

# Tower Jack Tower Tools

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If you've spent any time dismantling Rohn towers, you've probably had an experience like one I had taking down a Rohn 25 tower for a friend a few months ago. Everything is going great. You remove the six bolts holding the top section. The ground crew pulls the rope, you wiggle the loose section a little bit, and it pops off. Five minutes and you're ready to do the next one. It goes like this for a while, until you get to a section that just won't budge. You wiggle the section and try to push it up, but it just won't move. What now?

Typically, next I'd ask the ground crew to send up an automobile scissors jack and a couple of blocks of wood to pry the sections apart, along with some rope to safely tie all the pieces to the tower. But Tower Jack, of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, has a better idea.

The heavy duty version of the Tower Jack (Figure 1) weighs about five pounds and consists of two pieces of steel bar stock connected with a hinge bolt. The handle



Figure 2—The Tower Jack provides the leverage needed to easily separate stubborn sections.

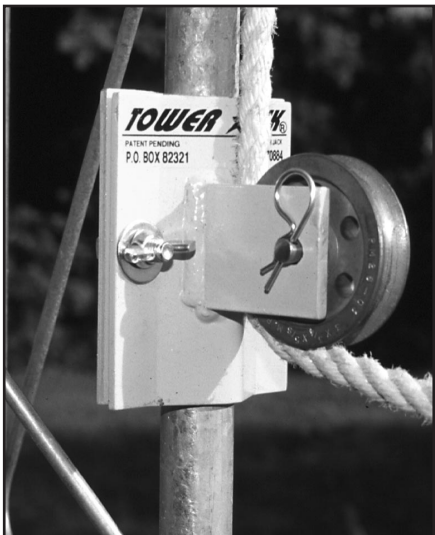


Figure 4—The Tower Block is used on the lifting line of your gin pole. This device allows your ground crew to remain safely outside of the "drop zone."



Figure 1—Tower Jack offers a wide variety of products for the assembly and disassembly of antenna tower sections. These include the Leg Aliner, the Tower Jack, the Tower Block and the Safety Strap. The container at the top of the picture contains their Tower Lube, for use on tower section mating surfaces during assembly.

piece is 24 inches long, and the hinged piece is 12 inches. Both are notched to fit the round horizontal bracing on Rohn tower sections. This particular model is specified to fit Rohn 20, 25, 45 and 55 tower, but we only tried it with Rohn 25. There's a hole in the end of the handle for an optional Safety Strap to clip the Tower Jack to the tower or your climbing belt, or you can use your own safety rope.

Using the Tower Jack is easy (see Figure 2). To disassemble tower sections, orient the device with the handle up and place the bottom brace of the upper tower section in the notch at the end of the handle. Place the top brace of the lower tower section in one of the notches on the hinged piece. Pull down on the handle to lift the tower section.

For difficult sections, I found it best to

lift at the corners. I'd work my way around the tower several times, lifting a little at each corner and gradually sliding the upper section up. With the 24-inch handle, you have a lot of leverage and it's possible to bend the bracing if you use too much force in the center of a rung.

You can also use the Tower Jack to assemble sections. In that case, the handle attaches to the lower section with a hook. One of the notches in the hinged piece fits the brace on the upper section, and you pull down on the handle to slide the sections together.

## Other Tower Jack Tools

Tower Jack offers several other tools designed to make tower work easier. Sometimes during assembly, the legs on tower



Figure 3—During tower assembly, you'll occasionally run into situations where some alignment adjustments are needed to get the third leg to insert. The Leg Aliner can provide the necessary force.

sections just won't line up. This often happens because sections (even brand new ones) have been banged around in transit. Even a small misalignment in the tower legs can create a lot of frustration. Tower Jack offers the Leg Aliner (see Figure 3) to help with these stubborn cases. It's similar to the Tower Jack—just over two feet of steel bar—but this tool has a loop at one end that clamps to the offending tower leg. It gives you enough leverage to move legs that are slightly out of alignment, but it's not intended to straighten seriously bent sections.

We also tried the Tower Block (Figure 4),

a pulley that attaches to one of the legs at the base of the tower. This block allows the ground crew to pull horizontally, rather than vertically, on the rope from the gin pole (the fixture used to lift tower sections during assembly). Pulling horizontally is easier on the arms, and it allows the ground crew to stand safely away from the "drop zone" beneath the tower. The Tower Block easily accommodates  $3/4$ -inch rope. It clamps to the tower leg with bolts and wing nuts. The pulley wheel is held in place with a clevis pin and hairpin cotter, making it very easy to thread the rope.

Tower Jack also offers Tower Lube to

make section assembly and disassembly easier, a hard hat, and an electric utility winch for those really heavy jobs.

I found the Tower Jack tools to be well made and easy to use. The Tower Jack especially is a real time-saver when fooling with difficult sections.

*Manufacturer:* Tower Jack, PO Box 1191, Mt Juliet, TN 37122; tel 800-242-0130, 615-758-9233; <http://www.towerjack.com>. *Manufacturer's suggested amateur pricing:* Heavy Duty Tower Jack, \$59.50; Leg Aliner, \$33.95; Tower Block, \$56.50; Safety Strap, \$11.95.