



The HY4 is also suitable for the Ducato/Boxer/Jumper range of base vehicles

## AL-KO's HY4 levelling system gains weight control

Building a weigh function into a levelling system seems an obvious move. The tricky bit is getting it to work accurately, especially when you want it to weigh individual axles. AL-KO has risen to the challenge and added weighing to its HY4 levelling system.

Words Terry Owen

Hydraulic levelling systems have been around for some time but when AL-KO launched its HY4 system in 2018 it broke the mould. Previously all systems had a centralised pump and control with hydraulic lines running up and down the chassis.

The HY4 system is different in that each lifting unit is self-contained with its own pump and reservoir. This means there are no components to fit inside the vehicle and so no restrictions on load space.

Now AL-KO has broken the mould again by incorporating a weighing function with remote control from any smartphone. Initially the HY4 could only be controlled from a remote wired handset but from October 2019,



Each lifting leg is self-contained with its own pump and reservoir



AL-KO's 2LINK box provides the connectivity between the smartphone and HY4 system (and other functions where fitted)



Pump and reservoir

## Company Profile

### DexKo Global Inc.

DexKo Global is the world's leading supplier of advanced chassis technology, chassis assemblies and related components with more than 130 years of experience in trailer and caravan components. DexKo Global was founded at the end of 2015 through the combination of Dexter and AL-KO Vehicle Technology. With its headquarters in Novi, Michigan, the company employs more than 5,000 associates with 42 production facilities and 22 distribution centers. DexKo Global has a turnover of more than US\$ 1.5 billion.

### ALOIS KOBER GMBH

Founded in 1931, AL-KO Vehicle Technology is now a global technology company with sites in Europe, South America, Asia and Australia. A supplier of high quality chassis components for trailers, leisure vehicles and light commercial vehicles, AL-KO is synonymous with ergonomic and functional excellence, superb comfort as well as innovations to enhance road safety. The company specialises in sophisticated innovation processes and has received many awards for this. ALOIS KOBER GMBH is a wholly owned subsidiary of DexKo Global Inc., a portfolio company of KPS Capital Partners, LP.

with the help of AL-KO's 2LINK box and a Bluetooth connection, smartphone control became possible. The four high-quality pressure sensors of the lifting units provide the driver with information about the total weight of the vehicle and the respective axle loads - for both 2- and 3-axle vehicles. The weighing function is also available for existing systems as an upgrade.

To ensure that the readings are correct, the system is first calibrated during installation. In this way it is possible to compensate for the fact that the jacking points may be away from the axle itself. Readings can be shown either in kilograms (kg) or pounds (lbs). This makes it very easy to comply with respective weight limits and to prevent the overloading of a given axle or the vehicle as a whole. The entire weighing process is fully automatic. It takes just three minutes to deploy the legs, weigh the vehicle and retract the legs again. In addition to providing weight information the HY4 excels at levelling the vehicle and making it stable, especially on soft ground. By means of a built-in inclination sensor the system will first inform you if it is possible to level the vehicle on the terrain on which it is standing. Clearly labelled buttons allow you to have the option of controlling pairs of supports individually and using the slope levelling manually or automatically. Levelling is accurate to the millimetre and is completed within a minute.

The system also offers two freely programmable functions to tilt the vehicle in a particular direction. This can come in very handy for tank emptying or for those who prefer to

sleep with their bed at a particular angle. An emergency function allows for lowering the vehicle in the event of a flat battery or similar. Other useful features are an integrated immobilizer and an anti-theft device as well as a protective device that does not allow children to activate the system easily.

Whilst the modular nature of the HY4 might add a little to the cost it simplifies servicing and it makes it very easy to transfer the system from one vehicle to another. What's more the HY4 can be fitted directly to all vehicles with an AL-KO chassis, as well as for Fiat X250/290 motorhomes and vans on a Ducato, Jumper or Boxer chassis (Coming soon: Mercedes Sprinter VS30 AMC/SLC and later Original chassis).

The HY4 hydraulic level system is approved for motorhomes up to 6 tons and can be installed by trained and certified AL-KO dealers - or at an AL-KO customer center.

Short of finding a public weighbridge there can be no easier way to check your vehicle weight and axle loadings than with AL-KO's HY4 system. The importance of this cannot be understated as, in most countries it is illegal to drive an overloaded vehicle and the insurance may be invalidated. Apart from any fine, drivers caught with overloaded vehicles are normally made to reduce the load to within limits before proceeding. This can be very inconvenient if no second vehicle is available to assist.



To operate the system, you choose between levelling or weighing.

The levelling screen (centre) also contains the functions for night time tilting and tank emptying.

The weighing screen (right) shows the weight on each axle and the total weight of the vehicle, with each value displayed against its limit for easy checking.