



Looking for a better way of moving your cars around inside the garage? Do you want to conserve your precious work space? Maybe the affordable solution, is a set of car dollies. Car dollies were originally designed and used by auto wreckers and towers to help move a car that could not steer or had damage enough to prevent the car from moving freely. The term dolly is defined as "a low platform with wheels used to move heavy objects". It wasn't before long that someone decided that this would be a nice addition to anyone's garage. So do they work? KitCarMagazine.com contacted 3 different car dolly suppliers to provide 3 independent testers with a opportunity to evaluate a set or 4 in the "real world" garage. Each evaluator was supplied with a different set and asked to use the product for 2 weeks. So how did they measure up?



Automotive Service Equipment .com - America's discount automotive service equipment supplier.
 800-229-6218
www.automotiveserviceequipment.com



Product Data:

Name: Auto Dolly
Manufacture: Merrick Machine Co
Plate Material: Manufactured from 1/4" steel plate and professionally primed and painted for corrosion resistance.
Castor Material: 2" diameter and 1.75" wide, made of shock resistant phenolic plastic
Bearing Type: Has four zinc plated ball bearing swivel casters
Capacity per dolly: 1500 lbs.
Dolly Weight: 15 lbs to 21 lbs ea depending on size
Location made: Plate in the USA, castors are Korean

Pricing for a set of 4 dollies:

16" L x 8" w \$118
 16" L x 12" w \$128
 16" L x 16" w \$138

KitCarMagazine.com Readers offer

Mention KitCarMagazine.com and ASE will discount your dollies \$10 OFF!

Automotive Service Equipment' dollies arrived well packed and heavy. After opening the box we could see why with four 1/4 steel plates. They were defiantly designed for rigidity. Each dolly came packed with it own hardware kit including the castors, nuts and washers. Relatively easy to assemble taking about 20 min. The 2" wheels allows for the car to sit at almost regular height, good for when you don't have much headway or jacking room.



Evaluation Questions 1– 6 are ranked from 1 (Bad) to 10 (Great)

1. How difficult were your dollies to assemble? **10**
2. How difficult were they to install on the car? **10**
3. Once you had them installed How easy was the car able to move around on your garage floor? **8 with one person 2 people would be a 10**
4. How hard was it to move around on the drive way? **5 (Wheels are soft)**
5. Did you like the high the ride height of the dollies? **10**
6. You overall rating of the use/appearance? **10 (On good surface 7 on rough surface)**

7. How long did it take to assemble? **20 min**
8. Did your dollies have any wheel locks and if so how many? **No**
9. Have you ever used car dollies before? **Yes**
10. What would you be willing to pay for a set of 4 dollies? **??**
11. What do you think that your set of dollies retails for? **??**
12. Would you recommend them to a friend to purchase? **Yes (If they were inexpensive enough)**
13. Were you pleased of the construction of the dollies? **Yes**
14. If you could improve your set, what would you add/change? **wheels picked up any debris they rolled over.**
15. How large were your wheel castors? **2"**
16. What did your wheel casters appear to be made of? **Rubber**
17. What did your mounting plate appear to be made of? **Steel**
18. Were you missing any hardware from your kit? **No**
19. Anything you would want to tell us about the set you received? **Over all set worked great. Was hard to push around with one person. Two people would have no problem. Car did not wander with one person pushing. We had one wheel pick up a small nail. It quit rolling. Otherwise they worked as they were supposed to.**



Company call to order
1-800-345-1178 or www.eastwoodcompany.com



Product Data:

Name: Economy Racing Wheel Dollies

Manufacture: "Overseas" Imported

Plate Material: Stamped Steel

Castor Material: Steel

Bearing Type: "Plain"

Capacity per dolly: 1000 lbs.

Dolly Weight: 25 lbs ea

Location made: China

Other Information: For those with painted floors we have a similar dolly with composite wheels Part number 43087 \$119.99 for a set of 2. The Soft Lifter Jack Pad (43183) fits in your trolley jack to prevent scratching frame rails. The Floor Jack Adapter (43042) Fits most trolley jack to lift on the ridge under rocker panels of unit body constructed cars.

Pricing for a set of 4 dollies:

16" L x 15" w \$239.96
(*Sold in pairs of two for \$119.98)

The Eastwood Company which is one of the largest suppliers for automotive hardware and supplies also had an impressive package. Typically only sold in pairs we received two sets from Eastwood that weighed an impressive 50 lbs each box (Holding two dollies) Construction was relatively simple. One unique difference with the Eastwood's product is the supporting plate is actually curved around rather than bent. This allows for full contact around the wheel rather than three pressure points. This would be ideal for long storage



Evaluation Questions 1– 6 are ranked from 1 (Bad) to 10 (Great)

- 1. How difficult were your dollies to assemble? **10**
- 2. How difficult were they to install on the car? **10**
- 3. Once you had them installed How easy was the car able to move around on your garage floor? **10**
- 4. How hard was it to move around on the drive way? **10**
- 5. Did you like the high the ride height of the dollies? **10**
- 6. You overall rating of the use/appearance? **10**

