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Electric boom check out

Each August at the Platformer Days event in Germany, the Vertikal Press organises a side-by-side evaluation of a particular type of aerial lift. This year, Vertikal Check looked at electric self propelled boom lifts with platform heights of between 30ft (10m) and 39ft (12m).

A panel of senior, technically orientated managers at Germany's largest and most respected access rental companies made up this year's eminent judges. Adrian Van de Gier is technical manager at Mateco, Gerhard Flesch is the owner and ceo of Flesch Arbeitsbuhnen and Hugo Fasselt was senior technical manager at Gardemann, prior to his recent retirement. Seven manufacturers entered machines including Genie, JLG, PB lifttechnik, UpRight, Haulotte, Nifty and Manitou. While all of the machines fitted into the same sector in terms of height, there were clearly two different types of product. The Genie, JLG and Manitou machines are ultra narrow (1.2 metre wide) models with a dual sigma style riser, telescopic boom and rotating jib. The Nifty, UpRight and PB-Dino are slightly wider (at 1.5 metres) lighter weight machines with a simple, single riser and telescopic boom lift mechanism. The Haulotte HA12IP fits between the two camps at 1.35 metres wide, but is far closer

<image>

to the former category with its sigma riser and jib. So while these two ranges are not directly comparable they do represent the choice facing most buyers and each type has its benefits and disadvantages. One large factor of course that we did not consider in the Check is price. The ultra narrow machines are considerably more expensive than the lighter models.

Nifty.

First up was the Nifty Height Rider 12 with Bi-Energy power pack. The classic 10 metre platform height lift is one of the oldest models in the Check but also one of the most popular. All the judges liked the fact that the Nifty was easy to operate with clear logical controls. They also liked the smooth and progressive drive function. If the control panel had featured a wrist rest it would have chalked up an even higher score. The judges felt that the boom telescope was too quick while the boom and riser lift were

The judges liked the easy access.



slow, giving the machine a relatively

the large turf tyres, low overall weight and easy maintenance due to the simple layout and good access to components. They also felt that the build quality was high. On the down side they would have like to have seen more protection on hoses in chafe areas.



Gerhard Flesch puts the Nifty though its paces.

Niftylift HR12	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer
Work ht	12.1m	12.2m
Outreach	5.4m	5.6m
Up and over	4.65m	4.2m
Platform size	1.1m x 0.85m	1.1m x 0.65m
0/A Width	1.5m	1.5m
O/A Length	4.01m	4.1m
0/A height	1.91m	1.90m
Lift speed	92 seconds	Not given
Turning circle	9.1m	8.4m
Ground clearance	150mm	Not given
GVW	Not checked	2,400kg



Next up was the Manitou 120AETJ C, a 33ft platform height ultra narrow machine. This unit could not be more different than the Nifty being almost triple the weight at over 6.5 tonnes. It also features a complex dual riser, telescopic boom, rotating articulating jib and rotating basket.

In general the ultra narrow lifts appealed more to our judges, who were clearly focusing on technical specification and not price or suitability for particular jobs. They praised the technical detailing and design of the Manitou, with hoses grouped and routed well, and a good feel to the controls. They did not like the fact the first half of the joystick movement was 'dead'. They also thought that the use of different wheels on front and back was poor but appreciated the wide-spaced lifting eyes and the fact that the four wheels were the widest point of the lift, rather than the machine covers.

Component access on the Manitou was excellent.



Manitou 120AETJ	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer	
Work ht	11.96m	11.95m	
Outreach	6.95m	7.0m	
Up and over	5.37m	4.77m	
Platform size	1.20m x 0.96m	1.20m x 0.96m	
0/A Width	1.2m	1.2m	
0/A Length	3.97m	3.74m	
0/A height	1.99m	2.16m	
Lift speed	82 seconds	Not given	
Turning circle	5.8m	6.5m	
Ground clearance	150mm	100mm	
GVW	Not Checked	6,550kg	

1. In the Vertikal Check basket dimensions are to the outsied of the rails 2. In the Vertikal Check we measured to the bottom of the basket with horizontal boom

vertikal check

Haulotte.

