

# MATERIAL HANDLING

FROM AIRSHIMS TO HOISTS AND GANTRIES, ALL THE LIFT YOU NEED

**S**afety and reliability rule the day in material handling but versatility and portability also influence end-user purchase decisions. The latest products from these nine leading manufacturers represent the state of the art in safety- and convenience-focused design, serviceability and components.

**JLG**

Several trends are influencing the design of construction equipment. Worker safety always tops the priority list. Several leading organizations, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA), an OSHA cooperative program, are positioned to shine the light on safety.

"JLG Industries' recently introduced LiftPod FT70 personal portable lift provides a working reach to 13 feet, and allows workers to stand in an enclosed platform and move hands-free in a 360-degree range of motion," begins Randy Marzicola, director, channel development for JLG. "The LiftPod FT70 is easily operated by one person, requires very little space to stow and is easy to assemble and transport. It consists of three



MARZICOLA

lightweight components for simple assembly and disassembly. When disassembled, the LiftPod FT70 fits in the back of a pick-up, van or SUV for easy portability between work sites."

A 40-volt Lithium-ion compact battery is available as an option for the LiftPod FT70, providing dependable performance. A convenient work tray holds up to 33 pounds of tools and materials and the unit's total platform capacity is 330 pounds. The LiftPod FT70 is also designed with an aircraft-quality aluminum mast. The platform also includes a lanyard anchorage point for tying off at height.

"The LiftPod FT70 is an ideal solution for facility, safety and trade professionals seeking a new alternative to ladders and scaffolding," Marzicola adds.

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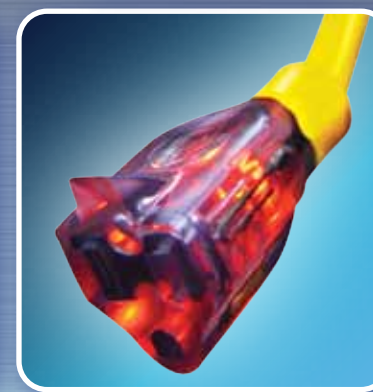
The JLG LiftPod FT70 offers a 13-foot working reach, 330 pounds of capacity and affords workers a hands-free 360 degrees of movement. An optional 40-volt Lithium-ion battery provides dependable lifting performance.



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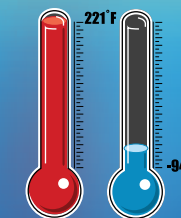
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**ALL MATERIAL HANDLING**

Today, all AMH branded chain hoists are available with final assembly in the USA to customer specification, with the following options: any lift length or hand chain drop; shipyard hooks for lever hoists; self-locking hooks for all hoists; overload protection; and USA-made load chain.

"All Material Handling was the first company of its kind to offer bolted hook blocks as a standard feature, allowing 100 percent inspection per ASME B30 requirements," says Peter Brettner, AMH president. "Since we introduced it a decade ago, this feature has now been copied by several brands in an attempt to catch up."



BRETTNER

All Material Handling LA Series lever chain hoists and MA Series hand chain hoists are available with the option of final assembly in the USA to customer specification using USA-made load chain.

Bolted hook blocks offer the ability to replace or upgrade to optional hooks economically, without replacing the entire hook block assembly.

"AMH was also one of the first to offer "one way" overload protection that slips strictly in the lift direction, assuring that any load can be lowered," Brettner adds. "Manual hoists are equipped with mechanical load brakes that are set by the load itself. If the load is near the overload setting, or if a load experiences vibration or shock, the brake may require more force to release it than the overload protection setting. If the protection is not "one-way," then the load can be stuck, unable to be lowered."

AMH always uses premium load chains from Germany or the USA. All have batch traceable, code-stamped links so any chain can be traced to the batch, material and test certification to which it was produced. The process used to make AMH chain insures that every link is loaded in excess of two times its working load limit.

**CALCULATED INDUSTRIES**

One of Calculated Industries' most popular tools is the AirShim Inflatable Pry Bar and Leveling Tool, a contractor-grade inflatable cushion that can support up to 300 pounds. The AirShim is great for installing and leveling windows, doors, appliances, cabinets and more. It can span gaps from 3/32 to 2 1/2 inches and eliminates the need for shims and wedges.

Unlike traditional wooden shims, wedges and pry bars, the AirShim can be precisely adjusted and works easily in tight quarters with no risk of damage to the items moved or surrounding surfaces.

"An internal 'stiffener' lets you insert the AirShim into very tight spaces without the tool bending or folding," explains Steve Kennedy, president of Calculated Industries. "It's soft so it won't scratch surfaces, yet strong enough to raise and hold up to 300 pounds. It's a great tool for interior construction professionals, installers of appliances and small equipment, DIYers and others needing to shift, lift, align, level, plumb, adjust or just hold materials still."



