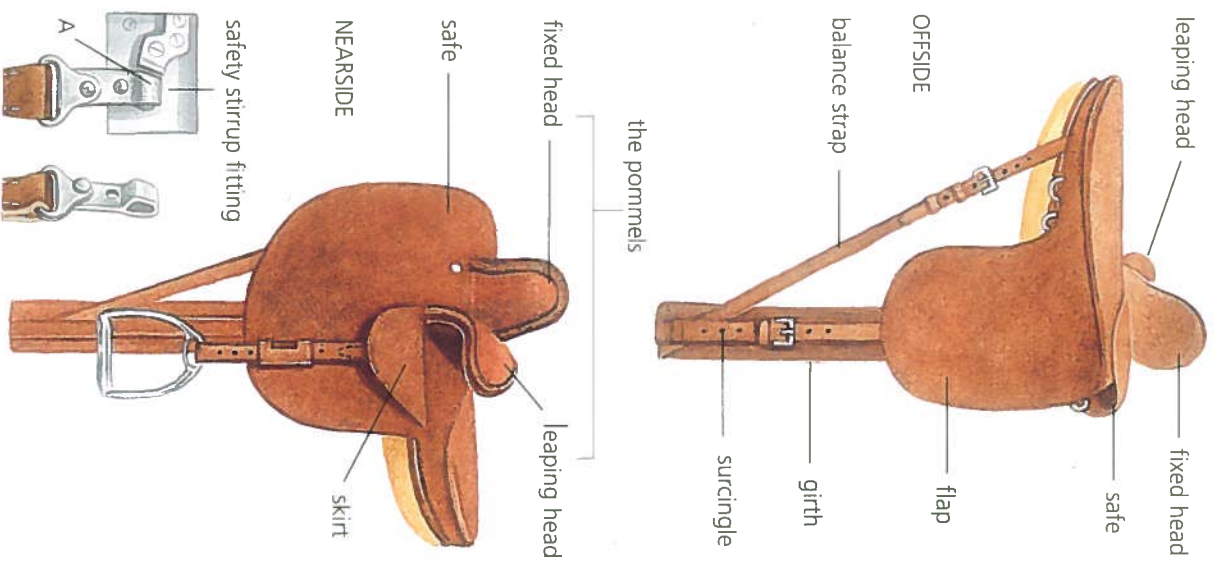
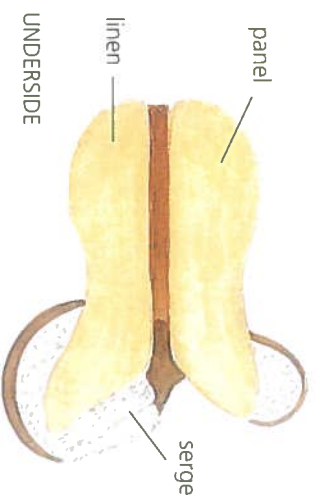


TYPES OF SADDLE

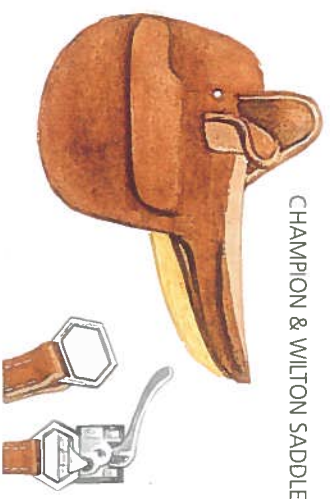
PARTS OF THE SADDLE – SHOWN ON AN OWEN SADDLE



OWEN saddles are made with a rounded skirt and the stirrup fittings are slightly complex. If the latter do not fit each other perfectly, minor adjustments can be made by careful filing of the inside of the metal loop where it meets the hook at A.

