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Several invariants of a field  $F$  related to quadratic forms exhibit similar patterns under real and nonreal field extensions. We will use a construction by Prestel to explain why examples of invariants that drop from infinite to finite when going up nonreal field extensions lead to similar examples of real extensions. Such invariants include  $\tilde{u}(F)$ ,  $\hat{u}(F)$ ,  $P(F)$  and  $st_r F$ . (Received January 26, 2009)