

ADDING SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE

THREE PRODUCTS FROM FASTWAY SMOOTH OUT HITCHING AND SETUP

by Dave Riggs

Products that make life easier and safer for trailerists are always appreciated. Three such offerings from Fastway — the Flip Jack Foot, ONEStep Wheel Chock and Zip Breakaway Cable & Switch — were put into our test fleet and proved to be very helpful while going through the hitching and setup processes.

Fastway's Flip Jack Foot is designed to attach to the A-frame jack tube and to cleverly extend and retract automatically. The rounded top edge of the device rides up against a spacer ring that's positioned against the outer A-frame jack tube. As the tube is extended (by hand or electrically), the Jack Tube flips into position, ready to handle up to 1,400 pounds of hitch weight. When retracted, the Jack Foot automatically finds its way back into the storage position by using the rounded edge and spacer ring as a locating system. The Flip Jack Foot retails for \$49.99.

Installation is very easy, but you'll have to drill a 1/2-inch hole in the trailer's jack tube. A pilot-hole locator is built into the Jack Foot, eliminating the chance to drill in the wrong place. The rest of the install requires proper tightening of the Nylock nut on the bolt used to secure the device to the jack tube.

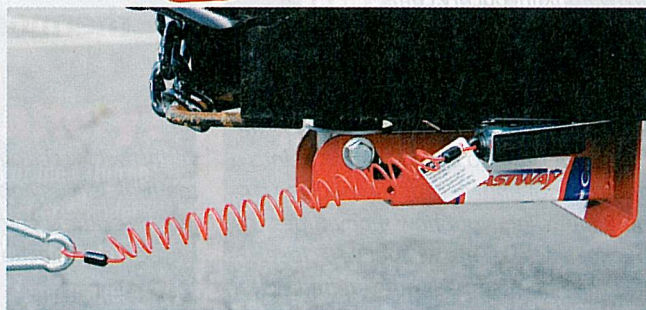
While the Jack Foot worked perfectly on our test trailer, you may need additional spacer rings if clearance is too tight on your trailer's A-frame. Once set up, the Jack Foot should work without further adjustments; however, it cannot be used on slopes steeper than 3 percent.

In all cases, trailer wheels should be chocked when unhitched, and that's where the ONEStep Wheel Chock comes into play. The ONEStep is slid between the trailer's tandem wheels and locked into place without even bending down. Simply pushing your foot down on the powder-coated scissor arms causes the zinc-plated wedges to contact the tires. The chock can be adjusted from 16 to 24 inches — which pretty much covers any tandem-wheeled trailer — and is available in an XL model to accommodate extended axle spacing found on some newer trailers.

To remove the chock, simply pull up on the attached cable;

no fuss, no bending, no trailer rolling. The ONEStep Wheel Chock retails for \$62.65.


Another safety device found on all trailers is the breakaway cable that engages the trailer's brakes in case of a separation from the tow vehicle. Although these cables are certainly important, they can be a nuisance at times, having a tendency to become



PHOTOS BY GARY BOHINC

kinked, frayed and otherwise unruly. Fastway's Zip Breakaway Cable fixes that. Available in 4- or 6-foot lengths, these coiled cables easily clip to existing switches

mounted on the trailer's A-frame. They neatly coil back into position near the switch when disconnected and stretch out when hitched, providing just the right amount of tension to prevent the aforementioned maladies. These cables are also available as a complete kit including the switch. Cables are \$12.49 and \$14.49 for the 4-footer and 6-footer respectively; add \$8.50 for the switch.

Kudos to Fastway for blending cleverness and safety, and for making trailer towing more convenient. 



Fastway, (877) 523-9103, www.fastwaytrailer.com.