

MASTER LOCK'S PATENTED 'ONE TOOL TORQUE™' TECHNOLOGY OFFERS BREAKTHROUGH DESIGN FOR TOWING SYSTEM NEEDS

One Tool Torque™ System Another Innovative First by Leader in Towing Solutions

MILWAUKEE (Nov. 1, 2005) – What if all of your towing equipment could be installed using only one tool – or one hand for that matter? Think of the time you would save! Toolboxes could be cleaned out. An extra hand could lend itself to tip back a cold beverage while at work. In short, people would spend more time *enjoying* the products they buy and less time working to set them up.

With this goal in mind, Master Lock has developed a new towing system technology that helps trailer owners install, remove and tighten trailer hitch balls with a new **One Tool Torque™** (OTT) feature.

Master Lock's redesign of the standard hitch ball and ball mount system is a first in the towing industry and is an innovative upgrade to standard towing technology. The new system spares consumers the extra tools, extra effort and extra time necessary when dealing with less-advanced systems.

The new OTT system will be unveiled to the public with several other new towing technologies at Master Lock's booth at the SEMA and AAPEX trade shows in Las Vegas, Nov. 1-4.

"This is yet another innovative product design from Master Lock that allows trailer users to tow their cargo with greater ease and security," said Jim Recknagel, General Manager, Automotive Group for Master Lock. "With the rise in recreational trailer-use, Master Lock continues to develop towing systems that are more versatile, secure and intuitive to use, offering owners the best way to travel with their prized possessions in stow."

Master Lock's OTT technology locks a hitch ball into place as it is inserted into the ball mount, preventing the ball from spinning while being tightened into place. With an OTT towing system in use, users can mount the hitch ball with a single wrench, eliminating the need to wield two wrenches to get the necessary torque to mount the ball securely.

While making hitch ball installation easier to do, the OTT system also helps users prevent damage and incidental wear to the hitch ball while tightening. This helps to ensure a more reliable performance from the entire towing system when in use.

OTT technology is standard on all of Master Lock's ball mounts, including the most advanced Custom Chrome, Adjustable Height and Locking ball mount models. And each ball mount works with all of the several OTT hitch balls offered by Master Lock.

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About Master Lock

Master Lock is the leader in towing innovation and is the world's largest manufacturer of padlocks and related security products for automotive and outdoor needs, home and yard, contractors, campus, power sports and bike needs.

Master Lock Company is an operating unit of Fortune Brands, Inc., a leading consumer brands company with annual sales exceeding \$7 billion. Headquartered in Lincolnshire, Ill., Fortune Brands (NYSE: FO), is included in the S&P 500 Index.

For more information on Master Lock products and more safe towing and cargo tips, visit www.masterlock.com.