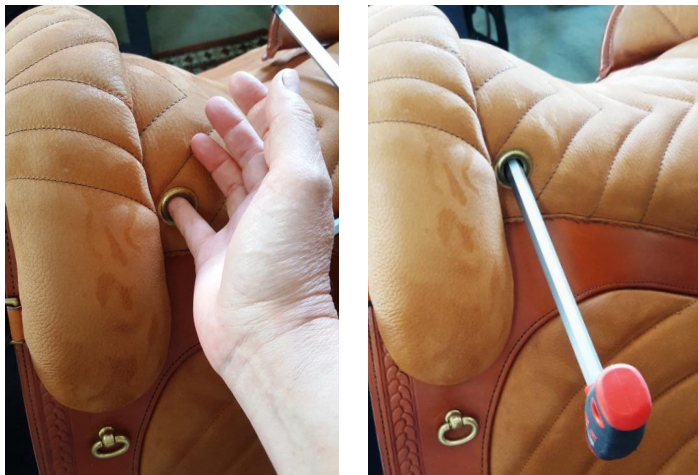


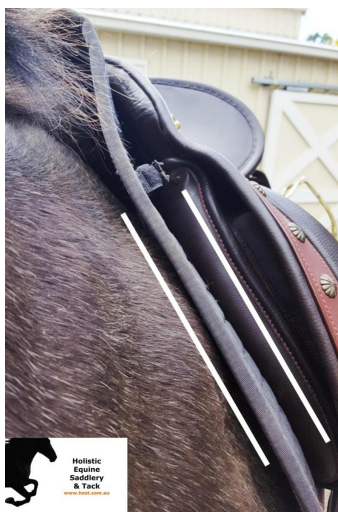
How to fit your DP Saddle to your horse

- 1 The photo below shows how to correctly locate the 'wrench socket' inside the saddle



With your palm facing upwards, feel for the socket with the tip of your pinky Finger. This helps more than you can imagine when you are trying to locate the socket for the first time. It is easier to if you can feel it with your finger than trying to feel it with the end of the wrench. It gets easier and quicker the more you do it. If your finger doesn't fit, don't force it. Instead - lift the saddle and turn it until you can spot the socket inside the key hole. Sometimes, using a flash light helps locate it. Once you're confident you know where the socket is, insert the end of the wrench and gently 'feel' around whilst turning the wrench, until you feel it lock in. Make sure you don't 'over- shoot' the socket (which can be easily done when you're not used to it), as the wrench could poke into the leather in the gullet of the saddle. If you go gently, you cannot harm anything so don't be scared :-)

- 2 Once the wrench is securely in the socket, you will feel it 'lock' into place, you can now start to turn it to either widen or narrow the saddle. You will know when you have reached the limit of the adjustability when you will feel a lot of resistance on the wrench.
- 3 You can now put the saddle on your horse, do not girth up as of yet, and play around with the adjustment until you are satisfied with the fit using the 3 hand method.
- 4 Check that the seam of the front of the panel lays parallel to your horses shoulder.



The angle of the saddle should match the angle of the horses shoulder: note the White lines run parallel to each other. This is what to look for when adjusting your DP Saddle on your horse. Also run your flat hand down between the saddle and your horse. The pressure on your hand should be even from wither to the bottom of the panel.

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- 5** You want to feel even pressure from the top of the panel (near the withers) to the bottom of the panel. If there is more pressure at the top of the panel compared to the bottom of the panel, you need to narrow the tree. If there is more pressure at the bottom of the panel compared to the top of the panel, you need to widen the tree. This is what DP calls the 'the 3 hand check': Place your left hand under the saddle at the highest point of the tree fork. Then with your right arm, hug the saddle in the seat area, in a downward motion replicating the weight of a rider. Release your 'hug' and move your left hand down to the mid section of the tree point - repeat - repeat. The pressure should feel even from top to bottom.



- 6** You want even pressure front to back along the length of the panel. Some gentle easing of pressure directly under the seat is okay. About 1cm-2cm but not more. This would then constitute bridging. The small gap however, will allow your horse to lift his back when you are riding. When horses are properly engaged and 'through', you will feel them lift their back - this is highly desirable!

How to fit your DP Saddle to your horse

- 7 Look for seat balance on your horse. Make sure your horse is standing on level ground and standing as squarely as possible (not like our naughty pony!), head in a neutral position: not grazing, not head high.

Too narrow : note how the seat is inclining too steeply upwards towards the pommel



Too wide: note how the active seat area is slightly tipped down towards the pommel



Perfect: note how the active seat area is level



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- 8** Try to use a clean light coloured saddle pad so you can see the 'dirt marks' after a decent 45 minute ride. Any unevenness can indicate the following:



- the tree width was not correct
- the flocking needs to be adjusted
- muscle asymmetry
- rider imbalance
- the seat is too small for the rider
(as shown left -riders weight is too far back in the saddle)

- 9** Please do take plenty of photos or even videos, and email them to us (preferably photos under 1 MB). Then we can discuss the fit on the phone or via email in greater detail.



DP Headquarters , Fort Mitchell, Alabama

Things to know if you decide to:

- a** keep the demo saddle for yourself **b** decide to order a new DP saddle

You have 14 days to decide, whether you would like to keep this DP Saddle or if you may need a different seat size, different style or type of saddle. If you love this saddle, but would like to order one more customized to you, in colors and design. We will apply your payment to your new order or refund your money after we receive the saddle back in good condition. Remember, shipping costs are not refundable.

All flocked saddles can be altered by any English saddle fitter, with prior instruction by DP Saddlery LP. Please have your saddle fitter contact us directly, so we can give them a brief introduction. Flocked saddles usually require maintenance every 1 to 3 years depending on how often they are ridden in: once per year for the daily rider and once every 3 years for the weekend rider.

How you store your saddle also influences this. It is best to use a stand that has one single rail like a pine log attached to your tack room wall. Stands that have 3 rails will leave dents in the panels and this will negatively affect the flocking as it can leave permanent dents in the panels over time. A pool noodle cut to length are a handy item to put over a narrow saddle stand like the one in the picture on the right.



The saddles are available in 3 flocking thicknesses

- Thin 4 - 6 cm - suits well muscled/covered horses
Medium 6 - 8 cm - suits most horses *most commonly ordered*
Thick 8 - 10 cm - suits finer framed, lacking topline type horses

Specific Channel widths can also be ordered on your new saddle

- Narrow 4cm - suits narrow horses
Medium 6cm - suits most horses *most commonly ordered*
Wide 8cm - suits very wide horses (Think Gypsy Cobs!)

Seat sizes

- S1 42cm inside seat measurement = 16.5" - 17" English
S2 44cm inside seat measurement = 17" - 17.5" English
S3 46cm inside seat measurement = 17.5" - 18" English
S4 48cm inside seat measurement = 18" - 18.5" English
*not available in El Campo, Doma, Short & Light, Western or any saddles with a Leather Tree



If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Photo credits: Holistic Equine Saddlery & Tack, www.hest.com.au