

TRAIL GEAR

Old West Saddle Pad

Inspired by the saddle pads used by Western cowboy heroes of yesteryear, the White Eagle Saddle Pad Company has introduced its Western Legend

Series saddle pads. Made by riders for riders, the pads come in an assortment of desert hues and jewel tones, in both round and square designs. Their retro look belies the modern technology behind them. According to the maker, the pads are engineered to fit all Western saddles. Hand-crafted piping helps prevent under-saddle shifting. Embossed, top-quality wear leathers finish the look.

Cost: See your local dealer.

Contact: White Eagle Saddle Pad Company, (914) 962-2556; www.w eaglepads.com.



Cushy Trail Saddle

This summer, ride for miles in comfort with Tucker Saddle's new Cimarron Trail saddle, which combines a wade fork tree design with the company's patented Gel-Cush Shock Absorbing Seat. The 32-pound saddle sports Tucker's new close-contact, three-way rigging and brass-slotted cinchos. Choose brown or light-oil color. Matching tack available. Free catalog.

Cost: \$1,465.

Contact: Tucker Saddlery, (800) 882-5375; www.tuckersaddles.com.



TRAIL TEST

Citronella Bug Bombers, by Epona Ltd.

Description: Citronella Bug Bombers are lemon-scented drops designed to repel pests as you ride.

The test: *The Trail Rider* Consulting Editor Bonnie Davis effectively uses Citronella Bug Bombers to ward off flying insects on the trail. "To use, I place one 'bomb' in a sealable plastic bag with a washcloth and two vinyl disposable gloves," she says. "On the trail, when flying insects hit, I mix the product with 1 to 1½ cups water inside the bag. (You can use any water source.) After the product stops fizzing, I put on a glove, soak up the mixture with the washcloth, and squeeze out the excess. Then I wipe my horse's eyes, nose, face, neck — but there's enough to do your whole horse. Finally, I reseal the washcloth and gloves back in the bag. There's usually some mixture left for a second wipe-down, if necessary — hence the second glove."

Comments: "Citronella Bug Bombers are well-suited for the trail," says Davis. "You can take your pest repellent anywhere without spillage, and the product takes up almost no room in the saddlebag."

Cost: \$7.95 per 12 drops.

Contact: Epona Ltd., (800) 863-7662; www.eponaproducts.com.

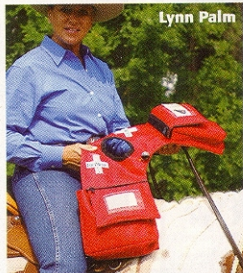


Horn-Bag First-Aid Kit

Don't hit the trail this season without EquiMedic USA's small Horn Bag Trail Riding Kit. Designed for the day trail rider in small groups, this kit comes with everything horse and rider might need on the trail, including 35 different products and 130 items. (See the company's website for a complete rundown of kit contents.) Made from durable polyester fabric with a water-resistant self-liner, each kit side measures 9-by-8-by-3½ inches.

Cost: \$95.

Contact: EquiMedic USA, 866 211-1269; www.equimed.com.



Lynn Palm

