

Selle An-Atomica Review From:

[www.mtbr.com](http://www.mtbr.com) Forums, Two-Niners

by Rainman

### **“Six Months on the Titanico”**

Well, it's been six months since I decided to try out the Selle An-Atomica™ 'Titanico LD'.

When I first heard about these saddles, I became very interested immediately.

I contacted the inventor / manufacturer, who was modifying the standard Brooks saddles to his own standards at that time after much testing and consultation with doctors and sports physicians, in an effort to produce a new and better / safer more comfortable saddle for the bicycle rider.

The first saddle I received was indeed a modified Brooks. It had a strange looking cutout in the top of the leather, which resembled a kind of keyhole shape. The idea was to relieve the pressure from your pelvic basin and get your weight distributed onto the sit bones.

Another feature of the cutout was to enable each side of the saddle to move easily and independently of the other whilst the rider pedaled.

I tested the modified Brooks for a while, and even though it was very good, the standard Brooks leather was very stiff, and still subject to soaking with water when ridden uncovered in heavy rain.

Not too long after this, I heard that the manufacturing was to be shifted away from modified Brooks to a completely new saddle from Mr. Milton called Selle An-Atomica™, which would be produced completely in the USA.

I contacted the company again, and asked them to send me one of the new saddles for testing as soon as they were available.

The new product duly arrived. Named the Selle An-Atomica™ Titanico, it had a completely new design and a new type of waterproof leather.... yes, you read that correctly...waterproof leather! The leather had been developed with the aid of leather chemists at a leading tannery and was supposed to be waterproof.

This sounded like exactly what I needed.

I fitted the saddle to various bikes over the course of six months, using it regularly both off road and on.

My first impressions were : "WOW ! This is so nice to sit on". The leather is slightly thinner than the Brooks, and is both softer and much more supple. The cut out is the same as the original Brooks saddle which I received, but the frame of the new saddle has been re-designed differently from the original Brooks. The new Selle An-Atomica is a bit longer and definitely softer under your sit bones.

The break in period .... I keep waiting for this to happen. Well, let me put it in another way .... The "break down period"... I keep waiting for it to happen.

You see, this new Selle An-Atomica Titanico is THE most comfortable saddle right out of the box that I have ever used in my whole life...and that's a LOT of saddles, over a LOT of years.

So I'm a bit afraid that it's going to break because when you find something this good and this comfortable after 50+ years of cycling you get a bit apprehensive that it's too good to last....

You know how it goes... you find something so nice and comfy that just works so well, and you want it to stay like that because it's the best damn thing that you have ever had the pleasure of sitting on...etc...etc.. and you just don't want to lose it?

This saddle is \*that\* good.

I have been a Brooks saddle user for a loooooong time. I believe that they are fantastic saddles made by Master Craftsmen that are unmatched anywhere else in the world.

But! These new Selle An-Atomica saddles incorporate all the advantages of the Brooks, and then go one huge step further.

The new leather in the Selle is incredible, it really is waterproof, it really is soft and comfortable immediately....and it stays that way.

I had my doubts at first. Being a dyed-in-the-wool Brooks man I didn't believe that a saddle could be better, but this Selle is.

Saddles are very personal things on a bike... Very personal. A saddle that fits me may not fit you, and vice-versa. But this is a whole new ball game, literally. The supple leather combined with the cutout slot in the top creates a "relief zone" that just removes all the pressure from your 'taint' area. There is no blood-flow cut-off, and no pressure areas created under your genitals like with most other saddles.

The whole saddle flexes and moves beneath your butt as you pedal, both sides move independently as you move, and the feeling is one of extreme comfort.

So there you have it. Six months of testing, NO breaking-in, just comfort right from the go.

I have to say here that I have no connections or associations with the manufacturers of these saddles at all, and I paid for mine just like everyone else does. I would buy another one tomorrow if I needed to, no hesitation.

If you are having problems with your current saddle ... sore butt, chafing, numbness, pain..etc.. try one of these for yourself.

