

1 591 664

- (21) Application No. 35779/77 (22) Filed 25 Aug. 1977 (19)  
 (31) Convention Application No. 7 626 186 (32) Filed 25 Aug. 1976 in  
 (33) France (FR)  
 (44) Complete Specification published 24 June 1981  
 (51) INT. CL.<sup>2</sup> B68C 1/02  
 (52) Index at acceptance  
 A1M CC



## (54) RIDING SADDLE

(71) I, HENRI VERDIER, a Citizen of the Republic of France, of 1, Passage Traynes, 65 000 Tarbes, France, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention concerns saddles and particularly conventional-type riding saddles.

The invention makes it possible to produce saddles without any risk of injuring horses whose withers are very prominent.

Known conventional saddles of this kind are mounted on saddle-bows made of two curved blades of wood, joined at the ends by two arches, also made of wood, called the cantle and the pommel respectively. This unit is covered with cloth and coated with strong glue. Thin strips of steel are riveted to the unit to reinforce it; the pommel, being the place subjected to the greatest stress, is lined with strips which may be as much as 5mm thick, the horse's withers, being "wedge-shaped", have a tendency to push this aside and it is not unusual for the saddle-bow to break at this point.

The irons are riveted on the saddle-bow and the girth-straps are nailed on it.

Cloth straps stretched lengthways and widthways provide the slope and the hollow of the seat which is covered with a piece of leather.

For years there have been steel-reinforced glass fibre and resin saddle-bows of conventional type on which the various components of the saddle are nailed, stitched, riveted or screwed, assembly being the same as on wooden saddle-bows.

Known saddles have many drawbacks, notably a very important one which lies in the tricky manufacture of the saddle-bow and the complicated assembly of the saddle.

Another drawback relates to comfort, in fact saddles sold at present have to be "broken in", i.e. the rider has to strain for many hours to form the hollow in the saddle at the required place.

Moreover, this hollow is not final and if

the rider who formed it lends his saddle for a while, this hollow may be deformed and displaced

Some horses are very difficult to saddle without injuring their withers (these being very prominent) since the pommel touches them. To prevent these injuries, one or several thick squares of felt called "pads" are inserted to raise the pommel but then the saddle is tipped backwards.

The arch of the pommel often breaks under violent stress, if the horse is very tightly girthed or falls on its back.

The saddle according to the invention makes it possible to obviate these drawbacks. With it, breaking of the front part of the saddle-bow is avoided, as the branches can spread apart.

The simplicity of the saddle-bow enables it to be factory-made.

The slope and hollow of the seat are given during assembly by foam rubber of greater or lesser thickness at the appropriate places and stuck to the steel.

They can no longer be deformed since the rubber returns to its initial position.

It is no longer necessary to break-in the saddle.

The risk of injury to the withers is completely eliminated, even with a horse whose withers are extremely highly developed, since they protrude freely through the median hollowed-out portion or gap formed between the two branches of the saddle-bow.

For this purpose, the riding saddle according to the invention is essentially characterised in that its saddle-bow is made in one piece, which may be metal, with a substantially oval and cambered part forming the seat and said part is extended by two branches which are spaced apart from one another to form a gap for accommodating horse's withers.

According to another characteristic of the invention, the two branches of the saddle-bow are arched and diverge at the same time as they slope in opposite directions to each other in the form of a roof along the longitudinal median axis of said saddle-bow.

According to yet another characteristic of the invention, the branches can diverge from each other which avoids any breakage of the saddle-bow and helps to avoid injuring the horse.

To form the seat, the substantially oval rear part, incurved along the longitudinal median axis of the part forming the saddle-bow, is cambered along the transverse median axis so as to have a central area which is hollow in relation to the cantle and the branches.

Other advantages and characteristics of the invention will emerge from a reading of the description given below of a preferred mode of embodiment given as a non-limiting example and illustrated by the attached drawings, in which:

— Figures 1 to 3 show the saddle-bow.  
— Figures 4 to 7 show the different phases of making the saddle on basis of said saddle-bow.

— Figures 8 and 9 show another mode of embodiment of the saddle-bow with pommel.  
The saddle according to the invention includes a saddle-bow which is preferably made in one piece, e.g. steel sheet or any other suitable material, having a substantially oval part 1 extended by two branches 2 separated from each other by a hollowed-out portion 3 forming a gap.

