

Hi Everyone! This is the AskAnnie Podcast, horse girl reviews on products you use.

This episode is brought to you Collegiate Saddlery North America.

Riding is all about connection and the connection between horse and rider can be a truly unforgettable bond. Collegiate understands this connection better than anyone. Designed in 2018, the best-selling Collegiate ComFiTec Bridleware range has been designed with the horse's comfort in mind. Made from high quality European leather, each bridle features an anatomically shaped headpiece which evenly distributes pressure across the poll for optimum comfort. The double padding over the poll area minimizes pressure, whilst the shaped padding around the horse's ears allows for maximum freedom. Additionally, the ergonomically designed noseband is shaped to alleviate pressure of the upper jaw and molar teeth, whilst the padded cheek ring alleviates pressure of facial nerves for comfort. Perfect for both competing and training, this collection of bridles will leave your next ride calm, collected and relaxed.

To be honest, I've been eyeing the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE for a while now, and was elated when I heard I was getting the chance to review it! The design of the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE immediately caught my eye, as it varies slightly from the classic bridle design, specifically in the head stall and noseband. In this review, I'll go into the thoughtful design, exceptional composition, and practical use of the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE.

Upon receiving the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE, I was instantly aware at the suppleness of the leather straight out of the box. According to the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE's website this is due to the piece of tack being crafted from European leather. While the leather of the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE did feel noticeably soft straight off the rack, the materials accompanying the bridle recommended applying 2-3 light coats of oil prior to use. I really appreciate that COLLEGIATE included this bit of advice, as I always like to oil my tack prior to use so it feels broken in before you even use it! I also love that COLLEGIATE recommended this because it allowed me to really get into the composition of the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE. While the leather of this bridle is stunning, the padding within the bridle is truly remarkable. The headstall, cheek pieces, and noseband all sported a significant amount of plush padding. I could easily pinch the padding and leather between my fingers to see how the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE would adjust comfortably to the shape of each horse's unique head. After a few rounds of conditioning, I was ready to try the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE on Maddie.

The COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE comes in three sizes: cob, full, and warmblood. Maddie is a PercheronxTB, think big everywhere, so I decided to go with the Warmblood size, and I'm glad I did. I was able to adjust the cheek pieces, bit, noseband, and throatlatch comfortably for her at this size.

There are three extremely unique features that stood out to me as soon as I put the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE on Maddie. The first was the noseband. From the

front, this noseband looks fairly normal, but by looking at Maddie's profile I was able to see the unique shape. Instead of going straight down around the nose, the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE's noseband splits about halfway down the side of the nose, with one side going up to the cheek piece, and the other going down to just behind the chin, just in front of the bit. According to the Collegiate website, this shape was designed to reduce pressure on the upper jaw and molar teeth. Looking at the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE on Maddie's head, I can see how this point of possible irritation is completely removed from the bridle's composition. I have a throwback story to add here, when I was little and learning in 4H I attended one of our summer schooling clinics. The clinic was a blast and I remember having a lot of fun, but about halfway through the day, the clinician came up to each of us and inspected our tack. I was very proud of my 4H pony and proudly showed him off, eager to hear the clinician's praise. After a thorough tack inspection, the clinician stood back, and said "your noseband is way too tight". My 10 year-old pride was shattered, but they went on to explain that a too-tight noseband can cause extreme discomfort and is a common mistake in riders of all ages. That piece of knowledge stuck with me over the years, and I am always very aware of it when I put on bridles. I really appreciate that the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE completely takes this worry out of the picture.

The second aspect I noticed on the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE was the shape of the headpiece across Maddie's poll. The headpiece came up fairly usually behind the ears, but then gradually became wider, with the widest point being centered between Maddie's ears. According to the Collegiate website, this shape was designed to distribute pressure more evenly across the horse's poll. This shape, with the exceptional padding I noted earlier, created a plush and natural fit for the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE on Maddie's head.

The third component that I found unique about the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE was the double buckles on the throat latch. There were buckles on the left and right side of Maddie's throat which allowed for a truly custom fit. I thought this was a really innovative addition to an already thoughtful design and just added to the comfort and customization level for the horse.

Overall, there were many aspects of the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE that I found intriguing and useful. From the anatomical design of the headpiece and noseband, to the comfort-focused padding, to the high quality of the leather used to craft the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE it really stood out from the crowd. For more information the COLLEGIATE COMFITEC FANCY STITCH BRIDLE please visit collegiatesaddlery.com, that's -> spell collegiatesaddlery.com <- for more information.

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