



**EDIX**<sup>®</sup>  
saddles

**Treeless saddles and treeless riding  
extended information**



**EDIX**<sup>®</sup>  
saddles



On this page you can read about the differences between a tree- and treeless saddle, treeless riding and information relating to the design of a treeless saddle as a complete treeless saddle system. The topics are discussed extensively with much in-depth information. If you want a summarised version, a shortened information page is available, covering the same information in less depth. Do you still have questions after absorbing this information? Send an e-mail to EDIX<sup>®</sup>saddles, [info@edixsaddles.com](mailto:info@edixsaddles.com) or contact an official EDIX<sup>®</sup> saddles dealer. Enjoy reading! EDIX<sup>®</sup> treeless riding is a conscious choice based on complete freedom of movement for you and your horse. A choice that makes a way to more mutual feeling between you and your horse possible!

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## 1.0 Tree or treeless

“A saddle should be a means of communication between rider and horse, where both should feel good.”

This statement shows that the choice between riding a treed saddle or riding a treeless saddle is always a conscious choice that should be mutually beneficial.



Treeless riding, now described by many of us as a different way of riding, is not new. In images from far before Christ we see horsemen riding on animal skins that were held in place with basic rigging. A development of hundreds of years produced a kind of saddle made of felt and leather held together with leather belts. It was still without a tree, but had softly padded cushions that already relieved the spine from pressure. Saddles with this primitive build are still being used in Argentina.

A saddle with a tree developed from the age of the knights. Knights demanded a fixed seat for their fighting, a seat that was embedded in a saddle as a solid wooden tree. They found a deep, firm security in it. Despite the fact that we have not used our horses as workhorses for a long time, we have retained that development of saddle construction, with a solid wooden tree. In fact, we have

lost sight of the comfortable saddle built up from soft materials. As a result, many of us have come to regard a treed saddle as conventional and “normal”. The result is that we have lost sight of the consequences.

In recent years we have seen a change, a process of awareness about how we should deal with our beloved horses. Stabling, feeding and husbandry have become the subject of many studies on the affect to the anatomy and psychology of the horse, with many developments - fortunately in favour of our horses. Because of this awareness, we tend to regard our own comfort as secondary to that of the horse. We can be encouraged to consider what is beneficial for our horses, and what can also be beneficial for us.

There is nothing against a well-fitting treed saddle, but the rider / user must be extremely responsible. The rigid tree (wood, plastic or steel construction) must always be able to follow the fluid movement of the back.



Moreover, it must correctly distribute and transfer the pressure on the back. Age, training and nutrition affect ever-changing muscle and body developments. Therefore, the fit of a treed saddle must be regularly checked and adjusted by an experienced saddler.

Unfortunately, we often do not see well-fitting treed

saddles. Lack of knowledge among the rider about our horses, as well as good equipment marrying with affordability, and also the enormous growth of equestrian sport and the corresponding growth in providers of horse equipment are the cause of this.

### 1.0.1. Treeless info introduction

Both the superstructure (the saddle itself) and the substructure (the matching underlay), of a treeless saddle consist of very flexible components. The complete absence of rigid load-bearing parts allows all muscle and body movements, especially those of the horse's back and shoulders, and a fine communication between him and his rider.

The focus is on the distribution of pressure as a result of load by the rider, whereby the physical and technical aspects that play a role in this are explained in more detail. In the case of saddle positioning, attention is also paid to anatomical aspects. Then the various types of saddles are described.

When you consider buying a treeless saddle for the first time, this information can be helpful. Of course you can contact the official EDIX® dealers if you have any questions, they are happy to help you.