- 7. How long did it take to assemble? **30 min**
- 8. Did your dollies have any wheel locks and if so how many? **No**
- 9. Have you ever used car dollies before? **No**
- 10. What would you be willing to pay for a set of 4 dollies? **\$350**
- 11. What do you think that your set of dollies retails for? **??**
- 12. Would you recommend them to a friend to purchase? **Yes**
- 13. Were you pleased of the construction of the dollies? **Yes**
- 14. If you could improve your set, what would you add/change? **Nothing**
- 15. How large were your wheel castors? **3"**
- 16. What did your wheel casters appear to be made of? **Steel & Rubber**
- 17. What did your mounting plate appear to be made of? **Steel**
- 18. Were you missing any hardware from your kit? **Not one item**
- 19. Anything you would want to tell us about the set you received? **Using a wheel dolly to move a car in a confined area is much easier..**



Green Oak Enterprises, Inc.
 South Lyon, Michigan
 1.888.721.9595
 www.car-dolly.com



Product Data:

Name: Car Dolly
Manufacture: Green Oak Enterprises, Inc
Plate Material: Manufactured from 1/4" Extruded billet aluminum, Tempered for strength.
Castor Material: 3 1/2" diameter, Glass filled reinforced nylon
Bearing Type: Roller wheel bearing and ball bearing swivel
Capacity per dolly: 1500 lbs.
Dolly Weight: 12 lbs ea
Location made: All materials made in the USA.
Additional Information: Green Oak also produces a 20" version of the dollies for larger tires.

Pricing for a set of 4 dollies:

16" L x 10" w \$175
 16" L x 10" w \$245 w/Upgraded Castors & Lock

KitCarMagazine.com Readers offer

Mention KitCarMagazine.com and Car-Dolly.com will ship your dollies FREE

At first when we got the Green Oak product we wondered if they had only shipped us one dolly. After opening the package there was indeed 4 complete sets. The main difference we noticed immediately was the plates were made of 5/16 "aluminum (less weight) with a good curve to them. Although Green Oak sells two castor types we were privileged to use the "Upgraded" set which uses the roller bearing and equipped with a wheel lock.

Assembly was easy taking about 10 minutes. The wheels are over 3" in diameter which makes for a higher ride height but also for a smoother ride when pushing the car.



Evaluation Questions 1– 6 are ranked from 1 (Bad) to 10 (Great)

1. How difficult were your dollies to assemble? **10**
2. How difficult were they to install on the car? **9**
3. Once you had them installed How easy was the car able to move around on your garage floor? **10**
4. How hard was it to move around on the drive way? **9**
5. Did you like the high the ride height of the dollies? **10**
6. You overall rating of the use/appearance? **10**

7. How long did it take to assemble? **10 min**
8. Did your dollies have any wheel locks and if so how many? **Yes, 4. One per dolly**
9. Have you ever used car dollies before? **No**
10. What would you be willing to pay for a set of 4 dollies? **\$200**
11. What do you think that your set of dollies retails for? **\$300**
12. Would you recommend them to a friend to purchase? **Yes**
13. Were you pleased of the construction of the dollies? **Yes**
14. If you could improve your set, what would you add/change? **Maybe a little longer 17" or 18"**
15. How large were your wheel castors? **3.5"**
16. What did your wheel casters appear to be made of? **Hard Rubber**
17. What did your mounting plate appear to be made of? **Aluminum**
18. Were you missing any hardware from your kit? **No (Had extra actually!)**
19. Anything you would want to tell us about the set you received? **Well this is the first time I have used a dolly set but I am glad I did. It was very easy to assemble and to install. I liked the ability to "lock" the wheels which gives a support while working on the car. It was very easy to push but would be better if two people were helping, not because it was hard to push but because it was almost too easy to push and when you pushed one side the other side would move the opposite direction. After mastering the wheel locks it was a snap. I highly recommend this set to anyone who is looking.**

No matter what dolly set you go with we are sure you will get a lot of use from them. Each design has it unique advantages. Pricing ranges, for a complete set of four, from \$118—\$245. One of the features that we felt was important to mention were the wheel locks, offered by Green Oaks. After installing these sets we immediately realized that it may not be a good idea to operate the dollies around a slope or hill. Also if you bumped in to your car too hard it could in turn damage something else. One thing you must keep in mind, if you do purchase a wheel dolly set, is to be very mindful of any hills or slopes. Even though Green Oaks set has a wheel lock it is not going to guarantee your car wont slide. It is there to help PREVENT it from sliding around. If your car starts rolling down a hill on car dollies you can best no matter how hard you hit your breaks you are not going to stop. So please keep that safety tip in mind when looking for your set. Regardless of manufactures each set we received for this evaluation was a high quality product. You should choose the features that you are looking for. Whether they have soft or hard castors, small or big wheels, Aluminum or Steel plates there is one that could meet your needs and budget. Be sure to mention KitCarMagazine.com when ordering for special discounts! We would like to extend a special thanks to each of the distributors of the Car Dollies for participating in our evaluation and would like to say keep up the great work! KKM