

# Understanding the About The Horse Inc tree shapes

We focus our efforts on **rib cage shape**. As we define shapes we create them in a bar and then give them a number. We currently produce four bars that vary in the elements of Twist rock and flair.

**Twist** is the element that gets the bar to go parallel to the surface of the back . The more sprung the rib cage the greater the amount of change in the angle. The twist occurs where the whither intersects with the rib cage.

**Flair** is the opening up of the front of the bars to allow for shoulder movement and sideways undulations of the spine. .

**Rock** is the element of the bar that allows for the up and down undulations of the spine.

These three elements combines with the spread of the bars in the front and back of the tree to create the saddles **orientation**. If the saddle is wider in front than in the rear the saddle has a down ward orientation. Most trees being produced today have a downward orientation. Unfortunately most horse also have a downward orientation so the saddles fall in the front until they create pressure. When a saddle is equal in spread it the front and the back of the tree it has a level orientation. At the current time all our saddle are being produced with a level orientation  
When a tree is made wider in the back than in the front the tree has an upward orientation. This is what is needed for horses with a downhill orientation.

**Our number one bar is designed for a horse that has a moderately sprung rib cage that is fairly straight from the base of the whither back. It would be our equivalent to what the industry calls a Quarter horse bar.**

**Our number 2 bar is designed for a horse with a well sprung rib cage and a gentle curve to the top line. We once called this our Arab bar. It has more twist and rock than the #1 bar.**

**Our number 3 bar is for a horse whose rib cage is not very well sprung on the top and who has a very straight top line. This bar has less twist and rock than the #1 bar**

**Our Number 4 bar is for horses with a well sprung rib cage with a very straight topline. It is like our number two bar with less rock.**