The invention claimed is:

1. A kicker assembly in a tubular handling system, the kicker assembly comprising:

a shoe;

a moving member of a linear actuator;

a primary link member having an upper section and a lower section connecting the moving member of the linear actuator to the shoe, wherein the lower section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the moving member, and wherein the upper section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the shoe;

a fixed member of the linear actuator connected to the tubular handling system;

a secondary link member, wherein the secondary link member is pivotally attached to the fixed member at one end and pivotally attached to the primary link member at an opposite end, and wherein the moving member is configured to move over the fixed member between a first position on the fixed member and a second position on the fixed member to move the shoe in a direction that is away from a longitudinal axis of the linear actuator; and

an additional link member having a lower section pivotally attached to the moving member and an upper section pivotally attached to the shoe.

2. The kicker assembly of claim **1**, wherein when the moving member is in the first position, the shoe is retracted, such that a pipe receiving surface of the shoe is flush with a pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system.

3. The kicker assembly of claim **2**, wherein when the moving member is in the second position, the shoe is extended, such that the shoe is not flush with the pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system.

4. The kicker assembly of claim **3**, wherein the shoe has a first pipe receiving surface and is extended along a path to maintain engagement with a tubular when moved along the path, wherein the upper section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the shoe below the first receiving surface.

5. The kicker assembly of claim **1**, comprising a trough having an inclining portion of a pipe receiving surface, wherein the shoe has a shoe pipe receiving surface configured to be moveable between a retracted position where the shoe pipe receiving surface is flush with respect to the inclining portion and an extended position where the shoe pipe receiving surface is disposed above the inclining portion.

6. The kicker assembly of claim **1**, wherein the moving member comprises a cylinder and the fixed member comprises a piston.

7. A kicker assembly in a tubular handling system, the kicker assembly comprising:

a first kicker comprising:

a first shoe;

a first moving member of a first linear actuator;

a first primary link member connecting the first moving member to the first shoe and having a first upper section and a first lower section, wherein the first lower section is pivotally attached to the first moving member, and wherein the first upper section is pivotally attached to the first shoe at a point below a pipe receiving surface of the first shoe;

a first fixed member of the first linear actuator connected to the tubular handling system; and

a first secondary link member, wherein the first secondary link member is pivotally attached to the first fixed member at one end and pivotally attached to the first primary link member at an opposite end; and

a second kicker comprising:

a second shoe;

a second moving member of a second linear actuator;

a second primary link member connecting the second moving member to the second shoe and having a second upper section and a second lower section, wherein the second lower section is pivotally attached to the second moving member, and wherein the second upper section is pivotally attached to the second shoe at a point below a pipe receiving surface of the second shoe;

a second fixed member of the second linear actuator connected to the tubular handling system; and

a second secondary link member, wherein the second secondary link member is pivotally attached to the

second fixed member at one end and pivotally attached to the second primary link member at an opposite end;

wherein the first moving member is configured to move over the first fixed member between a first position and a second position to move the first shoe in a first direction that is away from a longitudinal axis of the first linear actuator; and

wherein the second moving member is configured to move over the second fixed member between a third position and a fourth position to move the second shoe in a second direction that is away from a longitudinal axis of the second linear actuator.

8. The kicker assembly of claim **7**, wherein when the first moving member is in the first position, the first shoe is retracted, such that the pipe receiving surface of the first shoe is flush with a first pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system, and wherein when the first moving member is in the second position, the first shoe is extended, such that the first shoe is not flush with the first pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system.

9. The kicker assembly of claim **8**, wherein when the second moving member is in the third position, the second shoe is retracted, such that the second pipe receiving surface of the second shoe is flush with a second pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system, and wherein when the second moving member is in the fourth position, the second shoe is extended, such that the second shoe is not flush with the second pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system.

10. The kicker assembly of claim **9**, wherein the first and second shoes are configured such that the first shoe and the second shoe cannot extend at the same time.

11. The kicker assembly of claim **9**, wherein the first shoe is extended along a first path while maintaining engagement with a first tubular, and wherein the second shoe is extended along a second path while maintaining engagement with a second tubular.

