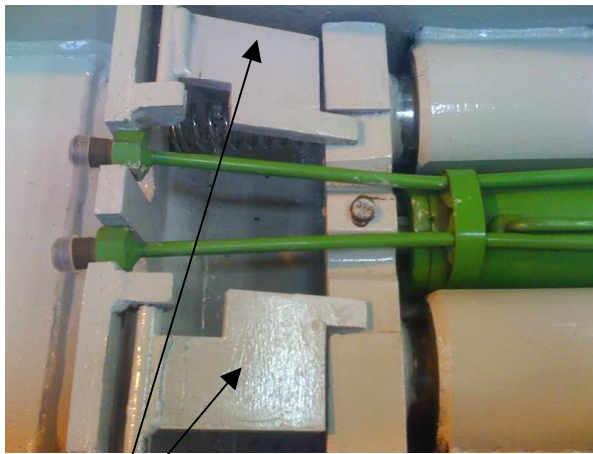


THE NEW 'AUTO QUADLOCK' HYDRAULIC MASTERHITCH.

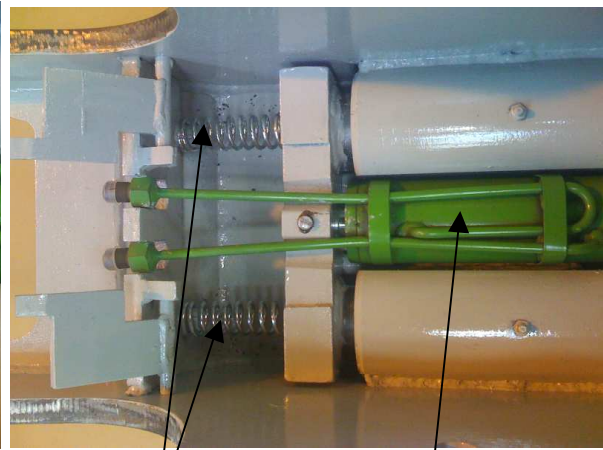
Masterhitch Europe Ltd have redesigned the Masterhitch to comply fully with the Health and Safety Executive's requirements following concerns over a number of recent incidents involving Semi Automatic Quick Couplers, none of which incidentally have been with a Masterhitch. The new 'Auto Quadlock' Hydraulic Masterhitch is now fully automatic and requires no manual safety-locking device.

The 'Auto Quadlock' has four separate internal safety locking devices fitted. Two of them are independent strong springs, one on each locking pin to hold the pins in the locked position. The other two are separate gravity locking plates which are constantly engaged on each locking pin, locking each pin in place while the Quadlock Masterhitch is in normal use.

The following two photographs show the Auto Quadlock with the cover plate removed so the internal workings can be seen:



Gravity locking plates which are both always in the locked position unless the bucket is specifically positioned to be removed.



Springs which keep both main locking pins locked in place. Hydraulic Ram



The Advantages of the Quadlock Masterhitch are:

- Original bucket geometry is maintained.
- No loss of digging forces
- Up to six buckets can be stacked and carried together
- Fully compatible with all breakers and attachments
- Sealed to prevent ingress of dirt
- All moving parts are internal
- The hitch is no wider than the machine dipper for use with narrow trenching buckets

The principle of operation of the Masterhitch is that the hydraulic ram inside the hitch which operates the two lock pins is always under constant positive pressure while the machine engine is running and the self-locking activation switch in the cab is in the locked position. This alone should ensure that the Masterhitch remains locked onto the bucket or attachment and has done so for over 15 years since inception of the original design, with no instances of un-commanded release. In addition however on the 'Auto Quadlock' Masterhitch there are two separate strong springs and two separate gravity plates which provide four separate additional automatic locking mechanisms to ensure there is no danger of the hitch disengaging, the lock pins creeping back or the hitch being inadvertently operated and releasing the bucket or attachment. If there were to be a failure in the ram or hydraulic pipework this would immediately be noticeable by constant leaking oil and the failure of the hydraulic ram to operate the lock pins and the 'Auto Quadlock' would not release the bucket or attachment.

To release the bucket or attachment the dipper has to be fully in and the bucket ram fully open, (i.e. bucket fully closed). In this position only will the gravity plates release the locking pins. The four locking mechanisms are all inside the Masterhitch and are therefore protected from external damage and from site debris guaranteeing long-term trouble free operation.

The 'Auto Quadlock' Masterhitch complies with all current and proposed/anticipated Quick Hitch legislation and sets the standard for ultimate safety in quick hitch design.

For further information please contact:

Mr Neil Davis (General Manager)
Masterhitch Europe Ltd
The Whitewall Centre
Whitewall Road
Strood
Kent
ME2 4DZ

Telephone: 01634 290022
Email: neil.davis@masterhitch.co.uk
Web Site: www.masterhitch.co.uk