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# What a 'Pick & Carry'on

Over the next month or two, production facilities throughout Europe will be carrying out planned maintenance and improvements as many companies close down for their summer break. While this period is always busy, the current economic climate is possibly encouraging more extensive works this year.



C&a

industrial lifting



Galizia G120



Broderson IC80



Ormig 45tmE

Reduced production due to the economic situation means many companies will use this quieter period to carry out more extensive maintenance or significant improvements to the production lines in preparation for the recovery which is showing signs of gathering pace.

Those carrying out such work appear to be gradually rediscovering the fact that the pick & carry capability of an industrial crane is invaluable if the work - often carried out in very confined, low-headroom spaces - is to be completed safely and on schedule. The demise of the pick & carry crane in many parts of Europe has been accredited to many things but is undoubtedly a result of the drastic decline in engineering and manufacturing during the 1970s and 1980s. With fewer such companies, the decreasing demand meant the end of the line for companies that had been a major force in the business such as Jones/Iron Fairy and to a lesser extent Coles. As the population gradually dwindled industrial lifting requirements were covered by the 'new-fangled' All Terrain cranes.

Whilst not as competent as a five to 10 tonne pick & carry crane, the small AT is undoubtedly a handy tool and when not working on industrial

lifting and is versatile enough to handle regular crane hire work. Over the years, however, AT rental fleets have gradually moved up the capacity range. Today the smallest units in most rental fleets are at least 35 or 40 tonnes capacity or more and often too big and too expensive for many industrial pick and carry duties. This has led to a shortage of smaller products for annual shut down work.

The requirement for compact cranes for industrial type work has without doubt been a fact in the rapid growth in the spider crane market, particularly in the UK. While spider cranes are not always as adept in confined spaces as pick & carry cranes, they are a handy alternative and for some installation jobs, the best possible product. More recently the mini crawler cranes - small tracked telescopic machines from manufacturers such as Maeda, Hitachi and IHI - have grown in popularity and can be useful for pick & carry applications. The two largest Maeda crawler cranes - the recently introduced six tonne capacity LC1385C and the 4.9 tonne capacity LC785B - for example, both have a useful two tonne pick & carry capability, while its smallest mini crawler crane, the 2.93 tonne capacity LC383-5B, can pick &





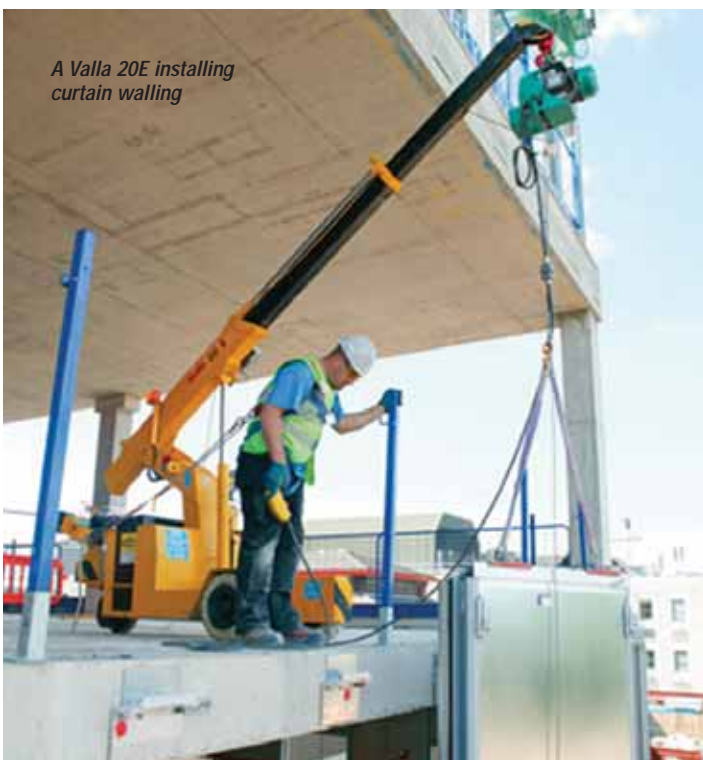
Jekko MPK20

carry 1,465kg. When combined with its compact dimensions, minimal tail swing and options such as a searcher hook makes it a very versatile crane for confined spaces.

