

SPANISH RIDING COSTUME & TACK

INTRODUCTION

In Spain there are traditional dress and tack codes considered 'correct' for riding and showing in hand. Similarly, other countries adopt and respect their own dress codes for riding, and especially competing. Traditional Spanish tack and costume differs greatly from the modern concept of 'dressage' and 'competition' wear and is mostly based on what was, and still is, used by the vaquero - horse rider working the farms - and is still seen when showing, competing, or when gentlemen and ladies visit the Ferias in Spain.

For more than 16 years Sue and Richard Lust have been involved in the Spanish horse world; running the Purebred Spanish Horse (Andalusian) stud Yeguada Iberica, Viva Iberica riding holidays/riding centre, tack/mail order shop, competing, judging and studying Spanish dress and tack custom. They have noticed wide variations outside Spain in the interpretation of what represents 'correct' traditional Spanish tack and riding wear. Even at national show level odd mixtures of vaquero and classical style are sometimes seen, wrongly leading some to believe 'anything goes' in Spanish style, to the extent some competitors can be seen showing in jeans and tee-shirts, or even frilly blouses and flared trousers!

It is hoped this article gives the rider an insight into what should be worn and what combinations of tack used. Needless to say, there may be slight regional variations and fashions will inevitably change, so the following dress code is meant as a guide. However, tradition has stood the test of time in Spain and either the correct 'Spanish' dress code, or the correct modern 'European' dress code is adopted, not a mixture of the two.

Over the years, information has been gathered from authorities such as Juan Llamas, Rafael Lemos and Joaquin Rodriguez Moreno (senior National Doma Vaquera judge) and more recently from current international Spanish judges of the PRE (Andalusian).

Contents:

| | | |
|---|-------|---------|
| Vaquera or Classica (Clásica) style | Page | 1 |
| Tack - Vaquera | Pages | 2 - 6 |
| Riding clothing - Vaquera style | Pages | 6 - 10 |
| Notes (Vaquera) | Page | 10 |
| Tack - Classica (Clásica) Style | Pages | 11 - 13 |
| Riding Clothing - Classica (Clásica) Style | Pages | 13 - 16 |
| Notes (General) | Page | 16 |
| Other types of saddles - Country/Campera saddles | Page | 17 |
| In Hand Showing | Page | 18 |
| Notes on In Hand Showing - and - More Information | Page | 19 |

VAQUERA OR CLASSICA (CLÁSICA)

Generally in Spain there are two styles of costume and tack used for horse riding and showing in hand; either Vaquera or Classica.

Dress code for riding in the 'Feria', as with walking in the Feria, can be less formal, with ladies sometimes wearing more colourful versions of either Vaquera or Classica clothing.

TACK - 'VAQUERA'

For Country Riding and for Vaquera competition (Doma Vaquera).

This style is also probably the most popular in Spain when riding in the country or the Feria and is derived from the Spanish 'cowboy' (Vaquero) or country rider.

Saddle (Silla)

The traditional Vaquera saddle. This is comfortable, designed for many hours use every day and has a large contact area for the horse's comfort. Used in competition (Doma Vaquera), the saddle is also widely used for general riding in the country, as well as in the 'Feria'.

New models have become available (2006) which are of the traditional style but made from modern materials, flexible trees and lighter in weight. Quality and prices vary greatly. From hand made traditional saddlers, excellent 'latest technology' versions, to low cost Indian made copies. Good ones are individually numbered and are supplied with a manufacturer's guarantee.



Vaquera Saddle 'Lisa' (plain)

For the Feria; the Vaquera saddle may have a 'tooled' leather cantle and pommel (sometimes called 'Campera' style), or include white ornamentation (Repujada style) and can be black, tan or brown.

For competition (Doma Vaquera); the saddle can be plain (lisa) or have the small 'buttons' (moteada) and the saddle must be black. Other colours or Repujada styles are not permitted. It is preferred that the plain (lisa) style is used if the rider is wearing full chaps (zahones). 2005/6 regulations state the saddle must be traditional in form and dimensions.

