

Hi everyone! This is the AskAnnie podcast, horse girl reviews on products you use. I have heard so much about the CSI saddle pads and couldn't wait to get my hands on one. I borrowed my friend's reining bred paint mare to help me explore this product, in order to do the pad justice. When you first hold the pad you know you're holding a quality product. We were lucky enough to be able to try two types of pads; the merino wool backing and the platinum fleece combo backing. The merino wool is soft and fluffy, and it is the thinnest liner that CSI offers, making it best for mutton withered horses. The platinum fleece combo is a heavy 1/2 inch, with 1/2 an inch of wool, backed with fleece and is helpful to alleviate rubbing. CSI also offers a wool option in 1/2 an inch and 3/4 inch thickness. This option is reversible and is made specially for higher withered horses.

One thing that is very practical about the CSI saddle pad is that the top felt layer and the bottom pad layers have the ability to be separated and each have a strip of Velcro down the spine of the pad. This allows for easier cleaning, you can replace one component of the pad at a time, and you can switch out backing types, depending on your needs. It was also helpful for me to separate the pads to better see how each layer helped the horse. These pads are also fully customizable. You can choose the length, pad color, wear leather color and wear leather cut. The felt pad is made of marine grade automotive carpeting and feels very sturdy. You can also choose premium inlay options and leather engravings. The engravings can be laser crafted or tooled by hand. You can also choose between the leather to be rough-out or smooth-out.

Another noticeable quality of the CSI Saddle pad is the CSI Flex-Plate, which you can see when looking at the pad and who's footprint resembles that of a saddle tree. According to the CSI Saddle Pad website, this support is contoured to protect the horse's back and distribute the rider's weight evenly. It is made of polycarbonate bullet proof glass and is hard, but flexible.

Looking at it on Angel's back, I could see that there was an ample amount of padding under where the tree of the saddle would sit. There was also an ample amount of wither room. I know a lot of us worry about pinching the withers with our pads, but this one sat naturally up off the withers. Overall, this pad gets high remarks for its innovative and thoughtful design, focused around the horse's comfort but also keeping in mind the everyday rider.

For more information on CSI saddle pads visit: csisaddlepads.com

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