

Pallet Level Loaders Provide Relief from Back Problems, Reduce Worker Fatigue and Speed Production



Features/Benefits Provided:

- The units require no power or hydraulic systems, and they automatically maintain a level height to the operator.
- A low-friction, ball bearing supported turntable revolves the load so the operator never reaches out with a load – eliminates back extension.

The Problem:

Bricks and related products come in a variety of types, designs, and colors. But they all have one thing in common: they are heavy. The manual work of loading pallets with finished product involves constant lifting, reaching, and bending. In a typical case, bricks being transported on conveyors were unloaded from the waist-high conveyors onto pallets placed on the floor. Once loaded, forklift trucks move the pallets to storage. Each pallet contains over 400 bricks with loaded pallets weighing in at 2000 pounds. Loading the pallets was time consuming, hard on worker's backs, and led to frequent back complaints, worker fatigue, lost time, and ongoing productivity issues.

The Solution:

"The company has always been concerned with worker well-being and safety. So when we learned about the availability of self-leveling pallet handling equipment, we decided to give it a try." Anytime workers can transfer loads horizontally from conveyors to pallets rather than by repeated lifting and bending. It means less work and speedier operations. "While we don't have actual figures, we know the new units save time and work. Today, we have 18 units -- 14 units in one of our plants and four units in another." The pallet load leveler is designed to automatically keep the top layer of bricks at the most convenient and most desirable height for loading and unloading, (between 30" and 40"). As workers transfer bricks from conveyors to pallets, the load lowers automatically, keeping the top level waist-high for worker convenience. Solidly built for industrial service the rugged, tubular frame is rated for loads up to 4,500 pounds, shock absorbers protect against spring bounce or overshoot when the loaded pallets are being taken away by a forklift truck.

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