Note: There are classes for young horses (caballos iniciados) in Doma Vaquera (competition) and only in these competitions can a different saddle be used; the Española (*see Tack - Classica Style*), fitted with a sheepskin cover and with the correct 'Vaquera' stirrup, in black. This is because competitions for young Vaquera horses include work at trot.



Vaquera saddles 'Repujada'



Vaquera side saddle (amazona)

Note: The Vaquera saddle should not really be used for ridden showing classes as it is not designed for use at trot, which is why the Española saddle is used for classes for young horses in Doma Vaquera competition where trot work is included.

Stirrups (Estribos)

With the Vaquera saddle the black 'coal scuttle' style are used. Stainless or chromed versions are not allowed in competition. Good quality stirrups are fitted with soft leather protection covering the top bar, to protect the rider's boot.



Note; lightweight versions are now available (alloy or nylon). The correct colour is black. Shortened, or cut-off versions may be used for training or by inexperienced riders but are not allowed in Doma Vaquera (competition), where the traditional full size (as shown) must be used.

Crupper (Baticola)

The saddle should be fitted with a crupper, colour to match the saddle.

Breastplate (Pechopetral)

A breastplate can be used (colour to match the saddle), but not a martingale. For competition (Doma Vaquera) the breastplate must be of traditional Spanish type, in black and with black buckles, with 3 straps joining to a round ring in the centre and one to the girth, the other 2 to the saddle. No other types/designs are permitted.

Martingale (Gamarra)

These do not constitute traditional Spanish tack and all types (standing, running, etc) are prohibited for use in competition (Doma Vaquera).

Manta Estribera

Worn over the front of the saddle.

Held together and tied to the saddle by thin strips of leather and ideally it should be long enough to touch the stirrups either side. The fabric may be black/white or more usually brown/white striped heavy cotton or wool.



Traditionally these were made of wool and could be worn over the rider's shoulders in cold weather. They would also be used to carry their lunch (often bread with jamon or cheese, maybe some wine), wrapped securely inside the manta. Modern mantas have pockets (see pictures) to accomplish this more easily, but are not technically 'correct' in Spanish dress classes or competition (Doma Vaquera).



Rarely seen now but equally correct, the traditional Vaquera jacket (or Marselles jacket) with a red lining may be turned inside out and used in place of the Manta Estribera.

Vaquera Bridle (Cabezada Vaquera)

In Vaquera style the bridle is used one handed (in competition, with the left hand only), with a single set of reins (*see Vaquera Bit - exceptions for young horses in competition*).

Can be with or without throat lash, although without is traditional. Vaquera bridles either have a leather fly fringe (mosquera) as part of the browband, or the browband is fitted with a leather, horsehair or silk mosquera (*see 'Mosquera'*).



There are plain versions of the Vaquera Bridle (required for competition - Doma Vaquera), or tooled and with white ornamentation (repujada style) - sometimes preferred for the Feria. The buckles should be black iron. Styles are available with or without a throat lash. Sometimes the types without the throat lash and with one buckle on the left side are called 'Jerezana' and with throat lash plus buckles on both sides 'Sevillana'.

Repujada style + horse hair mosquera

Reins (Rienda) - Vaquera

Brown or black, to match the bridle. Must be black for competition (Doma Vaquera). Traditional black Spanish buckles. The reins are stitched together for around 2 ft (60cm) from the end and can be rolled and tied into a 'sausage' shape.



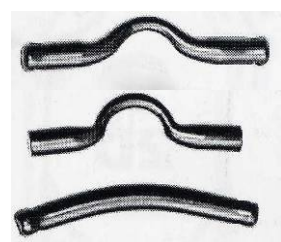
Vaquero Bit (Bocado vaquero)

The bit should be black iron, with matching curb chain. Bits should be 'Vaquero' type with a metal joining piece at the bottom to prevent twisting. This is a single handed bit, i.e. it is incorrect to ride with two hands on the reins when using it. This is the only bit allowed in any Doma Vaquera competition.