A few crane hirers have even kept hold of - or sourced more recently – the older Jones Iron Fairy or similar industrial cranes. Despite their age and size, they are often the most profitable cranes in the fleet. A few other unusual cranes are also being used. Liverpool-based John Sutch Cranes for instance has an interesting 13 tonne Kato KRM13H City crane of which there are just

two in the country (Lee Lifting has the other). The machine has a 30 metre boom and a luffing fly jib so it is a handy crane that gets a better return than a 25 tonne AT.

Other types of equipment are also filling the 'small-capacity' void. Larger loader cranes mounted to compact trucks or tractor units can carry out this kind of work, as well as truck and trailer mounted aluminium boomed machines from Bocker, Paus and Klaas. Telehandlers – particularly the 360 degree rotating units – can now be equipped with a variety of



A Valla 20E installing curtain walling



Ormig 5.5tmE at the SAIE show

hoists/winchers and extension jib attachments making them a viable small crane option.

But if your contract requires picking up and moving a heavy load, a crane built specifically for the task is by far and away the best option. Italy still leads the way in the small, mobile industrial crane sector with companies such as Valla, Ormig, Jekko and Galizia becoming more popular outside of Italy. With the UK no longer producing specialist machines the only other country still manufacturing and using is North America with manufacturers such as Broderson and Grove with its YardBoss range. The main difference between the European and American cranes is the useful flat carry deck on the front of the American machines.

Broderson – now available in the UK and Ireland from Tadano Faun distributor Cranes UK - has been building industrial pick & carry cranes for almost 40 years and offers a range of eight models from the 2.23 tonne capacity IC20 to the 16.3 tonne IC250. The first unit brought in by Cranes UK was an eight tonne capacity IC80. It was expected to be one of the most popular machine in the range offering five tonnes pick & carry capacity, low headroom lifting ability, 360 degree slew, a maximum tip height of up to 14 metres, four wheel steer and optional four wheel drive. However, due to the recent economic downturn, sales have been much slower than expected.

The Grove YardBoss also has an eight model range from eight to 22.7 tonnes capacity and 9.5 to 21 metre main boom length. Grove updated and expanded its line of YardBoss industrial cranes a few years ago. The 20 tonne capacity YB7722 and YB7722XL replaced the 18.1 tonne 7720/7720XL models while the 8 tonne YB4409-2

is a new addition to the product line. Valla however, is the company that has spearheaded the use of small pick & carry cranes outside Italy with its UK distributor, Hull-based Peter Hird & Sons, offering the largest fleet of Valla pick & carry cranes in Europe.

These smaller capacity cranes are time and again proving themselves for lifting loads in congested working environments. As a result of the growing demand there has been massive growth in the amount of choice in the two tonne pedestrian controlled pick & carry crane market with exciting new products from Jekko, Valla, Galizia and Kegiom. Launched at Vertikal Days two years ago, the Jekko MPK20W has many features including a quick release system for its boom nose which can take an 800mm long, 500kg jib, a hook and pulley system and pallet forks.

Valla launched its all-new 2.5 tonne Electric pick & carry crane last year. The new 25E has the same compact dimensions as the older 20E - overall length of 2.2 metres, a width of 950mm and overall height of just 1.8 metres. Apart from the improved lifting capacities and the new styling and design, the biggest breakthrough on this model was the adoption of 48 volt AC electrics with full digital controls. Weighing 2,300kg the crane is capable of lifting its full capacity at up to 850mm from the



Galizia F200



front bumper and to an under-hook height of three metres (almost four metres with a searcher hook). A new winch offers optional rope storage of up to 68 metres and includes a high speed option of almost 14 metres/minute, for handling larger volumes of cable – essential for roof top working and curtain walling which these small cranes are proving popular. This new model is said to be the first of a range of new products from Valla. At last month's Vertikal Days, Valla unveiled the 25E's new lightweight version of the 25EL which is better suited for applications where point loadings are critical. Similar to the older model, the 25EL features a full power boom has a maximum tip height of almost five metres,

compact models the company has ever built, with a short overall length and an overall height of just two metres.