## 2.0 Tree-less saddles, complete, general

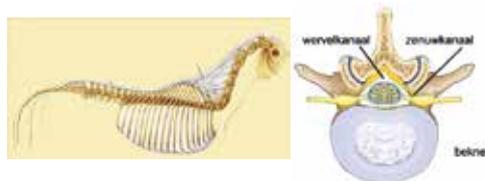
In the EDIX® range you will find a variety of treeless saddles. A treeless saddle consists of 2 parts; the seating area, which we call the "superstructure", and the "substructure" - a special pressure distributing underlay. These two components are inextricably linked and together they form the "saddle", or the complete treeless saddle, the saddle combination. This is the reason that the EDIX® saddles are always offered in combination, or

complete set, with the first purchase. Deliveries take place through the official EDIX® saddles dealers who advise you expertly and may also offer you the possibility to test a complete treeless saddle combination.

### 2.0.1 EDIX® MPDS (multiple pressure distribution system), the technique for pressure distribution

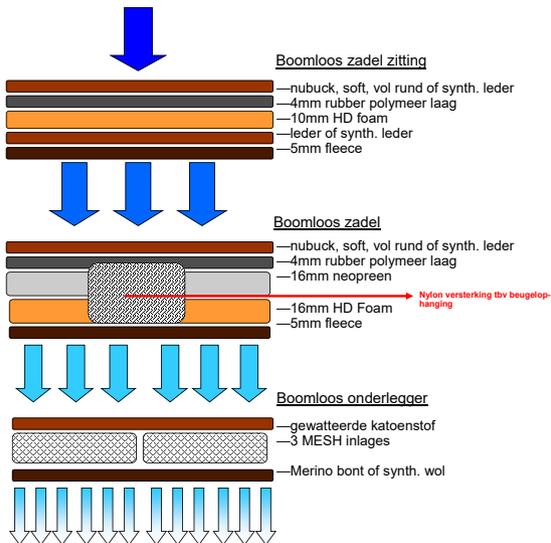
Since the age of knights, we know, in many forms, the current saddles with solid rigid tree and thick cushions, aiming to offer comfort to the rider and to provide distribution of pressure for the horse. Developments in recent centuries sought to provide the rider with an element of comfort and also searched for techniques to keep the spine free of pressure - pressure that arises as a result of the saddle itself, but also the pressure transmitted by weight and riding quality of the rider.

The central focus is on the development of a saddle, and which technique we use to keep the spine free of pressure while at the same time meeting the needs of the rider and horse.



In tree-less saddles you will not find a rigid tree and stiff cushions.

The technical aspects discussed in the following sections will eventually lead to the EDIX® MPDS, the multiple pressure distribution system. A system that makes it possible to achieve an optimal distribution of pressure with the use of very soft materials and to keep the spine free of pressure.



**EDIX® MPDS (Multiple Pressure Distribution System)**



### 3.0 The treeless saddle combination

In the next 3 sub paragraphs you will find the technical explanation of the structure of the EDIX® treeless saddle, so we should really speak here of a treeless saddle combination. The pad with its inserts, the substructure, with the superstructure, the actual saddle itself.

#### 3.0.1 The substructure, the special treeless support

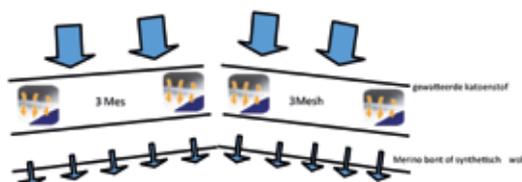
Inseparable from a treeless saddle is a matching saddle pad with inlays; the substructure of the treeless saddle combination. In fact, it is the basis of the treeless saddle. The underlay lifts the saddle slightly upwards. Together with the design of the saddle, space is created between the backbone of the horse and the saddle combination. Often people talk about spinal freedom. In fact, we are acquainted here with the phenomenon of “avoidance of pressure points”. The pad provides the first contribution to the realization of vertebrae freedom and further distribution of the pressure of the rider on the back of the horse.

EDIX® pads are constructed from a sturdy quilted and quilted cotton fabric with an inside of foam or felt and on the underside in the area of the seat real Merino® fur or synthetic wool.

Between the cotton fabric and the finish in the seat area, there are two separate left and right side pockets for the inserts. These can be opened and closed by Velcro.