Note: In Doma Vaquera (competition) there are classes for young horses (caballos iniciados) where two sets of reins may be used on the Vaquero bit, or, alternatively (young horses/caballos iniciados only) two sets of reins may be used, with one fixed to the curb of the bit and the other to the two rings of a Muserola Vaquera, or Serreta.



The vaquero bit is available with a choice of ports.



Mild Port (Embocadura suave o inglesa)

Medium port

*Bridge mouth
Embocadura de puente hacia arriba*



There is also a choice of 'lever' sizes. Upper lever (port to top) typically 3.5cm to 5 cm. Bottom lever (port to bottom) typically 6 cm to 15 cm.

Vaquero bits are available in various widths. The 'standard' off the shelf type is usually in 12.5mm width (5"), or sometimes 13.5mm (5.31"). Other sizes are made (10.5mm - 15.5mm).

Vaquero bits can
can have fixed or
sliding cheeks



Muserola

May be fitted to the bridle's noseband. It is a soft leather covered metal piece with 2 rings for the reins and is fitted under the noseband, with the rings screwed through the leather of the noseband from the top/outside. Used with a set of reins, in conjunction with vaquero bit and reins, when training young horses.

Serreta

3 ring serreta. Sometimes used instead of the Muserola.

The noseband part of the serreta is available in plain serrated metal or covered in soft leather. Obviously professionals use the soft leather covered versions. Uncovered metal nosebands will mark and scar the horse and would not be seen on young horses in competition (Doma Vaquera).



Single ring serretas (see *In Hand Showing*) with soft leather covered nosebands, are often used for leading, showing and controlling horses, especially stallions.

Frontalera

Vaquera bridles usually have a browband with leather fringe.

Alternatively a plain browband can be used, fitted with a mosquera.



Mosquera

The browband is traditionally fitted with a mosquera; either of leather 'strips', silk, or horsehair, when you can choose types with 16, 20, 30 or 35 borlas (the horsehair balls with plumes) and these come in different colours, the traditional ones being handmade.

The mosquera has a dual purpose, to keep flies away from the eyes of the horse and to show when the horse is walking forwards properly and working well through his back (the mosquera swings from side to side when the horse is walking properly).

Traditional horse hair



Silk Mosquera



Traditional leather



In competition (Doma Vaquera), horse hair, leather or silk mosqueras may be used.

----- / -----

RIDING CLOTHING - 'VAQUERA' STYLE

Hat (Sombrero)

Traditional sombrero cordobés. Colour should complement as best as possible the clothing colour. Men rarely wear black hats (except sometimes in Doma Vaquera - competition - where only the colours black, grey or brown are allowed).

Sombreros should have a wide flat and stiff brim. Some cheaper versions have a narrower and/or flexible brim and these are not truly correct.



The sombrero should be worn pulled onto the forehead and should touch the right eyebrow. It should never hang down behind the wearer. If a chin strap is used it goes under the chin, not neck.

Jacket (Chaquetilla)

The correct Vaquera style is the chaquetilla campera. This has a rounded collar and no lapels and to be correct must have five buttons at the front and five on each sleeve. Note that only the top button should be done up (and it is considered incorrect to ride without the jacket buttoned). Top quality and made to measure jackets have a special lining, stitched so the jacket is stiff and appears moulded to the body.

Sometimes seen (often in competition - Doma Vaquera) - A piece of white cloth or card protruding approximately 1" (25mm) from the right breast pocket of the jacket.

In Doma Vaquera (competition) it is permissible to wear the Marselles jacket in bad weather (see 'classica style clothing').



Lady is wearing; chaquetilla campera (country jacket) and calzon campero (trousers with turn ups).

Note: Campero trousers are worn with brown boots.

Gentleman is wearing; chaquetilla campera (country jacket) and calzon paseo (trousers with caireles).

Note: Paseo trousers are worn with either shoes (brown) or short boots (brown), plus polainas.

Either combination can be worn by ladies or gentlemen.

Waistcoat (Chaleco)

Matching colour to the jacket. It should have five buttons at the front and all should be done up.