KENNEDY

Calculated Industries' AirShim Inflatable Pry Bar and Leveling Tool squeezes into gaps as small as 3/32 inch and can support up to 300 pounds, making it ideal for window and cabinet placement.



Calculated has also acquired the Blind Mark Magnetic Drywall Cutout tool, which reduces material handling when working with drywall. Just install the magnetic target in the outlet box, install the drywall, find the outlet with the Blind Mark Locator, mark the perimeter, cut out the drywall and remove the target. The net result is that drywall only needs to be lifted into position once.

**COLUMBUS MCKINNON**

"The world's first HMI (Hoist Manufacturers Institute)-certified ratchet lever hoist and one of the most versatile hoists on the market, the CM Bandit is now available in

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three- and six-ton capacities,” begins Paul Smielecki, Columbus McKinnon product manager. “This addition complements Columbus McKinnon’s initial offering of 3/4- and 1 1/2-ton units.”

The CM Bandit includes a 360° rotating handle, corrosion-resistant gold chromate chain and bolt-on hooks for easy inspection. New three- and six-ton models also feature the Tri-Point Hook Inspection System, which consists of three distinct raised points on the hook that the operator can use to detect any indication of overload or deformation.

Since the initial launch of the CM Bandit, Columbus McKinnon has continued to improve the hoist to exceed customer requirements. Last year, the company added 3/4- and 1 1/2-ton models of the Bandit to its In-Stock Guarantee program, which ensures shipment of these popular hoists in three business days or less.

“The company has also launched CM Smart ID radio frequency identification technology as a standard feature



Columbus McKinnon’s three-ton CM Bandit hoist (shown) is the world’s first HMI-certified ratchet lever hoist. The CM Bandit is also offered in 3/4-, 1 1/2- and 6-ton versions.

on all Bandit units for the U.S. market,” Smielecki adds. “CM Smart ID chips are associated with detailed product specifications before the hoist leaves the CMCO factory. This information can then be integrated into inventory and inspection management systems for more effective tracking of safety and hoist location information.”

Most recently, Columbus McKinnon has added CM Bandit parts to its new Parts Star Program. Now, customers can get genuine Bandit parts faster and easier with Total Repair Kits and economical bulk packaging.



Building on 60-plus years of expertise, Liftex is readying major upgrades of its industry-leading Pro Edge reinforced edge web slings and its high-performance RoundSlings.

**Quality Products:** Pro-Edge webslings; RoundUp RoundSlings; PAC-Flex chain slings; Cargo Control; etc. – built to exacting quality specifications for maximizing safe operation.

**Superior Service:** Not just on product fabrication and delivery – but on being a prime resource for information on operating practices, safety seminars, inspection criteria and safe usage.

**Distributor Driven:** The Liftex website, catalog, safety support materials and safety seminars are geared towards providing distributor partners with access to “safe use” information for them and their end-users.

“Distributor partnership is the primary foundation of our marketing strategy,” Cook states. “Liftex is cooperative — not competitive — with our distributor partners. We look forward to continuing our focus on safety and quality into 2016 and for the next 60-plus years.”

**AFFINITY TOOL WORKS/PORTAMATE**

Leading woodworking and power tool accessory manufacturer Portamate has introduced the newest member of its universal mobile base line with the PM-3500, an adjustable mobile base that has an industry-leading 1,500-pound weight capacity.

“Woodworkers, shop owners and DIY enthusiasts have asked us to manufacture a larger capacity mobile base and we have answered their wishes with the PM-3500,” says Todd Gluski, marketing brand manager of Portamate’s parent company, Affinity Tool Works. “Now owners of larger table saws, band saws, planers, jointers, workbenches and all manner of workshop equipment have a mobile base that can handle the big boys.”



Portamate has a full line of universal mobile bases, making both power tools and other items such as cabinets, safes and tool chests fully mobile. But until recently, its offerings topped out at a 650-pound capacity. The PM-3500 more than doubles that, while only raising the tool or cabinet profile one inch.

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Portamate’s PM-3500 mobile base answers the prayers of workshop owners who need to be able to re-position large stationary equipment weighing up to 1,500 pounds.

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**LIFTEX**

“As one of the originators of the synthetic sling industry and with 60-plus years of success in providing quality products and superior service worldwide, Liftex has always been focused on safety and quality,” states Pete Cook, vice president, sales & marketing.



“Regulatory and market developments continue to increase focus on safety and quality, and over the next few months we will be introducing several product extensions that reflect that same commitment to safety and quality. These introductions include the next generation of our industry leading Pro-Edge reinforced edge premium web slings, as well as our new line of high-performance RoundSlings, to name just a couple. Stay tuned!”

Since its inception over 60 years ago, Liftex has remained true to its founding principles:



As window systems and building panels grow in size, Wood's Powr-Grip is improving lift capacities and safety with features like dual vacuum systems, warning devices and remote control systems.

