

# Gaited Gear and Gadgets

By Terra Hangen

With so much gaited gear and so many gadgets gaining ground, where do you start? The Internet, where else!

And there is plenty to choose from. Here are some that can help make riding more fun, more comfortable, and/or safer for both horse and rider, plus lend a sense of style!

## Peruvian Paso

Spanish gaited horse breeds come with a rich history that includes special accessories and tack. For classic Peruvian Paso saddles visit [www.theperuvianpaso.com](http://www.theperuvianpaso.com) where you can browse among trail saddles, headgear, bozals, and hats and ponchos for riders.

## Raintree Tack

For handsome Chilean wool ponchos (\$275.00) head over to [www.raintreetack.com](http://www.raintreetack.com) where you can also find a variety of traditional Peruvian saddles. Quite stunning for parade or show is their "Imperial", a \$2,000 saddle loaded with artistic touches of German silver on corners and guarnican.

## Peruvian Tack

For a business with 22 years of experience in manufacturing tack in Peru with special modifications to fit American Pasos (such as a wider and longer tree), adjustable halters (Jaquima), and new stirrup leathers (Accloneras), ride along to [www.peruviantack.com](http://www.peruviantack.com) where they also sell three books on training and tacking Peruvian horses.

## Dixieland Gaited Saddles

For saddles handcrafted by an Amish family visit [www.dixielandgaitedsaddles.com](http://www.dixielandgaitedsaddles.com), where they use different

saddle trees designed for specific breeds, including Tennessee Walking Horses, Missouri Fox Trotters, Peruvian Pasos and Rocky Mountain Horses. These saddles are also hand-tooled (no machine stamping) and made with 100 percent North American cowhide, and they glow in the photos. (256) 366-7480.

## Flying C Ranch Tack Shop

For a variety of Icelandic saddles and Icelandic handmade headstalls and nosebands, head along to [www.tolt.net/tack.html](http://www.tolt.net/tack.html). Under Accessories is the Miracle Brush, which they recommend for every Icelandic horse owner, since it helps horses shed their winter coats.

## National Bridle Shop

At [www.nationalbridle.com](http://www.nationalbridle.com) you will find the Mountain Horse Saddle, a NBS exclusive, designed and tested for the Mountain Horse breeds. 800-251-3474.

## Bright Ideas Enterprises

For every gaited horse rider who enjoys long country rides extending into dusk and moonlight, [www.beseenbesafe.biz](http://www.beseenbesafe.biz) has a selection of strobe lights and horse tack. For \$12.95 they sell a globe shaped red light that fits English and Western headstalls, and has Velcro for quick on and off. They explain that these lights don't scare horses, because horses do not see red.

## Zephyr Equine Gifts

For a gaited gadget that's got rhythm, check out <http://zegifts.com/> for Rhythm Bead Necklaces. Approved by our very own Liz Graves and Lee Ziegler, these attractive, handmade beaded neck ornaments are custom made for you when you place your order. They come in a nearly limitless vari-



Nine-year-old Arabian /Rocky Mountain Horse gelding, ZEPHYR'S ELEGANT GIFT models his Rhythm Bead Necklace.

ety of colors with silver or gold accents and matching bells. The jiggling bells help even the most tone-deaf rider stay in beat with the rhythm of his or her horse's gait. A truly original gift for any occasion.

**Editor's note:** Remember that the only good saddle is one that fits your horse. Be sure to check for correct fit before committing to any saddle, regardless of manufacturer claims.