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# Vertically electric compacts

Of all the self propelled aerial work platforms sold worldwide, by far the largest number are electric powered scissor lifts. Most of them under 10 metres platform height. We take a look at what is available, what to look for and how technology is progressing.

The most popular scissor lifts are those that are narrow enough to pass through single doorways. Now widely available with platform heights of up to 10 metres for working up to 12 metres. The biggest sector are the 19ft (5.7metre) models. Why 19ft and not 20ft? Simple, the very desirable short overall length, ideally as low as 1.6 metres, limits the length of the scissor arms and thus the eventual height. Four sets of scissors equals 19ft - 23/24ft models have been built in Italy by using five scissor sets, but these are then higher in the closed position and display more mid-height side to side movement.

## Right tool for the job

More importantly, a huge volume of work is located well below eight metres. In fact there is a strong argument that a four metre platform height lift would be more than adequate for over half the work currently done by higher scissor lifts.

How many times have you passed though an airport baggage hall with three to four metre high ceilings and seen nine metre working height scissors in use?

In Sweden and other Nordic countries thousands of four metre platform height, mast type lifts are in use. The rest of Europe says why? When they cost almost as much as a 5.7metre scissor? Well let's see, where shall we start?



"The original" UpRight TM12 has been updated but remains essentially the same and is highly popular in Nordic markets.



C&A electric scissors

The Haulotte Star 6 has been updated and improved for 2006 and offers a steel mast and carry platform.

1. They are lighter for floor loadings and small elevators
2. They are shorter, as low as 1.3 metres long, ideal for the smallest elevators
3. They are easier to deliver - more units on a truck or trailer.
4. They have a lower platform entry height
5. They can be driven through doorways from the platform
6. They have greater battery life

In the UK, Nationwide has been one of the few rental companies to invest significantly in this size of lift, when in 2005 it purchased 24 Genie Runabouts. Although this relates to less than two units per depot, the company has concentrated them in just a few locations.

Note: The following charts are not intended to be all inclusive, only models widely available throughout the EU have been included.

# MX19

## micro scissor the original and NOW BETTER THAN EVER



The MX19 from UpRight International is an ultra-compact self-propelled scissor lift with micro dimensions and an ultra-small turning radius for greater manoeuvrability.

Offering up to 8m of working height these pioneering scissor lifts come with a roll-out deck extension and non-marking tyres. With NEW one-hand proportional controls for smoother operation, low voltage indicator, horn and better than ever performance the MX19 just got better!



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### Micro lifts five metres and under

Make	Model	Plat Ht	O/A Width	Lift capacity	O/A Length	GVW	Speed up/down
JLG +	SSV10	3.05m	750mm	160kg	1.52m	455kg	N/A
Genie +	GR12	3.5m	750mm	227kg	1.35m	717kg	18/20s
UpRight +	TM12	3.83m	760mm	227kg	1.36m	776kg	18/23s
Haulotte +	Star 6	4.0m	760mm	180kg	1.50m	800kg	17/30s
JLG Toucan +	Duo	4.0m	780mm	130kg	1.65m	1,000kg	N/A
JLG Toucan+	Jnr 6	4.0m	780mm	200kg	1.50m	870kg	N/A
Bravisol	Lui 400	4.1m	780mm	200kg	1.55m	1,080kg	N/A
Haulotte	Opt 6	4.45m	760mm	280kg	1.73m*	1,240kg	25/18s
MEC	1532ES	4.5m	810mm	272kg	1.68m*	1,225kg	14/18s
Holland Lift	Z-45EL8	4.5m	800mm	220kg	1.70m	1,100kg	15/24s
SkyJack	SJIII3215	4.6m	810mm	272kg	1.78m	1,100kg	23/25s
Genie	GS1530	4.6m	760mm	272kg	1.83m	1,223kg	16/17s
Genie	GS1532	4.6m	813mm	272kg	1.83m	1,238kg	16/17s
Itesco	IT4680	4.6m	785mm	270kg	1.63m*	1,290kg	16/20s
Airo	Micra460	4.65m	765mm	250kg	1.85m	1,320kg	17/19s
JLG +	15DVSP	4.65m	800mm	230kg	1.36m	960kg	N/A
JLG +	15DVL	4.67m	750mm	230kg	1.36m	950kg	N/A
Genie +	GR15	4.75m	750mm	227kg	1.35m	994kg	20/20s

\*With access steps removed. + Mast type lift.

