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# Low level access...and mast booms

The availability and use of low level powered access equipment has ballooned in recent years, ranging from the basic push around battery powered scissor lifts and manually powered products to micro self-propelled lifts. At the same time the use of mast booms - mostly with 10 metre working heights - has also grown steadily. The mast boom has a decent amount of outreach at up and over heights of around eight metres from a very compact base and is ideal for the more awkward work at height tasks in an industrial environment. We take a look at some of the products that are particularly good for industrial and maintenance work.

Traditional scheduled annual factory shutdowns are becoming less common as many of these maintenance and repair tasks are carried out throughout the year - while the facility is operational - often over weekends and through the night, in part due to the availability of products like mast booms. The fact that they are mostly battery powered allows them to work indoors with zero emissions and minimal noise.

Work at lower levels has been typically viewed as simple, routine tasks and can therefore often be left/forgotten until the last minute, resulting in a lack of planning and all too often the use of inappropriate/unsafe equipment or methods. The trusty ladder is ideal for so many low level duties, however it is not the most convenient for work that involves both hands over any length of time. When used for such work, simple tasks can become dangerous and time consuming. Many smaller contractors/builders working on domestic properties or smaller industrial units all too often eschew the use of specialist low level equipment typically citing additional costs and the hassle of organising or renting the equipment. However this cost is insignificant compared to the cost of dealing with a height related incident, not to mention the extra labour costs involved with the use of less efficient methods.

Accident figures just released from the UK's HSE for 2018/19 reveal that falls from height were responsible for 40 of the 111 fatalities recorded. Unsurprisingly agriculture/forestry, construction and manufacturing are the three most dangerous sectors accounting for almost two thirds of all fatalities. Despite the number of high profile safety campaigns raising the awareness of the dangers of working at height and promoting safer and more efficient alternatives, many are still prepared to take the



C&A low level access



The 14ft MX1430 is 760mm wide, 1.49 metres long and weighs 810kg

risk rather than organise the right equipment for the job. We regularly feature 'Death Wish' reports on Vertical.net which highlight far too many companies and individuals flirting with danger by not using the correct equipment. Admittedly the worst examples are by those who only occasionally work at height and tend to be smaller builders, 'one-man bands' and the smaller industrial and commercial facilities.

## New introductions

The past year has seen more evolution than major developments but almost every manufacturer continues to improve and refine their models in order to increase performance and safety.

A name that has been involved with low level access equipment since the 1940s is UpRight, although it has not been used for powered access over the past five years. However it has just been reintroduced on a range of four

small scissor lifts by aluminium scaffolding tower manufacturer Instant UpRight. These include the 13ft MX1330 push around scissor lift and three self-propelled models - the 14ft MX1430, 19ft MX1930 and 26ft X2632 - all of which feature direct electric wheel motor drive, a high standard specification and a high commonality of parts and components. In addition to the scissor lifts the company has launched the ML3330 - a 33ft single person, AWP type push around mast lift.

In 2009 UpRight Powered Access - then part of Tanfield - was the first international access equipment manufacturer to launch a range of push around scissor lifts with its three model 'PAX' range - the PAX6, 8 and 10 with working heights of 3.7, 4.3 and 4.9 metres, all with 240kg platform capacity. UpRight was rebranded as Snorkel in 2010, which was then acquired by Don



Far too many companies and individuals flirt with danger by not using the correct equipment

Ahern in 2013, while UpRight continued to produce aluminium scaffold towers and low level non powered equipment under the Instant UpRight brand.

The new UpRight products are built



The new UpRight products are built by Mantall and badged by Instant UpRight.

by Mantall and badged by Instant UpRight hence they are not actually newly designed models. The 13ft MX1330 push around is larger than the original lifts having a six metre working height and weighing 565kg, although the 240kg platform capacity is the same. Platform size is 1.15 metres long by 760mm wide, it has a stowed height of 1.94 metres and is powered by a 12 volt/100 Ah battery. Of the new self-propelled range, the 14ft MX1430 has an overall width of 760mm, an overall length of 1.49 metres and weighs 810kg and features a good standard specification. It has a 240kg platform capacity with 100kg on the 550mm platform extension. The MX1930 may remind some of our older readers of the original



UpRight MX19 that helped kick off the micro scissor revolution back in 1994, although as with other machines in the size range it now weighs over 1.5 tonnes - 1,540kg to be precise - and has an overall stowed length of 1.85 metres. Overall width is 770mm, overall stowed height with guardrails up is 2.13 metres and platform capacity is 230kg with 115kg on the 900mm platform extension which extends the overall platform length to 2.54 metres.

