



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 336 589 B1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
04.10.2006 Bulletin 2006/40

(51) Int Cl.:
B68C 1/02 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **02380062.6**

(22) Date of filing: **18.03.2002**

(54) **Flexible saddle tree**

Flexibler Sattelbaum

Arçon de selle flexible

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**

(43) Date of publication of application:
20.08.2003 Bulletin 2003/34

(73) Proprietor: **Vazquez Martin, Lucas
45600 Talavera de la Reina,
Toledo (ES)**

(72) Inventor: **Vazquez Martin, Lucas
45600 Talavera de la Reina,
Toledo (ES)**

(74) Representative: **Vicario Cubillo, Marcos
Higuera, 12
Urb. Monteclaro
28223 Pozuelo de Alarcon (ES)**

(56) References cited:
US-B1- 6 263 647

EP 1 336 589 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present specification refers to a flexible saddle tree for horse riding saddles the aim of which lies in allowing the subsequent assembly of a horse riding saddle on itself, the saddle tree having longitudinal and transversal flexibility providing the saddle constructed with this saddle tree with a substantially improved comfort for the rider, and also providing an improved adherence between the rider and the horse.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention has its application within the saddlery industry or industries dedicated to the manufacturing of horse's saddles and harnesses and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] US patent 2001/0005980 discloses a "Western style saddle" formed by two identical pieces joined along one of their long arms, each one of the pieces having a sinusoidal perimeter and on the surface of its external sides incorporating thick protectors fixed by means of leather rivets so that the saddle formed by the described pieces adapts to the surface of the horse's body.

[0004] Spanish patent number ES2152876 discloses a "Saddle tree for horse riding saddles" formed by two warped nippers determined by peripheral rods which can house a padding, a leading bridge curved between both nippers to support the leading edge of the seat, a rear bridge curved between both nippers, a detachable leading arch which can be housed in a transversal passage of the leading edge of the seat and some first means suitable for fitting the leading arch to the saddle tree.

[0005] A "Riding saddle" with a remarkably lightened structure is disclosed in European patent number EP1081092. German patent number DE19924383 discloses a "Horse riding saddle" provided with additional support elements both in the front and back zones.

[0006] A "Horse riding saddle" whose parts are gradually coupled to the central zone allowing an easy replacement, is disclosed by French patent number FR2792305.

[0007] US patent number US6223509 discloses a "Rigid saddle tree for riding saddles" formed by a leading part of the bridge from which two longitudinal prolongations originate separated by a wide opening, on which the assembly of the elements of the saddle is carried out.

[0008] Austrian patent number AT406767B discloses a "Saddle bridge part" provided with light flexibility.

[0009] US patent number US 6 263 647, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, discloses a saddle which comprises two lateral pieces that take the form of rubber bars, reinforced by laminated fabric layers, these pieces being attached by their ends, by means of

screws, to the transversal pieces that connect them. This solution provides the saddle with a certain amount of flexibility, but it does make it very voluminous.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The object of this invention is to provide a flexible saddle tree for horse riding saddles that provides longitudinal and transversal flexibility when the saddle is completely assembled. This object is achieved by the features of claim 1.

[0011] More specifically, the flexible saddle tree for horse riding saddles consists of two rigid pieces making up the front and rear zones thereof, adopting the pieces the arched configuration, with an arched vertical ledge and incorporating two sinusoidally shaped leather bands in the internal zones of each of the pieces, which located on the right and left side unite both parts having a metal flange inside the leather parts, which stiffening of the joining provides the riding saddle with longitudinal and transversal flexibility once it has been assembled using this saddle tree.

[0012] The pieces arranged in the front and rear zones are provided with the pertinent grooves for the incorporation of two leather or skin bands into their sides which by covering the flanges in their upper and lower faces with other such metal bands and positioned along the right left sides make up the saddle tree which will be later provided with the pertinent padding, leather and other elements needed for the construction of a saddle.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] To complete the description being given here and with the object of providing a better understanding of the features of the invention, this specification is accompanied as an integral part thereof by a set of drawings in which for illustrative purposes and no limiting the following has been represented:

Figure 1. - Shows a perspective view of the rear zone object of the invention corresponding to a flexible saddle tree for horse riding saddles.