Shirt (Camisa)

A plain (no frills or diamante buttons) white shirt is worn under the jacket. The top button is done up. To be absolutely correct, the sleeves of the shirt should be long enough so the cuffs are just visible, protruding beyond the sleeves of the jacket.

Trousers (Pantalón/Calzon)

Two styles: Calzon campero (trousers with turn-ups) or calzon paseo (trousers without turn-ups) that take caireles, 5 per leg.

Caireles

Caireles are available in a number of designs, usually horse heads, acorns or vaquera stirrups.



Silver is the traditional colour although gold is sometimes used in the Feria.

Caireles come in varying qualities, with two or three sets of horse heads, stirrups or acorns, etc per cairele. Horse hair caireles (ideally to match the horse's mosquera) are also correct, although rarely seen nowadays.

Note: With paseo trousers, the top two caireles should pass through both sets of holes in the trousers and the bottom three only through the inside holes.

Braces (Tirante)

Traditionally leather, plain or tooled (repujada style). There are also many choices of cheaper 'elasticated' patterns.



Leather braces



Elasticated braces

Ladies - Vaquera

It is usual for ladies to wear the same as men in vaquera style.

However, ladies can ride side saddle, with vaquera jacket and side saddle skirt (falda amazona) and high brown boots. For competition (Doma Vaquera) the skirt is usually black or grey with pin stripe.

Sash (Fajin)

Should be worn around the waist, knotted, with the ends traditionally tied onto the braces which hold the trousers up, with no loose ends. Sometimes this is a silk scarf and normally this complements and blends in colour with the rest of the outfit, although it can be contrasting and more colourful for riding in the Feria.

Boots (Botas/botinas)

Boots are worn with trousers with turn ups (calzon campero) and must be brown (not black).



Vaquera' shoes (Zapato Vaquero)

Can be worn (often preferred) for competition (Doma Vaquera), under polainas.



Polainas (Spanish half chaps)

For competition (Doma Vaquera), polainas are plain.

For riding in the Feria they may be plain, or of the tooled type ('Huelva' style), or with white ornamentation (repujada style). General working polainas may have tab and stud fixings. Traditional polainas are laced up with leather tabs and have no metal fittings.

Polainas are worn with Paseo trousers (with caireles), not with campero trousers (turn ups), over short boots or 'Vaquera' style shoes.



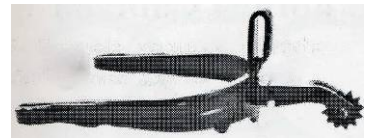
Spurs (Espuelas)

Black iron, Spanish type. For competition - with rowels (see current Doma Vaquera regulations for permitted rowels). These are available with straight or curved shanks, but only the short straight shank is permitted in competition (Doma Vaquera). Note: in competition (Doma Vaquera) any rider marking his horse with spurs is immediately eliminated.

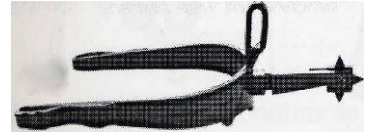


Short, with inward curve

Long, straight



Long, with downward curve



Rowel types

Spur leathers (Correas)

For competition (Doma Vaquera) must be white, otherwise brown. Black leathers are incorrect.

Full chaps (Zahones)

Can be various designs from plain (liso) working style or the discretely tooled Huelva style, to the ornamented (Repujada or artesanía) style which is used only for Feria, not competition. Chaps can be worn over either type of trouser, i.e. campero (with turn-ups) or Paseo (with caireles).

Although they can be worn in competition (Doma Vaquera) they are not liked by judges as it makes it difficult to judge the rider's correct use of aids.



Zahones repujada/artesana



Zahones liso (plain)

Sticks/Whips (Fusta/vara)

For competition (Doma Vaquera) it is not permitted to carry a stick/whip, except when competing in young horse classes (Caballos iniciados), when it is optional to carry a cane (vara) which must be held in the right hand and held upright over the neck of the horse, or when riding side saddle (amazona), when a cane is obligatory and must be carried in the right hand and held pointing towards the floor.

