

JackStrap - Aussie Lifting at its best

A Portable lifting aid to carry in your backpack for helping to raise your deer off the ground for butchering, or lift that 85kg hog onto the ute is now available. Back when I was roo shooting, I had on the odd occasion collected a really big pig up around 100kg, and to get it on the crate was a real battle, even with the spring assisted lifter I had on the crate. To the point I used to carry a pair of pulleys and some 8mm silver rope. This system worked, but it was messy and untidy. The "JackStrap Lift-n-Lock" would have solved the problem. When I was given the JackStrap to test, the thinking cap went on for ways to show how it could be used to the best advantage particularly in this age of "work health and safety" when we all should be wrapped in cotton wool!

The construction: The roller block sheaths are constructed from precision laser cut stainless steel which is precision folded to house the rollers around which the 25mm strap runs. The strap is a narrow version of the load binder straps used in the transport industry to secure loads. So it is of high quality and designed to work. While the basic idea of the JackStrap is very much old world technology which helped to build the pyramids, it is the Australian designed aluminium lock block that is the real innovation of the JackStrap. This lock allows the load to be lifted one handed and locked at the desired height and then released down to whatever height is desired with the same single hand. The 6 rollers are constructed from industrial nylon and mounted on ball bearings.

The webbing strap is polyester which is UV resistant and does not stretch. The design is that close to fool proof it is worth noting there is no stitching required for the strap as the end of the strap in the top roller block locks itself and absolutely negates the need for stitching. The workable maximum lift height is 2.4 metres (8-feet). Now with some creative thinking this could be extended. The JackStrap gives you 4:1 lift ratio which makes lifting things you may be tempted to try bare handed as easy as pie and you don't risk hurting your back.



(Left) Starting from scratch with JackStrap rigged up in the dark, the simplicity of JackStrap ensured a perfect result first time. (Inset) JackStrap close up at maximum lift height. Note this system has a fairly short head height (the distance from top anchor to the load).

A big hog would be good for a demo of how the JackStrap works. On my way home from work late one evening I spotted a likely candidate. I had been looking for an excuse to try a .357 Magnum Martini loaded with 140gr Hornady Flex Tip projectiles and here was my chance. A couple of days later he made the mistake of crossing my path again and here he is demonstrating the effectiveness of the "JackStrap". I didn't have a scale, but a mate Garry and I reckon he was about 60kg and a lot heavier than I would like to lift on my own.

I had got a couple of my old heavy duty butchers hooks and put them in the truck ready for the occasion. Of course Mr Pig was right out on a big open flat with no trees for miles so I had to get him onto the truck and take him to a suitable tree for some photos. No trouble for JackStrap, a hook in the head board for the top roller block and a hook in the hog's back leg and up he went as easy as pie. I had a tree not far from home I had in mind for a photo. So for practice I dropped piggy onto the ground off the truck and not quite under the bottom hook, no problem to JackStrap as there is plenty of strap to allow for the extra length. The about-60kg hog was absolutely easy to lift right off the ground and high enough to be the correct height to butcher. I left him hang over night as a bit of a test for the lock which locks the load up so you can work. Worked a treat and Mr Pig was still well and truly hanging the next morning. I did a post mortem to find the projectile and it had penetrated right through and was lodged in the far side shoulder and mushroomed out to .45 calibre.

Lowering the load is as easy as pulling the strap out away from the vertical to lift the locking lever and with the strap in this position just allow the load to descend as fast or slow as you want. One word of warning do not let the pull strap run through your hands as it could burn or cut your fingers. Note in the instructions that gloves are recommended for operation. Read - control the

(Right) Author with the pig well off the ground after hanging all night with no slip at all, and the way the lock works there can be no creeping down of the load.

lowering by gripping the strap as you did when lifting.

For an extra test I tried it on a full (150 litres) drum of engine oil in the oil shed and it was surprisingly easy. I know this exceeds the recommended weight but I needed to know just what JackStrap could lift and it succeeded with flying colours.

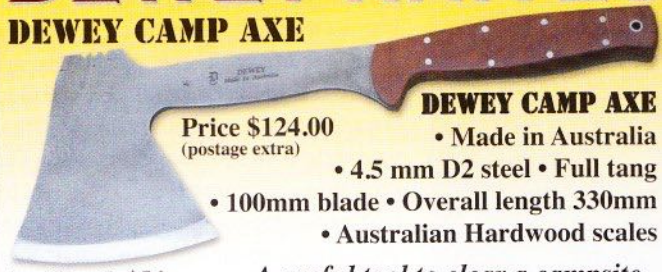
JackStrap sells for less than \$100 posted anywhere in Australia. To order your JackStrap Lift-N-lock phone Tom on 0438 561 405 or email: Tombar1@bigpond.com

In conclusion this JackStrap unit will be staying here. It is very well designed and constructed to give long, trouble free service and comes with a handy carry bag. Best of all it works!



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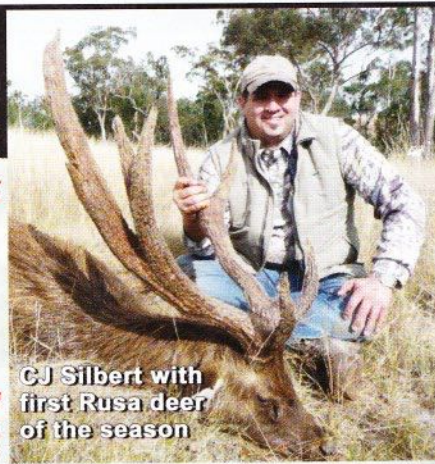


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