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# Check one two three...

The annual Vertikal Check was held at this years Platformer days in Germany in August. This year it was the turn of 20 ft (6 metre) narrow electric scissors to come under the judge's scrutiny. Nine producers entered a product, and here are the results.

The machine type chosen for this years Vertikal Check was 20ft (6m) platform height "skinny mini" electric scissor lifts. At one time this was by far the largest sector in the powered access market but it has been displaced by the shorter and slightly lower, 19ft "elevator" models. The full length 20ft sector is now very small in Europe, however, for the vast majority of the manufacturers participating, the 20ft narrow scissor is the lowest model in their mini scissor lift ranges. A such virtually all of the features and characteristics carry over onto their mainstream 26 and 32ft models.

The following manufacturers participated, and all but one of the



Nine companies entered this years Vertikal Check.

units entered featured a nominal platform height of 6.1 metres and overall widths of between 29 inches/ 760mm and 33 inches/850mm.

Manufacturer	Model
Genie	GS2032
Haulotte	Compact 8
Holland Lift	Y-64EL8
JLG	2030ES
Manitou	81XE
MEC	2033ES
Skyjack	SJ1113220
Snorkel	S2033
UpRight	MX19*

This type of scissor lift is designed to go through a single door, and yet still offer a full length platform in the region of over two metres, extending to over three metres. All units are designed for use on firm level floors and are therefore known as "slab machines some are indoor only while others may also be used outdoors.

Each model was put through a series of tests, beginning with a check of the main dimensions, length, width, platform entry height and fully extended platform height. Units were then tested for lift speed to full height, turning and clearance

radius in order to give an indication of the lifts manoeuvrability and performance.

Each company then had a few minutes to present its products strengths and accessibility for service and repairs before the judges moved to the subjective part of the Check. Each unit was inspected and test driven, both stowed and at full height. A drive up a long and relatively steep grade was also included.

Here is an overview of the results along with some of the judges opinions, units are listed alphabetically.

## Genie GS2032

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2.44m	2.40m	+ 4m
O/A Width	815mm	820mm	- 5mm
Min Platform height	1,030mm	1,030mm	✓
Max Platform Height	6.0 m	6.05 m	+ .05
Lift capacity	363kg/113kg	363/113kg	+variable
Turning circle	4.24m	4.25m	-.01m
Lift speed	30 seconds	23 secs	+ 7 secs
Deck Extension	920mm	900mm	-20mm



## overview

The Genie is a sophisticated well finished machine, with a unique variable lift capacity. A moving pointer in the top of the toeboard, indicates the capacity available. The highest capacity, 693kg, is in the middle of the lift cycle, so virtually unusable, however the middle capacity of 454kgs is good for 75 percent of the lifts cycle. This could be one of the few benefits of fitting overload devices. Our Judges however were not in favour of variable lift capacities.

Overall this was an impressive machine with excellent access for service and some sophisticated electronics and a High quality finish.



The Genie was an excellent all rounder



The Genie has a variable capacity indicator

## Haulotte Compact 8

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2.31m	2.47m	-.16m
O/A Width	810mm	820mm	-10mm
Min Platform height	890mm	890mm	✓
Max Platform Height	6.18m	6.22m	+ .04m
Lift capacity	350kg/150kg	350/150kg	✓
Turning circle	4.76m	4.15m	+0.51m
Lift speed	37 seconds	35 secs	+ 2 secs
Deck extension	920mm	910mm	-10mm



The Haulotte platform height is checked.

## overview

The Compact 8 was the first of Haulotte's current electric scissor range, it differs from most of the other units in that it uses mostly European components, a point that Haulotte stresses in its sales pitch. The unit had a good overall specification with one of the lowest entry heights of the units we judged. Lift speed was a little on the slow side and the judges did not like the drop bar entrance gate which jammed open several times in the test. The approach to service access was different from the majority, in that all routine checks required of the user can be completed without opening anything apart from the slide out battery tray.

Access for repairs requires the slackening off of two bolts on each side, to remove the side panels, once done access for the mechanics was relatively good.

