

Outdoor Gear Lab

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Featuring: Dr.Tray

Monthly Traffic: 2,100,000

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/OutdoorGearLab-Yakima-090117>

Yakima Dr. Tray Review



Price: \$580 List | **\$463.16** at CampSaver
[Compare prices at 2 resellers](#)

Pros: Low loading height, easy tray adjustment, lightweight, tool free removal

Cons: High price, sticky tilt release handle, cable locks are difficult to use

Bottom line: An awesome lightweight hitch rack, with unrivaled adjustability.

Editors' Rating: ★★★★★

Manufacturer: Yakima

Our Verdict

The **Yakima Dr. Tray** our Top Pick award winner for Versatility and Capacity brings a new design approach to the tray style hitch rack category. The innovative design allows for tool free tray adjustment and the option to add a third tray to the rack without drastically increasing the length. The **Dr. Tray** is in not an updated version of their classic **Hold-Up**, it is a radical redesign that completely does away with the standard single support bar for the trays. The new design features two support channels, with quick release clamps that allow the trays to be moved around to accommodate nearly any combination of bikes. You will be hard pressed to find a mix of bikes that will not fit on the **Dr. Tray**.

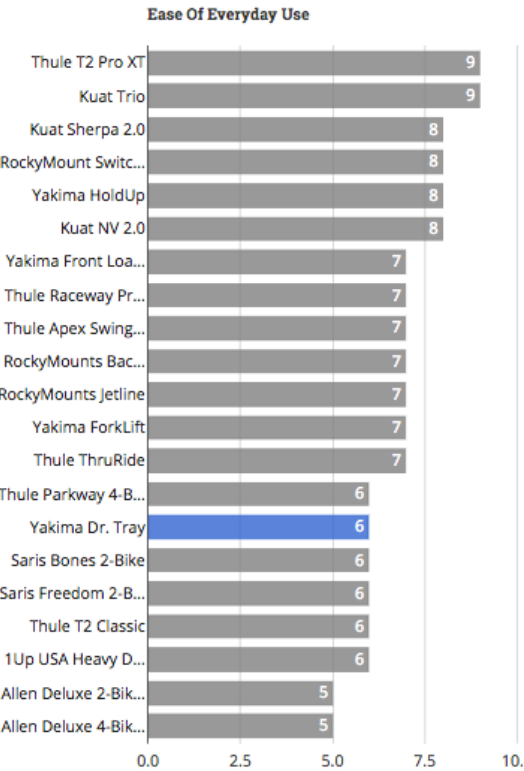
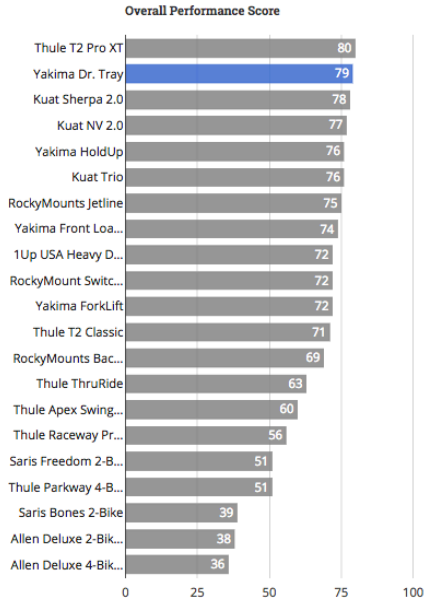
The **Dr. Tray** was a strong contender for our Editors' Choice Award and would have dethroned the **T2 Pro XT**, but it lost some ground due to a sticky hard to release tilt mechanism. We also dinged this model for a funky cable lock system that is not user-friendly. With a few design modifications, this could easily be the best rack on the market.



The **Dr. Tray** has earned our Top Pick Award as one of the most versatile racks available. It was a favorite amongst our testers for ease of adjustment; the quick release tray clamps made getting any combination of bikes fit on the rack a breeze. We never had issues with the bike to bike contact, and the trays easily handle plus sized tires up to 5 inches in width. As an bonus, this rack is one of the lightest hitch racks we tested at 34lbs making it easy to take on and off.