While the new platforms are manufactured in China, they will be available from stock held at a new European warehouse and distribution hub in Venlo, the Netherlands operated in partnership with Seacon Logistics. The facility will also stock a full range of replacement parts, along with the company's range of tower related products and will be home to a technical help desk. A further technical support team will be based at the company's Dublin headquarters and manufacturing facility. The company says it will initially focus on the European and Asian markets selling to small and



The original Power Tower has been upgraded and is now available as the Power Tower Duo in JLG livery

medium sized rental companies, end users and dealers looking for an alternative choice of provider.

### JLG Power Towers

Another company that was in near the start of the 'low level access' revolution is Power Towers, launching its original Power Tower machine in 2007. The company was acquired by JLG in 2015 and was, until this year, run as a separate entity. This is now beginning to change as the range is broadened and becoming more 'integrated'

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The Eco and Peco lift are now available in ATEX approved versions

with JLG. This is particularly visible with the swap from its traditional blue livery to a new JLG low level access colour scheme of orange and grey. Since acquiring Power Towers, JLG says it has doubled machine sales in this market particularly in the USA.

The original product from the company has been upgraded and is now available as the Power Tower Duo version equipped with stabilisers for a two person platform capacity along with an outdoor rating. It has a working height of 5.1 metres, an increased platform

capacity of 250kg, an overall width of 780mm and an overall length of 1.6 metres. Weight is 396kg, 54kg more than the regular Power Tower, mainly due to the addition of four stabilisers and attachment lugs which permit the two person rating. Power Towers has also just launched ATEX approved versions of the Eco and Peco lift allowing use in potentially hazardous areas. They are also available in an offshore version with a three stage galvanisation and paint process.

**The rise of the micro scissors**

In the scissor lift feature we ran in last month's C&A we talked about the fact that the low level push around scissor lifts have become very popular in an increasing number of countries, thanks to them being simple, inexpensive, compact and lightweight - about 350kg.

However for many users, the inability to relocate the machine without returning to ground level is a major issue, so drive technology has been added to many of them to create low level, ultra-light self-propelled platforms. However for those looking for a little more

working height, a new breed of 'micro scissors' and mast type lifts have sprung up between the push around scissor lifts and the classic 19ft self-propelled mini scissor. At the same time several mast type lift manufacturers - including Skyjack, Snorkel and Haulotte - have introduced larger versions with 16ft and even 20ft versions plugging another gap in the market.

**Genie's GS-1330m**

Genie's new entrant into this sector is the 13ft GS-1330m with direct DC electric drive. Made at Genie's plant in China, it has 5.9 metres of working height, weighs 890kg, has a 227kg platform capacity with 460mm deck extension for an extended deck length of 1.72 metres. Overall width is 780mm, overall length 1.4 metres and it can be driven at full height. As on the Genie GS-1932 the scissor stack is centred under the extended platform helping improve platform rigidity especially when using the deck extension. While it will fit into most standard one tonne passenger elevators - especially with the steps removed - it is slightly heavier than the smaller micro scissor lifts with



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The GS-1330m has a 5.9 metre working height, weighs 890kg and has a 227kg platform capacity



Boss X3X weighs 370kg



The MEC 1330SE has a six metre working height

push around genetics.

The new machine complies fully with ANSI, CE and ISO standards and is said to be selling exceptionally well with European sales already topping 750 units with the first production units delivered in May. The GS-1330m has most, if not all the features of its larger brothers, including swing out service trays, active pothole protection and Genie's Smart Link control system with onboard machine adjustments and diagnostics.

