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New Saddle Nightmare!

NEBowHunter · Oct 8, 2019

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Red Beard

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Mar 3, 2019

Messages: 6,041

Location: in my skin

Oct 10, 2019

#61

DaveT1963 said:

"cup your butt"

Hehee... I love that you tell it like it is Dave 😊 I'm a Buttercup.

Ontariofarmer, sconnieman, CarolinaDog and 1 other person



Murph4028

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Jan 2, 2019

Messages: 1,489

Location: North Carolina

Oct 10, 2019

#62

I didn't like the mantis either. In my opinion not all saddles are made the same or created equally. 1 inch more or less of webbing/fabric, types of fabric used, and attachment points all make a massive difference for most people in the way they feel. I can sit in my flex,yarak, or kite all day long. I usually do every week. But I can't stand to sit in a mantis for more than two hours before I'd rather cut my own tether than sit there for another 5 minutes. Comfort is important. Discomfort leads to more movement which equals less deer. Saddle fit is very individual. Anyone who generalizes and says one thing will work for everyone is ignorant on the subject. Like someone said before you would have no issue selling that mantis on here and trying something else.

Ex. 1094
Crüzr v. Tethrd

 Rico, alwayshuntin, G4PSU and 4 others



Aeds151

Well-Known Member

Joined: Aug 16, 2018

Messages: 2,448

Oct 11, 2019

 #63

Had my first real sit in my Flex tonight. The extra 3.5" of material is awesome. It felt like my custom fleece saddle. I would rather use 4lb fly fishing tippet as a bridge than have to go back to my old Mantis XL.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

 rambotogo



Murph4028

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Jan 2, 2019

Messages: 1,489

Location:
North Carolina

Oct 11, 2019

 #64

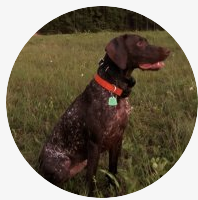
Aeds151 said: 

Had my first real sit in my Flex tonight. The extra 3.5" of material is awesome. It felt like my custom fleece saddle. I would rather use 4lb fly fishing tippet as a bridge than have to go back to my old Mantis XL.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Yeah the flex is the Cadillac of saddles. Feels like your hunting from a hammock

 Mag1, rambotogo and MaxJac



MaxJac

Well-Known Member

Joined: Mar 13, 2019

Messages: 471

Location:
Sandhills, NC

Oct 11, 2019

 #65

NEBowHunter said: 

Hey Everyone,

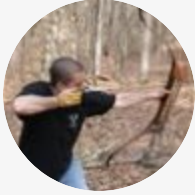
Let me start by saying I am a veteran bow hunter and a newbie to saddle hunting. I have the Tethrd Mantis and have been using it for about a month. I have to say I absolutely HATE IT! I cannot get comfortable in it. I find myself sliding out of the saddle near the end of my sits. It squeezes me to the point of bruising. I know there is a learning curve with any new products but, man I am not digging saddle hunting at all! I am using the ratchet strap ring step set up btw and will be looking into a platform if I decide to keep this torture device for hunting! Any

THis could be my story with a Mantis.... I could not get comfortable in it at all, hip pinch was cruel. As I liked the saddle hunting idea, I was not ready to give up. So I got a RCH and a commercial swing set seat. Yes, bulky, but so comfy with a back band. It made me realize where I want to have my saddle while I'm mostly sitting. below my butt... then I got a kestrel flex, wear it low and guess what... happy happy! I think bridge length is a much bigger factor than one might think in the beginning. Good luck, I hope you can find a good solution.

Ex. 1094

Last edited by Grüz v. Tethrd

 coolhand78, Murph4028 and Mag1



swampsnyper

Well-Known Member

Joined: Mar 10, 2015

Messages: 4,463

Location: Warrior, AL

Oct 11, 2019

 #66

I had to change my mantis bridge out to a longer one about 36in. It helped temporarily but after 30min or so I'd get uncomfortable again. Went back to my Kestrel. The mantis just wasn't for me.

 Mag1 and rambotogo



Ontariofarmer

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Dec 25, 2015

Messages: 5,261

Oct 11, 2019

 #67

Red Beard said: 

Hehee... I love that you tell it like it is Dave  I'm a Buttercup.

2x. Flex and a hybrid or a kestrel keep me still and comfortable. The mantis is great for some people but not me

Sent from my iPad using Tapatalk Pro

 rambotogo, Red Beard and Aeds151



Apex7

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jan 6, 2017

Messages: 3,760

Location: Pittsburgh Pa

Oct 11, 2019

 #68

NEBowHunter said: 

My sits range from 3 to 5 hours usually. I have been trying different tether heights and belt positions. Last sit was slightly better but by the end I was in so much pain I would not have been able to make a shot if a deer had presented itself lol. It seems to me like the fixed bridge length is an issue. My hunting buddy has a Kestrel and his bridge is adjustable. Not sure what to do...

