

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 | AC type | Eq. cn. | Uneq. cn. | Base MV" and Mi./day (L/M/H Warhorse) |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Leather | -1 | 8 | 640 | 1600 | 21/17/15 |
| Scale | -2 | 6 | 1000 | 2500 | 15/15/14 |
| Chain | -3 | 5 | 1400 | 3500 | —/12/13 |
| Plate | -4 | 3 | 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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