**JLG goes Light**

JLG also unveiled three light weight electric scissor lifts as concept models at Bauma China in November. These include the 15ft ES1530L available either on wheels or tracks and the 13ft ES1330, both of which are based on the company's ES line of direct electric drive scissor lifts.

The ES1330 and ES1530L have platform capacities of 227kg, with the ES1330 weighing 830kg, while the two 15ft models are just 900kg. Overall length for all three is 1.43 metres with overall widths of 760mm for the wheeled versions and 780mm for the tracked model.

All three have 550mm platform extensions.

The new generation of micro scissors are all fairly similar in terms of performance, which is why an increasing number of buyers are looking on them as generic products.

Haulotte does not have any push around or micro scissor lifts in its current range yet, although at Intermat last year it showed two prototypes - a push around and micro self-propelled scissor lift - but there is no indication whether or when these will be put

into production. The self-propelled model had a working height of five metres, a 200kg platform capacity and overall weight of 580kg. It also measures 1.5 metres by 750mm wide, with an overall height of 1.8 metres. The physically smaller push around has a working height of 3.8 metres, a platform capacity of 240kg and an overall weight of 270kg. It is relatively compact with an overall length of 1.2 metres, an overall width of 750mm, with a stowed height of 1.74 metres.

However if weight is critical and you do not need six metres working



Haulotte showed these two low level prototypes at Intermat last year - a push around and a self propelled

height and could make do with up to 5.2 metres, the Power Lift Duo, Snorkel S3010E and the Boss X3X are the ones to choose. Lightest of them all is the push around Boss - at 370kg - less than half the weight of the micro scissors. If it has to be self-propelled the S3010E at 495kg is also much lighter than the full spec'd micro scissors. It is also the shortest at 1.26 metres. The downside of all these lifts is the lack of a deck extension but as mentioned above, planning is the key to successfully completing work at height and requirements such as weight, working height and reach should be identified early to make sure the right equipment arrives on site to do the job.



The self propelled Snorkel S3010E weighs just 495kg

**How the new Genie and JLG 1330s compare with a random selection of competitors?**

Make Model	Genie GS-1330m	MEC 1330SE	JLG* 1330L	Haulotte Star 6	Power Tower Duo	Snorkel S3010E	Boss X3X	UpRight MX1430
Work height	5.9m	6.0m	5.8m	5.8m	5.1m	5.0m	5.2m	6.4m
Capacity	227kg	240kg	227kg	230kg	250kg	227kg	240kg	240kg
Weight	880kg	860kg	830kg	835kg	396kg	495kg	370kg	810kg
Extension	460mm	600mm	550mm	400mm	-	-	-	550mm
Length	1.4m	1.5m	1.43m	1.4m	1.6m	1.26mm	1.41m	1.49m
Width	780mm	760mm	760mm	890mm	780mm	770mm	760mm	760mm
Power/push	Power	Power	Power	Power	Push	Power	Push	Power

\*Currently a concept machine

**Mast booms**

The popularity of the mast boom continues to grow as users further appreciate their ability to work over obstacles, with decent outreach and compact base dimensions. As can be seen from the table below, they offer working heights from 8.1 to 15 metres with outreaches from 2.6 to eight metres. With greater outreach now possible they are becoming an increasingly popular alternative to smaller industrial articulated booms such as a Manitou 120 AETJ-C and Genie Z33/18.

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The 10.2 metre ELS VM10-J

The mast boom continues to be most popular in France - where it originated - but sales in many other countries have been growing significantly and now are the lift of choice for many industrial maintenance tasks.

As its popularity - and sales - have increased, more manufacturers have entered the sector and where in the early days there were perhaps four major producers - JLG with its Toucan range, Haulotte with its Star models, ATN and Manitou - the number now has more than doubled and includes Snorkel, Airo, Genie, Dingli, Mantall, ELS, Hematec and Sinoboam. As can be seen, the

Chinese manufacturers have already targeted this type of lift and there are several branded products from China. Genie brands the Manitou manufactured mast booms.

Despite the growth in the number of products offered in recent years most mast booms are very similar in size and performance. Some key differences include hydraulic or direct electric wheel drive, and whether they have active or passive pothole protection, the latter providing greater ground clearance when travelling in the stowed position.