Put the buckle below your bellybutton and try that for awhile. The Mantis is a nice saddle .If that doesn't work you could sell it and try a different saddle like a Areohunter Kestrel , Flex or Kite.



rutjr

Oct 11, 2019

 #69

I don't know if this will help you but I girth hitch my bridge. This way you can move the bridge in different areas of your bridge loops. A little adjustment goes a long ways.

Ex. 1094
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Oct 6, 2018

Messages: 2,111

Location:

Cumberland, RI



Shot from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Christavoca



sconnieman

Oct 11, 2019

🔗 #70

rutjr said: 🗨️

I don't know if this will help you but I girth hitch my bridge. This way you can move the bridge in different areas of your bridge loops. A little adjustment goes a long ways.

Ex. 1094
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Active Member

Joined: Oct 9, 2019

Messages: 157



Click to expand...

I've actually been looking at ways to do this. If I move the bridge to the bottom of my bridge loops, my mantis feels a lot better.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Chistavocat and rutjr

**Murph4028**

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Jan 2, 2019

Messages: 1,489

Location:
North Carolina

Oct 11, 2019

#71

rutjr said:

I don't know if this will help you but I girth hitch my bridge. This way you can move the bridge in different areas of your bridge loops. A little adjustment goes a long ways.



Click to expand...

Yes. This absolutely makes a big difference. The Yarak has mesh on top of the bridge loops and does a decent job of holding the bridge in place where you put it. Ever since I noticed it, I always make an adjustment at that point as well

**joel0711**

Well-Known Member

Joined: Sep 9, 2017

Messages: 315

Location:
east tennessee

Oct 12, 2019

#72

EricS----- not screwed up just different---I eat and use tools left handed and write right handed(if you wanna call what I scribble writing)

rutjr

**rutjr**

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Oct 6, 2018

Messages: 2,111

Location:
Cumberland, RI

Oct 12, 2019

#73

joel0711 said: ↑

EricS----- not screwed up just different---I eat and use tools left handed and write right handed(if you wanna call what I scribble writing)

I thought I was screwed up just because I'm totally lefty.....
Lol

Sent from my iPad using Tapatalk

**Cbinderjr**

Well-Known Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2018

Messages: 342

Location:
Harford county MD

Oct 12, 2019

#74

DaveT1963 said: ↑

The following is ONLY my opinion based off a few decades of saddle hunting

Saddles were not designed to replace a climber for comfort reasons. This is one of the reasons I get so perturbed by newbees (folks with less than 5 years experience) making so many claims about comfort being so important. No way a saddle will compete with a good climber or even some newer stands as far as comfort. It is not, or IMO should not be the reason you go to a saddle. Note: it did correct my back problems with older lock-ons.

[Click to expand...](#)

Imma disagree with ya, my saddle replaced my climber for comfort, carrying in a 18lb climber with other gear 2 miles on public land was not only uncomfortable but exhausting.. I am a smaller guy (5'7" 160lbs) and am using a size 2 kite, I don't have to pull it down and sit on a strap that just sounds ridiculous. The mesh is where my rump sits, also I don't like knees together prefer having a leg on each side of the tree so a ring of steps is where it's at for me.

One positive I have to give for a platform is I can easily stand and do a weak side shot where on a ros its requires a bit more movement.

I would never call a ring of steps crap and I would never recommend someone to sit on the strap, the saddle has to fit you, adjust your bridge length and tether height if you cant get comfortable try another saddle they are a little different and are gonna fit everyone a little differently.

I can say from experience from using alot of different climbers and lock ons over the past 15 years or so and switching to a saddle last year comfort can be achieved with some tinkering and after you find that sweet spot you can get really really comfortable.

If you can find some other saddle hunters in your area they can be an amazing asset for you I was lucky enough to meet up with a great group of guys and was able to try a few saddles before I purchased 1.

Ex. 1094
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

 dalton916, G4PSU and Ontariofarmer**Heydeerman**

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Dec 20, 2015

Messages: 891

Location:

Muskingum County,
Ohio

Oct 12, 2019

 #75

Every time I see an Evolution saddle, the one that the Kestrel replaced....that thing looks like it would be very comfortable. It looks more like an Arborist saddle. I really am happy with my Kestrel but would like to give an Evolution a try.