These pockets offer space for the insertion of additional inlays. These inlays, made from the sustainable pressure distributing material 3Mesh, are discussed further in the next section. Furthermore, all EDIX® synthetic wool finished pads have extra small insert compartments

where additional pressure and position distributing material can be inserted.

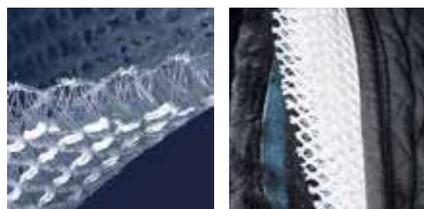


### 3.0.2. Inlays

As standard, the 3Mesh technology comes with all EDIX® treeless saddles. 3Mesh is a very high-quality and durable pressure distributing material with an open structure. This material also has the unique characteristic of maintaining optimum resilience even in heavy loads in all directions. In addition, it is extremely shock absorbing and adaptive. The honeycomb structure guarantees optimum ventilation. 3Mesh is available in various thicknesses, but for the saddle pads EDIX® applies the 20mm version. This type of insert plays an important role in the ultimate distribution of pressure.

Just like cushions in treed saddles, with which the inlays can be compared, these are also subject to wear and tear. The inserts are easy to check and easy to replace. Cushions from a tree saddle must be regularly checked by a saddler and possibly filled. The inserts of EDIX® supports, depending on the intensity of use, show a print over time. These prints indicate that the inserts may need to be replaced. The user is therefore not dependent on a saddler for checking and replacing the inserts, but can easily do so himself. This print also shows exactly how it is with the proportional load of the rider on the left and right. An asymmetrical print may alert the rider to an uneven load, often caused by a wrong sitting position of

the rider. 3 mesh has the ability to evenly distribute this asymmetrical load due to its shock-absorbing capacity.



For other types of inserts see the EDIX® product catalog.

### 3.0.3 the superstructure, the treeless saddle

The saddle itself, the “superstructure”, consists of 2 parts: the upper part - the seating area for the rider, and the lower part - the base of the saddle, which is built up with separate pressure distributing anatomically formed layers on both sides. It is comprised on Merino wool or synthetic fleece, with a layer of 16mm high density foam and 16mm thick shock-absorbing high-quality neoprene. These 3 layers are covered with a pressure distributing rubber sheet of 4mm (polymer layer). On the final finish, of leather or synthetic leather, is the pressure distributing suspension of the fenders.

The upper part, the seating area, is built on the underside synthetic fleece with a leather layer, and HD foam of 10mm thickness. On that rests rubber plate of 4mm, after which the seat is finished with leather or synthetic leather. The combination of all these flexible materials makes the superstructure flexible and movable in all bending directions of the horse. Think of the layers of a thick book with a soft cover, connected, but still flexible and to move in all directions.

### 3.1 why a combination?

The fact that the pad and saddle seat are not fixed parts of the superstructure (the actual saddle) is a conscious design choice for two reasons. The flexibility of the loose pad with its inserts together, with the flexibility of the two separate parts (seat and the base of the saddle), forms a stable, yet soft interface for the horse's back. The combination of the various special layers of the superstructure and the substructure of the saddle creates a tunnel for the free spine and a perfect shock absorption and resilience over a maximum surface with the back of the horse. Relatively much more flexible than if it were one whole.



The lack of an often incorrectly fitting rigid tree gives the horse a lot of room to move. The rider can also take a more soft and deep seat due to the lack of hard materials. The saddle combination forms like a second skin, simply because it can follow the shape and movements of the back.

#### 3.1.1 cohesion

In order to balance that flexibility with the necessary cohesion, the treeless saddle always has a pommel at the front of the seat and a cantle at the back of the seat.

The pommel, together with the special layers of the saddle construction, provides for a stable connection of the left and right sides of a treeless saddle.

The pommel is easily interchangeable and needs to be adjusted to the horse's back. There are 5 sizes of pommel available.

