

Barding

All barding encumbrances listed in UA are reduced to 40% of their listed value when equipped. If not being worn by the mount, encumbrance is as listed.^{Ex1)} Here is the reasoning:

Rules for barding were introduced in 1983²⁾ and reprinted in UA in 1985. They are basically broken – mainly, the barding is far too heavy. Encumbrance was dramatically increased from the OD&D numbers, to the point where medium and heavy horses may not even be able to move at all.³⁾ This was brought up in Dragon #118, but via a forum submission which was apparently not replied to by TSR.

Barding	AC mod	Eq. cn.	Uneq. cn.	Base MV and Mi./day L/M/H Warhorse
Leather	-1	640	1600	21"/17"/15"
Scale	-2	1000	2500	15"/15"/14"
Chain	-3	1400	3500	—/12"/13"
Plate	-4	2000	5000	—/—/12"

¹⁾

Inspired by Dragon #118 Forum.

²⁾

Dragon #74.

³⁾

<https://deltasdnd.blogspot.com/2023/07/how-much-weight-can-horse-carry-in-d.html>

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