JLG bought into the sector in 2004 when it acquired the Toucan range

from Grove Manlift, which in turn acquired it from Delta System which had taken the concept from Lift-A-Loft which made customised models for major industrial plants such as Caterpillar.

It almost certainly remains the market leader, although competition is a great deal tougher these days. Its current range runs to 12.65 metres working height and 6.7 metres outreach at an up and over height of more than seven metres. It also has two lighter weight regular models - the 8E-L and the 10E-L. The 10-EL offers very similar performance to the regular 10 metre model but is around 12 percent lighter.

French manufacturer ATN - now owned by Fassi - is another well-



The popularity of the mast boom continues to grow as users further appreciate their ability to work over obstacles, with decent outreach



The Hematec Helix 1205 has a 12 metre working height and 5.15 metre outreach



Dingli AMWP11.5-8100

established French manufacturer and is the only one to stock machines on tracks. It should also be noted that while all the other manufacturers have a total of almost 360 degrees of slew, some ATN machines only offer 220 degrees, while the Mantall/GMG only offer 120 degrees - 60 degrees either side of centre.

Some of the more interesting products to emerge in recent years come from German manufacturer Hematec. Although it has been producing machines since 1995 most of the products have been sold in small volumes in its home market. However over the past few years it has expanded the range, increased production volumes and began exporting more equipment over a wider geographic area.

Hematec also produces the mast

boom with the greatest working height currently available, the 15 metre Helix 1508 also has the most outreach at eight metres. Naturally it is also the heaviest mast boom at almost eight tonnes. Both the 1508 and the 1205 on which it is based, are the only machines that can reach below ground level which may or may not be useful depending on the application. At Bauma it launched its latest model the 10 metre Helix 1004XL which features platform rotation and 300kg capacity with four metres of outreach. The extra capacity is significant in that most other mast booms are limited to around 200kg.

Sinoboam is another Chinese aerial work platform company that has stepped into the mast boom market, joining Dingli and Mantall. Formed in 2008 it has grown steadily each year since then and last year claims to have sold almost 8,000 platforms. It also claims to be China's fastest growing aerial work platform manufacturer with a domestic market share of 13.7 percent. Internationally it is not as strong with just 1.8 percent share of Chinese aerial lift exports, however this looks set to change with the appointment of more international dealers particularly in Europe. It currently has just a single mast boom model - the 10.3 metre GTT10EJ - available for the home market but has indicated that it will be making it available in Europe.