A newly formed Italian company – JMG Cranes – has also introduced a range of compact capacity pick & carry cranes. It was thought that the cranes would be launched last year at either the SAIE exhibition or more recently at Bauma. Unfortunately the cranes made a 'no show'. Valla says that it has taken legal action against the company 'to protect its business and goodwill in respect of unfair competition' so until this has been sorted, we will not be seeing the cranes in Europe. Several other lifting machines use loader boom technology. Although more spider crane than pick & carry,



*Hino HS400 uses a Penny Hydraulics crane*



*The early Ormig cranes were nick-named 'small elephants'*



*A 25 tonne Ormig*



*The new tracked Galizia GK20 Electric*

electronic steering system and two position boom nose to minimise head room requirements.

Below is a comparison of the three main machines – the Galizia G20, Jekko MPK20 and the Valla 25E.

Ormig started producing mobile industrial cranes in 1949. Its first model was the 5 tn which had lifting capacity of five tonnes. During the early years the 'single boom' design was used for cranes with capacities up to 23 tonnes, nick-named 'Small Elephants'.

Until recently, the smallest Ormig crane had a capacity of 10 tonnes, but at SAIE exhibition late last year, the company returned to its original sized crane with the introduction of the 5.5 tonne capacity, electric drive Ormig 5.5tmE. The new pick & carry crane has maximum boom height of 8.7 metres and is one of the most

German-based crane, access and telehandler rental and engineering company Wemotec and Dutch manufacturer Reedyk both produce compact lifting machines.

Latest offering from Wemotec is the SMK320.67, a versatile long boom specialist spider crane. The company has teamed up with and uses a Palfinger loader boom to produce a machine with stowed dimensions of 4.87 metres long by 1.75 metres wide with an overall height of 1.98 metres, yet is capable of a 32 metre hook height and 6.7 tonne maximum lift capacity. Its articulated boom has two main arms with over-centre articulation, plus a telescopic jib, making it amazingly versatile for reaching difficult areas particularly with a 29 metre outreach. A four-axis manipulator arm has also



*The ride-on Kegiom 200 Panda can lift 1,200kg*

been integrated into the boom design. Power is provided by either a Hatz diesel engine or AC power unit providing indoor and outdoor operation and two more models will be launched later this year.

In the sub-two tonne class, the new 1,200kg capacity Kegiom 200 Panda battery/electric crane launched at SAIE late last year uses the Kegiom loader crane-type boom on a new three wheeled, ride-on compact chassis. The unit which uses optional swing-out front stabilisers weighs 1,550kg and is just 850mm wide. Maximum tip height is 6.5 metres and a useful feature is 60 degrees of slew which increases to 120 degrees when using the outriggers.

Reedyk's latest mini crane – the C3410 - also features a loader crane-type articulated boom giving a maximum lift capacity of 3,840kg or a maximum horizontal reach of 13.7 metres. In transport mode the compact machine is just 960mm wide and less than two metres high.

### Lightweight crane from the USA

In an effort to produce an ultra-compact pick & carry crane, Newport Beach, California-based Smart-Rig Cranes has recently launched the battery powered mini crane that weighs just 450kg. By adding an additional 180kg of counterweight - ie filling the water tank counterweight system - the three section six metre telescopic boom crane can pick & carry just more than 1,000kg to a height of around three metres and will lift 300kg to a 5.8 metre hook height or take 225kg to its full outreach.

Measuring 2.4 metres long by 860mm wide and 950mm high at its most compact, additional stability can be gained from the rearwards moveable water tank counterweight system and rolling outriggers/stabilisers that are swung into the forward position for maximum outreach. The compact crane also features a boom mounted winch, single sheave



*The Reedyk C3410 has a 3,840kg capacity and 13.7 metres reach*





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The compact 2 tonne capacity Galizia G20



boom nose and hydraulic lift cylinder, all operated via a small remote control.

**Two tonner comparison**

It could be argued that the recent renewed interest in the pick & carry crane began with the introduction of the compact two tonners a few years ago. In a change of direction away from its spider cranes, Jekko introduced the GMK20 closely followed by the Galizia G20. More recently Valla introduced the slightly larger capacity 25E giving end-users three compact cranes to choose from. These are the machines featured in our 'two tonner' comparison however all three companies have either recently revealed details or are in the process of upgrading versions that offer significant advantages.