Clothing Colours

For men when riding, the trousers are usually a fairly sombre colour, either grey striped or black or a colour to match the jacket, which could be; brown, dark blue, bottle green. In competition (Doma Vaquera) jackets of black, brown, grey, cream, listas (fine stripe in cream/blue), 'hounds tooth' (pata de galo) are allowed. Black is not a popular colour for a complete outfit (trousers/waistcoat/jacket) as an all black outfit is not considered correct as this denotes funeral wear. Men sometimes wear lighter colours when walking (Feria). Ladies sometimes choose maroon jackets, which are currently popular when riding.

Notes (Vaquera)

- For Doma Vaquera it is **not correct** for women to wear culottes. They either ride astride in the 'male' costume or ride side saddle (Amazona) and wear a side saddle skirt, which is usually black or grey striped, with the jacket (chaquetilla campera) etc. (*See 'Ladies - vaquera'*)
- Wearing gloves of any sort is incorrect, regardless of colour and forbidden in competition (Doma Vaquera).
- Wrist watches should not be seen. Either do not wear one or carry a pocket watch.
- Horse tendon boots or bandages are not allowed in competition (Doma Vaquera).
- Ribbons are not put in the mane (only in the rejoneo - horse mounted bullfight) and prohibited in competition. Ribbons are a Portuguese practise rather than Spanish.
- Numnahs are not used under Vaquera saddles and not allowed in competition (Doma Vaquera).
- For the Feria it is permitted to put 'borlajes' (coloured woollen pom-poms) in the mane and top of the tail. These are prohibited in competition.



----- / -----

TACK - 'CLASSICA' (CLÁSICA) STYLE



Española saddle

Saddle (Silla)

Española, as well as the Alta Escuela types (as used by the Real Escuela de Arte Equestre, Jerez) are used for dressage, ridden showing, general hacking or the Feria. The normal colour is brown.

A (removable) sheepskin cover (zalea) may be fitted on Española saddles, but for showing classes is generally left in place.

As with the Vaquera saddle, new models have become available (2006) which are of the traditional style but made from modern materials, flexible trees, lighter in weight and again quality and prices vary greatly - from hand made traditional saddlers, excellent 'latest technology' versions, to low cost Indian made copies. Good ones are individually numbered and come with a manufacturer's guarantee and you really do 'get what you pay for' with these saddles.

Also . . . See note ref use in Doma Vaquera - Caballos iniciados.



Española saddle with sheepskin



Alta Escuela saddle.

May be fitted with a sheepskin cover

Crupper (Baticola)

The saddle should be fitted with a crupper, colour to match the saddle.

Breastplate (Pechopetral)

In competition (Doma Classica) a plain breastplate can be used, colour to match the saddle (brown or black).

The Real Escuela de Arte Equestre, Jerez use brown breastplates to match their saddles, girths and bridles, as do other centres of Alta Escuela.

For the Feria (or Spanish dress/parade classes) coloured breastplates can be used, usually to match the saddle cloth (numnahs) and manta estribera. Girth should usually match the saddle colour.

Martingales (Gamarra/martingala)

Not allowed in competition and are also considered incorrect for the Feria.

Manta Estribera

Can be worn over the pommel of the saddle for the Feria or dress/parade classes but not in dressage competition. This can be in matching colours to the saddle cloth/numnah and breastplate, or the traditional (country) black/white or brown/white striped heavy cotton or wool. These are worn over the front of the saddle, preferably long enough to touch the stirrups either side and are traditionally held together and tied to the saddle by thin strips of leather. *For illustrations - see 'Tack - vaquera'*

Saddle cloths/mantas/breastplates are commercially available in matching sets of; red/yellow (Spanish colours), green/white, blue/white or combinations of silver or gold with blue, red, black, green or burgundy.

Alta Escuela Saddle,
with Manta Estribera & Numnah (Mantilla)



Stirrups (Estribos)

The normal 'English' type stirrup may be used. Traditionally this would be nickel/oiled steel (not chromed), although the cheaper black stirrups are becoming more used now.



