

working at height

Clever monkey!

Roger (half man, half monkey) Bisby tries out a working at heights solution

Admittedly no form of access can please all of the people all of the time, but MonkeyTower certainly brought a smile to my face and not only for the cheeky name. It rises up from the trailer base like a scissor lift but using an entirely different mechanism, which relies on good old fashioned arm power rather than an electric motor. For that reason it is lighter, cheaper and inherently more reliable than anything relying on batteries. The fact that it is lighter also means that it is less likely to sink into the ground or cause a weak floor to collapse, both of which are common causes of accidents with heavy battery powered scissor lifts. Towing it is also easier because the trailer is light and doesn't require brakes.

Now I know there will be people reading this who are thinking that you still have to get that trailer in position under the work area, but all access devices have drawbacks and with risk assessments it is all about finding the most convenient and practical way of mitigating the risk. MonkeyTower is easy to move along if you are replacing gutters or soffits and it can be winched up

and down in minutes – if not seconds.

To prove that it could be taken through a narrow space we manoeuvred it into a narrow arched door. The back end needed to be tilted back to

allow it to pass through and it was touch and go but that was an extreme test. If you wanted to take it up an alley to use on a patio there should be no problem.

I particularly like the fact that it is easy to use and that all the instructions are printed on the mast above the well geared two handled winch. The winch allows you to lift 75kg of tools and materials up on the platform. The operator can then climb up on the inside and gain access to the platform through the trap door. The whole operation reminded me very much of a sail boat and I wondered if the inventor had sailing experience. The answer to that is no but it didn't stop him from borrowing an idea from ocean-going racing yachts.

As with all access equipment that I test I



gave it a good shake while I was up there to see how stable it felt and the wire mast-stays certainly cut out sway. This is another idea which has its origins in the sailing ships of the past. The inventor might not have had any direct sailing experience but I bet there is some mariner in his DNA.

Every part of the Monkey Tower can be unbolted and replaced if necessary but it is so well designed and rugged that it is unlikely you will ever need to. MonkeyTower is available to hire or purchase outright throughout the UK.

Loads	
Weight	380 kg
Safe Working Load	250 kg
Lifting Capacity	75 kg

Dimensions	
A Height - Max Working	6.5m
B Height - Max Platform	4.5m
C Height - Min Platform	1m
D Height - Transport	2.1m
E Height - Minimum	1.9m
F Length - Minimum	2.7m
G Length - Towing	3.4m
H Width - Minimum	0.7m
I Width - Maximum	1.3m
J Width - Maximum	1.1m

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on the Monkey Tower use the reader enquiry number 255