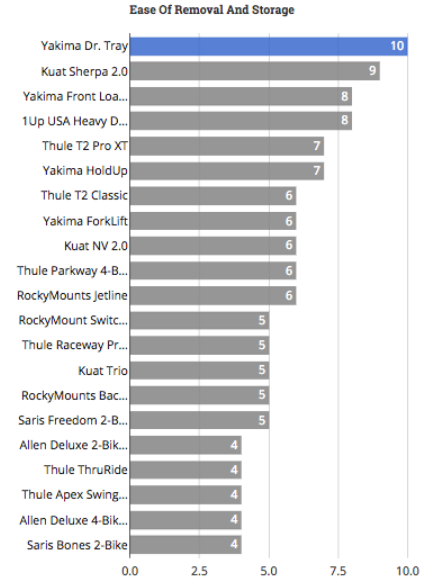
Performance Comparison

You can see how the **Dr. Tray** shown in blue stacks up against the competition, it tops our Editors' Choice Award winner in some categories and narrowly misses out on our top honors.



Ease of Removal and Storage

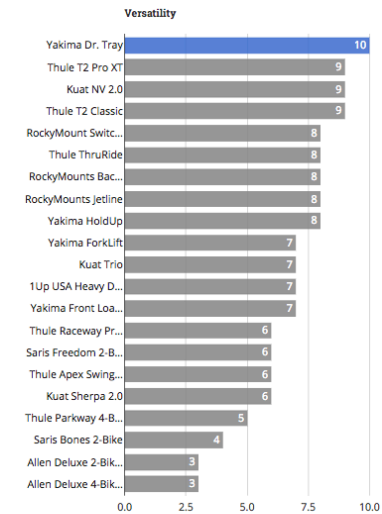
This model is the highest scoring hitch rack we tested in this test. Securing the contender to a vehicle is simple, with an expanding wedge design operated by a hand knob on the lower support arm of the rack. Place the rack in your hitch receiver and turn the knob to remove wobble. The knob is then disabled by setting the lock mechanism with the included key. This system is almost identical in function to the **Thule T2 Pro XT** and is far easier to use than the traditional threaded anti wobble hitch pin found on the **T2 Classic** and the **RockyMounts BackStage**.



The quick lock and anti wobble system are excellent, but what sets the **Dr.Tray** apart from the similarly designed **T2 Pro XT** is an incredibly light weight of 34lbs. The **Dr. Tray** is one of the lightest racks we tested and can easily be carried with one hand to and from your vehicle to the garage. For comparison, the **T2 Pro XT** weighs in at 51 lbs, and the **RockyMounts BackStage** weighs over 60lbs. If you plan to remove your rack after every ride, the **Dr. Tray** is a great option that won't leave you with back pain from hefting an unwieldy contender around.

Versatility

The **Dr. Tray** easily comes out on top in our Versatility test with perfect 10/10 score.

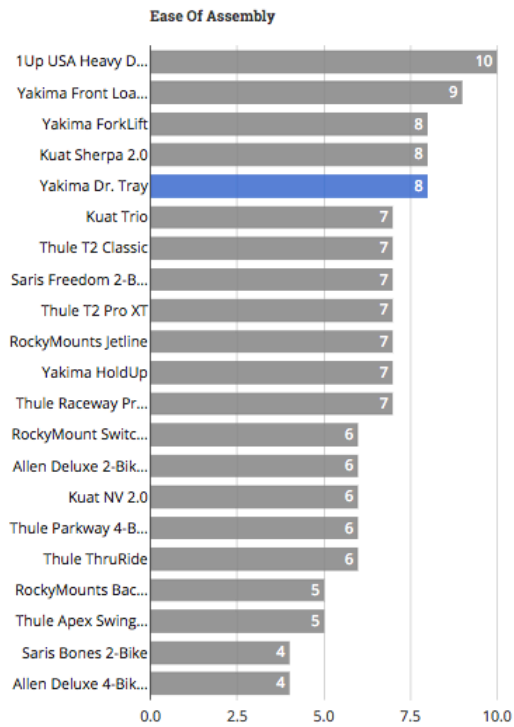


It is the only rack we tested other than the **T2 Classic** that features both fore and aft, and lateral tray adjustment. The trays on the **T2 Classic** have the same adjustability, but tools are required to move the trays, which makes adjusting much more labor intensive. The fore and aft adjustability of the **Dr. Tray** allows for a maximum width between trays of 17". The **Kuat Sherpa** is the closest competitor and it only offers 14.5" of spacing, and the trays are fixed with no available adjustment.