If you think that a 12 to 15ft lift would suit your work, you can choose between a traditional scissor lift, usually the a 19ft with one less set of scissor arms, giving a 15ft/4.5 metres platform height. Or a lift that uses a telescopic mast. A steel box section mast is generally preferred BUT platform heights tend to be limited to 4 to 4.3 metres. Today the majority of units sold have aluminium forklift type masts, borrowed from push around/portable lifts. The benefit is that these units offer platform heights of up to 20ft/6 metres. In the rental market the 15ft mast

is more popular, with its two man lift capacity and lighter weight. The 19/20ft market is dominated these days by compact scissor lifts. In an **ideal** world these are under 800mm wide, less than two metres high, no longer than 1.6 metres overall and weigh around 1,000kgs. In the **real** world a good number of units offer a 760mm width and most if not all will close down to less than two metres making them easy to pass through standard doorways, even doorways with fancy trim. The ideal overall length is possible... just about, usually after a quick release step

*The Manitou D80ER is a special lift for industrial applications and features a rotating platform*





has been removed. This allows the machine to use a number of passenger elevators with limited dimensions. The Gross Vehicle weight of 1,000kgs has long gone. Scissors in this category seem to put on weight every year, many are now in the 1,500kg region, the best push 1,250kgs. still making them too heavy for many smaller lifts. In such a case the alloy mast units will be your only option.

## 19fts are getting fatter

It is also interesting to note that some of the 19ft scissors have gained a few inches too, with a good number swelling to 820mm, making them a tight fit through some doorways. The importance of this appears to have diminished, certainly in the UK. When Genie put its latest 19ft model through CE approval a few years back it took its width out to 820mm and added

## Micro scissors and lifts 5 to 6 metres (19ft)

Make	Model	Plat Ht	O/A Width	Lift capacity	O/A Length	GVW	Speed up/down
MEC	1932ES	5.71m	810mm	226kg	1.68m*	1,375kg	14/18s
Genie	GS1930	5.7m	760mm	227kg	1.83m	1,498kg	16/23s
Genie	GS1932	5.7m	813mm	227kg	1.83m	1,503kg	16/23s
JLG	1930ES	5.72m	760mm	230kg	1.87m	1,565kg	22/28s
Haulotte	Opt 8	5.76m	760mm	230kg	1.73m*	1,325kg	30/23s
Manitou	78XE	5.8m	810mm	230kg	1.89m	1,380kg	17/22s
SkyJack	SJIII3219	5.8m	810mm	249kg	1.78m	1,170kg	25/27s
UpRight	MX19	5.8m	760mm	227kg	1.6m*	1,406kg	19/18s
Snorkel	S1930	5.8m	762mm	227kg	1.68m*	1,380kg	12/24s
Iteco	IT5980	5.9m	785mm	230kg	1.63m*	1,545kg	22/25s
JLG +	20DVL	5.94m	750mm	160kg	1.36m	950kg	N/A
JLG toucan +	Jnr 8	6.0m	780mm	120kg	1.65m	970kg	N/A
Airo	Micra600	6.0m	765mm	250kg	1.85m	1,395kg	17/19s
Genie +	GR20	6.07m	800mm	159kg	1.35m	1,111kg	21/21s

+ Mast type lift.

