



Ideas @ work

Dayco Products, LLC

Dayco Products, LLC located in Hillsdale MI is an industrial rubber molder specializing in crankshaft dampeners for automotive engines. In October of 1986 Dayco purchased a customized PDI walkie stacker, serial number 319,717, from Big Joe Forklifts to load molds into rubber presses for eight production cells. Dayco designed their entire molding operation around the PDI's specially ordered, narrow 34" O.D. straddles, 3" diameter load wheels and shortened 36" forks. A mold heater was built to specifically accommodate the PDI and the mold storage racking was set for the truck's dimensions. The customized narrow straddles and low entry height of the PDI allowed it to maneuver in the tool room and allowed Dayco to store molds on the floor and racking to utilize their space more efficiently. "You couldn't do that with just any piece of equipment," said Shaun McCavit, Operations Manager, "The Big Joe was a gold mine for us."

After 33 years of daily use, the PDI had reached the end of its

Big Joe built a custom PDX20 to match the specifications for Dayco's 33 year old PDI stacker in just 8 weeks.



service life, prompting Dayco to seek a replacement. RFQs were sent to forklift dealers, including Big Joe Regional Master Distributor Morrison Industrial Equipment, who informed Dayco that Big Joe had discontinued the PDI line several years prior. "Most forklift reps said you couldn't get a truck built to our spec, and those who said they could do it came in with some insane numbers," McCavit said. Luckily for Dayco, Big Joe had just introduced a new custom line called the PDXSeries that was intended to fill the need for built to order forklifts. "We were able to go back into our archives and match that PDI spec on our new PDX20 platform," said Matt Wavrek, Director of Engineering at Big Joe, "Dayco's was one of the first five PDX20s built. 2,000lb capacity @ 24" load center, 96" of telescopic lift, 26" / 34" I.D. / O.D. straddles."

"Being able to get the new Big Joe kept us in operation. We wouldn't have been down, but it would not have been good," said McCavit. "We would have had to rework our mold heater and other systems, the cost would have been extreme," he continued. That Big Joe was able to deliver the custom PDX20 in just 8 weeks was not lost on McCavit, "It was a blessing, it fits exactly into our operation. The new Big Joe just dropped it right in and away we go ... it was exactly what we needed."

"When we take a custom build, one of the big advantages is we're able to deliver a unique solution to the customer based on needs for their individual business, their actual application and what process the truck will be used in," said Wavrek. The PDX Series is built to order in Big Joe's Wisconsin Dells, WI factory using nearly 100% USA content, with as much as 70% sourced locally from Midwest suppliers. "It's a little different than our Old Joe," McCavit said, "I like the new thumb style throttle, the old one was more like a motorcycle you had to twist. The new one makes it easier to move forward or in reverse."

In the year since taking delivery of their new PDX20, Dayco has kept it in nearly constant use transporting molds from the tool room to the presses, and cleaning area. "We go until the battery is rundown, charge it up and go right back to work. I hope I never have to buy another one. If it lasts like Old Joe, I'll be long gone from here," McCavit laughed, "but I'd definitely recommend working with Big Joe to Dayco's other divisions if they need a custom solution."



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PDX20 Custom Straddle Stacker

PDX Custom Stackers are designed and built in the USA



PDX20 customized with extended forks and straddles for furnace loading operations.

BIG JOE MISSION:

We believe that we can help North American businesses improve their results and the quality of their workers lives by providing simple innovative material handling products and genuine responsive support. Big Joe equipment focuses on supporting customers changing needs related to how they Move, Stack & Access materials in their operations with the goal of helping companies and their workers Move More & Hurt Less.

ABOUT THE PDX20:

The PDX20 is a fully customizable, Made in the USA, high performance walkie stacker. Big Joe engineers and manufactures individual units, or multiple truck builds to meet exact customer requirements in our Wisconsin Dells, WI factory. "What makes the trucks special is we have a sort of standard unit for base capacity, but we have the ability to go through and customize almost every aspect of the truck. We can change the straddle length, straddle width, carriage size, carriage type, carriage width, mast height, hydraulic settings and performance, even the battery box and really, component by component, could build an almost a new truck from the ground up," said Matt Wavrek, Director of Engineering.

The PDX20 is often configured for narrow aisles and small hallways to fit into production cells, load furnaces and perform highly specialized operations.

#PDXcandoit

While the PDX Series is a built to order system, the trucks will feature a commonality of premium parts sourced from local vendors, "I would say regarding the vendors of all our custom parts, we're very close to 100% based US for sourcing and probably another 60 - 80% of that local to the Wisconsin area or the Midwest," Wavrek stated. This will greatly reduce lead times and control costs, allowing Big Joe to deliver a custom designed forklift in the time it takes other companies to deliver a standard unit.

"We're employing more highly skilled tradesmen than we have in nearly a decade and I've seen where some of our vendors now are actually growing, adding employees to their factories or job shops because of all the business Big Joe has provided them," said Linda Dorow, Vice President of Manufacturing. "The PDX Series is great because we're keeping it in a local economy and that's creating a ripple effect of prosperity, good paying jobs where they were few and far between not so long ago."



PDX20 customized with unique die pack handler, a swing arm, remote lift / lower, and blue light.