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# Standard, compact or ultra-compact?

c&a

telehandlers

The telehandler market is, along with that of tower cranes, a good indicator of economic health. The UK's most popular item of equipment is now so heavily involved in almost all types of construction that it is one of the first to suffer when times start to get hard. The current slowdown hit telehandler rental and sales hard but has not slowed new product development as manufacturers fill gaps in their ranges, update older models and increasingly target niche markets. The latest trend is for ever smaller models – but is that compact or ultra-compact? Cranes & Access investigates.

The way we now measure small telehandlers is not by lift height or capacity, but more by the machine's height or width. Under two metres overall height and width and the machine falls into the compact category, while the ultra-compact are a slim 1.6 metres or less. And while telehandlers try and be all things to all men with machines at the top end capable of lifting 10 or more tonnes, the growth of machines at the lower end of the size scale has been rapid.

With the diverse range of sizes, perhaps it would be a good idea to acknowledge a common telehandler size category system for fixed frame models?

- Ultra compact – widths of less than 1.6 metres
- Compact – height and width of under 2.0 metres
- Standard – 7 to 10 metre lift height
- Hi-Lift – 11 to 14 metres lift height
- Ultra Hi-Lift - 15 metres plus lift height
- Hi-Capacity

In the compact category most machines are very close in their

basic specifications. The manufacturers have obviously agreed on what compact users require. Bobcat, JLG, Cat (built by JLG), Merlo, Manitou, Genie, Dieci, Kramer Allrad and Faresin specs are mostly within a whisker of each other with 2,500kg maximum capacity, a lift height of around 5.8 to 5.9 metres and overall dimensions of 1950mm high by around 1,825mm wide. Machine weights are a little more variable, ranging from Genie at 4,450kg to JLG at 4,920kg. There are several models which just miss our compact cut, including the 2,900kg

capacity JLG 2906 and the JCB's new 2,700kg 527-58 which has a height of 2.0 metres and width of 2,040mm.

Surprisingly, JCB does not have a machine in the middle of the compact mix. However being a master at finding and exploiting a niche, it has decided to go even smaller and is the only major manufacturer currently pushing the 'ultra-compact' category with the introduction of its 515-40, its smallest ever telehandler to date.

Others in the 'ultra compact' group include Manitou which has pushed

hard in the past with its Buggiscopic and Twisco ranges, AUSA with its T133H and slightly larger T204H and Kramer Allrad with its 1245. Capacities for these micro machines range from 1,200 to 2,500kg, lift heights from 2.7 to 4.3 metres but probably more importantly is the compact machine dimensions with widths as narrow as 1,347mm and heights as low as 1,800mm.

These machines are more similar in size to skid steer loaders yet can offer much better material handling, with the capability of loading standard size muck-away wagons.



Merlo 225.6



JCB 515-40



Manitou MT625



Kramer Allrad 2506 at Bauma



The JLG 2505 American equivalent



Genie GTH-2506

Obviously the more compact dimensions make these machines even more suited to restricted working areas such as city centre developments or demolition projects. Being able to access restricted spaces as well as operating inside buildings and containers or being lifted for work in high-rise situations is a major benefit and they will probably do well in applications that would have otherwise used a skid steer loader. With this in mind most compact machines are equipped to use standard skid steer attachments and accessories.

A common problem with many compact machines is a cramped cab and lack of visibility. Despite the physical lack of space, several manufacturers have used innovative chassis designs in order to fit full-size cabs - up to 995mm wide - quite a challenge on a machine with an overall width of just 1.8 metres but making all-day operation perfectly feasible.

Ausa has added to its Taurulift range adding its smallest



Faresin 6.25

telehandler to date - the T133H - which continues the concept of the versatile forklift with telescopic boom and various attachments. These include a fork with side shift, bucket, grapple, Pelican scoop and Pelican forks. The T133H is one of the narrowest of the ultra-compact machines to the point that it led to the design of a lighter, more compact hydraulic drive-axle developed by Ausa's R&D department in cooperation with hydraulics manufacturer Poclair.

The two wheel drive T133H has a maximum speed of 20 km/h and it can negotiate gradients of 31 percent. However a slightly larger and heavier 4x4 version is also available.

The other new 'ultra-compact' manufacturer is Kramer Allrad which has used experience gained over many years with its compact loading shovels to build the 1,560mm wide 1245, with a lift height of 4.3 metres and capacity of 1,200kg. The Kramer Allrad brand is used in Europe for construction, gardening and landscaping, recycling, industrial and local government markets, while outside of Europe the Wacker Neuson brand is used. For agriculture, the company's telehandlers are available through the Claas sales network under the Class brand name.

While briefly touching on the agriculture sector - which has been



JCB 515-40



Ausa T133H



Dieci Apollo 25.6



Cat TH255



Bobcat T2250

relatively buoyant over the past few years - latest news is that JLG has decided to withdraw its own branded telehandlers from the agricultural market as part of a new agreement with Same Deutz-Fahr. The move is part of a new 10 year global supply agreement with Italian-based Same Deutz-Fahr, a leading manufacturer of tractors and agricultural machinery. JLG currently manufactures five telehandler models which are sold as the Deutz-Fahr Agrovector range with capacities from 2,900kg to 4,000kg and lift heights from six to nine metres. JLG also manufactures the Caterpillar telehandler line so it is no surprise that the compact Cat TH255 and the JLG 2505 are basically the same machine.

The on-going 'rivalry' between the two market leaders - JCB and Manitou - continues with both

claiming telehandler market leadership. At Bauma Manitou launched several new models including its new compact telehandler - the MT 625. As well as having the typical compact specification, Manitou says that it has been specifically designed for ease of use and uses a modern, roomy cab with a single JSM multifunction joystick, allowing the operator's other hand to remain on the steering wheel at all times. The cab also features a new, easy to read digital display dashboard.

