

merchandising

Saddlery

shape of the knee block is inside the flap. Flaps are of Sedgwick leather, with panels and a seat of French leather.”

Barnsby showed the Aurora, a jumping saddle also of Sedgwick leather. “We have made it functional, and it has clean lines,” said Barnsby’s Cliff Kirby-Tibbits. We make two a week. It’s almost like the Aston-Martin of saddles.”

Smith-Worthington unveiled a new product line at the show, the S Bar W (6). Aimed toward fitting the Quarter Horse shown in hunter under saddle, the saddle features conchos on the saddle nails and silver tips on the stirrup leather ends: “For the English rider bold enough to display a little flash of silver.”

Courbette’s Optima saddle (7) blends a “multipurpose flap on a close contact tree,” explained representative Rick Thompson. “It was rider demand for a longer

flap, and it flows with their leg.” Also aimed at the hunter under saddle rider, the saddle features a detachable thigh block to “lock” the leg in place.

The French influence pervades styles in jumping saddles. JPC showed the Elysé’e, a new model in the Rivella series, “for the rider looking for a French saddle with high-end styling,” said DePetris. “We have an alternative to the high-priced saddle with the traditional French look.”

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