In width terms the Haulotte HA12 IP fits between the two camps. At 1.35 metres it is wider than JLG. Genie and Manitou - all of which are 1.2 metres - but narrower than Nifty, UpRight and Dino which are all 1.5 metres. The judges liked the build guality, the serviceability and component access, the well protected hydraulic hoses and the massive structure connecting the boom to the jib and jib to the platform. They

also appreciated the clear, easy

The judges felt that the steering cylinder was too exposed.



Haulotte HA12IP	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer	
Work ht	12.2m	12.0m	
Outreach	6.10m	6.10m	
Up and over	5.71m	5.25m	
Platform size	1.21m x 1.13m	1.2m x 0.80m	
0/A Width	1.35m	1.35m	
0/A Length	5.40m	5.50m	
0/A height	2.0m	2.0m	
Lift speed	82 seconds	Not given	
Turning circle	5.30m	5.70m	
Ground clearance	150mm	Not given	
GVW	Not checked	5,900kg	



to understand controls and noted that it handled very well. Dislikes included the control function lag as the pump engaged and they also considered the steering cylinder too exposed on the front of the machine. The platform on this model touches the ground, which won plaudits for platform entry but

raised concerns over damage while travelling in the stowed position.

The Haulotte controls are simple and easy to use but judges did not like the activation lag



JLG

The JLG E300 was given a very high overall rating from the judges who thought this machine ticked all the technical boxes. They particularly liked the entry gate and the only machine without a continuous top rail. Build quality, platform rigidity and smoothness of operation all scored highly, however there were some points that they felt needed improvement. They liked the wide spaced front lifting eyes but not the rear ones which were much closer together. They also commented



Access to components JLG was considered excellent

JLG E300	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer	
Work ht	11.07m	11.14m	
Outreach	6.0m	6.25m	
Up and over	4.23m	3.99m	
Platform size	1.22m x 0.91m	1.22m x 0.76m	
0/A Width	1.22m	1.22m	
0/A Length	5.7m	5.59m	
0/A height	2.00m	2.01m	
Lift speed	64 seconds	Not given	
Turning circle	5.70m	6.20m	
Ground clearance	50mm	100mm	
GVW	Not checked	7.052kg	



that the battery charger was mounted with open holes facing skywards which would collect water should the covers be left open in the rain. They did not like the lack of finger guards and felt that the control

> layout was too fiddly and confusing. In spite of these items they loved the machine.

The platform entry with its gate was the judge's favourite.



PB lifttechnik

The PB Dino range has been in production in one version or another for as long as the Nifty. The latest unit - the TopDino 121 - is unusual in that while slightly wider than the Nifty and the UpRight it is considerably heavier at over four tonnes. It was also the only boom to feature automatic pothole protection. The judges liked the fact that with its electric drive system and electric steering, the PB had fewer hydraulic hoses than the other machines. They also liked the fact that the steering wheels rotate as they are turned, making this a great machine to use indoors on carpeted floors where carpet 'scrunching' is frowned upon.

The removable control box worked well but judges felt that its internals were a little complicated.

PB Dino 121	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer
Work ht	12.11m	12.16m
Outreach	6.20m	6.70m
Up and over	5.34m	4.61m
Platform size	1.45m x 0.80m	1.42m x 0.77m
0/A Width	1.55m	1.55m
0/A Length	4.09m	4.06m
0/A height	1.91m	1.95m
Lift speed	65 seconds	95 seconds
Turning circle	5.35m	5.65m
Ground clearance	100mm	150mm
GVW	Not checked	4,240kg



The judges felt that the PB Dino was more of an end user product. On a less positive note, the judges felt that the controls were overly complex and they did not like the fact that the superstructure had to be rotated to lift off the service covers. They also felt that the drive speed in the elevated position was too slow. All-in-all they considered that this unit was best suited to specific end user applications rather than rental fleet use.



Genie

The Genie Z30/20N RJ was another machine that the judges loved. They thought that the controls on this unit was clear, simple and easy to understand, even though the machine has a large number of functions to operate. They liked the jib rotation motor design and the machine's stability, which they considered to be equal best with JLG. They also liked some of the



Genie Z30/20NRJ	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer
Work ht	10.92m	10.89m
Outreach	6.40m	6.25m
Up and over	4.26m	3.86m
Platform size	1.17m x 1.03m	1.22m x 0.76m
O/A Width	1.20m	1.19m
O/A Length	5.35m	5.11m
O/A height	2.00m	2.00m
Lift speed	65 seconds	Not given
Turning circle	5.80m	6.40m
Ground clearance	40mm	90mm
GVW	Not checked	6,450kg



The Genie was another machine that the judges thought almost perfect.

functional attention to detail such as the pivot pin heads being capped and the hoses protected with spiral plastic sheafing in high wear areas. They did not like the fact that the front and rear wheels were not interchangeable nor the absence of an emergency hand pump.



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UpRight

AT 38ft, the UpRight AB38 was the highest machine in the Check rather than a 30 or 33ft machine. The judges liked the extra height and the

machine's relatively light weight, not to mention its good speed to full height. They also appreciated the way all of the hydraulic lines were protected from damage. However when it came to the platform things were not so positive, starting with the entry ladder and moving on to the small platform floor area and low harness anchor point. The manual platform rotator got a big thumbs down, they felt that this



contributed to the basket being less rigid than most of the other machines. The simple control layout won points but the judges felt that the boom and drive controls should be smoother. When it came to testing the turning circle, the AB38's posi-drive (diff-lock) traction caused the front tyres to scrub and push forward, extending the turning circle beyond that in the spec sheet.

UpRight AB38N	Vertikal Check	Manufacturer
Work ht	13.5m	13.5m
Outreach	5.65m	6.10m
Up and over	5.98m	5.40m
Platform size	1.29m x 1.00m	1.20m x 0.60m
0/A Width	1.52m	1.50m
O/A Length	4.10m	4.04m
O/A height	1.98m	2.00m
Lift speed	65 seconds	Not given
Turning circle	5.35m	4.80m
Ground clearance	120mm	150mm
GVW	Not Checked	3,760kg





	Niftylift HR12	Manitou 120AETJ	Haulotte HA12IP	JLG E300	PB Dino 121	Genie Z30/20NRJ	UpRight AB38N
Work ht	12.1m	11.96m	12.02m	11.07m	12.11m	10.92m	13.5m
Outreach	5.4m	6.95m	6.10m	6.0m	6.20m	6.40m	5.65m
Up and over (1)	4.65m	5.37m	5.71m	4.23m	5.34m	4.26m	5.98m
Platform size (2)	1.1m x 0.85m	1.20m x 0.96m	1.21m x 1.13m	1.22m x 0.91m	1.45m x 0.80m	1.17m x 1.03m	1.29m x 1.00m
0/A Width	1.5m	1.2m	1.35m	1.22m	1.55m	1.20m	1.52m
0/A Length	4.01m	3.97m	5.40m	5.7m	4.09m	5.35m	4.10m
0/A height	1.91m	1.99m	2.0m	2.00m	1.91m	2.00m	1.98m
Lift speed	92 seconds	82 seconds	82 seconds	64 seconds	65 seconds	65 seconds	65 seconds
Turning circle	9.1m	5.8m	5.30m	5.70m	5.35m	5.80m	5.35m
Ground clearance	150mm	150mm	150mm	50mm	100mm	40mm	120mm
GVW	2,400kg	6,550kg	5,900kg	7,052kg	4,240kg	6,450kg	3,760kg
1 In the Vertikal Cher	In the Vertikal Check we measured to the bottom of the basket with horizontal boom 2. In the Vertikal Check basket dimensions are to the outsied of the rail						

Feature	Best performer	result
Feature	Best performer	result
Highest	UpRight	13.5m
Most outreach	Manitou	6.95m
Best up and over	UpRight	5.98m
Lowest GVW	Nifty	2,450kg
Narrowest	Genie/Manitou	1.20m
Fastest lift *	JLG/UpRight	64/65 Seconds
biggest platform	Haulotte	1.21x1.13m
Lowest stowed	PB/Nifty	1.91m
Best Ground cleance	Nifty/Haulotte	150mm

* JLG had the shortest time, but only goes to 11m in 64 secs while the UpRight does 13.5m in 65 secs

