



SMITH-WORTHINGTON

How to Try a Demo Saddle



Purpose

The purpose of a demo ride is to determine if a saddle is appropriate for YOU and that it has the potential to be fitted to your horse. This demo saddle has not been custom-fitted to your horse. (If you sent us diagrams/photos of your horse's back, then the demo saddle was selected to be appropriate for you to be able to balance the saddle with a pad or folded towel. All of our saddles have steel & wood trees and flock stuffed panels that can be adjusted & fine-tuned to your horse.)

Before

1. Read both of our fitting guides: “Saddle Fit to Horse” and “Saddle Fit to Rider”
2. Have a friend or knowledgeable riding companion help you. (Be sure that they are objective and aren't there to sell you a saddle. Remember, you are trying the saddle to be sure it is comfortable for you and works for you, not for your instructor or friend.)
3. Have with you some extra pads or towels for balancing the saddle. A camera or cell phone – your friend can take photos of you riding so you can see your balance and position. Pencil and paper for notes. And, of course, stirrups, leathers and girth.
4. Place the saddle on your horse as described in “Saddle Fit to Horse” and check the basics:
 - a) 2 - 3 fingers behind the shoulder muscle
 - b) Within the usable back – not past your horse's 18th rib
 - c) Cantle $\frac{1}{2}$ " – $\frac{3}{4}$ " higher than pommel
5. Adjust the fit with a pad or folded towel if necessary to achieve balance
6. Tighten the girth and sit in the saddle. Adjust padding, if necessary until you feel balanced. You should have 2-3 fingers clearance between the pommel and the withers.
7. Center yourself in the seat. (At the halt, while your friend holds the bridle, lift your knees over the front of the flaps and wiggle around until your butt slides to the working center of the seat.) Drop your legs and take up the stirrups. Keep your hands off of the pommel – do not push yourself back in the seat to make your legs fit the flaps. Remember, we want to fit the saddle to you, not you to the saddle.
8. Have your friend take photos of you with your stirrup leathers at the shortest and longest lengths with which you ride.

**A note about Demo Saddles
vs.
New Consignment Saddles**

Our demo saddles may be ridden normally. Take a lesson, go for a trail ride, use it as you would your own saddle - we expect normal wear on demo saddles. If we sent you a "new" saddle, please wrap the stirrup leathers with plastic wrap and ride gently. We need new saddles to be in NEW condition without marks on the flaps if you decide to return it.

During

1. Ride at all gaits within your abilities. Ask your friend observe you and take photos/videos of you riding so that you can see yourself. They can see things that you cannot and you can feel things they cannot see. Dictate your observations to your note-taking friend. Be sure to note any questions you may have.
2. If comparing two saddles, ride them back-to-back. (re-ride both if you need to.) If comparing more than 2 saddles, compare only 2 at a time. To simplify comparison, compare the more comfortable of the first 2 saddles with the next saddle rather than trying to remember how 3 or 4 saddles feel.

After

Before you return the saddle(s), call us and talk with one of our staff. We want to know how you felt in the saddle and will answer any questions that you have. We may need to see additional photos or ask you to give us more information while you still have the saddle. (Even if you decided that the saddle simply did not work for you, we'd like to know more.)

If you have decided to purchase a saddle, you will want to have it custom fitted - we will need more fitting information. Your first tree adjustment is no charge. We will adjust a new saddle from our inventory in your size and adjust the tree for you. (There will be a nominal charge for any flock adjustments requested.)

For optimum performance, you should regularly evaluate the saddle fit to your horse. Horses, like people, change shape as they muscle and mature. Our saddles can be adjusted throughout their life and can even be refitted to a new horse.

We typically ship saddles and have them returned to us via UPS. If you prefer to use another shipping method, please let us know **before** we ship to you.