

IN THE TACK SHOP

Article 2.

Here we are about to start another eventing year and what is there in the tack shop this time. Well, here are some studs for you to try, *Supastuds* are a completely revolutionary idea in stud manufacture. These traction devices have been designed to be easy to use. They were first shown at BETA (the British Equine Trade Assoc) in February of 2005 where they won the award for “safety and security” for their unique combination of design features, which include a self-cleaning thread, that means you have no need to tap the holes each time you put in your studs, and the ability to screw right into the shoe up to the studs shoulder, it is then tightened with a normal wrench as usual, so the shoulder provides the thread with a locking action so no more lost studs hopefully!!

The designer of *Supastuds*, Bruce Jolly, was persuaded to do this while trying to insert traditional studs in the shoe of a truculent horse, his wife was competing, he was so convinced that there had to be a better way, that he set about developing a new system. Bruce had an engineering background, and so after development, exhaustive testing and evaluation by riders from Pony Club to International level he produced and launched the *Supastuds*.

Supastuds have been designed so that as you screw them in, the action actually cleans out the dirt and pushes it into the slot. Additionally, the dirt that would normally be compressed into the horses hoof by the action of the tap (and subsequently the stud) is now contained in the recess at the base of the *Supastud*. This means no more tapping!! It is worth noting that the slot design produces a cleaning action and not a cutting or self tapping action, so both threads and studs last longer and the holes don't get bigger so the studs don't loosen.

The studs are virtually rust free because of a high-tech hardening process, this also leaves them with a unique but characteristic blue-black coating you can easily recognize.

There are twelve different styles at present, developed to deal with all types of ground conditions, they have developed a new Dressage stud to be used in arenas to help with corners and poor traction, and a “mini sharp” to penetrate really hard ground without giving the horse torque problems in the leg or altering hoof balance.

A great testimonial for this product came from Matt Ryan, the three-time Olympic Gold Medalist, who after using the studs said “they really are self-cleaning, tougher and more rust resistant. That makes them easier, faster and safer to insert, one less thing to worry about.”

Supastuds are always open to new suggestions from riders as they feel the product must continue to develop and answer the needs of the competition rider.

You can find these studs sold through www.AllEnglishTack.com either separately or in a “complete *Supastud* competition kit” take a look and try them they really are a great improvement on the standard studs available at present.

Soon to be launched is a more user-friendly wrench as well, which will not slip off the stud as it is designed for this purpose specifically. The wrench will be available around April time and will come in the stud kits or can be purchased separately.