

# TWO-POST LIFTS

A Buyer's Guide.



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When it comes to increasing your shop's efficiency and productivity, very few things will make a bigger impact than the right lift. But how do you determine which lift is right for your shop? That's the question we set out to answer here. No two shops are alike, so what's right for you might not work at a shop down the street.

That's why we'll walk you through all of the things you should consider when you're in the market for a new two-post lift.

## **We'll cover:**

- Benefits of two-post lifts
- Asymmetrical and symmetrical lifts
- Different sizes of lifts
- What's important in a two-post lift
- Forward Lifts options and features

# BENEFITS OF TWO-POST LIFTS

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There are two main categories of surface lifts: two-post and four-post. Each has certain advantages over the other. But when it comes to smaller, independent shops, two-post lifts typically make more sense. Generally, two-post lifts:

- **Are less expensive.** This makes sense, since four-post lifts use more than twice the raw materials (like steel) as two-post lifts. Four-post lifts are also typically more complex when it comes to engineering and operating systems.
- **Require less space.** Their footprints are smaller, so they're more easily accommodated in a typical-sized bay.
- **Raise cars "higher" in shops with low ceilings.** On a two-post lift, the car is supported by the frame. On a four-post lift, a car is driven onto a platform, which means the car is supported by its tires. The difference between the frame and the tires allows a two-post lift to elevate a car more than a four-post so that techs have an easier time getting under the vehicle for service.
- **Give techs access to all parts of the vehicle.** If you're doing work on the wheel assemblies, two-post lifts make it much easier and require no extra equipment as they do with a four-post lift.

# ASYMMETRICAL OR SYMMETRICAL

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Asymmetrical versus symmetrical is one of the most important considerations when choosing your right two-post car lift. There is no wrong or right answer. It all depends on what you're lifting and what will best suit your shop.

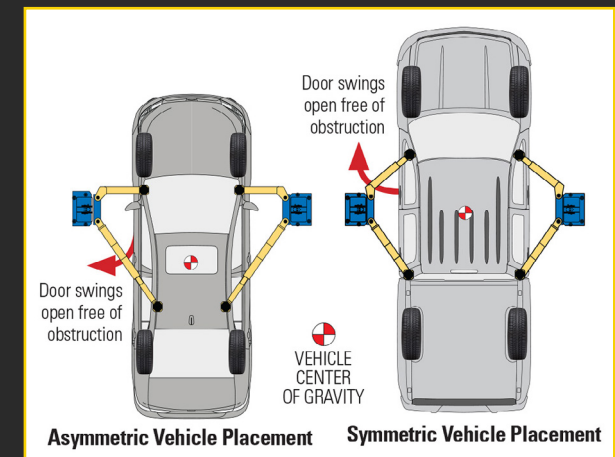
**Symmetrical Two-Post Lifts.** The posts stand across from one another and the support arms are the same length. This means that a vehicle sits in the middle of the posts with its weight distributed evenly from front to back. Everything is centered. But that poses a challenge: you can't easily access the interior of smaller vehicles, like passenger cars and light trucks, while they are on the lift, because the posts block the doors.

**True Asymmetrical Two-Post Lifts.** To fix the door-next-to-post problem, manufacturers reconfigured the setup slightly for asymmetrical lifts. The front arms are slightly shorter than the back arms. The shorter arms are positioned on the appropriate forward lifting points and the rear arms are positioned near the rear of the vehicle. In order to compensate and balance the car properly, manufacturers generally rotate the columns 30 degrees. When the arms and post angles are synced up in this way, the vehicle is properly balanced and there's no extra wear on the lift's structural components.

## ASYMMETRICAL AND SYMMETRICAL **(continued)**

**Hybrid Two-Post Lifts:** Forward Lift offers two-post lifts that include Spot-Rite™ 3-Stage Front Arms to accommodate vehicles both symmetrically **and** asymmetrically. These arms fold parallel to the rear arms during vehicle drive-in. This allows them to be set in an asymmetric lifting position, behind the front tires during vehicle drive-in. This allows them to be set in an asymmetric lifting position, behind the front tires during vehicle drive-in. The vehicle's lifting points can be easily and quickly spotted without having to reposition the vehicle back and forth to reach its manufacturer's lift points.