The cantle attached to the back of the seat not only provides back support to the rider but also ensures a more stable whole of the superstructure. The cantle can be adjusted on many EDIX® saddles models by means of Velcro and if desired can be replaced for a lower version. Often, cantles are made up of a flexible high density foam.

## 4.0 Back load

Actually, the combination of horse and rider is a very strange combination. A predator will naturally attack, with the horse as prey, him always on his back near the withers. By nature, the horse would therefore not easily tolerate any object at that location.

However, we, humans, have domesticated and taught the horse to allow us on his back. We can conclude from this that when a predator attacks there, it will be the weakest spot of the horse. This allows you to ask yourself the question, what happens when we, as riders, sit down on the horse? A question that also arises is when we then load up this place, his back, what does this have in the long term for effect on the anatomy of our horse? Especially when we do not handle it properly.

### 4.0.1. Pressure distribution

In the above explanation, the concept of pressure distribution is dealt with several times in technical detail. The explanations of the design and the materials used ultimately lead to the EDIX® MPDS - the shortened name of the system that ensures a responsible degree of pressure distribution.

In the following sections, the concept of pressure distribution is again under scrutiny. This time not on technical but on anatomical and physical grounds. We make a note of the differences in the pressure on static and dynamic grounds and highlight the interconnectedness. This approach strengthens the awareness of feeling, which is related to aspects of pressure when riding, in any form whatsoever.

#### 4.0.2 Static and dynamic pressure; explained

The rider loads the horse with his weight through buttocks, ischial bones and thighs. This pressure is transferred to the horse via the superstructure and substructure of the saddle. If we consider the transfer of pressure from the rider to the horse during riding, through both the static weight as well as the pressure of movement (balanced or unbalanced) from above, the understanding of pressure distribution moves to a whole new level. Although we focus here on treeless saddles, this understanding applies to every type of riding: with treed saddles, riding with a bareback pad and even for riding on bare horse back. There are 2 types of pressure to consider: static pressure and dynamic pressure.



**Static pressure:** this is caused by loading an object by simply placing a weight on it. For example, we place the weight of the rider on the horse's back. This is a purely static pressure, a pressure that is easy to measure. A

horse can carry this relatively easily in normal circumstances; it is an unchanging, non-disrupting, constant pressure.

**Dynamic pressure:** the same horse with the same rider is now moving, and now we ask to what extent the pressure, now also in the movement, is static and therefore still constant and measurable? Or does this static pressure now turn into an indefinable, dynamic pressure in the movement? What about the distribution of this dynamic pressure?

The answer is simple, the initial static pressure is influenced by the riding quality of the rider, regardless of the use of treed saddles or treeless saddles. The better this rider quality (the better the independent seat of the rider), the more optimal the distribution of pressure will be. An ultimate independent seat allows the pressure to follow the movements and the static pressure remains static in the dynamics of the movement.

This dynamic pressure, that is to say the disturbance of the static pressure, is indefinable and, in addition to the horse, it certainly also provides a physical burden for many riders. As the quality of the independent seat is less, the balanced load is disrupted by the dynamics of the movements. As a result irregular loads on the horse's back will have to be absorbed and distributed. The quality of the independent seating thus plays a very large role. With an ultimate independent seat, the pressure on the horse back plays practically a subordinate role. There is in this case a unity in motion and therefore this pressure remains static.

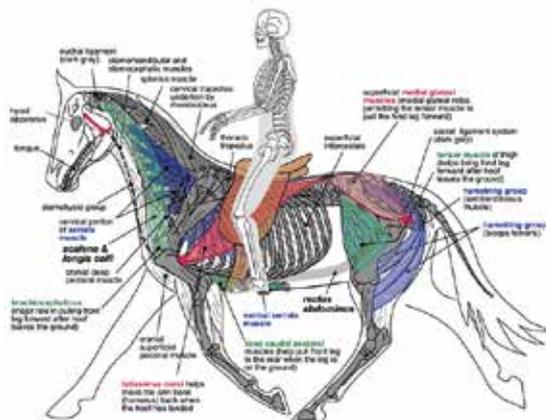
We can say that the quality of riding has an inseparable connection with the total pressure on the horse's back.