## Short and High

If the short length and narrow dimensions are an attraction regardless of total weight, you might be interested in recent developments from a number of Italian manufacturers, some of whom have added an extra scissor stack to their 19ft models to produce 22 to 24ft versions. IPM was the first to do this, while Iteco has been the most recent, with the launch last year of its IT7380 which features a 22ft (7.3m) platform height. Such models have been around now for three years, demand seems to have been such that no major manufacturer has deemed it necessary to follow this trend. The problem with them is that the lowered height tends to be in the 2.2 metre range, with a gross weight nudging two tonnes. On top of this their five sets of scissor arms inevitably lead to less platform rigidity. Which usually adds up to too many negatives for the gain of a 400mm shorter overall length.

a few pounds, in order to gain an outdoor rating. In Scandinavia users screamed No! And Genie quickly obtained CE approval for its

*The Genie GS2632 narrow 26ft, demonstrates how these narrow units can squeeze into narrow places.*



## Mini scissors 6 to 7 metres (20fts) Narrow

Make	Model	Plat Ht	O/A Width	Lift capacity	O/A Length	GVW	Speed up/down
MEC	2033ES	5.98m	840mm	363kg	2.49m	1,737kg	18/35s
Genie	GS2032	6.1m	810mm	363kg	2.44m	1,825kg	30/26s
JLG	2030ES	6.1m	760mm	360kg	2.30m	2,020kg	30/30s
Haulotte	Com 8	6.18m	810mm	350kg	2.31m	1,650kg	30/29s
Manitou	81XE	6.1m	810mm	340kg	2.47m	1,700kg	N/A
SkyJack	3220	6.1m	810mm	408kg	2.32m	1,592kg	33/35s
UpRight	X20N	6.1m	820mm	340kg	2.35m	1,736kg	30/30s
Snorkel	S2033	6.1m	840mm	363kg	2.31m	1,701kg	20/28s
Iteco	IT6390	6.27m	892mm	450kg	2.27m*	1,880kg	N/A
Airo	SF630E	6.3m	850mm	400kg	2.51m	1,440kg	40/40s
Manitou	D80ER	6.0m	990mm	350kg	2.50m	2,320kg	N/A
Holland	Y-64EL8	6.4m	950mm	350kg	2.80m	1,860kg	36/33

GS1930 (retained in the USA) but limiting it to indoor use only. In the UK and Ireland most fleet buyers seem to have shrugged off the tight fit issue and taken the 1932. So perhaps passage through a single standard office door is less important than anticipated?

## 20ft Skinny Minis

At one time the 20ft narrow mini was the hottest market, with products such as UpRight's SL20 being the machine of choice in many European markets. While such units offer a longer platform and higher capacity, relatively few are purchased in Europe any more. It seems that a number of manufacturers have given up on the standard 825mm (33 inch) doorway on these units, a number of them have fattened out to as much as 890mm. JLG is one of the few that has **reduced** its widths to 760mm, ideal for passing through most doorways.

*Holland Lift small scissors tend to be heavier duty than most.*



## Mini scissors 8 metres (26fts) Narrow

Make	Model	Plat Ht	O/A Width	Lift capacity	O/A Length	GVW	Speed up/down
MEC	2633ES	7.80m	840mm	226kg	2.49m	2,105kg	18/35s
Genie	GS2632	7.92m	813mm	227kg	2.44m	2,440kg	37/24s
JLG	2630ES	7.77m	760mm	227kg	2.30m	2,155kg	40/40s
Haulotte	Com 10N	8.14m	810mm	230kg	2.42m	2,150kg	45/45s
SkyJack	3226	7.9m	810mm	227kg	2.32m	1,876kg	56/NA
UpRight	X26UN	7.93m	820mm	340kg	2.35m	2,350kg	42/40s
Iteco	IT8290	8.15m	892mm	350kg	2.27m*	2,330kg	N/A
Airo	SF820IRE	8.24m	920mm	300kg	2.51m	1,780kg	50/35s

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The JLG DVL has an aluminium mast and offers a platform extension.