The Galizia G20 Plus is based on the existing G20 chassis but uses counterweight 'bags' that can be fitted by hand onto the rear of the chassis. The 'bags' give the G20 Plus an increased load chart from one metre. The operator can easily remove the bags as well as changing the display of the safe load indicator. The other major change is the larger 3kW replacing the 2kW electric drive motor. In standard G20 spec, the crane has a similar load chart to the Jekko MPK20, however the additional capacity of the Plus version means it is similar to the Valla 25E from one metre (900kg at 1.5 metres). The standard G20 can also remove its counterweight to reduce weight further/

Rather than adding features, Valla has concentrated on reducing the weight of the 25E which at 2,300kg was a rather heavy when compared to the competition. The new 25EL version weighs just 1,870kg but keeps the same lifting envelope as the heavier version except for a

reduced capacity of 2,250kg at 0.5 metres. The Valla 25E & 25EL both include the new internal hydraulic system and can be supplied in both hands-on controls and remote option and complete with a 68 metre hydraulic winch.

Jekko is currently working on an upgrade to its LMI software and introducing charts based on crane counterweight. At the moment the crane weight is 1900kg with the winch already installed. It says that it will be possible to remove the back counterweight which reduces the overall weight to 1600kg and maximum lift capacity to 1.7 tonne. It is also possible to add an extra 350kg counterweight giving an increased capacity of 2.5 tonnes.

**G20 v MPK20 v 25E**

At first glance, these three machines would appear similar.

The Smart-Rig crane has decent lifting duties for its size.





All have electric drive, have a lifting capacity of about two tonnes, are compact at less than one metre wide and two metres high and all can lift more than four metres high. However looking closer, reveals a few more differences.

Most compact is the Galizia G20. At 2025 x 980 x 1650mm it is the shortest (by 165mm) and lowest (by 130mm) and 28mm narrower. And with easily the best steering radius (1,800mm) it all adds up to being more manoeuvrable in tight spaces.

Both the Jekko and Valla have powered boom sections with internal hydraulics. The Galizia has the highest lift height however to reach its 5.2 metre maximum a manual boom section has to be employed. If only the powered boom sections are used, the G20 can lift a similar to a similar height as the Valla (about four metres) although this is about 500mm less than the Jekko.

All three have rear pedestrian steering and all have brakes on the rear wheel. The Galizia however is the only crane with brakes on the front wheels giving improved control and safety and critical should a heavy load tip the machine



YardBoss 4409



Jekko MPK20W

forward resulting in the rear wheel leaving the ground.

Jekko says that the MPK20 can work at a negative boom angle – and the hook can touch the ground about 500mm in front of the crane, a useful feature.

Perhaps the other main comparison area is ease of operation. Galizia says that it is the only one that can be fully operated – moving the crane and perform lifting operations – from controls on the helm rudder rather than positioning the crane using the rudder and then moving to use lifting controls on the main body or via the remote control. Ease of use is what all these small pick & carry machines should be about.

### Comparing the latest 'two tonners'

	Galizia G20	Jekko MPK20	Valla 25E
Max capacity	2,000kg	2,000kg	2,500kg
Dimensions LxWxH/mm	2025x928x1650	2595x950x1975	2190x950x1800
o/a weight	2,000kg	1,900kg	2,300kg
Max lift height	5.2m with 300kg	4.6m with 800kg	4.0m with 850kg
Drive system	Electric motor	Electric motor	Electric motor
Steering radius	1,805mm	1,980mm	2,050mm
Battery	24V – 320Ah	24V – 345Ah	48V – 200Ah
Front brakes	Yes	No	No
Rear brakes	Yes	Yes	Yes



Newly formed Italian-based JMG Cranes has two small pick & carry models



Galizia G20



Valla 75E at Chelsea FC

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# Taking the downtime out of shutdown



Kevin Parkes, managing director of Hewden

Even when site shutdowns are scheduled well in advance, they are still one of the most stressful periods for project managers. And with costs under constant scrutiny, managers and plant supervisors must ensure that they have the right partnerships, right equipment and above all, the necessary planning in place before committing to what could otherwise be a lengthy and costly process.

Kevin Parkes, managing director of Hewden – which recently divested from Finning - and one of the UK's largest and most diverse equipment rental companies, gives some tips for those embarking on a plant shutdown, and how the choice of equipment provider can affect the schedule.

