



Tower of strength

Bodyshop magazine caught up with GYS at the Vizion Kinetic conference in Telford last month. In the world of bodyshop equipment, when we talk with GYS the conversation is normally centred around the application of new technology in spot welding, investment in electronics or new software resulting in safer or faster repair times for the bodyshop.

But on the GYS stand at Vizion Kinetic, the focus was on a somewhat humbler new product that was catching the attention of visitors – a new pulling tower with a novel way of being fixed to the ground.

Neil Pulsford, UK MD of GYS, said of the new Airfix Pulling Tower: "To achieve the power to pull from the tower we use compressed air to create a vacuum at the base. This is a very powerful process and remains effective even on an imperfect surface. Any reasonable bodyshop floor will be suitable."

Other features of the product include a substantially constructed tower reaching 1.3m in height. The robust construction all for a powerful pull of 350kg at all points up and down the tower, from bottom and the top.

The GYS Airfix features a smart height adjustment mechanism, similar to the designs used in mountaineering equipment

and requiring only a simple lift release with one hand, no need to remove and re-insert pins.

For the pull itself GYS employs rope. At first glance this may seem insufficient until it is explained that this is maritime rope rated to 1.5 tonnes. The advantage of this rope, along with a fine increment winch, are that a more forgiving or controlled pull is achieved. Also, with an eye on long term ownership costs and convenience in the event of wear or damage, it is easily replaced.

It also features a simple pulley system which enables the addition of a downward pull when required.

The feature that interested most repairers who visited the GYS stand, was on the base of the unit, and how the vacuum was protected. Ultimately this is the area of contact and with high forces in play this part of the tower will be subject to lateral forces and wear. On the Airfix, GYS has employed a unique design in two ways. First heavy-duty "rubber" pads take the shear force away from the vacuum seal. Secondly, with an eye on convenience and future maintenance costs, the GYS vacuum seal is hand fixed and removable. In the event of misuse or wear in the bodyshop, because it is not bonded it can be removed

and replaced in seconds and at low cost.

"While we normally develop more complex electronic repair tools the pulling tower is an extremely useful tool for many repairs that will save time for the bodyshop," Pulsford told *Bodyshop*. "Though simpler in technology, the GYS engineers have ensured that the same design principles have been employed to maximise performance and minimise long-term ownership costs. The unique vacuum seal design is a very smart solution and will ensure longevity and low maintenance requirements."

The GYS Airfix is designed and built by GYS in France. To see it in action, scan the QR code below.



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