

A Mounted Shooting Saddle With An All-Around Twist

By Andra Olson

WHEN CACTUS SADDLERY approached me about designing a signature saddle for mounted shooting, I was thrilled to have the opportunity. The sport's precision and detail challenge your horsemanship, your agility and your mental focus. With that in mind, I felt it was essential that the gear not restrict the rider. This saddle was designed to perform and give you confidence—no matter what level of competitor you are.

I traveled to Cactus Saddlery in Greenville, TX, and came away very impressed with their entire operation. The saddles are handmade at the facility with the highest quality of materials.

Working with their designers was fun and exciting. I recommended saddle features that I find important. For example, I wanted something versatile, for riders who do mounted shooting, team penning, ranch rodeo, trail riding or roping.

I also emphasized a good fit. If your saddle it is not fitting or secured properly, it will slide and lift, throwing off the balance of both you and the horse.

Finally, I insisted that the saddle feature all the components necessary for you perform to your potential.

We ended up with an all-around saddle designed to provide you and your horse comfort and confidence.

The tree is custom built to provide close contact with the horse, a deep seat, and the flexibility to move your legs freely. With the speed and aggressive moves that riders often make, we designed a special full double cinch rigging. When double cinch rigs are used properly, they secure the entire saddle to your horse's back—and that helps with balance and preventing injury.

I am also very excited about the special options the saddle offers. It has different adjustments for the different style breast collars and martingales. The custom built rear rifle scabbard matches the look of the saddle and is placed in a position where it will never get in your way, but can be removed if desired.

Last—and certainly very exciting to me—is the option to have the famous Colt logo on the saddle, which provides a real touch of class. Not only will you love the feel of this saddle you will love the look.



Andra Olson competes on her new saddle during the 2011 AQHA Battle In The Saddle.

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