**26ft Skinnies**

Staying with doorway width machines, the choice of work heights has increased dramatically. Most producers have launched models with 26ft platform heights. For fleet owners this now offers an attractive split between the 19ft "elevator" models and the 26ft full length models. (rather than the old 19ft and 20ft) however the 26ft narrows do not seem to have taken off as rapidly as might have been expected. Iteco has gone one step further with its new range,

**Mini scissors 26 and 32ft - 8 to 10 metres**

Make	Model	Plat Ht	O/A Width	Lift capacity	O/A Length	GVW	Speed up/down
MEC	2647ES	7.80m	1,190mm	454kg	2.51m	2,404kg	18/35s
Genie	GS2646	7.92m	1,140mm	454kg	2.41m	2,055kg	30/24s
JLG	2646ES	7.92m	1,170mm	454kg	2.50m	2,550kg	40/40s
Haulotte	Com 10	8.14m	1,200mm	350kg	2.31m*	1,650kg	30/29s
Manitou	100XEL	8.2m	1,200mm	450kg	2.80m	2,420kg	N/A
SkyJack	4626	7.9m	1,160mm	454kg	2.31m	2,132kg	55/NA
UpRight	X26N	7.93m	1,220mm	454kg	2.35m	2,153kg	45/40s
Snorkel	S2646	7.9m	1,160mm	454kg	2.41m	2,359kg	20/28s
Holland	Y83EL12	8.3m	1,160mm	400kg	2.95m	2,400kg	38/26s
Airo	SF820E	8.2m	1,310mm	450kg	2.51m	2,000kg	50/35s
Haulotte	Com 12	10.0m	1,200mm	300kg	2.31m*	2,500kg	45/45s
MEC	3247ES	9.6m	1,190mm	318kg	2.51m	2,717kg	42/45
JLG	ES3246	9.68m	1,170mm	320kg	2.50m	2,725kg	50/50
Skyjack	4632	9.7m	1,170mm	318kg	2.31m	2,313kg	58/NA
Genie	GS3246	9.75m	1,170mm	318kg	2,44m	2,800kg	N/A
Snorkel	3246	9.75m	1,170mm	318kg	2.40m	3,003kg	44/48s
Iteco	10122	10.0m	1,220mm	450kg	2,27m	3,050kg	N/A
Airo	SF1000	10.1m	1,310mm	400kg	2.36m	2,610kg	70/60s
Manitou	120XEL	10.2m	1,120mm	320kg	2.80m	2,760kg	N/A
Holland	X105EL12	10.5m	1,160mm	500kg	3.50m	4,620kg	45/36

A 20ft scissor offers a long deck and better lift capacities than 19ft models.



The Skyjack3219, 19ft micro scissor, one of the top selling scissors in the UK in 2005.

introducing a 33ft model, the IT10090. However Iteco is one of the companies that have allowed their narrow scissors to fatten and its full length units are all 892mm. Limiting them to 36 inch (900mm) wide doors.

**20ft wide minis**

20ft wide mini scissors are so rarely imported into the European market these days that we are not covering them here; most producers offer a 1.2m wide chassis and platform, on their 20ft units, the main benefit being a higher lift capacity and more room. Most buyers prefer to buy a 26ft if they want more room. Don't expect major manufacturers to have any wide 20ft scissors in stock.

**26 and 32 ft minis**

At the top end of the volume scissor market is the 26ft and 32ft platform height mini scissors, typically 1.2 metres wide and 2.2 metres long. The 26ft units offer working heights of up to 10 metres more than enough for most indoor applications. However the 32ft, offering up to 12 metres working height has taken over a good portion of the 26ft market, probably on the basis that a 32 can cover the 26ft work, while offering an extra two metres of height. However before buying a 32ft consider that it has a lower lifting capacity, and greater gross vehicle weight.

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## Deck Extensions

The roll out deck extension is an essential addition to any scissor lift, and now generally standard. In fact buying a scissor lift without its roll out deck would be a huge mistake, when it comes to resale. The mast lift machines do not traditionally have a roll out deck, although they have been introduced on some models, many fleet owners think that this compromises what is intended to be a simple easy to use machine.