The oval part 1 is incurved, i.e. cambered upwards along its longitudinal median axis to form the cantle 4 and along its transversal median axis, which helps to pre-shape the seat.

The branches 2 are arched so that they diverge from each other to form the hollowed-out portion 3 substantially following a direction shaped like a portion of a spiral away from each other, which makes it possible to follow the shape of the sides of the horse's withers, which will fit into the hollowed-out portion 3 and said branches 2 can diverge from each other.

The saddle-bow according to the invention can be made in one piece which can be cut out and shaped, on a press for example.

Under this saddle-bow, as shown in Figures 4 and 5, a slightly projecting piece of leather 5 is stuck or e.g. fixed by riveting.

On each of the branches 2 a leather strap 6 is fixed, with girth-straps and the irons 8 attached e.g. by riveting.

The sweat flaps 9 fixed to the saddle-bow on a level with the branches 2 and the seat have a slot 10 to allow the passage of the irons and girth-holders.

The saddle receives the piece(s) of leather 11 forming the seat and the small sweat flaps 12, and under the saddle-bow (Fig. 7) the

padding 13 is arranged and fixed to the leather 5, e.g. by lacing.

According to another arrangement of the invention shown in Figures 8 and 9, the saddle-bow made in one piece is fitted at the branches 2 with a pommel 14 which straddles the hollowed-out part 3 and which slants towards the seat.

Said pommel has a frontal hollowed-out part 15 substantially up to its top, which makes it possible to accommodate the horse's withers.

Said pommel can be a piece, e.g. of metal, added to the saddle-bow or else can be made in one piece with the latter.

The saddle according to the invention and its saddle-bow can be used as a conventional saddle as well as a training or racing saddle, in each case avoiding the aforementioned drawbacks.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. Riding saddle characterised in that its saddle-bow is in one piece, with a substantially oval and cambered part forming the seat and extended by two branches which are spaced apart from one another to form a gap for accommodating a horse's withers.

2. Saddle-bow according to Claim 1 characterised in that the two branches are arched, i.e. they diverge from each other, and in that they slant in opposite directions to each other along the longitudinal median axis of said saddle-bow.

3. Saddle-bow according to claim 1 and claim 2 characterised in that the two branches can diverge from each other.

4. Saddle-bow according to claim 1 and claims 2 and 3 characterised in that the rear part which is substantially oval and incurved along the longitudinal median axis is cambered along the transversal median axis so as to have a central area which is hollow in relation to the cantle and the branches.

5. Saddle-bow according to claim 1 and claim 2 characterised in that it is equipped at the branches with a pommel which straddles the gap between said branches.

6. Saddle-bow according to claim 1 and any one of claims 2 to 5 characterised in that it is made in one metal or non-metal piece with or without pommel.

7. Saddle-bow substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BROMHEAD & CO.,  
Chartered Patent Agents,  
Clifford's Inn,  
Fetter Lane,  
London EC4A 1NP.

1591664

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

2 SHEETS

*This drawing is a reproduction of  
the Original on a reduced scale  
Sheet 1*

Fig.1

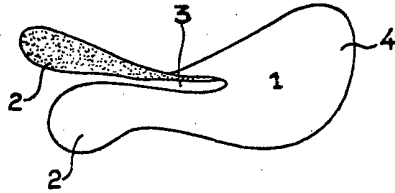


Fig.2

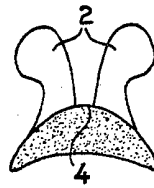


Fig.3

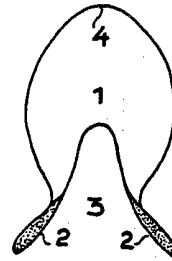


Fig.4

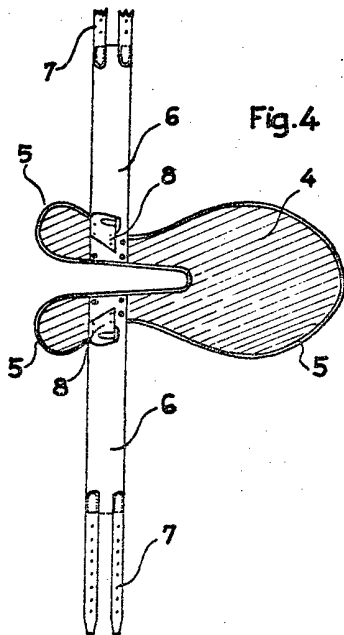


Fig.5

