

Pallet Jacks

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Materials Handling & Access



Photo: Auledas — CC BY 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Jungheinrich_pallet_jack_in_IKEA_Copenhagen.jpg)

A pallet jack is a manual hydraulic truck that lifts pallets a few centimetres and moves them around the workshop, letting one person shift stacked stock, materials and packed projects that would otherwise need teams.

Key Features

- Capacities from 1.5 to 5 tons
- Hydraulic lift by pump handle
- Fork lengths 800-1800 mm
- Steering wheels and load wheels
- Brake options on workshop models

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Move palletized stock and materials
- Transport packed project crates
- Shift machines on pallets for layout
- Load and unload deliveries

Safe Operation

1. Slide the forks fully under the pallet
2. Pump to raise the load clear
3. Steer and push the load at walking pace
4. Lower the load and withdraw the forks
5. Park clear of walkways when not in use

SAFETY NOTES

- Never ride on a pallet jack or load
- Keep feet clear of the wheels and forks
- Do not use on slopes or uneven floors
- Check the load is balanced
- Store with the forks lowered

Maintenance & Consumables

- Check hydraulic oil and leaks
- Grease the wheels and pivots
- Inspect the forks for cracks
- Check the steering chain and wheels
- Test the brake function

Specification & Buying Notes

A 2.5 ton standard pallet jack with polyurethane wheels covers workshop floors well. Choose fork length for the pallets used. Brakes help in sloping or busy areas.