

Riding is an art **Saddlery is our art**

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Ástund has been making saddles for more than two decades. Many of the leading horse trainers use Ástund saddles in their profession and have done so for many years. Ástund works in close cooperation with professional trainers and riding instructors, who have therefore influenced the development of the saddles. Ástund is currently making a total of 11 different saddle models.

From the beginning Ástund's main emphasis and utmost ambition has always been to make horse friendly saddles, which are suitable for all aspects of horse riding.

The Ástund saddles are all made on a flexible spring tree, which supplies normal suspense and pliability, distributing the rider's weight evenly on the horse's back.

The leather is strong and the entire material used in the saddles is of highest quality.

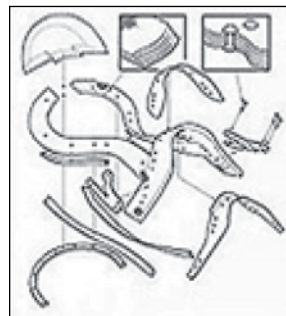
The panels are flocked with pure wool, which further increases the distribution of weight upon the horse's back. Remember that the saddle itself functions as a shock absorber between man and horse.

The Ástund saddles are made in different widths, according to the wishes and needs of each individual. The saddles are made with long and short girth straps, and with or without fans. Some of the models are equipped with a gearbox to adjust the position of the stirrup leathers, all dependent on the rider's needs.

The Ástund workshop offers full services for saddles and tack. Within Ástund, there are professionals who have studied "saddle fitting" in England. ●



The spring tree
The spring tree is made from natural material which consists of 4-5 laminated birch wood layers, and reinforced with laser steel springs, in order to preserve the shape of the saddle.





Anton Páll Níelsson

"The object of this saddle is to help the rider with equilibrium, and therefore it is better because it supports the rider and helps him acquire an independent seat. I have used Ástund saddles since about 1992. At first I chose the Ástund saddle because it resembled the Svardælingur saddle, which I previously owned and used.

Now, I use Xenophon and Winner saddles, but I also have one air saddle that is always close by. At Fet, we almost exclusively use saddles from Ástund. The Xenophon saddle fulfills all my requirements for a good saddle. This saddle gives a good, safe seat and rides very well on the horse. It is good for the horse and good for the rider. The depth of the seat helps the rider to relax better, therefore becoming a better passenger and instructor for the horse. The rider sits more upright on the horse and the kneepads are actually unnecessary, but still prevent the rider from lifting up in the saddle. Xenophon is a suitable saddle for everyone, I use it for everything; primary training, training for competitions, round up, and traveling. If the horse has a back which leans forward and his hind is high, the Winner is more suitable. This is a quality product which I can, without hesitation, recommend."

About the Ástund Xenophon

The "Ástund Xenophon" is the latest model from Ástund. It is considered the pride of the fleet, so to speak. It is especially horse friendly and designed for the best possible seat. Saddle seat is among the fundamentals of horse riding. Every effort has been made to design and make this saddle the most efficient for both the rider and horse. Developing the "Ástund Xenophon" took more than a year before it was introduced to the market.

Riding is art:
"Ástund Xenophon" is the saddle,
which enables you to sit correctly,
and well balanced, without effort.



Linda Rún Pétursdóttir

"What I noticed instantly after trying out the Xenophon saddle was that it gave me a much better seat than other saddles. Arriving at class, my instructor immediately saw the difference and told me that I seemed more relaxed in my saddle. This is exactly what I felt when I dismounted the horse, my body felt much better because the saddle totally took care of adjusting me into the correct seat. The saddles give good knee support, which suits me well, because I tend to stretch my legs a little forward. I chose the smaller type saddle, because it suits my physique better, and I also think that it looks better on the horse. This saddle is also a testimony of its exclusive workmanship, and after a lot of usage it still looks almost like new. I would say that the Ástund Xenophon is suitable for most people, especially those who are active horse riders and want to use a good and comfortable seat."



Sigurður Vignir Matthíasson

"I suppose I was about 15 years old when I tried an Ástund saddle for the first time, so I was young when I received this experience. Since then, these saddles have been standard tack equipment in my stable and have followed me throughout my entire competition career. They are very useful in my work. These are fantastic five gaited training- and competition saddles. I like the pads on the Ástund Royal, they suit me very well, they are S-shaped and positioned on the flap. Ástund Super is a saddle I also use very much. It has a flatter and roomier seat, and therefore giving the rider good space to change his position. These saddles are very suitable for the Icelandic horse and they are horse-friendly."



Ísólfur Lindal Þórisson

"Ástund offers horse people a diverse selection of saddles and therefore everyone should be able to find a suitable Ástund saddle. My saddle is the Ástund Winner Plus, which is a fantastic versatile saddle, which I use whether I am in a round up, riding, training, or competing in the finals at Íslandsmót. Also, I have used the Xenophon a lot and this is a saddle which helps the rider a lot in acquiring good equilibrium and correct seating."



Þórarinn Eymundsson

"One can trust the quality of Ástund saddles. The infrastructure is strong, the leather is first class, and the finish is of excellent quality. The service at Ástund is also very good, should one need to have the airbags filled or anything of that sort. My own experience is that the saddles are tested for a long time before they are presented to the general market; therefore they are very horse-friendly.

I use both the Ástund Xenophon saddle and the Ástund Winner, with airbags. The Xenophon saddle helps the rider a lot with seat correction, and therefore riding also. The kneepads suit me well, because personally I like my knee and my lower leg to be free. Xenophon makes it easy for the rider to sit in a vertical position, like he is standing on the ground with his knees bent.

Many horses relax their backs better when they are ridden with the Ástund Winner with airbags, and their movements become softer. The seat on that saddle is longer which is very useful when I am training five gaited horses, for example, in pace. Then it can be necessary to have more space in the saddle."