**DaveT1963**

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Dec 2, 2014

Messages: 3,511

Oct 12, 2019

 #76Cbinderjr said: 

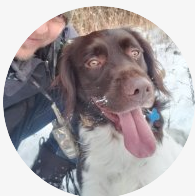
Imma disagree with ya, my saddle replaced my climber for comfort, carrying in a 18lb climber with other gear 2 miles on public land was not only uncomfortable but exhausting.. I am a smaller guy (5'7" 160lbs) and am using a size 2 kite, I don't have to pull it down and sit on a strap that just sounds ridiculous. The mesh is where my rump sits, also I don't like knees together prefer having a leg on each side of the tree so a ring of steps is where it's at for me. One positive I have to give for a platform is I can easily stand and do a weak side shot where on a ros its requires a bit more movement.

I would never call a ring of steps crap and I would never recommend someone to sit on the

[Click to expand...](#)

thanks for the tip I'll see if I can find some local with some experience

Last edited: Oct 12, 2019

   boyne bowhunter, Longbowwally, fbwguy and 2 others**cb750**

Well-Known Member

Joined: Nov 18, 2017

Messages: 1,040

Location: SWO

Oct 12, 2019

 #77

I run an areohunter evolution. The two biggest things for me were bridge length/tether height and the size of the leg loops. I like the loops looser when sitting in the tree haven't had an issue with them. I also run a low tether so my bridge angle is 'greater'. Made a big difference.

The evolution also helps with sliding the main saddle piece lower on your butt. I find that a big help as well.

Based on all the replies I hope you are able to find a solution that works. Saddles changed my game for the better. I hate that not everyone is getting the same boost.

Ex. 1094
Cruzr V. Tetrd



Vtbow

**Vtbow**

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Mar 21, 2018

Messages: 5,527

Oct 12, 2019

#78

cb750 said: ↑

I run an areohunter evolution. The two biggest things for me were bridge length/tether height and the size of the leg loops. I like the loops looser when sitting in the tree haven't had an issue with them. I also run a low tether so my bridge angle is 'greater'. Made a big difference.

The evolution also helps with sliding the main saddle piece lower on your butt. I find that a big help as well.

The evolution is the tree lounge of the saddle world. Most comfy thing I've ever sat in.



rambotogo

**Longbowwally**

Well-Known Member

Joined: Jun 25, 2018

Messages: 351

Location: Piedmont, NC

Oct 12, 2019

#79

DaveT1963 said: ↑

I have zero problem getting comfortable in any saddle. They are all basically the same thing. It is how you use and position it. You have to find what works for you. What I tell people that ask me about saddle hunting is to write a list of what you want in a saddle. Prioritize it. Then find the one that meets the most requirements for you. A lot of the guys that complain about comfort are ROS users. Coincidence? Perhaps, but those complaints have been going on for decades. The other complain I hear a lot about is riding up your back. If you spread the straps of a saddle to your legs and above your crack, it is naturally going to try to expand as far as the material will allow. That is called gravity. Once you get the strap UNDER your butt

Lots of good info here from Dave as well as others....However, the Flex has the adjustable bridge which I think really helped me 'tune' my saddle to my body shape/size - the Mantis does not....I know you can add an adjustable bridge to the Mantis but most folks just starting out saddle hunting don't want to have to do that or are not comfortable 'tweaking' the saddle that much due to safety concerns or lack of confidence due to lack of experience with the saddle...Hopefully Tethrd will come out with an adjustable bridge option and that may help folks with Mantis issues resolve them....

I agree with Dave's comments on platforms - I would say 'Gxxe Chxxgxr' but I've grown to hate that term as have others and I won't even spell it out but you know what it is ...lol

I think maybe the Mantis needs to ride lower on your butt than the flex - at least that seems like a common theme I have seen in comments...

Ex. 1094
Crüzr v. Tethrd

I used a saddle in 2004(tree suit) and 2010(guidos), when there just wasn't that much good info on using saddles. That caused me to abandon them after one season each - but I still could see the benefits of the saddle but just didn't know how to make them work for me. With all the info here on saddle hunter there's no reason anyone can't make a saddle work and be comfortable enough to hunt successfully....I've been using my flex exclusively this season - I committed to it this season due to flinginairos or someone here on saddle hunter or a podcast I listened to saying stick with it one whole season to figure it out, and with every sit I like it even more and come away from the hunt with new knowledge on making it work better for me...Practice in your back yard is a good start but until you are hunting in it you really haven't experienced all the ins and outs of saddle hunting....I'm sold on it and each time I walk in the woods with a small pack and platform on my back it makes me appreciate the effort I've made to make the saddle work for me....

👍 WHW, DaveT1963, Vtbow and 1 other person



fbwguy

Moderator

Staff member

SH Member

Joined: Mar 19, 2018

Messages: 3,095

Location:

Cato Arkansas

Oct 12, 2019

#80

rutjr said: ↕

I thought I was screwed up just because I'm totally lefty....
Lol

Sent from my iPad using Tapatalk

Lefty in everything I do, except bow! Weird eh?

👍 rutjr

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