



**Information about
the EDIX® 8-pocket saddle pads**



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The value of a saddle pad

A saddle pad and girth or cinch are just as important as the saddle fit itself during the fitting process. When a saddle and pad are not fitted together, a poor fitting saddle pad or ill-fitting cinch or girth may diminish the good fit and stable position of a saddle. This is neither beneficial to the fit of the saddle or the comfort of the horse. Examples of this include saddles that shift or become unbalanced. A saddle pad is not just a pretty accessory on a horse. It is a necessary item which offers support for several aspects of the horse's back, while providing comfort to the horse and a stable saddle position.

It is important to recognize the value a saddle pad adds to saddle position as well as the horse's comfort. Due to more attention being drawn to the space between the saddle and the horse's back, more riders are incorporating the use of a half pad between the saddle and a cotton saddle pad. Horses benefit from the extra "space" and softness between the saddle and their back.



The (tree)d saddle must of course fit the horse. We can compare saddle fit and the use of pads to wearing shoes and socks. Wearing socks in shoes is usually more comfortable than not, but in some shoes, we may choose thin cotton socks and in others we may prefer thick wool socks. It all depends on the type of shoe, quality of the leather and whether we are just going for a leisurely walk, run or long hike.

Of course, a simple cotton pad may be used in combination with a merino half pad to lift the saddle and to create the extra softness for additional comfort for the horse. However, it is important to ensure that the anatomical shapes of the different pads don't conflict with each other as there is a risk the saddle may shift, the saddle pad may get pushed down onto the withers, or the saddle may end up sitting too high on the horse causing it to become unstable. These issues will create discomfort for the horse. If the Merino pad is placed on top of a saddle pad the horse will not be able to fully benefit from the advantages offered by Merino sheepskin. It is thus recommended that the half pad be placed under the saddle pad.



What are the advantages of the EDIX saddles pad?

The EDIX 8 pocket Merino sheepskin or cotton saddle pads offer what many try to create by using a half pad and cotton pad combination. Because of the beautiful anatomic fit and materials that benefit your horse's needs, the EDIX saddle pads always create stability on your horse's back. As well, the EDIX pads are designed to easily fit in the gullet/channel of any well designed saddle.



EDIX chose to incorporate a variety of different materials in the pads because each layer of material offers a different density. Each layer contributes to the pressure distribution qualities of the saddle pad, allowing the impacts of rider and saddle on the horse to be optimally distributed and creating comfort and softness between the saddle and the back. Therefore, the benefit of a good quality, comfortable saddle pad is not based on expensive high-tech materials, but on combining the different materials.

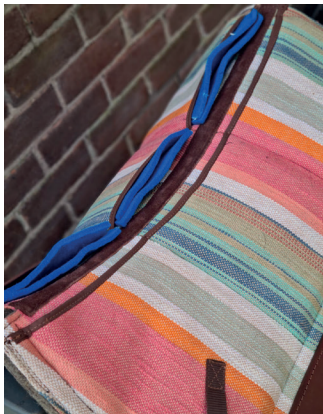


Merino sheepskin and felt have proven over the years to be very effective and are guaranteed to last a very long time when maintained properly.

All EDIX saddle pads have an 8-pocket system, allowing the saddle fit and comfort to be adjusted and supported. The EDIX saddle pad anatomic fit and specific use of the pockets offer free movement of the spine and withers.

The top pockets in the new generation of EDIX pads don't have Velcro to close the pockets anymore. This was a conscious decision. By removing the Velcro, more softness and suppleness was created in the EDIX pads. This makes the pad more user-friendly with regards to washing and fitting as it is now easier to add and remove the felt inserts. Initially the pockets may appear to be gaping somewhat, but these will close/form correctly under the saddle after use. Extensive testing has proven that shims don't shift during use.

The other advantage of the elimination of the Velcro is that we were



able to enlarge the pockets somewhat and to position the openings closer to the midline. This allows panels of any saddle, regardless of brand, to be positioned correctly on the pad. The edges can't create pressure from the panels because of incorrect positioning. Every saddle has slightly different panel positions and every horse has a different spatial need for spinal movement. The felt inserts are easy cut to fit.