The better the riding is, the more it will tend towards a static and therefore a more balanced distribution. It is the design in the construction of the treeless saddle combination that can eliminate disruptive or unbalanced inputs to the desired static pressure through absorption. The use of different soft materials in combination with the 3Mesh in EDIX® saddle combinations optimize the absorption and distribution of pressure. This is over a relatively large and safe surface of the horse's back, instead of the limited area which a treed saddle attempts to cover only through two cushioned channels.

#### 4.0.3 static and dynamic pressure; riding light

Naturally, all aspects of pressure, as explained in the previous paragraph, play the same role in light riding. When a rider possesses the exceptional quality to ride lightly practically without support, there will hardly be any localised pressure for the horse.

As the rider relies on supporting aids, an undesirable localised pressure will certainly arise for the heavier rider. The proper fitting of a correct treeless saddle combination for a heavier rider is therefore very desirable and the EDIX® saddle dealer can inform you well.



## 5.0 riding and load on the back

When it comes to treeless riding, there is never a localised distribution of pressure, and the treeless saddle combination ensures optimal distribution over a large surface area, unlike treed saddles, which localise the pressure. Treed saddles are rigid and always distribute their weight over the same relatively small surface through two cushioned channels. The heavier rider will apply more pressure to the total saddle including the underpad and its inserts. Inlays can be added in such a case, giving the support of an extra layer of shock absorbing material. This poses a responsibility for the rider. See also the explanation under dimensions in 8.0.

Summarizing, we can say that a rider with a quality independent seat will always optimise the pressure load and distribution for the horse.

Treeless riding is not comparable to traditional riding. For some horses and riders, the close contact experienced in the treeless saddle combination is a completely new experience which, depending on the degree of riding experience, can be something to get used to. Generally, as the independent seat is better, the transition to treeless riding is quickly an unprecedented experience. Treeless riding does not force you into a certain position where a treed saddle does. A treeless saddle asks you to follow the movements of the horse's back. This will make the rider's posture more natural and will adapt better to the anatomy of the horse. The close contact caused by treeless riding promotes the easier feeling and communication with your horse and thus the easier and faster integration of sitting aids.

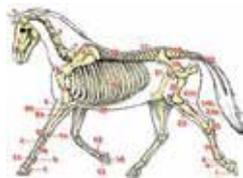
Novice riders in treeless saddles can benefit from

becoming quickly accustomed to feeling all movements. The lack of rigid parts and thick cushions between rider and horse teaches them to follow the movements better. Thus one can work towards a unity with the horse. The learning process from the initially unstable to an independent will be easily achieved. Rider and horse will work towards the right communication with more mutual feeling.

## 6.0 Location of the saddle

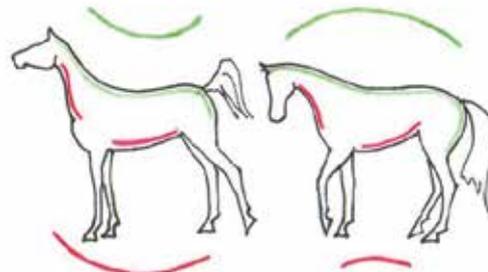
On which part of the back is it safe to burden the horse with pressure? The entire vertebrae consists of 54 vertebrae in most horses. These vertebrae are well protected by back muscles and are located relatively far from the top of the back. What you feel when you press against the underlying lumps along the spine are the thorny protrusions of the different vertebrae. The structure starts with 7 very flexible neck-vertebrae (3), followed by 18 thoracic vertebrae (16), then the loins (17) with 6 vertebrae.

Behind the loins the sacral vertebrae (18) connect the vertebral column with the pelvis and the spinal column ends with 20 flexible tail vertebrae (19).