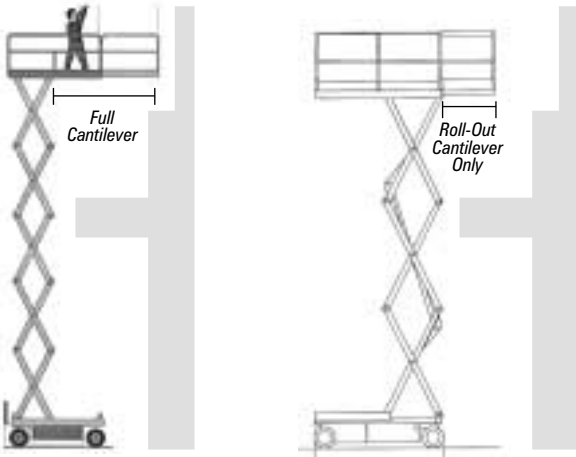
This Snorkel 1930 demonstrates a fulcantilever.

### How long is your cantilever?

Staying with traditional scissors, one aspect of a deck extension that some users focus on is the direction that it extends. All small scissors have one set of arms in the scissor stack fixed to one end of the platform while the other end slides or rolls as the platform rises until the two ends are closest together in the fully elevated position producing a cantilever. If the deck extension rolls out in the same

direction the result is a very long cantilever which can prove to be useful when trying to reach over mid height obstacles where the chassis can pass underneath it and the platform over it. This feature, is a further argument for full length 20ft lifts, most of which offer this feature while many 19ft have the deck extension the other end as well as having a shorter cantilever on the fixed deck.

The direction of the extension can provide greater overreach for some applications.



## Overload devices a 45 degree playing field?

During our research work covering electric scissors the question of overload devices was raised several times, and to be fair if it wasn't, we asked about it. The vast majority of those we spoke with confirmed that the lack of accuracy and unreliability of these items is causing problems. However an additional point surfaced, concerning inconsistency among notified bodies in the level of accuracy accepted for these systems.

Some manufacturers in particular, felt strongly that while they were fitting a costly system in a bid to provide the accuracy demanded by the letter

of the rules and their notified body. Other producers were gaining an unfair advantage by fitting a cheap and cheerful basic system that had precious little chance of providing any long term accuracy.

One thing that is for sure, no matter what the manufacturer tells you, whether the scissor is fitted with a cheap and nasty solution or a super deluxe one, none yet appear to do a solid reliable job. Most manufacturers complain that they add a significant cost, in percentage terms to small electric scissors while contributing little to scissor safety. In fact there is a view that they do exactly the opposite.

Most manufacturers use one of two basic methods to detect overloads. In the most sophisticated they fit load



JLG use four load pins to measure platform loading

sensing pins to the four platform connection points and feed the output into a microprocessor. The problem is that the pins are very sensitive and have to be handled very carefully even when installing. The second method is to measure the lift cylinder pressure and the scissor position, feeding the information into a microprocessor to compare the cylinder pressure at a given height with that allowed. The trouble is that to produce a system with any chance of accuracy, requires high quality sensors and a microprocessor with a full load curve. It is this latter method that is open to criticism, as some manufacturers are said to be using basic sensors and processors that stand little to no chance of such accuracy.

JLG has the most sophisticated installation that we saw, using four load pins to feed information into a central processor. The fact that at the time of our visit JLG was installing "revision 14" of the overload system tells you something!

UpRight was another company fitting an expensive system, choosing to use a highly sensitive pressure sensor and scissor position indicator and combing them into a full load curve microprocessor to detect overloads.

UpRight feed pressure and scissor position into a microprocessor to calculate platform loading.



The JLG microprocessor mounted under the deck

## C&a electric scissors



AFI has launched this simple lightweight pipe handler to help install sprinklers.

## New Pipe handler

AFI the UK based access rental company has launched a device for scissor lifts that holds lengths of pipe or tubing in place so that they can be lifted safely to the installation point.