## Choose your equipment supplier carefully

Almost every plant shutdown will lead to a demand for additional equipment and businesses may decide to select different items from a range of rental specialists, both local and national, in order to fulfil their specific product requirements. In order to alleviate the difficulties of working with numerous suppliers, project managers should consider working with a single equipment rental company and to create a framework agreement, whereby the hire management is contracted to one supplier.

The lead company will then supply a significant percentage of the hire equipment from its own range but will also take full responsibility for sourcing and managing the supply of equipment required from third party specialists.

## Carry out a project overview

Next, a detailed project plan should be produced to ensure that the work to be undertaken and the

health and safety implications of using certain types of equipment are communicated to the various subcontractors on site. This plan could include details of any access restrictions, working at height considerations and the proximity of power.

## Schedule equipment

The project team should then identify the equipment necessary for each stage of the shutdown and compile a detailed schedule of work.

The equipment provider will begin by establishing when each hire item needs to be on site and the length of time it is required. This will ensure that the right equipment is available and will also identify where cost savings can be made by reducing the volume of equipment on site at any one time.

In addition, the hire company should build in a contingency plan for possible over runs and delays and ensure that it holds sufficient stock of equipment.

## Health and safety risks

Risk assessments and method statements are an essential part of the shutdown and can be a practical means of establishing the critical equipment required. Such a risk assessment will ensure that in the 'worst case scenario', spares are readily available and forethought can also be given for equipment availability.

It is equally important to establish that the operators using each machine are fully trained and able to work safely. The hire provider should also carry out equipment familiarisation with any plant operatives that will be using the equipment and ideally be able to provide specialist operator training for those who lack it.

Increasing emphasis is being placed on training operators to be multi-skilled, so it is becoming easier to hire several machines that can be operated by one person. This means that the supervisor will only need to carry out one health and safety induction session and will also help to reduce the number of workers on site.

Furthermore, it is important to establish which accreditations the hire provider holds. The three key standards are ISO 9001 for quality, ISO14001 for environmental management and OHSAS 18001 for occupational health and safety.

Working with a hire company which has achieved these accreditations at every depot in its network, (Yes, Hewden has!) means that certain

minimum standards for safety, quality and performance will be met.

## Time equals money

Forward planning is critical, but even with the best-laid plans, events don't always go according to schedule! For example, a critical piece of equipment may suddenly break down and the replacement could take hours or days to arrive. That's when the service and repair capability of your selected rental company is critical. Suppliers should have service engineers available on an instant call out to get the operation back up and running as quickly as possible. This will help to avoid expensive delays and keep downtime to a minimum.

At Hewden we have more than 20 years experience with plant shutdowns, and Hewden Industrial Accounts, formerly Hewden Services, offers customers a solution that not only removes the burden of managing third party equipment suppliers, but also delivers cost savings and efficiency benefits, while ensuring full compliance with health, safety and environmental standards.



Hewden has more than 20 years experience of plant shutdowns

# PowerCat gets its skates on

PowerCat has introduced a cordless version of its lightweight portable skate moving tool. The original PowerCat was launched in 2008 and is gradually growing in popularity as its reputation spreads. The concept of a portable electric powered tug to make the shifting and positioning of large loads on skates an easy and precise job, was devised by crane veteran Klaus Scholpp.

The unit simply clamps onto a set of skates or the object being moved through a variety of standard or custom made attachments to the nose of the device. The highly geared electric motor then operates the drive wheels, while the movement of the drive shaft provides very precise steer control. The fact that they require almost no headroom clearance makes them ideal for bringing large loads into a building through a doorway where there is little clearance.

In a recent job in a confined space, three PowerCat units teamed up to shift a 75 tonne condenser into its final position. Other recent applications have included the

movement of a 12 tonne injection molding machine to a new position and shifting large machining centres.



Three PowerCat units move a 75 tonne condenser into a plant



The PowerCats are simply locked onto the feet of the condenser unit



The device can be ideal to bringing high loads through a doorway where there is little overhead clearance



A PowerCat moves a 12 tonne injection molding machine into position



The new cordless version of the PowerCat



A perfect application for the new cordless PowerCat - moving a large new Mazak machining centre into position