If you would like to know more about how shims are used to position and adjust a treeless or flexible saddle perfectly, we suggest that you view the videos located on the EDIX YouTube channel.



Why are EDIX saddle pads advised?

The choice whether to use an EDIX Merino sheepskin saddle pad, or one with a smooth cotton underside depends on several factors. These factors include the build of the horse, the condition of its back, the age of the horse, and the rider's seat. These considerations help in determining which inserts are most appropriate for the pad. In a perfect situation this choice is based on ease of use or comfort. The advantages of Merino sheepskin directly on the horse's back can be found in the "EDIX merino sheepskin folder".

EDIX saddle pads are designed to enhance and/or perfect the fit of a treeless, flexible saddle, but also to adjust the position of any brand of treed saddle temporarily by positioning felt inlays in the top pockets to increase the comfort on the horse's back.

A long felt inlay, a thin 3-mesh or a combination thereof, or a Merino sheepskin saddle pad lifts the entire saddle up somewhat to create that extra space under the saddle to allow the horse to move more freely. Keep in mind that wither freedom of a treed saddle or saddle with an ex-changeable gullet may change.



Imagine a backpack without that extra layer of foam. The edges of items in the backpack become noticeable to your back and cause discomfort. This discomfort can be reduced or eliminated by adding some foam. The EDIX saddle pad can be compared to this as it offers the same advantage to the horse's back.

The horse will appreciate the additional softness between the saddle and his back, and this will be immediately noticeable by freer, more fluid movements, a more willing attitude and a more relaxed disposition. Of course, it is important that the use of inserts does not destabilize or change the fit of the saddle.

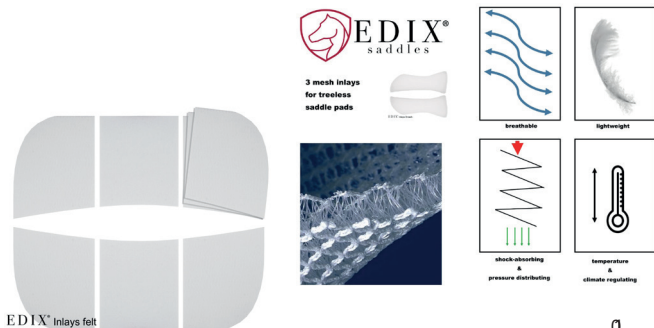
There are several types of EDIX saddle pads. The base of the EDIX pads may consist of a high- quality pressure-distributing foam or felt covered with a cooling cotton material, and the quality of the upper material is dependent on the design of the pad. This may consist of cotton or a mix of cotton and polyester. The Merino sheepskin pads have 2 large inlay pockets and are made with high quality Australian Merino sheepskin. The EDIX smooth pads also have 2 large inlay pockets and are made with cotton material. The large inlay pockets are located at the front of the pocket and open and close by means of Velcro. The EDIX assortment also consists of the wool felt western pads which have the underside left in its natural state. These pads are made of a high-quality cashmilon wool felt and by not adding a cotton layer to the underside they display the natural benefits of the wool.



The EDIX 8-pocket pads come standard with the synthetic felt inlays for all the pockets. Depending on the model of pad, the top pockets can each accommodate up to 3 inlays and the long pockets 1 or 2 each. The inlays can of course be changed to 3-Mesh of either 20 mm or 5.5 mm or a combination hereof. The choice of inlays depends on the build of the horse, the condition of the back, the rider's weight and whether a Merino sheepskin pad or smooth cotton pad is chosen. The EDIX saddle fitters will be happy to advise which will be most appropriate. Another option is to just try different saddle pads and inlays. Most horses indicate quite quickly what they prefer.

Felt inlays create a stable feeling and distribute the pressure excellently. The 3-Mesh inlays provide a springier feeling, while offering extreme good pressure distribution and a cooling air stream under the saddle. Felt and 3-mesh can be combined in the saddle pad. All EDIX inlays are available in various thicknesses and sizes.

Happily, more and more riders are discovering the great quality of the EDIX saddle pads, allowing us to continue to introduce more designs and models which not only take the comfort of the horse and saddle position into consideration but also the wishes of the fashion-conscious rider.







Handmade high quality products bij EDIX® an official registered trademark,
all products are designed en developed in the Netherlands.

www.edixsaddles.com