Alternatively the 'Español' style, in black, can be used.

'Espanol' stirrup

Bridle (Cabezada)

Traditionally the buckles are black iron, with bridle colour to match the saddle (brown or black), although brassed buckles are used by the Real Escuela de Arte Equestre, Jerez, with brown leather. May be fitted with a mosquera, in leather, horsehair or silk.

For information - see 'Tack - Vaquera'.

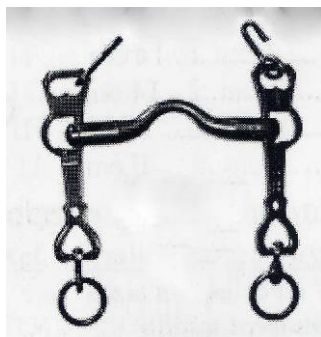
Bit (Bocado)

Traditionally the black Vaquero bit is used, the same as 'Vaquera' style. This should be used with a single set of reins, as the 'Vaquera' bit is for single handed use.

For information - see 'Tack - Vaquera'.

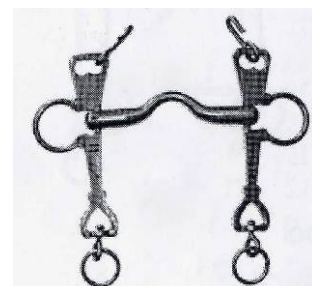


Vaquero (single handed) bit



Alternatively the 'Vaquero' bit without bottom bar (i.e. without fixed cheek pieces), or the Pelham Vaquero bit, can be used, with double reins. Colour must be black.

Bocado vaquero suelto



Bocado tipo Pelham Vaquero
Pelam vaquero bit

Sometimes other bits are used. Although not traditional they may be accepted:
Either black iron or nickeled (not chrome).



'Portuguese' type



Pelham type

Alta Escuela bits, similar in effect to the British Weymouth, are also used. This bit is used in conjunction with a (black) bridoon and double reins. In Spain the usual 'standard' off the shelf width is 12.5mm, although 13.5mm and 14.5mm widths are available.



'Real Escuela' bit

----- / -----

RIDING CLOTHING - 'CLASSICA' (CLÁSICA) STYLE

Hat (Sombrero)

The sombrero cordobés is the usual wear (*for information - see 'Vaquera style clothing'*).



The sombrero calañés, a small round, velvet hat with upturned/rolled brim, worn over a cotton 'kerchief', is sometimes worn. The kerchief is tied in a 'pirate' style with the knot at the back of the head. The hat is worn slightly tilting forwards.

Jacket - Riding - Men

Can wear the same as in Vaquera (*for information - see 'Vaquera style clothing'*), or the Chaquetilla Paseo; a short jacket with lapels, open at the front, with five buttons per sleeve. For men the colour ideally should match the trousers. Black is not popular and an all black outfit is not considered correct as this denotes funeral wear. The paseo jacket is worn without the buttons done up.



Jacket - Riding - Ladies

Ladies can wear the chaquetilla campera (*for information - see 'Vaquera style clothing'*).

More popular is the Chaquetilla Paseo. There are various styles that can be worn and different manufacturers have

different names for these styles, for example Macarena, Maestranza, Pasamaneria, Sevillana. Black is not popular. All black outfits denote funeral wear.



Jacket - Marselles

Worn by gentlemen and ladies. Traditionally made from wool and worn in cold weather.



Can be worn either over or instead of the campero or paseo jackets.

Can also be worn during competition in bad weather.



Waistcoat (Chaleco)

Should be a matching colour to the jacket. It should have five buttons at the front and all should be done up.

Shirt (Camisa)

For men a plain (no frills or diamante buttons) white shirt is most usual and traditional, although some men are now wearing more elaborate pleated shirts. The top button is done up. Ladies can wear a white 'dress' type shirt, with frills, diamante buttons etc.