Figure 2. - Again shows a perspective view of the object shown in figure 1, seen from the opposition side.

Figures 3. - Corresponds to a plan view of the object shown in figures 1 and 2.

Figure 4. - Shows a new plan view of the object shown in Figure 3 seen from the opposite or downward side.

Figure 5. - Finally shows an A-B view of the object shown in figure 3.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0014] In the light of these drawings it can be seen how the flexible saddle tree for horse riding saddles consists

of a main body (1) formed by a front piece (2) and a rear piece (4), the front piece having an arched zone (3) for its adaptation to the horse's body and the piece (4) having a rear ledge (5) also to allow its adaptation to the surface of the horse's body when the tree is covered with the pertinent padding elements and external zone.

[0015] The pieces (2) and (4) are joined to each other by means of two metal flanges covered by leather pieces (6) which cover their upper as well as their lower faces introducing the ends both of the covering pieces (6) and the metal flanges, incorporated therein, in grooves found in the pieces (2) and (4) in which they are stiffened with the pertinent fastening elements.

[0016] Because of the incorporation of the two metal flanges which unite the pieces (2) and (4) duly covered by the leather pieces (6) on the upper and bottom zones, when the riding saddle is finished this will have a longitudinal and transversal flexibility which will provide the rider with improved comfort while at the same time will lead to a better conjunction between the rider and the horse.

[0017] The invention may be adapted to any kind of saddle due to the fact that only and exclusively the structure or saddle tree is configured.

Claims

1. Flexible saddle tree for horse riding saddles, capable of being provided with a bather outer covering and batting which is comprised of padding that covers said saddle tree, and further capable of incorporating girths and counter-girths, said saddle tree comprising one front piece (2) and one rear piece (4), both pieces (2,4) being made of a rigid material and connected to one another by means of two lateral pieces (6), **characterised in that** said front (2) and rear (4) pieces each have curved ledges (3, 5), and grooves, the grooves in one piece (2) being positioned opposite those of the other piece (4), said grooves receiving said two lateral pieces (6), each of which consists of a flexible metal flange covered on its upper and lower faces by a leather covering.

Patentansprüche

1. Flexibles Gestell für Sättel, die mit einer äusseren Lederbeschichtung versehen werden können und mit einer Polsterung, die aus einer Füllung besteht, die das besagte Gestell bedeckt und ausserdem über Sattelgurte und Gegengurte verfügen kann, wobei besagtes Gestell ein vorderes Teil (2) und ein hinteres Teil (4) umfasst, die beide (2, 4) aus einem steifen Material bestehen und miteinander durch zwei seitliche Teile (6) verbunden sind, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das besagte vordere (2) und hintere (4) Teil jeweils über gebogene Hervorhebun-

gen (3,5) verfügen und Rillen der zwei seitlichen Teile (6), wobei die Rillen in einem Teil (2) sich dem anderen Teil (4) gegenüber befinden und die besagten Rillen die besagten zwei seitlichen Teile (6) aufnehmen, von denen jedes aus einer flexiblen Wulst besteht, dessen äussere und untere Seite mit der Lederbeschichtung beschichtet sind.

Revendications

1. Armature souple pour selles de cheval, capable d'être pourvue d'un habillage extérieur en cuir et d'un rembourrage comprenant une garniture qui couvre cette armature et étant également capable de comprendre des sangles et des contre-sangles, cette armature comprenant une pièce avant (2) et une pièce arrière (4), ces deux pièces (2,4) étant réalisées en un matériau rigide et étant raccordées l'une à l'autre par deux pièces latérales (6), **caractérisée en ce que** ces pièces avant (2) et arrière (4) ont chacune des épaulements courbés (3,5), et des rainures des deux pièces latérales (6), les rainures d'une pièce (2) étant positionnées en face de l'autre pièce (4), lesdites deux rainures recevant lesdites deux pièces latérales (6), dont chacune consiste en un rebord souple couvert sur les faces supérieure et inférieure par l'habillage en cuir.





