

Press Release

Neu-Isenburg, October 2009

ROCKINGER towing hitches – always the right solution

ROCKINGER's robust and reliable towing hitches are an integral part of agricultural technology. The products developed by the market leader rich in tradition have set the standard for trailer technology for many years.

For more than 100 years, ROCKINGER has been synonymous with high-quality towing hitches. This traditional brand is part of the JOST GROUP today, the world leader in vehicle coupling technology. ROCKINGER offers a complete range of coupling technology specially developed for tractors, agricultural trailers and self-driven machinery. The range of products includes not only various types of towing hitches, but also different drawbar brackets to match individual tractor types, and corresponding drawbar eyes. Accessories such as remote control units for easy and safe operation of the coupling from the tractor seat complete the range of products.

Couplings and drawbar eyes from ROCKINGER have always stood for the highest possible quality and long service life, and thus for minimal costs of wear and maintenance. ROCKINGER always uses high-quality steels. Wherever technically possible, use is made of forge-formed components. For example, all receiver bearings and also the ball joints of ball couplings are forge-formed. ROCKINGER's engineers reduce the wear on bolts, bushings and bearings by using surface-hardened materials. When using cast components, the coupling specialists avoid grey cast iron and rely entirely on cast steel, which is far more robust.

All ROCKINGER towing hitches are certified in accordance with European Directives and have been granted a general type approval (Allgemeine Bauartgenehmigung, ABG). ROCKINGER hitches are used as standard original equipment on many current tractor types and listed in the approved range

of the general operating certificate granted to individual tractor manufacturers (Allgemeine Betriebserlaubnis, ABE).

Ball couplings

Outstandingly easy driving characteristics and an enormous load bearing capacity of up to four tonnes are the prime advantages offered by ROCKINGER ball couplings. Their design facilitates an almost completely play-free connection between the ball and the ball joint (socket). This makes jolt-free driving possible both on-road and off-road. Ball couplings are therefore particularly suitable for use with heavy trailers, for example slurry wagons. ROCKINGER ball couplings offer an easily operated locking system, which ensures reliable monitoring of locking by means of a patented raster.

ROCKINGER offers the RO*825 ball coupling with an 80 millimetre diameter ball for connection both to drawbar brackets with differing axle widths and to most trailer types by means of the swinging drawbar model. In the RO*825 drawbar bracket model for tractors with a total weight of up to 14 tonnes, the coupling offers a theoretical drawbar strength of 89.3 kilonewtons. At a tension of 40t, this corresponds to a possible calculated trailer weight of 26 tonnes. In this case, the supported weight can be up to 3.0 tonnes vertical load. In this version, the coupling permits a vertical swivel angle of at least 20 degrees either up or down, as well as a horizontal swivel angle of at least 60 degrees to the left and right. The version with the swinging drawbar (RO*825 L) similarly achieves drawbar strengths of up to 89.3 kilonewtons, depending on the tractor type, and up to four tonnes vertical load with the same swivel angles.

Bolt couplings

In agriculture and forestry, the "original" agricultural towing hitch is in widespread use above all in the form of the automatic bolt coupling with a release lever, which was developed and patented by ROCKINGER. The automatic locking of the coupling offers not only much more convenient handling than the manual insert pin, but, foremost, a significantly safer means of handling the towing hitch. For safety reasons, an automatic coupling on the front trailer is a statutory requirement for the operation of two trailers. In contrast to pin releases, release lever releasing systems are also suitable for use on uneven surfaces, as they release only when the drawbar eye is completely inserted in the mouth of the coupling. For this reason, ROCKINGER supplies its automatic bolt couplings in only the release lever version.

ROCKINGER self-operating bolt couplings are available as type RO*850 with cylindrical bolts or with ball-shaped bolts in the RO*860 version (bolt diameter 38 mm) and the RO*873 version (bolt diameter 36 mm). Thanks to the reduced play between the bolt and the eye, ball-shaped bolts offer greater driving comfort combined with reduced wear and better vertical swivel angles. With bolt couplings, the customer has a choice between versions with a flange bearing, for example as used on agricultural trailers and self-driven machines, or those with an insert pin bearing or a lift bearing for connection to the tractor-specific drawbar bracket. For all self-operating bolt couplings, Bowden traction remote control systems are optionally available to allow convenient operation from the tractor seat. In addition to the automatic couplings, ROCKINGER also offers manually-operated bolt couplings with single-hand pin systems under the designation RO*810, with a choice of flange, insert pin or lift bearings. The manual bolt coupling RO*805 is suitable only for attachment to trailers.

Other couplings

In addition to the ball and bolt couplings in widespread use throughout Europe, the ROCKINGER range also includes the Piton Fix system popular in France. With these couplings, a 44.5 millimetre thick and 70 millimetre high cylindrical spigot, rather than a ball, locks the drawbar eye. However, to enable vertical swivel angles of 20 degrees up and down, it is necessary to provide for a play of at least 5.5 millimetres between the spigot and the eye. Locking is undertaken in all cases manually by means of insertion pins or a closing latch. Piton Fix is available both for attachment to drawbar brackets and for certain tractor types as a swinging drawbar version. Depending on the model, vertical load supported amounts to between 2.5 and 4.0 tonnes. With the Piton Fix, too, theoretical drawbar strengths of 89.5 kilonewtons are possible, corresponding to a calculated trailer weight of 28 tonnes.

Drawbar brackets

Drawbar brackets are used to mount towing hitches with insert pin or lift bearings and to facilitate variable adjustment of the coupling height. In addition, it is possible to drive a range of couplings in various mounting configurations with the drawbar brackets, for example bolt couplings above and ball couplings below. The dismantling of the couplings is also quick and easy as a result. Drawbar brackets are available to suit each tractor type. ROCKINGER drawbar brackets have been tested and almost all have been homologated.

Drawbar eyes

To match each of the various towing hitch systems, ROCKINGER also produces drawbar eyes and ball sockets to be welded or screwed onto the drawbar.

Press Contact:

Monika Smilovic
Siemensstraße 2
63263 Neu-Isenburg, Germany

Tel: +49 (6102) 295-383

E-mail: monika.smilovic@jost-werke.de