

The ram's first stage lifts 35t max, the second stage 19t max.

Heynck Q-Jack 3519 trolley jack:

Big Foot

Spread a load to lift it: this broad-beamed hydraulic jack aims to get you out of a sticky situation



What does €3,500 bring home? A steerable trolley with handle, a dedicated jack, four extensions, two saddles and a pair of 6m hydraulic hoses. And a box to put it all in.

Punctures have no sense of reasonableness. When a tyre goes down it prefers to do it on a busy (and ideally, narrow) road, or – better yet – in the softest bit of the field. Either way the injured leg has to be lifted, preferably securely and fast. Trouble is, the kit most farms have for the job is often short on lift height and limited in where it can be used safely.

The haulage business has plenty of jacks designed to lift heavy and high-axle kit on solid ground, and some farms and contractors have devised their own salvation. But you can buy a purpose-built unit, developed by an agricultural engineer and made by Heynck, a German hydraulics company whose main operations are in mining – an industry with heavy machinery everywhere.

Double punch

The Q-Jack is a low-profile trolley carrying a removable d/a hydraulic jack. For transport the unit packs into a box; assembled and with the ram closed, the jack saddle is 350mm from the ground. Oil from a spool valve at up to 30l/min and 200bar acts first on a 150mm-diameter piston to generate 35t lift capacity. Once this has extended, the second stage's 110mm piston takes over. Lift height goes up but lift capacity drops to 19t – although given that one corner of a machine only carries a proportion of the whole weight, that's no big hardship. Total ram stroke is 315mm, giving a max lift height of 665mm. Not much, surely? To add more, the basic saddle (a rubber-faced 120mm-diameter plate screwed into the second stage) can be swapped for one of four extensions: these increase max lift height by 87mm, 155mm, 230mm and 350mm. Each machined billet extension has a thread at one end and a ball head at the other. A matching socket head slips over the ball, so the saddle it carries can tilt up to 80 degrees to accommodate ground slope. The longest extension takes max lift height to 1,050mm.

Trolley

Mobility comes from a three-wheeled galvanized trolley, built around a 500 x 400mm plate base and rolling on 260 × 85 pneumatic tyres. Step one in assembly is to slot the 45kg jack's four feet into brackets welded to the baseplate, then secure each with a neat quick-release pin. Choose and fit an extension if needed, drop the trolley



The jack – which can be used as a stand-alone unit – has its own hydraulic block carrying connectors and valves.

handle into the castor wheel and steer the unit under the machine you need to lift. The trolley's ground clearance depends on its tyre pressures but at best is only 30mm, so the effort needed to position it depends entirely on the terrain.

Self-containment

Spool valves are never far away in farming so the Q-Jack doesn't need an oil supply and pump. Spiral wrapped 6m hoses connect to a donor machine's spools, each line tipped with ball valve tap. Longer hoses are an option. If a hose bursts, a valve built into the jack's connector block senses line pressure imbalance and locks the ram so it can't retract; the same block also hosts a pressure relief valve and quick couplers. Lift/lower rate is best set using the tractor's flow controllers, but can be done from the hose taps. Either way, the mate you'll probably need to help heave the carrying box must stick around to monitor the jacking operation.

As the jack takes load the trolley is forced down. Its tyres deflect and the baseplate meets the ground. Now the plate's generous surface area spreads load and provides a solid support for the jack – it's much more secure than a bottle jack perched on a length of timber. Fine height changes can be made fairly easily by adjusting oil flow rate. Once the punctured wheel has been changed, retract the ram and the trolley can be pulled clear. Like to see all this in action? There's a profi video at bit.ly/31bd0sE.

KEY POINTS

- The Q-Jack has two main parts – a hydraulic jack and a low-profile trolley
- Oil for jack operation comes from a tractor's spool outlets
- The trolley's generous baseplate spreads load and helps soft-ground stability
- A castor wheel allows relatively easy positioning
- The jack can be used without the trolley
- Max lift height is 1.05m, max lift capacity 35t.



The longest extension takes lift height to over 1.00m. A ball joint lets the saddle self-align (inset).



Natty self-locking pins anchor the jack to the trolley.



Fitted up and ready to use, the Q-Jack weighs around 80kg. It rolls and steers easily where the going isn't too uneven, but otherwise takes muscle to move.

Bottom line

A Q-Jack lists at €3,500 before VAT. That brings the jack and trolley, two saddles, an extension set, the positioning handle and a wooded transport box. It's a sizeable investment in a sizeable kit, whose 35t max lift capacity is enough to hoist very serious machinery. If you can justify that sort of outlay, then the next time the puncture gremlin decides to give you grief, you should be back in business safely and relatively quickly.

Alexander Bertling