

TECHNICAL REFERENCE · PRINT & KEEP

# Leveling Casters: Ratchet, Manual & Foot-Operated

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**Quick answer.** A leveling caster pairs a swivel wheel with a built-in leveling pad. Roll the machine into place, then set the pad: manual screw types wind down with a wrench or hand knob, ratchet types step down with a lever, and foot-operated retractable types drop and lock with a pedal press. Once set, the pad carries the load, the wheel unloads, and the machine sits solid and level. CasterHQ stocks 23 models covering roughly 400 to 6,600 lb per caster, with typical height adjustment of 3/8 to 1 inch.

## What Are the Three Leveling Caster Types?

Type	Engagement	Leveling Precision	Speed	Best For
<b>Manual screw</b>	Wrench or hand knob winds the pad down	Highest; an M16x2.0 spindle moves 2 mm per full turn, so fine corrections are easy	Slowest	Equipment set once and leveled carefully
<b>Ratchet</b>	Lever strokes step the pad down; release resets	Medium; increments fixed by ratchet tooth pitch	Fast	Weekly repositioning, gloved hands, no tools
<b>Foot-operated retractable</b>	Pedal press drops and locks the pad; release lever or second press retracts it	Set height, coarse; leveling comes from the floor or shims	Fastest, no bending	Carts and machines moved daily

## What Load Ranges Do Leveling Casters Cover?

Class	Wheel Diameter	Set Capacity per Caster	Common Mounts	Typical Equipment
<b>Light, nylon body</b>	40 to 65 mm (1-5/8 to 2-1/2 in)	400 to 700 lb	M12x1.75 stem, small plate	Lab benches, electronics carts, kiosks
<b>Medium, nylon or steel body</b>	75 to 100 mm (3 to 4 in)	900 to 2,200 lb	M16x2.0, 1/2-13 stem, plate	Workbenches, packaging machines, light machine bases
<b>Heavy, steel body</b>	100 to 127 mm (4 to 5 in)	2,500 to 6,600 lb	M20x2.5, 3/4-10 stem, plate	Machine tools, heavy fixtures, molds



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