Ladies 'dress' shirt



Trousers

Either Calzon paseo (trousers without turn-ups) that take caireles, 5 per leg. Or campero (with turn ups) trousers can be used (*for information - see 'Vaquera style clothing'*). Paseo trousers are normally very much the preferred wear in classica style.

Caireles

(See 'Vaquera style clothing')

Braces (Tirante)

(See 'Vaquera style clothing')

Side saddle skirt (falda amazona)

Normally black, grey or with a grey pin stripe is worn when riding, but again colour can match jacket.

Ladies Walking/Feria

Skirt (Falda)

Falda calañesa, or cordoba (there are various names/styles, depending on manufacturer) are skirts reaching $\frac{3}{4}$ down the calf and made of the same material and colour as either the jacket or again black, grey or with a grey pin stripe is popular. Walking skirts are not used for riding, either astride or side saddle.

Jacket - Walking/Feria (not riding) - Ladies

For the Feria (ladies) a jacket with 'tassels' is popular. These are worn in many different colours.

Ladies also wear vaquera or classica riding wear, or flamenco dresses at the Feria



Culottes

These are not used by women riding in Spain and are not traditional riding wear. They are sometimes worn by women in Spain strolling in the Feria. However, for some reason they have been adopted as 'correct' for riding in the UK and elsewhere, although some Spanish judges will and do mark ladies down if wearing culottes when being judged, whether in competition or Spanish dress/parade classes.

Culottes are usually available in black, grey or with a grey pin stripe and are also seen in colours to match the jacket.

Culottes are trimmed with caireles (normally 3).

Braces are worn with culottes.

Sash (Fajin)

(For information - see 'Vaquera style clothing'). Again, this can be more brightly coloured for the Feria.

Boots (Botinas/Botas)

Paseo trousers are worn with either brown shoes or short brown boots, together with polainas (Spanish style half chaps). For 'classica' style high brown boots can also be worn. High brown boots should be worn with side saddle skirts (or if culottes are worn) and should be high enough that you do not see bare flesh, socks etc when riding. Black boots are incorrect.

Spurs (Espuelas)

(See 'Vaquera style clothing')

Spur leathers (Correas)

(See 'Vaquera style clothing')

Flamenco dresses

Note: Flamenco dresses are absolutely incorrect for riding astride or sidesaddle, and should **only** be worn by ladies riding 'a la grupa' i.e. behind a gentleman and only when sitting sideways, not astride.

Otherwise they are worn when walking (Feria).



A 'grupera' (pillion pad) is fitted on to the crupper and strapped to the back of the saddle for ladies to sit on when riding a la grupa.

Notes (General)

- Black boots are incorrect.
- Black spur leathers are incorrect.
- Wrist watches should not be seen. Either do not wear one or carry a pocket watch.
- Wearing gloves of any sort is incorrect, regardless of colour.
- When ladies are riding, jewellery should be minimal and discrete, i.e. plain ear studs (not drop earrings etc). When riding, ladies hair should be worn either in a bun, plait or pony tail and flowers should not be worn in the hair, except when riding a la grupa, when hair can be worn as for ridden, or loose and with flowers and/or combs. Jewellery can also be flamboyant when riding a la grupa.
- Square cut numnahs may be used (but are not essential) under Classica/Española/Alta Escuela saddles, but not the round cornered 'English' shape.
- Martingales are not correct and not allowed in competition.
- When taking part in Spanish 'Parade' classes; Vaquera, Classica or 'Feria' dress is acceptable - See individual notes relating to tack/clothing.
- In Spanish 'Tack & Turnout' classes only traditional tack/costume is correct, not 'Feria' options.

----- / -----

OTHER STYLES OF SPANISH SADDLES

'Country' (Campera) Style Saddles

Only the Traditional Vaquera saddle (*see 'TACK - VAQUERA'*) is used in competition, but there are other styles often used for country riding:

The Vaquera 'Mixta'

This style of saddle can also be used, but **not** in competition (Doma Vaquera). This is not a truly traditional style but is popular, comfortable and can offer the nervous rider extra security.