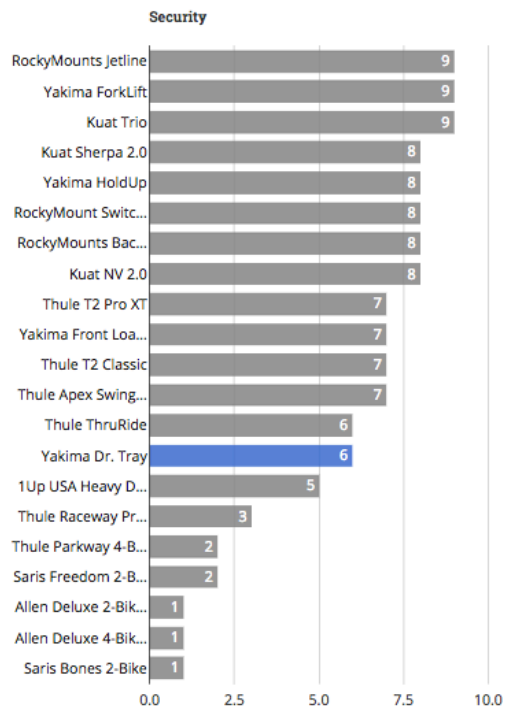
Ease of Assembly

When the **Dr. Tray** arrived for testing we were pleasantly surprised to find that the rack required minimal assembly.



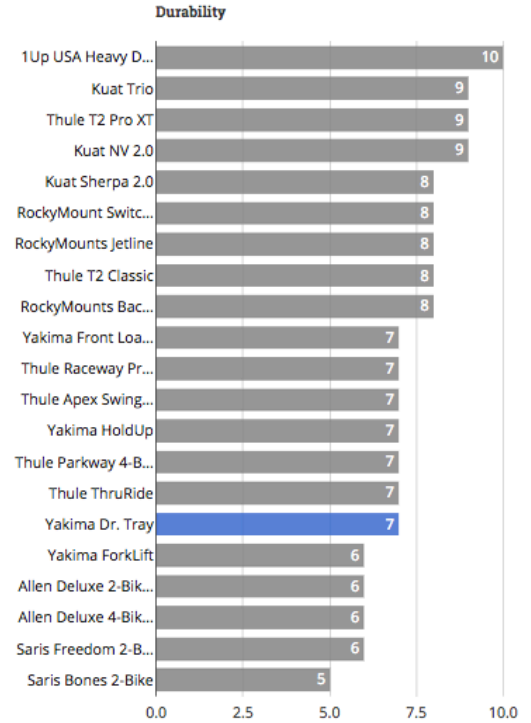
Security

The **Dr. Tray** is somewhat of a mixed bag when it comes to security.



Durability

Being one of the lightest hitch racks on the market has its advantages and disadvantages.



Best Applications

The **Dr. Tray** is well suited to most users who are looking for a hitch mount tray rack. It is particularly well suited to riders who find themselves carrying a different combination of bikes on a daily basis, or those who have issues with the bike to bike contact on other hitch racks. The range and ease of tray adjustability are unrivaled; this is also a great contender for those who frequently remove their rack, due to its light weight and tool free attachment system.

Value

At \$579 the **Yakima Dr. Tray** is one of the most expensive racks we tested. It is the same price as the **Thule T2 Pro XT**, and \$50 cheaper than the **Kuat NV 2.0**. Despite the high price, it comes with a premium list of features and offers a range of tray adjustability that is not rivaled by anything else on the market. For these reasons, we feel that it is a solid value.

Conclusion

The **Yakima Dr. Tray** rack is a refreshing new take on the now classic tray style hitch rack. We are impressed with the adjustability and light weight of the rack. With a few minor tweaks to the tilt mechanism and a redesign of the locking system this would likely be our favorite model, and the winner of our Editors' Choice Award. Despite these minor flaws, the **Dr. Tray** is an excellent competitor and should be on your short list - if minimal weight and awesome tray adjustability are your primary concerns.



The Yakima Dr. Tray is an innovative approach to hitch rack design, and with a few small design changes could easily be a contender for our Editors Choice Award.