The Haulotte batteries are stored separately.



variance: += positive to specification - = negative to specification

## Holland Lift Y64EL8

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2.80m	2.95m	-0.15m
O/A Width	850mm	930mm	- 80mm
Min Platform height	1,150mm	1,120mm	+30mm
Max Platform Height	6.4m	6.43m	+ .03m
Lift capacity	350/350kg	350/350kg	✓
Turning circle	5.8m	5.25m	+0.55m
Lift speed	30 seconds	28 secs	+ 2secs
Deck extension	900mm	900mm	✓



The judges check the Holland Lift for gradeability and handling.



Once lift off covers are removed Holland lift access is good.



### overview

The Holland lift scissor marches to a different beat than others in the check, ignoring the usual cost considerations in the choice of components. It also uses a massive lift mechanism. The result is a machine that can cost more than double the least costly machine we tested. Holland Lift say that its units have a good 15 years of low cost operation within a rental fleet, and even then can easily be refurbished, thus costing less over the long run. The test unit was one of 20 sold to Belgium's ROB rental.

The judges, being German, liked the way the Holland Lift is put together. They also liked the exceptional platform rigidity and fell in love with the roll out deck extension for which they immediately awarded a 100% score, the only item in the entire check to receive that rating. They also liked the fact that there was no capacity restriction on the extension.

They did not like the fact that the retracted pot hole bars increased the machines overall width or the position of the control box and the cable of which got in the way of platform entry. The large lift-off service access covers, were not popular, however they liked the access to components once the panels are removed.

## JLG 2030ES

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2.3m	2.3m	✓
O/A Width	760mm	770mm	- 10mm
Min Platform height	1,120mm	1,220mm	-20mm
Max Platform Height	6.1m	6.11m	+ .01m
Lift capacity	360/120 kg	360/120kg	✓
Turning circle	4,120mm	4,300mm	-180mm
Lift speed	30 seconds	29 sec	+1 sec
Deck Extension	900mm	900mm	✓



The JLG 2030 ES was painted in bright yellow customer colours



The JLG was the only unit with direct electric front drive.

### overview

The JLG is yet another "different" machine, using electric wheel mounted drive motors, that seriously extend the battery life, making these true dual shift machines. The 20 and 26ft models are the only full length mini scissors to offer overall widths of under 800mm, for easy passage through a standard office door.

The judges liked the fact that the number of hydraulic functions was reduced to lift and steer, they also liked the tight turning circle and quiet smooth controls.

They did not appreciate the mix of aluminium and steel between platform and scissor arms, they thought the guardrails were fussy and lacked rigidity. Service access was also considered to be only average with components spread out over the machine.



## Manitou 81XE

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2.47m	2.48m	- 10mm
O/A Width	810mm	800mm	+ 10mm
Min Platform height	1,000mm	1,000mm	✓
Max Platform Height	6.1m	6.1m	✓
Lift capacity	340/120kg	340/120kg	✓
Turning circle	4.2m	4.2m	✓
Lift speed	21 seconds	21 sec	✓
Deck Extension	1,000mm	1,000mm	✓



Making programme settings is easy on the Manitou

### overview

The Manitou scissor range was originally a MEC unit built under licence, but after the exit of Mayville from the lift business, Manitou completely redesigned the chassis and platform, only retaining the heavy duty monoblock lift mechanism from the original MEC design. The machine was very well finished was very stable with fast lift speed a comprehensive and easy to use programming system and a very heavy duty removable control box.

The judges were less keen on the control box cable which they considered would be stepped on and damaged or the sliding midrail, the design of which was made worse by the folding guardrail mechanism which tended to fold when the bar was lifted.