You'll thank me later.

Here's the link to the site.. <http://www.mcmwin.com/saddle%20shop.htm>

Here is my original assessment : <http://forums.mtbr.com/showthread.php?t=167789>

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Last edited by Rainman : 1 Week Ago (August 2006) at 03:44 PM.

Preliminary Test Results on Selle An-Atomica.  
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### **The story so far.**

Brooks has always been the saddle of choice on all my bikes. I have tried other 'plastic based' seats to keep up on the current trends, but always return to the Brooks as the standard by which I judge all others.

Recently, I became interested in the work of a Mr. Tom Milton in the USA who has been conducting long-term testing on modified Brooks saddles. The aim was to improve the comfort and reduce the damage caused by regular bicycle saddles to the human reproductive system.

I obtained this new saddle and rode it for some time, and have been very pleased with the performance, comfort, and general improvement over the standard B.17 Brooks.

I then learned that Tom had contacted the Selle Company about making some new saddles incorporating all that they had learned with the modified Brooks testing, but using a new softer waterproofed leather.

I obtained one of the new Selle saddles to try out myself. They are made in Wisconsin in the USA, and use the new waterproof "Second Skin Watershed™" leather, which is softer and more compliant than the original Brooks leather.

One of the first things I noticed was the different shape. It is slightly longer than the Brooks, in that it has a different shaped rear frame. The leather is definitely softer, and needs more tension on the adjuster bolt to achieve the same sort of 'feel' under your sit bones as the Brooks.

Brooks owners only rarely adjust the tension on the leather, whereas the new Selle demands a lot of adjustment on the bolt straight off to get the saddle to have the correct feel. Once adjusted to the correct tension, the Selle is very tunable. With just a turn either way on the adjuster bolt, the saddle can be made to fit each riders preference for a nice comfortable pedaling platform.

Being used to the much firmer Brooks saddles, I set my Selle up in a similar manner. This resulted in a nice stable saddle, but which is softer and more 'pliable' under your backside. Where the Brooks feels quite hard, the new Selle feels softer and has more 'give' in the leather.

Being a new product, the saddle I have been testing needs to have a couple of rough corners knocked off it. Firstly, it has a cut-away on the nose for access to the adjusting bolt with an Allen wrench. This cut-away has two rather sharp leather points, which always seems to catch my nics when I am moving back onto the saddle from a standing position.

I trimmed the points off mine, and it is a lot better.

Secondly, the edges of the leather need to be chamfered a bit better than they are now. I attacked mine with a stone and smoothed the sharp edges down a little around the outside of the skirt.

Thirdly, this saddle is not for weight weenies. It is about the same weight as a Brooks B.17 in steel. If you are used to riding a lightweight Ti-framed saddle, the weight of this Selle will be a bit of a shock. Nevertheless, better a comfortable all day saddle that is a bit heavier, than a lightweight 2 hour plastic 'seat'.

I poured water onto the top of the saddle to 'test' the new leather. Yes, it works. It is waterproof. Water just runs right off it like off a duck's back.

So far, I am very pleased with the testing. The leather is softer and very comfortable, is waterproof, and is very 'tunable' for individual rider comfort. The cutout slot in the top works, taking the pressure off your 'sensitive' parts.

I will continue testing this new Selle, and post up my results after I get a few hundred miles on the saddle. I am still playing around with the adjustments in my search for the perfect position and tension on the saddle.

Here are a few pics...

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(L) Upgraded Brooks B.17 with LD slot and leather laminate under layer.



(R) New Wisconsin made Selle An-Atomica Titanico LD made from Second Skin Watershed™ leather.



**More pics on Comparison..**

You can see that the Selle An-Atomica™ is slightly longer, has longer seat rails, a slightly different tensioning mechanism, and the rear frame is also different from the Brooks.

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Selle An-Atomica Tension Screw Assembly



These are pics on the comparison between the new Selle An-Atomica™ (L) modified Brooks (R).