## **HYBRID TWO-POST LIFTS ACCOMMODATE VEHICLES BOTH SYMMETRICALLY AND ASYMMETRICALLY**



**Two-Post Lifts:**

# WHAT'S IMPORTANT

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There are many decisions to make that are just as important as choosing between symmetrical or asymmetrical two-post lifts—including the opportunity to purchase a lift that's capable of both configurations, like several Forward Lift models. You need to consider your shop's space and configuration and a lift's features—including the manufacturer's support.

# SIZES AND CAPACITY

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## **What size lift will your shop support?**

That's the first consideration. Some lifts might be too large for the space you have. Obviously, you'll want to stay away from anything too big. But what about small lifts? Do they have advantages? They can. The way you answer all of these questions is to think about your shop's physical space—as well as your shop's "typical" vehicle size. Two-post lifts are typically rated by their maximum load. For instance, Forward Lift's most popular two-post lifts begin with a 10,000-pound maximum and increase in possible weight all the way to 18,000 pounds. If the bulk of your business are smaller sports cars, you probably won't need to think beyond a 10,000-pound maximum. But if you're doing work on larger trucks, you'll likely need to take a look at lifts that can handle weights well above that.

## **Lifts usually require more physical space as their maximum loads increase.**

If you have smaller bays, you don't want to purchase a lift that's too big. Your tech's productivity could be decreased if they have to tiptoe around the space to avoid colliding with the lift or the vehicle.

## **Consider your shop's current floor plan.**

If you reconfigured it, could you get another bay out of the space? If so, you may want to consider multiple lifts to increase your efficiency and productivity. This could have a positive impact on both your revenue stream and your customer satisfaction.

# WARRANTIES AND SUPPORT

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No matter what you're buying, you want the manufacturer to stand behind their product and offer you support when you need it. This is especially important when it comes to a purchase as large as a two-post lift. When comparing manufacturers and their prices, pay close attention to how long they warrant their products and whether or not they offer local support. Having a support network in your local area will help keep your shop productivity up by limiting downtime when your lifts need to be serviced and/or repaired.

When your lift is the center of your service bay, it's also important to know where your replacement parts come from. Some replacement parts are cheaper than others but that can also mean they are of lesser quality. Cheap parts can cost you a lot more in the long run. We recommend always using original manufacturer parts to ensure the highest quality and return for your dollar.

Forward Lift offers 18 months parts/6 months labor warranty on all of our two-post lifts. And when it comes to service, you won't find a more dedicated customer experience team. We have skilled service support that's always quick to respond.



# CERTIFICATION

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Don't buy a lift that isn't certified by an independent third-party. The safety implications alone are enough to stay away from uncertified lifts. This doesn't even take into consideration the trustworthiness of your day-to-day operations.

Only buy lifts that are certified by the Automotive Lift Institute (ALI). The ALI Lift Certification Program is literally the gold standard in the industry. When you see the ALI's gold label, you know that an unbiased team has tested a lift for performance and safety—not to mention visited the manufacturer's production facility to ensure a safe, high-performing lift is made in a safe, high-performing environment.



# TWO-POST LIFTS FROM FORWARD LIFT

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I10



F10



DP15



BP9

We currently offer eight lifts in three different series—I series, F series and DP series—as well as our BP9 model.

**I Series:** These surface-mounted lifts are engineered to raise most passenger cars, trucks and vans. The I10 features our Spot-Rite™ 3-Stage Front Arm design, which allows you to raise vehicles symmetrically or asymmetrically. Available in 10,000-pound and 12,000-pound capacities.

**F Series:** Durability and value are both found in these surface-mounted lifts that use direct pull technology and have fully concealed hydraulics. Available in 10,000-pound and 12,000-pound capacities.

**DP Series:** These lifts feature direct pull lifting for high efficiency and low maintenance. Available in 10,000-pound, 15,000-pound and 18,000-pound capacities. The DP10 comes with our Spot-Rite™ 3-Stage Front Arm design for asymmetric and symmetric lifting capabilities.

**BP9:** A commercial-grade lift with a 9,000-pound capacity that's specifically engineered for shops with low ceilings.

# ADVANCE YOUR SHOP WITH FORWARD LIFTS

Finding the best two-post lift for your shop takes a little time and research. In the end, though, it's worth the effort. To learn more about products available from Forward Lift, visit [www.forwardlift.com](http://www.forwardlift.com) or your local auto parts dealer.

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