The Manitou completes its turning circle test



## MEC 2033ES

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2,49m	2.40m	+9mm
O/A Width	840mm	840mm	✓
Min Platform height	800mm	760mm	+40mm
Max Platform Height	5.98m	5.95m	- 3mm
Lift capacity	363/113kg	363/113kg	✓
Turning circle	4m	4.2m	-20mm
Lift speed	27 seconds	19 secs	+8 sec
Deck extension	1,060mm	1,070mm	+10mm



The MEC had the lowest platform height



The MEC had chain drive steering for a full 90 degree crank angle

### overview

The new MEC company purchased the parts inventory and designs from Mayville three years ago, since then MEC international has re-engineered the designs, reducing the overall dimensions, enhancing the performance and incorporating high grade simple components. This unit was a surprise to the judges, who were impressed with its performance. The judges liked the low entry level, but disliked the placing of the control box cable which due its entry point was all over the deck. The turning circle and lift/drive speeds were excellent and the approach to serviceability and access were liked especially the lift off hinged covers, they didn't like the oil filter location which they considered vulnerable. The unit was one of the few that did not feature diagnostics or sophisticated electronics.



## SkyJack SJIII3220

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2,490mm	2,400mm	+90mm
O/A Width	840mm	830mm	+10mm
Min Platform height	980mm	1,000mm	-20mm
Max Platform Height	6.1m	6.04m	-96mm
Lift capacity	408/136kg	408/136kg	✓
Turning circle	5.48m	8.6m	-3.12m
Lift speed	33 seconds	28 secs	+5 secs
Deck extension	900mm	840mm	-60mm



Our two chief judges Wolfgang Dahms at the controls with Adrian van der Geer navigating



Skyjack service access is hard to beat.

## overview

The Skyjack SJIII is one of the older designs among the units we tested, the model is due for enhancement early next year. However the simple reliable and functional layout and rental friendly features, not to mention value for money has made Skyjack one of the top selling Scissor lifts in the UK. This was the only unit with rear wheel drive and as such had the largest turning circle. However the judges liked the chequer plate steel deck, the service access (although they felt that the valves were hard to reach), easy to operate slide out deck extension and easy to use emergency descent.

The ultra heavy duty removable control box connection was not appreciated, although this was probably a locally fitted item.



## Snorkel S2033

Dimension	Specification	Check	Variance
O/A Length	2.31m	2.50m	+20mm
O/A Width	840mm	830mm	+10mm
Min Platform height	890mm	890mm	✓
Max Platform Height	6.1m	6.12m	+30mm
Lift capacity	363/113kg	363/113kg	✓
Turning circle	4.20m	5.14m	-0.96m
Lift speed	20 seconds	20 seconds	✓
Roll out deck extension	910mm	890mm	-20mm



The Snorkel was a reluctant entry but performed well



Batteries and charger are easily accessed on the Snorkel.

## overview

Snorkel was reluctant to enter the S2033, it is due for replacement next year, with a model that incorporates the latest features that are already built into the 19 and 26 models. The S2033 while not using the latest technology does have a following among Snorkel buyers who like the simple easy to repair design.

In spite of its age it offered one of the lowest entry heights and fastest lift speeds in the check. The controls are two speed rather than full the proportional as used on all of the other units we tested and as you might expect was nowhere near as smooth. The turning circle was the second largest of the group and the unit tested was longer than the specification claimed at over 2.5 metres but the machine performed very well, particularly given Snorkel's reticence.



## UpRight

\*UpRight, at one time the European market leader in this sector with its SL20, did not have an X2032 available, it therefore called in a one year old MX19, in order to participate and demonstrate the features of its scissor lift range, but to be fair to everyone, the measurement checks were not entered into the final report.



UpRight entered the MX19 which went through the full check but the results have not been used here due to it being out of category.



While we do not have a single winner, given that each model had its strengths and weaknesses, here are the winners of a few key attributes.

Fastest unit to full height:	MEC 2033ES – 19 seconds
Narrowest overall width:	JLG2030ES – 770mm
Biggest lift capacity:	Genie GS2032 – 363 to 693kgs
Tightest turning circle:	MEC/JLG
Lowest stowed/entry height:	MEC 2033ES – 790mm
Best Service Access:	Genie/Skyjack
Best Roll Out deck:	Holland Lift

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