. The weight and the influence of the riders position will be transferred to the horse's back by these 2 pillows. It is therefore most important that a treed saddle fits exactly to the horses back.

A treeless saddle consist of separate parts and it would be better if we talk about a treeless saddle combination. It is the combination of a special pad with pressure-distributing inserts with the 2-part superstructure, which together ensure an extremely flexible whole on the horse's back.

This is precisely where the power of a balanced pressure distribution is through different layers over a plain area on the horse's back. It is those loose and soft parts that give the saddle enormous flexibility in all directions. Compare it to the suppleness of an old fashioned paper phone book, which is able to be bend in all directions, but at the same time stays in its own shape. It goes without saying that your horse will be able to move much more freely because of this enormous flexibility.

An arch at the front (the pommel) connects the left with the right side of the saddle. The support (the cantle) on the back of the saddle seat gives shape and stability to the saddle and increases the comfort for the rider.

Exchangeable and movable cantle

An important advantage of a treeless saddle combination is that due to the used materials and construction techniques a tree-less saddles fully adapt to the anatomy of horse and rider's posture. In case of changes in the anatomy of your horse, a treeless saddle always has the ability to re-shape and adapt.

Some examples of changes in the anatomy of horses:

- Through consuming different amounts of grass in the summer and winter, the belly of your horse will grow or slim
- An increase of muscle mass through intense and correct training
- A horse in growth

This is where a treed saddle (where fixed and rigid parts are contained) regularly have to be checked for a correct fit and you are therefore forced to call in the help of a qualified saddler, the treeless saddle itself handles these changes, due to its flexibility without any problem.

From the above it can also be concluded that treeless horse riding does not force you into a certain position. The saddle has the ability to fully follow the movements of your horse and through the shaping and adaption as well as to the anatomy of the horse back and the posture of the rider, your position on the horse natural. The more intense feeling of the movements of your horse allows you to optimally develop your independent position, where at the same time your horse can maintain and build up muscle mass in a very healthy way.

When there is an optimal connection via a treeless saddle is

accomplished between a rider and his horse, an optimal feeling between horse and rider is created, which we call "a close contact". Mostly a rider experiences immediately after a first ride this improved contact and also wider movements of the horse. Though we have to take in mind that rider, horse and saddle need time to adapt and mostly an optimal close contact exists after a habituation period. A period in which the rider develops an independent position, the horse gets acquainted to the changes and pliability of the saddle. After this period, rider and horse are ready to expand that close contact to an almost invisible communication, where they become one in movement and being.

When, where and how does the pressure distribution begin?

Pressure distribution starts with the rider followed by a high quality saddle which ensures a optimal pressure distribution:

Besides the already described influence of the quality of the independent position of the rider there is also the influence of the weight of the rider. Through its ischial bones a rider transfers its weight onto the back of the horse: A rider of less weight, more through its ischial bones. The rider of more weight more through the fuller buttocks than with the ischial bones and at the same time over a larger part of the top of the saddle combination. Here you also find different influences on the distribution of load!

The first part of good distribution starts by a perfectly fitted saddle combination. Afterwards, it's up to the efforts of the rider to always try to improve his skill in having an independent position.