

High Country COWBOY COMPANY

Create & Order Your Custom Saddle

Good saddle makers construct a saddle for the horse - not the rider. They know if the saddle is comfortable for the horse and will encourage free athletic movement of the horse; the rider will be kept in the correct position. The saddle will then earn the respect and affection of both horse and rider. The tree, the rigging and the ground seat, all of which are hidden beneath the saddle skirts and jockeys, are the foundation of components that determine the true quality of the saddle. Those factors are what we pride ourselves in most with every one of our saddle makers. Add up the years of experience, horsemanship, artistry and attention to detail and you've got yourself one of the finest Custom Saddles available.

The Saddle Tree

The saddle tree consists of two bars that run parallel to the horse's spine with a fork (pommel), that ties the bars together in front, and the cantle, that ties the bars together in back. Well fitting bars in a western saddle will apply only about $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds per square inch to the horses back with a 150 pound rider up. Distributing the rider's weight evenly is important. To distribute weight evenly, the bars must be in even contact with the horse's back over as much of the bar's surface area as possible. The channel between the bars must be wide enough to protect the spine. The gullet width and shape must allow plenty of shoulder freedom. If the basic contours of the bars match the horse's conformation, then judicious use of pads can accommodate normal and comfortable weight distribution. Here are some examples of different tree "Styles".



Modified Assn.

Wade

Visalia

Wade w/Bucking Rolls

Bowman

Rigging Styles

The saddle rigging must keep the bars positioned correctly during athletic movements and long rides in rough country. The rigging needs to keep the saddle in place without causing any restrictive pressure on the horse. A good rigging will center the bars over, or very close to, the lowest point of the horse's back. It needs to evenly position the saddle across the full length of the seat without restricting movement, breathing or in any way causing discomfort for the horse. The rigging should be constructed so that it does not inhibit free swing in the stirrup leathers or create bumps or bulges under the rider's knees and legs. A good tree can still sore a horse if the rigging is poorly engineered. Western saddle riggings must be robust as the saddle is heavy and the tasks it often performs require strength. Rigging must be engineered to create a triangle between the fork and cantle with the cinch latigo pulling at the apex of this triangle. A rigging of any type must be absolutely symmetrical from side to side as well.

Rigging Options: Dropped O, Flat Plate, In skirt, Double Dee



Dropped O



Flat Plate



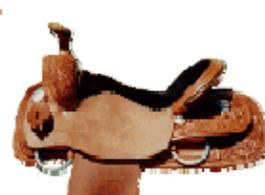
In Skirt



Double Dee

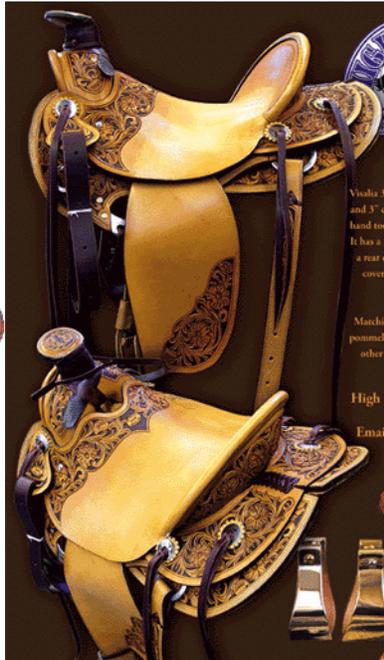
The Seat

The ground seat is the component that marries the rider to his horse. Though hidden under the leather of the seat, the ground seat is the single component that most directly affects how the rider interacts with the horse. Master saddle makers are careful to create a centered riding position that allows the legs to drop naturally close to the horse. The ground seat should never push the rider back to the cantle or tip him forward in the saddle. It must be crafted to correctly position the rider's pelvic angle so that he is balanced comfortably and naturally. Ground seats should be constructed of several separate pieces of leather layered to form the rise of the seat, the crown (center) and shape of the seat under the seat jockey. Each layer is skived to the shape and rise required on a particular saddle. A hand shaped leather ground seat will break in to the individual rider and become even more comfortable over time. A proper ground seat will encourage a rider to sit correctly and stay in balance by supporting the buttocks, inner thighs and crotch without creating "point loading" and soreness. No part of saddle making requires more art and experience than the crafting of a ground seat.



