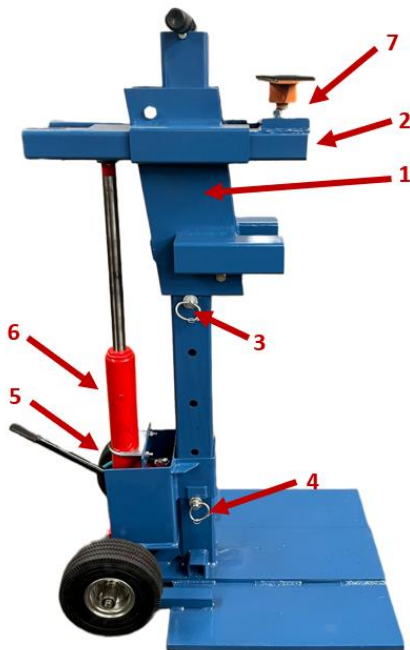


## BL8 & BL8AIR Boat Lift System

### Operating Instructions

**WARNING: NEVER EXCEED RATED CAPACITY. SEE LABELS ON PRODUCT FOR VERIFICATION OF CAPACITY AT GIVEN ARM POSITIONS**

**NOTE:** Your BL8 jack is tested before leaving our factory, and it should be ready for use upon arrival. However, if the jack refuses to lift, or stalls under load, proceed to the end of this document and follow instructions for bleeding the system and topping off hydraulic oil.



1. Lift Arm Assembly
2. Lift Arm Extension
3. Lift Arm Assembly Support Pin
4. Jack Assembly Support Pin
5. Jack Assembly
6. Hydraulic Jack
7. Upper arm position



#### Note on Air Use:

The BL8AIR is designed for either manual lifting or use with a compressed air supply. If using an air supply, a minimum of 100psi is required. When lifting at full speed, each jack will consume around 15CFM, however they will still operate at lower flow rates, at a lower lifting speed. Each jack is equipped with a 25ft hose, to allow all lines to be run from a single location either individually or via a manifold (not included).

#### Lifting a boat off a trailer:

**NOTE:** Always have at least two qualified people when performing this job. Go slowly and ensure the boat remains level and stable.

1. Move boat and trailer to a location with smooth, level, solid ground.

2. Block trailer wheels or otherwise secure the trailer so that neither it nor the boat can shift during lifting.
3. Position BL8s at normal sling lifting points. Adjust lift arm extension (2) to allow trailer wheels to clear lifts.
4. Adjust lift arm and jack assembly height as needed prior to lifting. Starting height can be adjusted by shifting the height of the pins (3, 4) supporting the jack assembly (5) and lift arm (1).
5. If equipped, remove trailer guide arms.
6. Raise lifts until each pad is snug against hull. Ensure that the jack ram is seated in the cup on the lift arm assembly.
7. Remove any straps holding the boat to the trailer.
8. Ensure release valves on the hydraulic jacks (6) are closed. Pump jacks to lift the boat off the trailer. To keep the boat level, alternate lifting the bow and stern up to one foot at a time. Always raise port and starboard jacks at the same time.
9. Lift until the boat has several inches' clearance above the trailer.  
**NOTE: The trailer's suspension will rise as the boat comes off the trailer, so be sure to check all areas of the trailer to ensure the entire hull is clear before proceeding.**  
*Tip: If the boat will be going back on the trailer, mark the locations of the trailer wheels to make positioning the trailer easier later.*
10. When the boat is clear of the trailer, slowly pull the trailer out from under the boat, watching for interference with the hull OR the lifts.
11. **The BL8 is not designed for holding a boat during storage**, it is only intended to lift and lower the boat. If the boat has to stay on the lifts for more than a few minutes, the load should rest on the support pins instead of the jacks. To do this, move the lift arm assembly support pin (3) to the highest accessible hole below the lift arm assembly on each jack. Slowly open the release valves on the jacks to lower the lifts until they rest on the pins. This takes the load off the jacks and ensures they cannot creep over time.

### **Placing boat back on the trailer:**

12. Lift the boat off the racks (or other storage equipment) with the BL8s.
13. Remove racks and other equipment from under the boat.
14. Line the trailer up with the boat, using the trailer frame and boat's centerline for alignment (alignment may take a few tries when new to the system).
15. Once the trailer is aligned, slowly open the jack release valves to lower the boat toward the trailer, making any adjustments to trailer position as needed. Ensure the boat is lowered smoothly and that it remains level.
16. When the boat is firmly on the trailer, secure with straps.
17. Lower and remove BL8s.

### **Long-Travel Height Adjustment:**

In certain situations, more than a single lifting stroke is needed to raise or lower the boat. The BL8 allows the user to adjust the lift's starting point to maximize lifting and lowering range. If the boat needs to go higher, place the lift arm assembly support pin in the highest accessible hole, and lower the lift to rest on the pin. Open the jack release valve and retract the ram so that the jack assembly can be raised, and move the jack assembly as needed. Raise the jack ram until it reconnects with the lift arm assembly and continue lifting.

The same process may be used, in reverse, to lower the boat. If the jack is completely retracted and the boat is still too high, pin the lift arm assembly in place, retract the ram slightly, and lower the jack assembly sufficiently to reach the desired height (remember that trailer suspension will deflect as the boat is loaded, so be sure to give yourself plenty of room to avoid repeating the process). Extend the jack ram until it reconnects with the lift arm, and lift the boat enough to remove lift arm pin. Continue lowering the boat as needed.

## **HYDRAULIC SYSTEM BLEEDING INSTRUCTIONS**

If the hydraulic jack fails to raise or stalls under load, it may be a result of air being trapped in the hydraulic system. Follow the steps below to bleed the air from the system.

**\*\*Caution: Make certain that the Hydraulic Jack is not under load while bleeding the system.\*\***

1. Remove oil tank plug.
2. Pump the handle to raise the jack to its highest position. Open the release spindle and release the handle to lower the jack.
3. Repeat step 2, pumping the handle a number of times to force the hydraulic oil through the system.
4. Top off the oil tank with hydraulic oil. Replace the oil plug. The bleeding process is now complete.
5. Test the hydraulic jack to be certain it is working properly.

### **ADDING HYDRAULIC OIL**

1. Turn the release spindle counterclockwise until the jack is completely lowered. Remove the oil plug from the oil tank.
2. Fill the oil tank with oil. Use high quality hydraulic oil.  
**Note:** The capacity of the Oil Tank is 28 oz.

**Contact us for more information:**

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