The difference between the Mixta and the Vaquera saddle is the addition (it retains the full 'vaquera' style pommel) of a raised security piece (borrén) at the front, to give extra safety, which is typically available in sizes between 45 and 60 cm.



Vaquera 'Mixta' Saddle



Country/Campera saddle
with security pommel (borrén)



Country/Campera Saddle
sometimes called
type 'Jerezana'

Country/Campera saddle
without 'vaquera' pommel
but with raised/cushioned
pommel.



----- / -----

IN HAND SHOWING

Showing headgear

The most commonly used is the single ring Serretta, in either brown or black leather.

The noseband part of the serretta is available in plain serrated metal or covered in soft leather. Professionals use the soft leather covered versions. Uncovered metal nosebands will mark and scar the horse and would not be seen on young horses in competition (Doma Vaquera).

Handled with care, the serretta gives the handler great control of the horse being shown and is especially useful with younger and/or inexperienced colts/stallions.

Other advantages over, for example, bridles/reins, is that the handler can run up the horse from a greater distance, i.e. not too close to the horse, or hanging on a short rein or rope, allowing the horse greater scope to run up 'straight' without being hampered or bent towards the handler, impeding his/her movement. Reduces risk of young horses becoming 'bit shy', by being jerked in the mouth by the handler.

There is also less chance for the handler to be stood on by the horse when 'running up' using a longer lead. In any case a long lead is now essential when showing Spanish horses in 'Spanish' competition as the horses have to be shown at canter.

In Spain the Serretta is commonly used without a throat lash, so having minimal affect on the horse's appearance. In the UK the British Association for the Purebred Spanish Horse (BAPSH) has made the Serretta with throat lash mandatory.

Mosqueras are not fitted to Serretas.



Show Serretta

Showing Serretta (Cabezada presentación con serretta)

This usually has a decorated browband with matching rosettes and ribbons each side, or can sometimes be seen just with the decorated browband.

The ribbons and rosettes should match in colour. Normally two colours are used, to choice. Popular colours are Red/yellow (Spain), green/white (Andalusia), or red/white. Breeders/studs sometimes use their 'stud' colours.

In Spain showing serretas are used with or without the throat lash (see above reference UK).

Otherwise the showing serretta is the same as a single ring Serretta.

Show Halter

Not traditional. A modern concept similar to show halters sometimes used with Arab horses. Although this type of halter is not really correct (not traditional) it is not outlawed and can be used.

Can lack the finesse and control of a serretta.



Show halter

Lead/showing ropes (Ramal)

Traditionally these are long plaited leather. Lunge ropes can also be used.

Notes - showing in hand

- When mares are shown with foals at foot, the foals are allowed to run loose.
- Whips may be used when showing, but the horse will be excluded if the Judge sees the horse being touched by the whip.
- The handler should wear either Vaquera or Classica costume (culottes are allowed here, as the horse is being judged, not the handler), or the correct showing/riding apparel of the country the horse is being shown in (if permitted in competition).
- A 'helper' may run up behind the horse to assist if the horse is not forward going.

For more information on showing and preparing a horse for showing in Spanish classes see 'Showing the Spanish Horse', article by Richard Lust, Yeguada Iberica.

©This publication is the copyright of Susan Lust and Yeguada Iberica®.
Photographs are reproduced with the permission of Hispano Hipica, S.A., Jimenez, Zaldi, S.A.
and Richard Lust and may not be reproduced without the owner's express permission.

December 2006

Sue and Richard Lust are the proprietors of the Purebred Spanish Horse Stud 'Yeguada Iberica', and the equestrian/riding holiday centre 'Viva Iberica' in Tobarra, (Albacete), Spain. They have both taken extensive training courses in judging the Purebred Spanish Horse, culminating in being awarded certificates in 1999 following testing at Cartagena under the tuition of Juan Llamas and Javier García Romero.

Richard is a delegate for the Asociación Nacional de Doma Vaquera (National Doma Vaquera Association of Spain) and is regularly updated on changes to tack or dress code for competition (Doma Vaquera).

More information is available on www.viva-iberica.com