

Hi everyone! This is the AskAnnie Podcast horse girl reviews on products you use! Thanks to Benefab, for providing us with these two products to test this week!

First off, thank you to Charles Owen and Airowear for providing us with the products for this week's episode.

Charles Owen has always been a recognizable brand in my equine circle, but it was only recently that I learned about the immense safety and usability standard that this company holds its products to.

I was lucky enough to be able to try the 4-star cross country skull and the AirMesh body protector, I tacked Maddie up, and headed out to my barn's mini cross country field to test these products.

I've been eventing for about 10 years now, and have slowed it down a little bit in the past few years, due to moving barns and Maddie getting older, but there is still something about zipping yourself in a body protector that gets your adrenaline pumping and reminds you why you ride in the first place. The AirMesh body protector by Airowear is a robust piece of equipment and, when worn, should feel snug and secure. In order to achieve this affect, the zipper must be zipped firmly. A trick I learned when putting this vest on, does require two people, but for the rider to put their thumbs in the arm holes of the vest and pull the vest down. This eases the strain on the zipper, but also results in a secure and proper fit across the abdomen. Don't worry though, I was able to put this vest on without assistance as well. This vest also has Velcro adjustment straps along the side of the ribcage and on the shoulder straps, to produce an even more customized fit. These should also be pulled snugly in order to achieve the best protection. It is also important to choose the size that is appropriate for you and, if possible, be measured by an Airowear expert. I was surprised to find that the vest that fit me best was a teen size, I'm 5'4", but do have a long torso. Once on, this vest went to about my belly button in the front and about 2 inches lower than that on my back.

I was pleasantly surprised that this vest was a breeze to ride in. It was breathable, and I felt like I had an ample amount of room to move and ride affectively. I popped over a few logs and the vest flowed and allowed me freedom in my position. The arm holes were large enough for me to follow Maddie's motion and didn't rub at all.

Another enhanced feature of this vest is its ability to connect to another Airowear product, the AirShell, which is an inflatable additional piece of protection. The AirMesh has an additional set of zippers to easily attach this enhancement.

The 4-star cross country skull by Charles Owen was a perfect partner for this protective vest, and features the same standard of thoughtful safety technology. You can tell that helmet was built with the top athlete in mind, and has innovative aspects in comfort and protection. My head is more oval shaped than round, and Charles Owen has adapted their technology to provide both head shapes optimum fit. The helmet was close-fitting universally, and allowed for additional snugness by tightening the lacing at the back of the head. The buckle of this helmet is also very innovative and features a magnetic clasp. When I put it on, I almost didn't thing that it was latched, because I'm so used the loud "click" of a standard helmet buckle. I took it off and examined the clasp and sure enough it was latching!

This helmet was extremely comfortable to ride in and I was able to experience the breathability function that Charles Owen has implemented into this helmet. According to the Charles Owen website, there are 10 ventilation slots in this helmet, as well as a "Free Fit" ventilation system that increases cooling and

evaporation of sweat across the forehead. When I was hacking Maddie out, I could feel this airflow inside the helmet and it was really refreshing.

Overall, I was really pleased with both of these products and appreciated the safety aspects that are built into a modern and useful design, to allow us to feel confident and safe doing the sport we love.

For more information on both of these products please visit [charlesowen.com](http://charlesowen.com) and [airowear.co.uk](http://airowear.co.uk).

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