



WALSALL LEATHER SKILLS CENTRE

ASTRIDE SADDLE CONSTRUCTION

This is the programme for the Intermediate (L2) Pony Saddle. It also forms the basis of the Advanced Saddle (L3) course but the L3 (Full size) saddle can only be completed by integrating the skills assessment which is in two stages. If a student is not taking the assessment the L3 Saddle can be completed in 3-4 weeks

WEEK 1

Principles and techniques involved in straining a saddle tree.

Checking the tree for symmetry, correcting imperfections & adjusting for asymmetry

Choosing webs, webbing up and straining.

Preparing, making and fitting bellies

Preparing the foam and attaching the foam seats. Rasping to shape.

Selecting and wet blocking leather over seat

Seaming using sewing machine

Mark out skirt onto blocked seat

Cut out marked seat and get ready for machining backs and pulldowns onto skirt

Choose welts and cut

Present all parts for machine seaming

Machining

WEEK 2

Prepare saddle parts,

Flaps, Flap Loops, Knee pads, Flexible points, Bar hole covers, Billets, Facings & Fore piece

Machining

WEEK 3

Rub seaming out

Attach flexible Points to tree

Pull seaming on to the tree

Attach flaps, Fore piece, Bar hole covers, Billets and Gullet lining

Prepare all panel parts i.e. Panel top, Linings, Tabs, Facings, Sweat flaps,

Machining

WEEK 4

Case stitch facings of panel

Turn panel, bone out panel and mash flat

Glueing and attaching sweat flaps

Attach knee blocks

Machining

Run up panel

Stuff (flock) panels with wool

Attach panel to underside of completed saddle top and flaps

Checking and finishing.