

# Ultra-Fab's Electric Tongue Jacks Proven Most Reliable

ELKHART, Ind.,— Every RV aftermarket supplier boasts about the quality and reliability of their products, but few of these suppliers actually have scientific test data to back up their claims - Ultra-Fab Products, Inc. (Ultra-Fab), is the notable exception.

Continuous testing and benchmarking of electric tongue jacks, 5th wheel jacks and weight distribution hitches is an everyday experience at Ultra-Fab, and Ultra-Fab test results demonstrate a best in class for cycles completed in all three product listings, according to Craig Searer, president, Ultra-Fab.

Searer said, "Ultra Fab has historically tested its products but with no consistencies to test methods and very little cycle testing due to lack of industry standards. Ultra-Fab has set its own standards except for hitch products which must comply with the SAE J684 Standard<sup>1</sup>.

"Ultra-Fab performs continuous testing for hitch products according to J684. Ultra-Fab has also set up test fixtures at its overseas suppliers so products are tested before shipment and then the test results are confirmed through a sampling of the shipment when it arrives in the United States."



*Progressive Engineering's lab technician Chris Stutzman performs cycle testing on one of Ultra-Fab's electric tongue jacks.*

***Ultra-Fab's closest competitor is only 12-percent as reliable as Ultra-Fab's Ultra 4000 Electric Tongue Jack***

Ultra-Fab conducts tests internally on its test bench as well as independent test labs. Ultra-Fab's independent labs include Progressive Engineering, Inc., Goshen, Indiana, performs cycle testing for electric tongue jacks and load testing for cargo carriers.

Why testing?

David Busch, vice president of operations of Ultra-Fab, explained, "Ultra-Fab wanted to build customer confidence and reduce warranty costs. The added benefit is to make products safer, especially towing and hitch product, as well as electric tongue jacks."

In 2007 Ultra-Fab implemented a database to start gathering historical data on defects. By 2010 a standardized system was implemented to define defects across all of Ultra-Fab product lines.

Busch said, "Cycle testing has confirmed the useful life of products such as electric tongue jacks, 5th wheel landing gear, and weight distribution hitches. Through the process of cycle testing we have been

<sup>1</sup> The Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE) J684 Standard includes couplings, hitches, and safety chains used in conjunction with all types of trailers or towed vehicles whose Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) does not exceed 4540 kg (10 000 lb)

Cycles Before Failure Comparisons - Electric Tongue Jacks			
Competitor	Product	Load Capacity	Cycles Before Failure
Competitor 1	Jack 1	3k-1	1,226
	Jack 2	3k-2	1,364
	Jack 3	4.5k-1	1,424
	Jack 4	4.5k-2	3,757
Competitor 2	Jack 1	2.5k-1	912
	Jack 2	3.5k-1	154
Competitor 3	Jack 1	2.5k-1	110
	Jack 2	4k-1	196
Competitor 4	Jack 1	3.5k-1	729
Competitor 5	Jack 1	3k-1	503
	Jack 2	3.5k-1	282
Ultra-Fab	Ultra 4000 Electric Tongue Jack	4k	32,577



(Top Photo) Ultra 4000 Electric Tongue Jack (PN 38-944014) with the grease zerk fitting (Patent Pending).

(Bottom Photo) Close Up zerk grease fitting

able to identify component parts that fail due to fatigue. The products have been redesigned with new improved component parts that extend the useful life of the products.

“For products that need to comply with J684, U.S. independent test labs are used to confirm results for safety and reduced product liability. These independent test labs are also used to confirm our internal test results, especially when benchmarking against competitor products.”

As a result of the testing, Ultra-Fab has been able to reduce overall warranty from 1.7% of sales in 2010 to 0.70% in 2014, a fact that should excite RV aftermarket retailers. For tongue jacks for example, test results represent the number of cycles, extending and retracting, the jack performs prior to failure. These tests have resulted in an idea that has led to a patent pending on its tongue jack that extended its life by more than 10 times normal.

The most recent test result for the Ultra 4000 Electric Tongue Jack (PN 38-944014) with the grease zerk fitting cycled 32,577 times before failure. Comparing this result with five competitors (see chart above),

it clearly proves that Ultra-Fab’s tongue jack is significantly more reliable and will provide the end-user with many more years of trouble-free service.

The closest competitor, Competitor 1’s 4.5k tongue jack with 3,757 cycles before failure, is only 12-percent as reliable as Ultra-Fab’s Ultra 4000 Electric Tongue Jack with 32,577 cycles.

Searer said, “We want consumers to know that when they purchase an Ultra-Fab product, they are buying a product that has been tested for quality, reliability, safety and durability.”

RV aftermarket retailers and dealers who share Ultra-Fab’s passion for quality and want to provide their customers with products that have been tested for reliability, safety and durability can offer Ultra-Fab products with confidence.

### About Ultra-Fab Products



Ultra-Fab Products is a privately-held, family-owned business that has been serving RVers and RV manufacturers for more than 60 years. With nearly 100 different products, Ultra-Fab is one of the industry’s most prolific suppliers of OEM and aftermarket products. Adhering to their slogan, “RVing is Meant to be Enjoyable... We’re making it that way!” Ultra-Fab is constantly creating new products to enhance the RV experience.

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