The vertebrae of the neck and tail can make great movements. The back muscles, however, keep the vertebrae of the chest and loins in a stable position. It is the head-neck posture that plays an important role in the freedom of

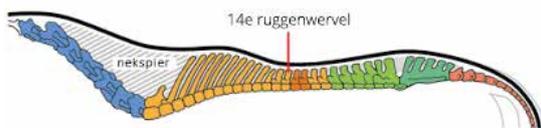
movement of the spine and thus influences the resilience of the horse's back. Every change of that posture changes the shape of the back, and, unlike a traditional treed saddle, a treeless saddle will effortlessly follow these changes. A treeless saddle does not obstruct the horse in its movements; this will allow it to relax and move freely. A low head-neck posture, figure on the right, tightens the abdominal muscles and relaxes the back of the horse and spheres (convexity). It creates resilience and freedom of movement. The thorn protrusions can erect and are free of each other. The opposite (concavity), figure on the left, results in the reverse.



The 18 thoracic vertebrae together with the 6 lumbar vertebrae form the back of the horse. The strongest part of the back on which a responsible load is possible is the part of the thoracic vertebra. We have to exclude the lumbar vertebrae as they find no support and are not protected by the absence of ribs (15); they lack the strength of the cohesion of muscle attachment through the ribs. Moreover, you will find the vulnerable kidneys close to these vertebrae.

Many scientific studies have shown that if we give the

shoulder blade (4) the necessary space for movement, the strongest part of the back extends over 10 thoracic vertebrae. That is from just after the withers to the last for the loins, the 18th breast vertebra. Here in the middle, with the center 14th vertebra, we find the most responsible position for loading by the rider. Depending on the length of the horse's back, an area of 18 to 26 cm is available.



For the pressure-distributing components of a treeless saddle, there is room from the middle of the withers to the end of the thoracic vertebra. The flexible material allows a lot of freedom of movement for the shoulder.

### 6.1 Deviations in the construction of the horse

Known are various deviations in conformation, in particular a hollow back or inclined position. A treeless saddle adapts effortlessly to the concave shape or skewness of the back, in contrast to almost every treed saddle. A treed saddle will retain its shape regardless of the back it's sitting on, thus unevenly loading the weight to one side or the other in response to the horse's deviation from standard conformation. A saddler often solves this problem by not filling the pillows symmetrically. The treed saddle and thus the rider may be straight, but the tilt will only worsen. Horse and rider will not be able to train the conscious muscles, which cause the inclination, correctly. Of course, a treeless saddle is also crooked for the horse, but it will not impede the growth of the muscles and the corrective development will strengthen and balance the horse and alleviate the problem over time.

## 7.0 Fixing a treeless saddle

Generally, as a matter of course and without thinking, a saddle is placed on the back, the girth is buckled and the saddle is then tightened. Usually after a few minutes of riding or walking, we reach to tighten the girth again. We usually know no better, but what does that (often too tight) fixation cause? We do not have to be a doctor to realize that many negative consequences can arise from the movement limitation of the chest and back muscles, shoulder, legs of the forehand and the rib cage caused by the restriction and tightness around the body. Is it a healthy exercise and is breathing still possible?

We often girth too tight to keep a saddle in place, when actually a saddle should remain in its place even without a girth. Whether it is a treed saddle or a treeless saddle, a girth should be fastened, but it certainly shouldn't be extremely tight. When a saddle is restricted too tightly it will cause negative effects on the horse's freedom of movement and will therefore cause a reduced connection to the horse's back. As a result, the treed or treeless saddle will find the path of least resistance and will slide forwards or backwards, depending on the conformation of your horse.

Because the treeless saddle always has the possibility to keep following the changing anatomy of your horse and therefore always has a perfect fit on the horse's back, the idea of tight restriction and fastening through the girth is negated.

### 7.0.1 Design of the connection

Regardless of which type of girth used, in order to be sure of good saddle stability and placement of the saddle on the back, the correct attachment of the saddle is therefore an important part of saddling.