12. The kicker assembly of claim **7**, wherein a distance between the first position and the second position on the first fixed member is the same as a distance between the third position and the fourth position on the second fixed member.

13. The kicker assembly of claim **7**, the kicker assembly comprising a trough having a first pipe receiving surface and a second pipe receiving surface, wherein the first linear actuator is longitudinally disposed along the trough and below the first pipe receiving surface, and wherein the second linear actuator is longitudinally disposed along the trough and below the second pipe receiving surface.

14. A kicker assembly in a tubular handling system, the kicker assembly comprising:

a first kicker having a first shoe, a first linear actuator, a first primary link member connecting the first shoe to the first linear actuator and having a first upper section and a first lower section, and a first secondary link member pivotally attached to a first fixed member of the first linear actuator at one end and pivotally attached to the first primary link member at an opposite end;

wherein the first linear actuator is configured to move the first shoe in a first direction that is away from a longitudinal axis of the first linear actuator, wherein the first lower section is pivotally attached to the first linear actuator, and wherein the first upper section is pivotally attached to the first shoe at a point below a pipe receiving surface of the first shoe;

a second kicker having a second shoe, a second linear actuator, a second link member connecting the second shoe to the second linear actuator and having a second upper section and a second lower section, and a second secondary link member pivotally attached to a second fixed member of the second linear actuator at one end and pivotally attached to the second primary link member at an opposite end;

wherein the second linear actuator is configured to move the second shoe in a second direction that is away from a second longitudinal axis of the second linear actuator, wherein the second lower section is pivotally attached to the second linear actuator, and wherein the second upper section is pivotally attached to the second shoe at a point below a pipe receiving surface of the second shoe.

15. The kicker assembly of claim **14**, wherein the first shoe is retracted such that the pipe receiving surface of the first shoe is flush with a pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system, and wherein the first shoe is extended such that the first shoe is not flush with the pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system.

16. The kicker assembly of claim **15**, wherein the second shoe is retracted such that the pipe receiving surface of the second shoe is flush with a pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system, and wherein the second shoe is extended such that the second shoe is not flush with the pipe receiving surface of the tubular handling system.

17. The kicker assembly of claim **16**, wherein the first and second shoes extend and retract in unison.

18. The kicker assembly of claim **16**, wherein the first and second shoes extend along paths while maintaining engagement with a tubular.

19. A kicker assembly in a tubular handling system, the kicker assembly comprising:

a shoe;

a moving member of a linear actuator;

a primary link member having an upper section and a lower section connecting the moving member of the linear actuator to the shoe, wherein the lower section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the moving member, and wherein the upper section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the shoe;

a fixed member of the linear actuator connected to the tubular handling system;

a secondary link member, wherein the secondary link member is pivotally attached to the fixed member at one end and pivotally attached to the primary link member at an opposite end, and wherein the moving member is configured to move over the fixed member between a first position on the fixed member and a second position on the fixed member to move the shoe in a direction that is away from a longitudinal axis of the linear actuator; and

a trough having an inclining portion of a pipe receiving surface, wherein the shoe has a shoe pipe receiving surface configured to be moveable between a retracted position where the shoe pipe receiving surface is flush with respect to the inclining portion and an extended position where the shoe pipe receiving surface is disposed above the inclining portion.

20. A kicker assembly in a tubular handling system, the kicker assembly comprising:

a shoe;

a moving member of a linear actuator;

a primary link member having an upper section and a lower section connecting the moving member of the

linear actuator to the shoe, wherein the lower section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the moving member, and wherein the upper section of the primary link member is pivotally attached to the shoe;

a fixed member of the linear actuator connected to the tubular handling system, wherein the moving member comprises a cylinder and the fixed member comprises a piston;

a secondary link member, wherein the secondary link member is pivotally attached to the fixed member at one end and pivotally attached to the primary link member at an opposite end, and wherein the moving member is configured to move over the fixed member between a first position on the fixed member and a second position on the fixed member to move the shoe in a direction that is away from a longitudinal axis of the linear actuator.