Sinoboam GTT10EJ



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Make	Model	Working height	Outreach	Weight	Capacity	Wheels tracks	Slew Degrees
Airo	V8E	8.1m	3.3m	2,720kg	200kg	Wheels	355
	V10E	9.86m	3.3m	2,770kg	200kg	Wheels	355
ATN Pifaf	880R	8.80m	3.36m	2,600kg	200kg	Wheels	220
	1000R	10.04m	3.46m	2,980kg	200kg	Wheels	220
	1100R	10.92m	3.74m	3,280kg	200kg	Wheels	220
	10RE	9.92m	3.51m	2,850kg	200kg	Wheels	356
	12RE	11.83m	5.10m	4,350kg	200kg	Wheels	352
	13RE	12.65m	6.05m	5,140kg	200kg	Wheels	352
	810	8.13m	3.0m	2,200kg	200kg	Tracks	220
	1010	10.05m	3.35m	2,780kg	200kg	Tracks	220
	12E Max	12.65m	6.0m	5,140kg	200kg	Wheels	352
Dingli	AMWP11.5-8100	11.2m	3.0m	2,950kg	200kg	Wheels	345
ELS	VM10-J	10.2m	3.15m	2,800kg	200kg	Wheels	350
Genie	GR-20J	7.7m	2.75m	2,250kg	200kg	Wheels	350
	GR-26J	9.85m	2.65m	2,650kg	200kg	Wheels	350
GMG	VM26-J	10.0m	3.15m	2,905kg	200kg	Wheels	120
Haulotte	Star 8	8.7m	3.0m	2,585kg	200kg	Wheels	345
	Star 10	10.0	3.0m	2,677kg	200kg	Wheels	345
Hematec	Helix 1004XL	9.7m	4.0m	3,900kg	300kg	Wheels	355
	Helix 1205	12.0m	5.15m	4,800kg	200kg	Wheels	359
	Helix 1508	15.0m	8.0m	7,720kg	200kg	Wheels	359
JLG	T8E Toucan	8.2m	2.65m	2,100kg	200kg	Wheels	345
	Toucan 8E-L	8.2m	2.65m	1,860kg	200kg	Wheels	345
	T10E Toucan	10.10m	3.38m	2,980kg	200kg	Wheels	345
	Toucan 10E-L	10.10m	3.38m	2,600kg	200kg	Wheels	345
	Toucan 12E	11.83m	5.1m	4,300kg	200kg	Wheels	345
	Toucan 12E Plus	12.65	6.7m	4,900kg	200kg	Wheels	345
Mantall	IMP-80J	8.0m	3.15m	2,800kg	200kg	Wheels	120
	IMP-100J	10.0m	3.15m	2,870kg	200kg	Wheels	120
Manitou	80VJR	7.65m	3.25m	2,250kg	200kg	Wheels	350
	100VJR	9.85m	3.15m	2,650kg	200kg	Wheels	350
	90 V'Air	9.0m	2.04m	2,710kg	230kg	Wheels	350
Sinoboom	GTTZ10EJ	10.3m	3.3m	2,678kg	200kg	Wheels	-
Snorkel	MB20J	8.1m	2.6m	2,590kg	215kg	Wheels	360
	MB26J	9.8m	3.0m	2,660kg	215kg	Wheels	360



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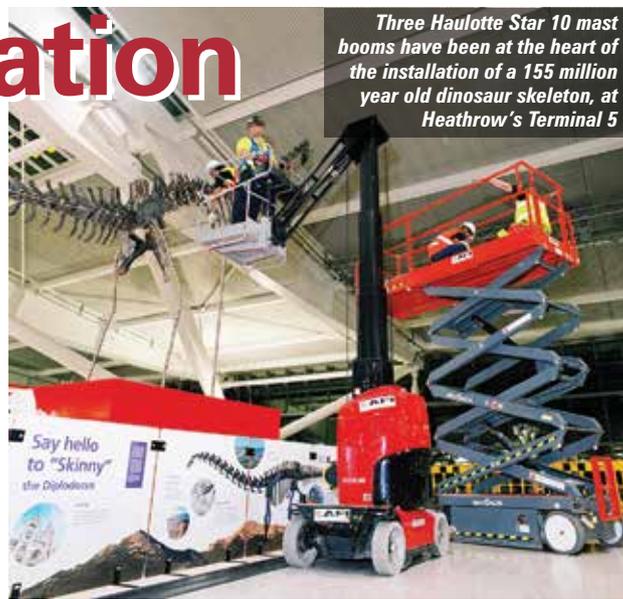
Toucan 8E-L

# Dinosaur installation

Three Haulotte Star 10 mast booms from UK rental company AFI have been at the heart of the installation of a 13 metre high, 155 million year old dinosaur skeleton, which towered over the check-in area of Heathrow's Terminal 5. In total, AFI supplied seven machines - a combination of electric scissors and mast and boom lifts - including a Niftylift HR12 and three Skyjack SJ4626 scissors, all of which helped assemble the beast over two nights.

AFI's major projects team was briefed by the Heathrow contractor on what was required and the location within the Terminal and was asked to recommend the right machines for the job. A spider lift was originally considered but limitations and restrictions on the site brought the team down on the side of mast booms.

The skeleton was displayed at the airport for two months until June and was then dismantled and returned to France to be sold at auction with the fossil expected to fetch £2 million. 'Skinny' as he is called, is a cousin of the Diplodocus and has yet to be given a scientific name. He is 13 metres long, eight metres high including the base and has about 90 percent of his original bones.



Three Haulotte Star 10 mast booms have been at the heart of the installation of a 155 million year old dinosaur skeleton, at Heathrow's Terminal 5

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