



The QuickJack portable car lift will allow you to get all four wheels off the ground at once. This is great for removing all four wheels at once, working on brakes, draining oil, or just being able to inspect the entire underside of the car on a creeper. Best of all, this system doesn't require any permanent installation, is affordable and appears to be built well enough to last for many years of service.

### Ordering the QuickJack

It's available from a variety of sources: directly from the manufacturer (QuickJack.com), Pelican Parts, and likely elsewhere, but I found the best deal at Costco.com (thanks Randy Richter for that tip). There are several models of the QuickJack, BL-3500SLX, BL-5000SLX, BL-7000SLX, BL-5000EXT and BL-7000EXT. The model number indicates the maximum lifting capacity and SLX and EXT indicate the spread capacity (distance between the lift points).

1. You'll need to know the following to order the correct version:
2. How much does the vehicle you plan to lift weigh? (3500, 5000, or 7000)
3. Where are the lift points on your vehicle and what is the distance between them? (SLX or EXT)
4. Are the lift points on your vehicle pinch welds? (More on this later)
5. How much ground clearance does your car have?

### Delivery and Setup

Three packages will arrive. Your delivery person will probably hate you for ordering this. There will be two long boxes containing the lift platforms and a third box containing the hydraulic pump and hoses. Each lift platform weighs about 85 lbs and while they are in the boxes they are pretty unwieldy, so you'll likely want a partner to help move them inside. The lift platforms have small urethane wheels on one end, which is useful for transporting them across hard surfaces, but not turf or dirt.



Figure 1: QuickJack as delivered. These boxes are heavy and fairly unwieldy



Allow yourself about an hour to assemble the system. Assembly isn't difficult, but this isn't a system where all you must do is open the box to start using it. Also, the system does not ship with hydraulic fluid. You'll need to purchase that separately. A wide variety of hydraulic fluids and transmission fluids will work with QuickJack. Consult the manual for which types are acceptable. My system required 2.5 qts. I purchased a gallon of hydraulic fluid from the local auto parts store. That seemed to be the most economical solution and I didn't see any benefit from using synthetic automatic transmission fluid that would justify the substantially higher cost. Don't be intimidated by the half-inch thick Installation and Operation manual. It's written in both English and French. The English version is 42 pages long, but it's well written and easy to follow. The French version is quarante-deux pages. Please use the manual when installing your Quick-Jack, rather than my instructions. My instructions are just to provide an idea of what is involved.

Here's an overview of the assembly process:

1. Attach fittings to hoses. Some require you to use the included thread seal tape, others specifically state NOT to use thread seal tape, so pay attention to the directions.
2. Pressurize the air cylinders (easy to do this with a bike pump that has a built-in pressure gauge).
3. Bleed air from the hydraulic cylinders (best as a 2-person job, one to hold the lift platform upright and the other to bleed the cylinder).
4. Fill the reservoir with fluid.
5. Connect the hydraulic hoses between the frame assemblies and the power unit.
6. Test the system for proper operation before trying to lift a vehicle, but **DO NOT RAISE THE FRAME ASSEMBLIES ABOVE THE FIRST LOCKING POSITION**, else they can get stuck at full height with no load.

The QuickJack platforms lift the car radially, meaning it will move the car backwards up to 16 inches as it lifts it. So be sure to account for this if you're trying to lift your car in the garage with the garage door closed.

### Lifting cars with pinch welds

The QuickJack includes a set of short and tall hard rubber lift blocks that are placed under the car's lift points. You can even stack the blocks if you wish to. These blocks work fine with my 2015 Cayman GTS. However, one of my other cars has pinch welds and for these I had to order a special set of lift blocks with channels that are designed to work with pinch welds. The pinch weld lift blocks are also made of a harder rubber compound. I was able to order the additional lift blocks directly from QuickJack.com. At \$85, they weren't inexpensive, but I'm not sure there is any other safe alternative.



Figure 2: Pinch Weld Lift Blocks





### Check for adequate ground clearance

My Cayman GTS only has 4 inches of ground clearance and I've found that I need to remove the lift blocks from the frame assemblies in order to back the car out from the QuickJack. Since I store my car in the winter, I've been leaving the QuickJack underneath the car. One advantage of this has been being able to use the QuickJack to lower the car onto the Flatstopper ramps that I use to protect the tires, which is much easier than having to position the ramps perfectly and drive the car up onto the four ramps.

### Built-in safety mechanism

There are two lift positions: first lock position, and top locking position. Each frame assembly has a built-in locking mechanism. You must use this locking mechanism on each frame assembly. The assembly must be in either first lock position or top lock position with the locking bar engaged.



Figure 3: Lock Bar in Top Locking Position



# Chesapeake Region QuickJack Portable Car Lift

Article and photos by Eric Tipton



I'm looking forward to many years of use of the QuickJack as I get more comfortable performing DIY maintenance on my Porsche. This system is perfect for mid and rear engine cars where most maintenance has to be performed from underneath the car.

*- Eric Tipton*