Attention should be paid to the material of the girth, and the design. To begin the fixation of the saddle to the back, we start on the right side of your horse and estimate which hole the buckle can be connected to so that we can access and affix the girth on both sides. This will always benefit the optimal fixation of the saddle. We then loosely engage the left side and assess to what extent a hole is needed to balance the right and / or left. The raising and advancing of the legs will eventually release skin folds which develop under the girth.

To distinguish three types of girths:

The dressage girth: the short girth suitable for connecting the long flaps of a dressage saddle, affixing to straps longer than the saddle itself.

The versatility girth: the longer girth that connects the straps of jumping and all-purposes saddles, usually found underneath, and covered by, the saddle flaps.

Finally, the western girth: a single ringed girth that establishes the western rigging fixation. It is this particular girthing design that we will go deeper into.



The western girth design has one wide buckle on each end that attaches to straps on the saddle. On the left of the saddle we find the short girth, in English called Off-billet and on the other side a relatively long girth, called Tie-billet.

There are 2 variants to the buckles on western girths, one features a pin on both sides, the other has a pin on just one side - the side that will be attached to the Off-billet. The side without a pin will be fixed to the Tie-billet in a specialised fashion.

It all sounds a bit complicated if you are not used to this technique, yet it's actually fairly easy with practice. We make this clear with the help of some pictures.

1. Attach the girth using the buckle on on the right side of your horse. Then from the left, weave the long webbing from back to front through using the D-ring of the saddle and the D-ring of the girth as long as needed until you are left with holes available to pop the girth pin in to. You can thread the remaining length of the tie-billet in the passant provided on your saddle.
2. Alternatively, the use of a buckle without a pin or a buckle where you do not use the pin, you find the security you are happy with through the same weaving technique as explained above, but you tie off the girth at the top of the D-ring, against the saddle, in a similar fashion to tying a formal tie. You are not dependent on the use of the holes in this fixation.
3. There is also the possibility to use an off-billet on each side. Your dealer can order it for you. This gives an opportunity for more of an "English" system.

### 7.0.2 FRA® SuperGirth and additional aspects

EDIX® saddles recommends an elastic girth at the best possible length for optimal fastening. A fully elastic girth can follow the enormous forces of the abdominal muscles and the further musculoskeletal system of your horse in all directions. EDIX® saddles has the FRA® SuperGirth in its available products. This girth is, over its full length, 100% elastic in horizontal and vertical direction and can effort-

Techniek aan singelen 1)



Techniek aan singelen 2)



lessly follow the enormous forces of your horse's musculo-skeletal system.

Apart from the fact that a fully elastic girth is optimally friendly for the horse, it is also sparing at the same time. Your equipment (tree saddle, treeless saddle or bareback pad) is benefited from the movement and activity of the abdomen being absorbed by the elasticity of the girth and as such does not apply continual downward pressure on your saddle. The fact that an elastic girth always has a constant subtle connection to the belly of the horse also means that the equipment remains connected to the horse's back without any alternating tension. Shifting of the equipment, often caused by the change in pressures

applied on the traditional girth, is therefore excluded. See which girth each EDIX® treeless saddle is equipped to pair with in the EDIX® product catalog.

## 8.0 Dimensions

As already explained in detail in the foregoing, the flexibility of the materials used and the separate pad with inserts makes the complete treeless saddle system into an extremely flexible whole. The result is that the saddle combination follows movements of back and shoulders in all directions and offers the horse optimal freedom of movement. In contrast to traditional saddles, an EDIX® treeless saddle fits most horses and needs no adjustment by a saddler.

Of course that does not mean that every random treeless saddle will also suit every rider and horse!

Determining the right size treeless saddle depends on the construction of your horse and your own posture. As already explained under 6.0, a short length of the back will not go together with the rider who would need a large saddle in terms of posture. The starting point will therefore always have to be a correct combination of the rider with his horse. The treeless saddle itself must be able to provide the rider with a comfortable seat, but at the same time must fit the horse well!

