Sky Hook Brake Style Options

There are two brake styles offered for the Sky Hook lifting devices. Each brake style offers specific benefits for different applications. All standard 85XX & 95XX Series Sky Hooks include the Friction Brake while the standard 87XX and 97XX Series Sky Hooks utilize the LoadLock Clutch Brake. For custom Sky Hook designs, the customer must specifically request Friction Brake or Clutch Brake during the design process to ensure their Sky Hook will include the desired brake style. We do our very best to offer both styles to each customer requesting a custom unit.

**Friction Brake (Lever Style Brake):**
The primary benefit to the Friction Brake is the low cost of the brake mechanism while still providing a safe way to lift and control up to 500 lbs. It is also a great option for customers requiring quick operation especially when lowering the load. Customers lowering the load long distances would find it to be beneficial because of the ease of operation.

The Friction Brake utilizes the friction of a brake on a hub to hold the load applied to the hook of the Sky Hook. This brake style has a lever that protrudes from the top of the Sky Hook gearbox by the hand wheel.

Using the Friction Brake is a simple one-hand operation. For the operator to raise the load he must simply rotate the hand wheel clockwise*. To lower the load, the operator will need to slowly pull back on the brake lever while controlling the rate of descent with the palm of the same hand against the outer ring of the hand wheel. The operator can lower the load as slow, or fast, as desired. If there is a very light load or no load at all on the hook of the Sky Hook, the operator may need to either rotate the hand wheel counter-clockwise*, or pull down on the hook, while pulling back on the brake lever. If at any point the operator lets go of the brake lever, the Sky Hook will hold the load at that position.

**LoadLock Clutch Brake (Weston Style Brake):**
The benefits of the LoadLock Clutch Brake are in simplicity and smooth operation. It does not require explanation to operate. Employers can trust that the Sky Hook brake will not likely be used incorrectly as the room for error is nearly non-existent. The extra cost of this brake style is easily respected with the additional ease of use it offers.

The LoadLock Clutch Brake option uses the design concept used commonly in hand chain hoists. The Clutch Brake uses mechanical screw forces to hold the load at all times. Releasing the brake is done by the operator rotating the hand wheel counter-clockwise*. There is no lever required to operate this brake.

Operation of the Clutch Brake is seamless and convenient. Raising the load with a Clutch Brake requires the operator to simply rotate the hand wheel clockwise* same as on the Friction Brake. The difference between the two brake styles is in the operation of lowering the load. Lowering the load with a Clutch Brake requires the operator to simply rotate the hand wheel the opposite direction from raising it. The brake does all the work for releasing when necessary. If at any point the operator lets go of the hand wheel, the Sky Hook will hold the load at that position.

**Be sure to check out our YouTube videos to see the brakes in action!**