

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

Don't forget, MV is halved if the mount's first encumbrance threshold has been met. If the mount's maximum encumbrance has been reached, it is unable to move.

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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