If the rider's equilibrium is in alignment with the size of the horse, then the rider's height simply determines the size of the saddle. EDIX® treeless saddles are related to average clothing sizes and are available in several sizes.



When fitting a treeless saddle, we also look at the correct fit on the horse's back. When buying a treeless saddle, choose the pommel that fits well on the flank of your horse's muscles. For example, the back of a Haflinger will ask for a different pommel than the back of a Thoroughbred with a high withers. The pommel is available in

various sizes and can easily be changed. EDIX® saddle dealers can determine the correct size of the pommel upon consultation and also advise if any considerations are necessary: for example an extra layer of pressure distributing material in the different insert pockets of the different types of pads. (See chapter 6)

Prior to the purchase of a treeless saddle you may have the ability to try out a demonstration saddle.

After putting the treeless saddle into use (combined with the right training to promote freedom of movement) the musculature of the horse may increase and a larger size of pommel may be needed. EDIX® saddle dealers guide and advise you in the purchase process and offer a comprehensive after-service over a long period. A no-obligation consultation for re-checking fit can be part of this.



When you go through the recommended process of fitting, testing, purchasing and after-service, EDIX® saddles guarantees a perfect fit of the treeless saddle for you and your horse, resulting in many years of fun.

## 9.0 Habituation

Are you coming from a treed saddle to a treeless saddle? Then that takes some getting used to. The close contact, the feeling of all the muscle movements of the horse through his back, can be very surprising, for which you have to find a balance in your seat.

If you already have a good independent seat and if you are used to riding bareback regularly, the transition to a treeless saddle will be easier. If you are not completely balanced yet, the transition may be difficult and may require some time. The support that you first received from the sturdy seat of your treed saddle falls away. There is a period of time where your muscle memory will be searching for a new feeling of balance. Depending on the quality of the rider and possibly under the guidance of some balance focussed lessons, you will soon find that you sit on your horse more securely and move with him or her in unity. With that you have got a real independent seat and the horse does not have to keep you in balance anymore!

It should also be taken into account that a new treeless saddle, including the pad and accessories, has not yet been worn in and therefore does not immediately give the comfort of what you have imagined and possibly experienced in a test saddle. The leather and materials still need to become supple and conform to the anatomy of rider and horse.

Our experiences show that after a short habituation period for you, but certainly also for your horse, the treeless saddle has settled and that feeling the movements of your horse so closely brings you quickly into a very fine and new dimension of riding. Many riders who are used to the close contact feeling that a treeless saddle offers, hen back in a treed saddle report discomfort and the loss of

mutual feeling, and feel “perched” far above their horse. EDIX® saddles dealers have described the above, have ample experience and can advise and guide you in the transition to a treeless saddle. EDIX® saddle dealers have test saddles at their disposal, ask for it!

## 10.0 Maintenance and use

EDIX® saddles refers to the detailed leaflets “maintenance for fur products” and “maintenance of leather” for the maintenance of saddle combinations. This is also important in regards to the warranty of the purchased items. In a new saddle, slight deformations (wrinkles) of the leather can not be avoided due to packaging and transport, and as the saddle is used they dissolve automatically. By using your saddle a structural change of the leather and of the leather fenders or stirrups by the friction and rubbing of riding, will wear the leather in and make it smooth and natural in color. Naturally, these (user) effects do not cause any loss of quality.

## 11.0 Optional

Various accessories are available for the EDIX® treeless saddle combinations. All parts can also be bought separately, ask your EDIX® saddles dealer or visit the website: [www.edixsaddles.com/crafting](http://www.edixsaddles.com/crafting).

## 12.0 Where can you find more information?

EDIX® saddles has a network of selected official dealers, an overview can be found at [www.edixsaddles.com/dealers](http://www.edixsaddles.com/dealers). They guide you through the purchase process and have test saddles available.

“EDIX® treeless riding, a way to more mutual feeling between you and your horse!”



[www.edixsaddles.com](http://www.edixsaddles.com)