

The Massage Devices In Our Trial

Product	Price	Description	Comments
Equilibrium Massage Pad www.worldquestrianbrands.com 888-637-8463	\$495	Looks like a thick dressage pad with a pocket to hold the battery and a pocket to hold the controller on the left side. Four straps go around the chest and belly to hold it in place. Dark blue plastic cover with heavy-duty straps and buckles. Runs a 30-minute cycle, on low, medium or high setting. Manufacturer states that the charge in the small, light battery lasts eight hours. Comes with slim dark blue, plastic carrying/storage case, with battery-charging cord.	A professionally designed, well-made product. Pad is lightweight, even with the battery (2"x5", weighs less than 1 pound). Makes a barely audible hum when running. Comes with two cards of instructions (one about operation, one about usage) that are clear and simple to follow. Easy set-up; little to go wrong. Horses seem to enjoy and react positively to the therapy.
Equilibrium Massage Mitt www.worldquestrianbrands.com 888-637-8463	\$150	Looks like an oven mitt without the thumb. Hand slides inside the mitt, which has controls built in on top and a pouch for battery (1" x 3" and weighs half a pound). Offers three settings (low, medium, high). Manufacturer states battery lasts for 12 sessions of 30 minutes before it needs charging. Comes in blue plastic carrying case similar to the Equilibrium Massage Pad, with battery-charging cord. Clear, simple instructions are printed on a card that fits in a clear plastic sleeve on the case.	A solidly built, durable product. It's easy to use and light to hold in your hand. Using this product certainly can provide a relaxing effect for horse and rider, and the horses we used it on seemed to like the sensation, but we're not convinced of its therapeutic or sport-massage efficacy.
Equisports Massager Core Products International www.horsemassagers.com 928-632-9654 www.valleyvet.com 800-419-9524	\$349	Looks somewhat like an electric wood belt sander. Two handles on top to hold, with the motor, with a black vinyl, oscillating massaging head (4 1/2" x 9 1/2") in the middle. One speed, controlled by on/off switch; 25-foot cord for power. Weighs 7 pounds. Clear, simple eight-page User's Manual included, with sleeve to hold it on black carrying case. Also comes with poster-sized fold-out sheet of how-to massage instructions. Also available with leg adapter (\$30) and Hot & Cold Pack (\$19).	A useful product. We found that it creates a therapeutic effect on the horse, relaxing and suppling the muscles to which it's applied. Manufacturer recommends 20-minute sessions, which will be as good a workout for some users as it is for the horse. The motor and vibrating heads make what we consider a loud hum (similar to body clippers, and it is rhythmic and soothing), and we would describe the vibration as a rather strong sensation.