The aim is to avoid a number of bad practices including the balancing of long tubes on the guardrails and was developed with input from a sprinkler installation contractor. The pipe stand is constructed from aluminium and fits onto the deck

of the scissor lift; it has a simple easy to use design and weighs 74kg. It will take tubes with diameters of up to six inches (160mm) in special grooves with straps that keep them firmly held in place. The height of the stand is adjustable making it very easy to install long overhead runs of tubing. AFI says that while designed for larger diesel scissor lifts, it can also be used with some smaller electric powered scissor lifts.

# Hospital Runabout

**When Rotary (Yorkshire) was selecting access equipment for the new Oncology unit being built at the famous St James ("Jimmy's") Hospital in Leeds. It called in Nationwide Access, Julian Nixon, depot sales manager at Nationwide's Leeds branch, visited the site shortly after work began, in order to discuss requirements with main contractor Bovis Lend lease and its key subcontractors.**

Specialist contractor Rotary is installing the overhead cabling and ductwork for the complex mechanical and electrical services in the new 66,500 sq metre wing. When completed, the new Oncology Wing will be Europe's largest cancer research hospital with teaching and patient care facilities located in the new building which is linked to four existing buildings.

"We advised Rotary to hire the

Genie GR15, "Runabouts" rather than the small scissors that Rotary's project manager Graham Rawlins originally had in mind. "The days of step ladders and trestles are long gone" commented Rawlins. "The small battery-powered scissor lifts are now the standard spec for this work, but on this occasion the compact nature of the GR15 provided access to more areas". The stowed height

*The Runabouts can be driven through regular doorways from the platform.*



*The Genie GR15 is able to access areas too tight for conventional scissors.*

Rawlins reports that they have proved the ideal solution for his team. "Most of the rooms within the building are already finished and some of them are quite small", he says. "Consequently, we have to manoeuvre in very tight spaces and are travelling from room to room all the time". The GR15's compact frame allows it to pass easily through a narrow doorway and its turning radius means that once inside a room it can quickly navigate its way into the right position.

"It's a superb machine" enthuses Rawlins. The eight Nationwide GR15's at St James Hospital are complemented by 10 small scissors. In addition to the hire contracts, Nationwide provided over 20 Rotary staff with operator training courses to help familiarise them with the equipment. Work at the new Oncology Wing is ongoing, and Rotary will be using the GR15s until May. The overall project is due for completion in December 2007.

of the Runabout is only 1.57 metres and the chassis 700mm wide by 1.35 metres long. "With a working height of six and a half metres this model provides access through both restricted entrances and between pipework at height" he continued.

Rotary began using the GR15's at St James' in September 2005 and

## The smallest scissor in the world?

NSG has launched what it claims is the smallest scissor lift in the world, the Pop Up. Offering a 1.63 metres platform height, the Pop Up is not self propelled, but can be easily pushed around and the castors then locked. It offers a 240kg lift capacity and compact dimensions, with an overall width of only 700mm, by 1,130 mm long and a gross weight of only 270 kgs, it will fit in almost any elevator and offer minimal floor loadings. With a list price of £3,500 it is a good powered alternative to Podium steps. A single charge will provide up to 400 full load lift cycles.



*The Pop Up was launched at the London Hire show in January*

## Go longer with Electric drive

Three years ago JLG introduced a radically new line up of small electric scissors, the ES range. The most groundbreaking feature was its direct electric drive. The company had developed a compact electric motor that fits onto the front stub axle. The benefits include significantly extended battery life and a much smaller hydraulic system. In fact the ES models hydraulic pump and reservoir is so compact that it is fitted directly to the machines lift cylinder.



Companies that operate ES machines such as Wakefield based UpLift, say that they can rent their ES scissors out for a premium to those users who are either working longer shifts or travelling greater distances with the scissor lifts.

While it is likely that all electric scissors will eventually adopt direct electric drive, just as most electric booms have. So far only one other manufacturer has followed JLG's lead, Iteco, which launched its IT80 and IT90 ranges late last year.







**A platform between its equals...**



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