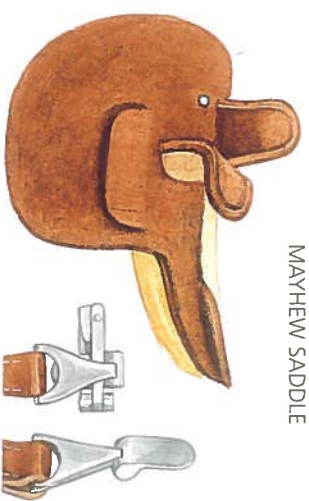


UNDERSIDE



CHAMPION & WILTON SADDLE

CHAMPION & WILTON saddles have a wider skirt on the left side covering the stirrup fitting which ensures that the stirrup leather cannot come off if the rider's right leg is in the correct position.



MAYHEW SADDLE

MAYHEW saddles have an oblong-shaped skirt and their stirrup fitting is probably the simplest of the three.

Other well-known makes include Whippy (similar to Mayhew), Robson of York and, in America, Martin & Martin.

Although side-saddles were made by a variety of saddlers there are three makers whose saddles are recognised and favoured worldwide – Owen, Champion & Wilton, and Mayhew. All have distinctive features (the stirrup fitting in particular) and riders often find one maker's saddles suit their needs better than another. Some saddles have doeskin (suede) seats and pommels whilst others are leather seated. Different pommel shapes can be found on all makes, as well as straighter or slightly dipped seats.

The pommels were made to fit the lady for whom the saddle was intended, and can be narrow or wider and flared. The essential factor with the pommels is that the fixed head should be able to accommodate the rider's right thigh; if it is too far to the left the rider will find it hard not to slip to the left and have difficulty sitting square to the front. The former can be remedied with the aid of padding attached to the fixed head. If the pommel is too far to the right, the saddle will be unsuitable as the rider will not be able to position herself correctly.

Most saddles have a partial linen lining which is stitched over the serge on the underside of the panel. The linen 'bearers' as they are called, can be unpicked and rolled back to allow stuffing to be adjusted to ensure the saddle is a good fit.

Panels can be leather lined but these are difficult to adjust without separating the panel from the main part of the saddle.

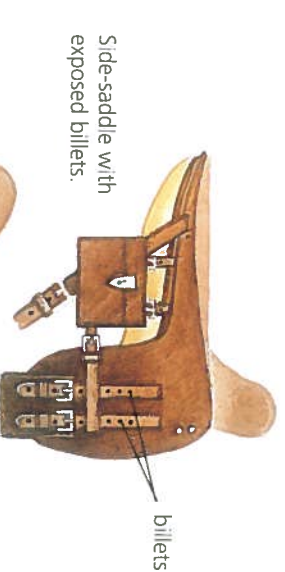
A Wykeham pad is a panel made of felt. It is an alternative to the usual wool-stuffed panels seen on most saddles. It fits onto a saddle with pockets for the tree points and buckles which match up to straps on the

saddle itself. Wykeham pads are an excellent choice for wider horses such as cobs.

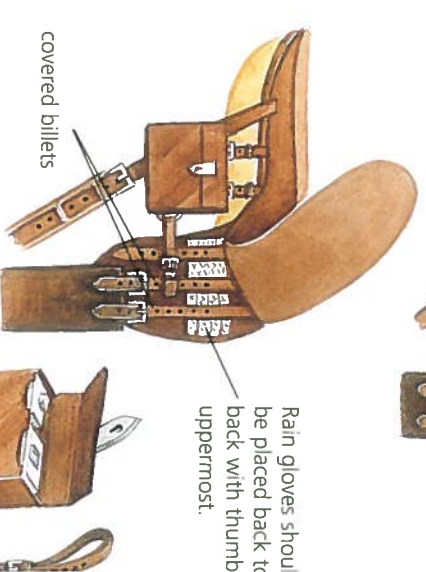
Wykeham pads can also have a linen lining and a small amount of stuffing to allow fine adjustment to the fitting of individual horses.

As with all saddlery, side-saddles should be cleaned and soaped regularly. Care should be taken not to get soap on any areas of doeskin, which should be kept clean with careful use of a brush. The linen can be wiped with a damp, coarse cloth but care should be taken not to over-wet it.

AMERICAN CLASSES Extra appointments used in American Ladies' Hunter Classes



Side-saddle with exposed billets.



Rain gloves should be placed back to back with thumb uppermost.

covered billets

Side-saddle with billets that will be covered by the offside flap.

A ladies' sandwich case