Merlo - which claims to be the originator of the compact telehandler in 1991 with its P20.6, announced its new P25.6 around 18 months ago. The new model sets the standard with the highest lift height at 5.9 metres, its 995mm wide cab from its larger telehandlers with full all round visibility and the narrowest overall width at 1.8 metres. The P25.6's hydrostatic drive offers a maximum road speed of 36kph, while the freely oscillating rear axle ensures four point tyre contact in extreme off-road conditions.



Manitou MT625 all new cab.

Ultra compact and compact telehandlers

Make	Model	Max capacity kg	Max lift height m	Machine height mm	Machine width mm	Machine weight kg	Engine power kw
Ausa	T133H	1,300	2.7	1,924	1,347	2,000	17
Ausa	T204H	2,000	4.2	1,995	1,565	4,050	40
Bobcat	T2250	2,200	5.23	1,985	1,840	4,695	56
Caterpillar	TH255	2,500	5.6	1,920	1,820	4,899	63
Dieci	Apollo 25.6	2,500	5.78	1,910	1,800	4,800	52/63
Faresin	6.25	2,500	5.7	1,960	1,830	4,500	50
Genie	2506	2,500	5.79	1,920	1,810	4,450	50
JCB	515-40	1,500	4.0	1,800	1,560	3,480	37
JLG	2505	2,500	5.6	1,900	1,800	4,920	63
Kramer Allrad	1245	1,200	4.3	1,940	1,560	2,530	23
Kramer Allrad	2506	2,500	5.73	1,980	1,960	4,800	50
Manitou	MT625	2,500	5.85	1,920	1,820	4,710	55
Merlo	P25.6	2,500	5.9	1,920	1,800	4,500	55

# New rail mounted 360

VGM special products - the Tilburg, Holland-based specialist manufacturer and Manitou dealer - has delivered the first Manitou MRT1842-Telerailer, a new Road-Rail 360 degree telehandler to rail contractor Biemond-Lems.

VGM took over the Manitou franchise for the region last year. Its principals - including Hans Visser - were previously senior managers at VHS which over the past six years or so has built a number of 360 degree rail-mounted telehandlers. The new VGM unit builds on the experience and feedback gained from the VHS machines.

The TeleRailer 1842 has a lift height of 18 metres and a maximum capacity of 4,200kg. It uses a high-rail concept with the road

wheels lifted well clear of the tracks when travelling on rails. The track drive units allow the machine to be levelled on cambers or side slopes by up to 14 degrees and both front and rear wheel units are driven via their own dedicated pump and motor for extra power and reliability. Features include independent brakes on all four rail wheels, a maximum speed of 40kph and enough power to pull a wagon and handle the steepest gradients found on the Dutch railway system.



The Telerailer MRT 1842 with reduced tailswing and note the travel platform

The TeleRailer includes a wide range of special attachments including a fully integrated work platform, a travel platform to allow extra staff to ride safely with the machine, a reduced tailswing and slew restrictors to allow work alongside a live track. Any standard Manitou attachment from platforms to jibs can also be fitted.



the work platform has a good working envelope

## New Multi-Tool launched



Merlo tractor/telehandler combination the Multifarmer is widening its appeal particularly to utilities companies by creating a new model identity - the Multi-Tool.

Like its agricultural cousin, the Multi Farmer, the Multi-Tool features a rear-mounted three-point linkage with 4,300kg capacity and a mechanical direct drive PTO with both 500 and 1,000rpm speeds available.

As a telehandler, maximum lift capacity is 3,000kg, with both six metre and 8.55 metre lift heights available. There is a choice of Classic (analogue controls and instruments) or the all-digital TOP version with MERlin electronic control system.

When combined with the wide range of attachments available from Merlo, the Multi-Tool offers versatility, speed and safety in any utility operation. These include a fully integrated work platform - fully compliant with the EN280 aerial lift standard.



The Merlo Multi-Tool with integrated platform

## High capacity Doosan

Doosan Infracore Construction Equipment is entering the high capacity end of the telehandler market with a four model range with lift heights of 10 metres and capacities from seven to 21 tonnes.

The machines - manufactured by Dieci - can also be fitted with buckets of up to 4.5 cubic metres for loading applications. The new telehandlers offer compact dimensions, an off-road design, standard leveling and travel speeds up to 36 kph. The smallest model in the range is the DT70 telehandler which has a maximum lift capacity of seven tonnes and a maximum lift height of 9.65 metres. Next in line is the 12 tonne DT120 with a lift height of 9.4 metres. The two largest models - the DT160 and the DT210 both offer 10.2 metres of lift height and maximum forward reach of 5.15 metres, while maximum lift capacities are 16 and 21 tonnes, respectively.



## Hoist and jib now available

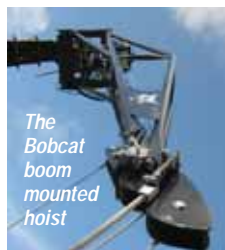
Bobcat has launched a new range of hydraulic hoists and jib extensions for its telehandler range - the boom nose mounted hoists are rated to 3.5 or four tonnes and 600 and 1,000 kg when combined with a four metre extension. They meet or exceed the latest ISO 430 1-1 classification T4, L2, M4.

The company say that the new attachments are designed for applications in construction, general industry and maintenance and provide the lift functions of a crane, combined with the site mobility and

versatility of a telehandler.

Using the hoist and jib attachments, the telehandler can be used to position loads in places which are difficult to access conventionally with the telehandler boom alone.

The hoists allow the raising and lowering loads without having to move the boom and are fitted with a proportional control system for precise load positioning.



The Bobcat boom mounted hoist

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