Aesthetics/Options

When ordering a custom saddle from HCCC, take into consideration the aforementioned information to design a custom saddle that will meet all of your needs as well as accentuate your personal style. The first step is to determine what style of saddle is to your liking. The dimensions of the tree will follow; this will consist of bars and gullet size, horn, cantle and seat size. From there you are faced with a long list of options that will allow you to design the saddle of your dreams based on personal as well as riding style. Take into consideration the type of riding you would like to do with the saddle whether it be long hours of trail riding, arena work or ranch work (possibly requiring heavy roping). The majority of the saddles we build can be used in any and all of those areas and more. Here are just a few additional examples of our past projects.



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Custom Saddle Order Form

We hope you find the enclosed information helpful in getting started in the design process. Some folks know exactly what they want and why and some need a little more guidance. That is why we are always here to answer questions and help steer you in the right direction. Use the following worksheet to help you through the process of designing your Custom Saddle from HCCC.

Please complete the form to begin your custom saddle order! Choose your preference under each custom option to construct your saddle. Click submit at the bottom of the form to start the creation of your custom ordered saddle!

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Additional Instructions and/or Notes

The Saddle Tree

Style:

Wade

Visalia 3B

Porter

Full Assoc

Roper

Other _____

Modified Assoc

Bowman

Bars:

Standard QH (6.5"x 7.5"-8")

Semi QH (6.25"x8")

Full QH (6.75"x7.5",93)

Horn:

#4 Dally

3"x3" Can Style

Other (4"x3", tilt with lip)

#5 Dally

Cutter/Dally

#8 Dally

Cantle:

3"

4.5"

Cheyenne Roll

3.5"

5"

4"

Straight

Seat Size:

14"

15.5"

14.5"

16"

15"

Other _____

Seat:

Hard

3/4

Loop Seat

Padded:

1/2

Full

Inlaid Bicycle

Rigging Style

Style:

In Skirt

Double Dee

Flat Plate

Other

Dropped O

Placement:

3/4

7/8

Skirt, Fender & Stirrup Leathers

Skirt Style:

Rounded Square

Fenders:

Tear Drop(Contoured) Cutter(Square)

Stirrup Leathers:

Standard Exposed

Tooling/Leather

Weight of Leather:

Standard (12/14 oz) Lightweight (14/16 oz)

Tooling:

Smoothout Roughout Border
Basket Oak Floral
Description _____

Silver (Custom)

Horn Cap Cattle Plate Conchos

Options/Extras

6 String Set 8 String Set

Conchos:

Leather Rosettes Silver Brass

Rawhide:

Horn Binding Cattle Binding Gullet Shield
Beaded

Brand/Initials

Location _____ Initials _____

Rope Strap

Yes No

Horn Wrap

Mule Hide Latigo (leather)

Braided Hobble Ring:

Leather Rawhide

Matching Breast Collar

3 Piece

Martingale

Outfitter

Matching Saddle Bags

Small

Medium

Large

Bucking Rolls

Color _____

Cincha

Straight

Vaquero

Roper

Color(s) _____

Cutter

Size _____

Stirrups

Rawhide

Nettles

Size/Tread _____

Bells

Tapaderos

Oxbow

Plier, Staple, Hoof Pick Pouch(s)?

Click Here To Submit Your Custom Saddle Order!

We provide only the highest quality custom saddles. Our saddles are available in reasonable time frames, generally taking 7-9 months from the time the order is placed to finish. A 50% non-refundable deposit is taken at the time the order is placed and the remainder is due upon completion of the saddle just prior to shipping. We ship by UPS and charge \$60 for saddles. We are available to answer your questions by phone during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 9-5, Mountain Time. Feel free to contact us by email at anytime. We look forward to helping you get started in building the saddle of your dreams!

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