Add in the wide range of sizes it can be configured — adjusting from 18.25 x 23.5 to 28 x 33.5 inches — and the easy-to-operate foot locking lever, and it becomes a complete solution for larger power tools and items.

“One of the ways we develop new products is by listening to our customers,” says Gluski. “Woodworkers who have our other mobile bases in their shops would tell us that they still had one item that was just too heavy. With the new PM-3500, we now have an adjustable mobile base for just about anything in your shop.”

#### WOOD'S POWR-GRIP

Trends currently influencing the use of below-the-hook vacuum lifters in the material handling industry include the increasing size of prefabricated window systems and insulated glass (IG) units, and the growing popularity of energy-saving insulated metal panels (IMP's), as well as job site safety and return on investment.

With workplace safety and value as driving factors, Wood's Powr-Grip (WPG) offers many standard features to ensure safety, including dual vacuum systems (which maintain adhesion in one circuit if unexpectedly lost in the other), visual and audible low-vacuum warning devices, and optional radio remote control. “With cranes or other hoists to provide lifting power and vacuum lifters to manipulate loads, our new designs speed handling and reduce worker exertion and resulting injuries, while also requiring fewer load handlers,” says Joe Landsverk, marketing manager.

Ongoing improvements in manufacturing processes and machinery continue to affect materials handling devices. Vacuum lifters designed for factory use require increased speed, capacity and versatility. Large-volume vacuum pumps and blow-off, enabling quick attachment and release, have become standard on many designs.

Individual vacuum pad shut-offs, movable pads and removable pad arms allow raw materials to be loaded onto processing machinery and finished goods removed using the same lifter.

“With commercial construction growing in several areas, we've also seen a need for new product development, especial in the building envelope sector,” Landsverk adds. “Expandable lifter systems and specialty lifters enable the efficient installation of larger IMP's and glass curtain walls. Since some contractors have only an occasional need for such specialized equipment, we have expanded our rental fleet to better meet demand.”



LANDSVERK

#### SUMNER MANUFACTURING

Today's gantry systems maximize value with features that increased their versatility and portability. Sumner Manufacturing offers two lightweight, portable and easily-assembled all-aluminum gantry lifts as examples.

The GH2T Gantry by Sumner Manufacturing has a lift capacity up to two metric tons (4,400 pounds) and is available in four imperial sizes (8-, 10-, 12- and 15-foot) and three metric sizes (3-, 4- and 5-meter). The GH34T Gantry lift has a lift capacity of up to 750 kg (1,650 pounds) and is available with beams in the same four imperial and three metric sizes.

The GH2T and GH34T Gantries were designed with the user in mind,” notes Brendan Conway, Sumner sales manager. “These lifts consist of two A-frames, a cross beam and attaching hardware. A-frame legs lock in a folded position using a push-button release and feature a removable quick-action locking pin.



CONWAY

Sumner's highly portable three-piece GH2T Gantry lift has a lift capacity up to two metric tons (4,400 pounds) and is available in sizes from 8 to 15 feet and 3 to 5 meters in height.



Emissions standards are spurring Western Equipment Manufacturing to explore alternative power choices for products such as its popular Prowler truck-mounted rough-terrain forklift.



An adjustable lifting handle allows height adjustments to be made in six-inch (15 cm) increments. The GH2T and GH34T Gantries were specifically designed to be erected by a two-man crew.”

The lifts feature A-frame legs that lock in opened or closed position utilizing a push-button release and have casters with foot brakes that lock at 90-degree angles. The new design of the A-frame assembly eliminates the need for a locking cross bar to hold legs in the open position.

#### WESTERN EQUIPMENT

“Western Equipment Manufacturing, Inc. spends a lot of effort developing equipment that not only performs well, but that is cost effective to maintain,” says Robert Leos, vice president and general manager. “The EPA's 2004 Tier 4 emission standards immediately made the company evaluate how to best power the equipment it builds.”



LEOS

Western Equipment's vice president, Darren Dyck, says that getting the customer interested in the conversation has been missing, even though the emission standards are better than a decade old. The good news is that there is a new awareness of the diesel emission control strategies coming from the customers now that these standards are beginning implementation. This new customer awareness has given Western Equipment renewed interest in implementing previously-considered alternative power choices.

Increased costs tend to affect a consumer's awareness. The increased initial cost of Tier 4 Final powered equipment and the industry understanding that maintenance costs will be higher as well, should keep the conversation pertinent for many years.

“As engine manufacturers are still hard at work determining how to maintain high reliability and, more importantly, the serviceability of these newly implemented diesel emission control strategies, Western Equipment had the foresight to utilize the EPA's delayed implementation programs available to smaller original equipment manufacturers,” Leos continues. “Continuing with field-tested Tier 4i interim engine packages has given Western Equipment more time to better consider the paring of the most reliable engine packages to the equipment and the environment where it works.” **CS**

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