

CASE STUDY



CALJAN BELTRACK WITH VACULEX PARCELIFT – DRAPER TOOLS, UK



»ONCE YOU'VE SEEN THE CONCEPT, TAKING A DECISION IS EASY«

FOCUS ON ERGONOMIC OPERATION

Draper Tools have a stock availability of 98%, which means that items arriving from suppliers must be unloaded swiftly and placed correctly in the ½ million sq. ft storage facilities. Although the latest storage equipment and stock management systems are used when storing or retrieving stock, containers arriving with new stock have always been emptied manually.

Containers of loose-loaded goods, with various stock numbers were sorted and palletised by a team of four, five or even six people standing at the back of the container. The goods were manually transferred to pallets and pulled away.

As the warehouse crew empty six to eight containers daily, Keith McLean, the Warehouse Manager, and Ian Lancaster, the Warehouse Logistics Manager, wanted to install equipment that would help their employees do this job ergonomically.

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE UK

Today, the team at Draper Tools' vast warehouse at Chandlers Ford in the south of England use Caljan Belt-Track, fitted with Vaculex ParcelLift™ to empty containers. The VaculexParcelLift™ lifting aid fitted at the head of the telescopic boom conveyor enables the operator to easily lift the goods from the back of the container, placing

them on the conveyor belt which travels back into the warehouse. Here the goods are palletized by other crew members using similar equipment working at the tail end of the belt, and the stacked pallets are taken away. Ian Lancaster is pleased with the result »In addition to the ergonomic benefits of having an aid that lifts up to 40 kg, this arrangement gives the crew a lot more space to stack the pallets and sort the goods.«

The equipment, installed by Caljan Rite-Hite, is the first of its kind in the UK. Keith McLean doesn't see this as a problem »Initially, there were a few teething problems, but the service engineers installing the equipment didn't leave us until everything was 100% in order. Since then the concept has certainly proved itself.«



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Keith McLean, Warehouse Manager & Ian Lancaster, Warehouse Logistics Manager

»We have seen vacuum systems and telescopic boom conveyors working independently over the years and we both thought it may be an advantage if we could find someone that could put the two systems together. We were lucky enough to find Caljan Rite-Hite's BeltTrack machine fitted with Vaculex Parcelift.«

Once Keith McLean and Ian Lancaster saw the concept, taking a decision was easy. »We felt that it was a unique way of unloading or even loading lorries, which hadn't been achieved so far in the UK. We travelled to Denmark to see the machine in operation on-site over there and were very impressed. We were able to use it ourselves, which is the optimal way of testing a new aid.

We believe that it will make life a lot easier for the people unloading the lorries in relation to fatigue and also carrying heavy weights. Our prime consideration has been a question of ergonomics rather than speed. Having said that we are using fewer people to unload a container, so there is definitely a financial benefit too.«



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Draper Tools, UK

Draper tools is more than just a tool company. Since 1919 when the family-owned company was founded, the product range has diversified into lighting, leisure, gardening, security, hardware and personal protection equipment. The range is constantly being developed and expanded.

Draper Tools sources products from top-quality manufacturers in more than 30 countries.

More than 10,000 individual stock numbers are sold to international buying groups, national multi-branch companies, professional tradesmen and private enthusiasts. The latter often buying what they require via the Internet.

Companies supplying Draper Tools must at minimum comply with national, international and local legislation. If legislation doesn't exist, Draper Tools set their own high standards. Draper Tools are accredited in accordance with the ISO14001 environmental management system. Warehouse facilities are carefully sited to minimize visual and noise impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood.