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Check it Out

The Vertikal Check is held every year at Platformers Days by our sister magazine Kran&Bühne in Germany. This year the machines we checked over were 14 to 16 metre working height 'spider lifts', compact crawler mounted lifts with outriggers. The event turned out to be a bit of a disappointment, with several manufacturers dropping out in the last week due to lack of availability, late delivery and technical problems. In the end the three highest volume producers participated - Hinowa, Oil&Steel and Teupen.

Local company, Teupen, entered its Leo 15GT, this model uses a single riser, or first boom, plus telescopic top boom and articulating jib, while the other entrants employ a dual riser. More on this later.

Hinowa entered its highly popular Goldlift 14.70 with an 11.94 metre platform height. The unit uses a dual sigma-style riser, two stage telescopic boom and articulating jib.

Oil&Steel selected its Octopussy 1465 for the Check. The Octopussy has sold in large numbers in the UK and was almost single handedly responsible for the early development of the compact crawler lift market. Like the Hinowa, the Octopussy uses a two section sigma-style riser, telescopic boom and jib.

As in past years, the Vertikal Check master of ceremonies or moderator,



C&a vertikal check

was Kran&Bühne's editor in chief Rudiger Kopf. The three independent judges this year were Adrian van der Geer, technical manager, Mateco AG, Thorston Drescher-Gramm of Zoomo Germany and Hubert Fasselt, former technical manager, Gardemann AG. The process began with the three judges checking the dimensions of each machine, including platform height, outreach and speeds, so that they can

be compared with the manufacturers' published specifications.

Then comes the subjective part of the Check, where each judge puts each machine through its paces. A representative from each manufacturer has a chance to present the features and design points of his machine to the judges, who ask questions and make comments. Here are the results of this year's event.

Teupen Leo 15GT

A machine from a local producer often starts off with an intangible advantage, if only from the fact that the machines are designed with the preferences of local users in mind. The Teutonic Teupen with its attention to detail, such as the wheels built into the basket to help move it when detached and the rollers on the tip of the riser to help should it strike the ground, appealed to the judges. However the Teupen is generally a more expensive product than the other two entrants. The judges also liked the fact that the tracks extend downwards as well as outwards, providing more ground clearance as well as greater width for stability on rough ground. The design is also unique in that it also allows a track on one side (uphill) to remain retracted while



The Teupen Leo was the first to be checked

the other is extended, great for traversing side slopes. Finally the last point that proved to be very popular was the fact that it is possible to set and retract the outriggers without leaving the basket.

The Leo 15 was beaten on many key specifications by one of the other two contenders, however the judges clearly liked the machine's build quality and some of the additional features we have mentioned.

Teupen Leo 15GT	Vertikal Check	Manufacturers spec
Working height	14.83m	14.90m
Outreach	5.86m	6.40m
Up and over reach	5.70m	5.60m
Platform dimensions	1.26 x 0.70m	1.20 x 0.70m
Outrigger width	2.95m	2.65m
Min transport width	800mm	780mm
Min transport length	4.100mm*	3.995mm
Stowed height	1.97m	1.99m
Track width	200mm	200mm
Outriggers	hydraulic	hydraulic
Time to reach full height	88 seconds	110 seconds
Controls		Proportional Hydraulic.
Power to the platform	yes	yes
Specifications not tested		
Gradeability		20°
Power options		
Kubota Diesel		13.5hp
Electric motor		2,2 kw
Honda petrol		13hp
Platform capacity		200kgs
Battery capacity		45a/h
Gross Vehicle Weight		1980kg

* Overall length with basket removed, 4.7m when attached

The Leo Track extend downwards as well as out



The Teupen Leo 15GT

Teupen Summary

Handling	Good
Controls	No cushion stop, tendency to slew when lowering the boom
Platform rigidity	Not ideal - acceptable
Levelling	Levelling with outriggers was not smooth and easy
Build Quality	Excellent
Serviceability	Good access and simple servicing requirements

Hinowa Goldlift 14.70

The Hinowa is arguably the leader in this particular market segment. Built in Italy, the marque is sold all over the world and has a strong share of the smaller end of the market.

The judges liked the machine's manoeuvrability, and were particularly impressed with the small space required to turn. Another feature which appealed to our judges was the fact that the machine can be driven from the platform at up to three metres height. The benefit of this is loading the machine and also in order to provide users with a shorter machine to help manoeuvre in tight places, the machine's overall



Hinowa set up ready for the judges' scrutiny

chassis length, when the boom is raised is around two metres.

The Hinowa scored well on speed of operation, up and over reach and outreach, however it has a bigger outrigger footprint and is marginally higher when stowed, than the other two.

Hinowa Goldlift 14.70	Vertikal Check	Manufacturers spec
Working height	14.67m	13.90m
Outreach	6.30m	6.24m
Up and Over reach	6.00m	5.90m
Platform dimensions	1.51 x 0.78m	1.46 x 0.77m
Outrigger width	3.13m	2.70m
Min transport width	800mm	780mm
Min transport length	3.810mm	3.975mm
Stowed height	2.00m	1.98m
Track width	180mm	180mm
Controls	Proportional direct Hydraulic	
Power to platform	yes	yes
Time to reach full height	64 seconds	70 seconds

Specifications not tested

Gradeability	24°
Power options	
Honda (petrol)	6,6kw
Hatz (Diesel)	9,6kw
Electric motor	
Max lifting capacity	200kgs
Battery capacity	n/a.
Gross Vehicle Weight	1,700kg

Some of the items the judges did not like included the location of the power-track for the hoses and cables to the platform, placed on top of the main telescopic boom, rather than inside or below where they might be more protected. Also the operating controls were not as smooth as some of the judges expected.

Hinowa Summary

Handling	Good
Controls	Good
Platform rigidity	Acceptable
Build Quality	Good
Serviceability	Good access easy to inspect and maintain



The Hinowa Goldlift 14.70

Oil&Steel

For many access equipment users in the UK and Ireland the Oil&Steel Octopussy models were their first introduction to this type of lift. The product dominated the compact crawler market in the UK until a couple of years ago when changes in distribution and the arrival of strong competition in the form of Teupen, Hinowa and Lionlift affected sales.

The Octopussy 1465 has a similar dual riser boom configuration to the Hinowa, and is very close to the Hinowa in all of its overall dimensions. The judges noted though that the pivot pins in the machine's lift mechanism were of a noticeably smaller diameter than the pins used on the other two lifts. The fact that an optional wider track pad width is available was appreciated as was the fact that Oil&Steel is delivering all Octopussys equipped with a standard harness.

Points that were not appreciated were the top mounted power-track, that the judges thought left the



The Oil&Steel Octopussy 1465

hoses and cables exposed, the lack of standard outrigger cylinder covers and covers for the hydraulics and electrics. Their opinion was that the machine was vulnerable to component damage, particularly in applications such as forestry work. Both covers are available as options.

Finally they did not like the fact that the function controllers produced no effect through the first half of their arc and the platform rigidity was not as good as the other two machines tested.



The judges give the Octopussy 'the once over'

Oil&Steel Octopussy 1465	Vertikal Check	Manufacturers spec
Working height	13.88m	14.00m
Outreach	5.70m	6.85m
Up and Over reach	5.95m	5.90m
Platform dimensions	1.45 x 0.78m	1.44 x 0.78m
Outrigger width	2.80m	2.50m
Min transport width	785mm	780mm
Min transport length	3,890mm	3,970mm
Stowed height	1.96m	1.96m
Track width	180mm	180mm
Controls	Proportional direct Hydraulic	
Power to platform	yes	yes
Time to reach full height	65 seconds	70 seconds

Specifications not tested

Gradeability	28°
Power options	
Honda (petrol)	6.6kw
Hatz (Diesel)	9.6kw
Electric motor	4.0kw
Max lifting capacity	200kgs
Battery capacity	40a/h.
Gross Vehicle Weight	1,600kg

Oil&Steel Summary

Handling	Good
Controls	Good
Platform rigidity	Acceptable
Build Quality	Good
Serviceability	Good access easy to inspect and maintain

Which is best at what?

Feature	Best in feature	measurement
Best outreach	Hinowa Goldlift	6.3m
Smallest outrigger spread	Oil&Steel Octopussy	2.8m
Lightest weight	Oil&Steel Octopussy	1,600kg
Highest working height	Teupen Leo	14.83m
Fastest to full height	Hinowa Goldlift	64 seconds
Largest platform	Hinowa Goldlift	1.51x0.78m
Best up and over reach	Hinowa Goldlift	6.00m

Final Word. All three machines are strong performers in their class, the one to choose will ultimately depend on the application. While each has its own strengths, the final selection will of course come down to a mixture of specifications, price, availability and of course, the dealer. At the end of the day after sales support and a distributor that is easy to deal with are the most important factors.

Clarifications: Outreach compared to spec varied in some instances due to use of 'working outreach' used by some: The variance on outrigger spread is due to our judges using overall width while some manufacturers used pad centres.