

# MONITOR SPIDER-LIFT MODEL OMME 3700RBDJ

REVIEWER ONE: YANNICK GUEZOU

THE OMME 3700 RBDJ EWP HAS A REAL PURPOSE IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT OF DUAL DEVELOPMENTS AND LARGE MAC-MANSIONS WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS TO BACKYARDS.



This machine goes almost anywhere and makes the job safer and more efficient. It is true that it resembles some sort of space age spider, but this merely adds to its charm.

I tested this machine on a 35m gum tree where the head of the tree was hanging over the power lines and a crane was not an option due to having to block the road. It is incredible to envisage that the machine could actually reach the tree when it arrived as it looked so compact and small; it is only 7.7m in length when folded. The machine also comes with a remote control making it easy and safe to manoeuvre.

We set the machine up on the driveway which was by no means flat. The great thing about the machine was its expandable tracks making it ideal for sloping ground

and other demanding conditions. All you need to do is extend the legs and the inbuilt auto-level system levels the machine for you, stabilising and ensuring the machine is safe before you leave the ground.

The bucket is large enough for two people and we reached the height of the tree in minutes. With its full extension it is pretty scary but when you use the controls the movements are very smooth with no sudden jerks. The benefit of having the full range of extension is that the machine does not have to be at the base of the tree which gives you a good landing zone for your logs and branches.

Having the OMME 3700RBDJ EWP made the job safer and it was not as physically demanding on the body. This may be the future in the arboriculture industry.

REVIEWER TWO: TIM ROBINSON

HAVING USED SMALLER EWPS IN THE PAST I WAS EAGER TO SEE WHAT THE OMME 3700RBDJ BY MONITOR LIFTS COULD OFFER!



If you are looking for a safer option than climbing on jobs that have risks such as power lines, bark inclusion or visible bracket fungi, then this is the machine for you. With its working height of 37m and a maximum horizontal outreach of nearly 14m, this machine is highly versatile for many applications.

With the safe working load of 250kg in the basket it can take two workers and equipment with ease. When in the basket, operating the control was easy with two simple joysticks to manoeuvre the boom and basket to the desired position in and around the tree canopy. I was pleased to feel the smooth movement when extending the boom, unlike other machines I have used in the past that tend to jerk around and leave you a bit uneasy.

The OMME 3700RBDJ is a track drive EWP machine; this means that all surfaces, even or uneven, can be accessed by the machine and prior to full set up it is only 1m in width, 7.78m in length and 2m in height. This track-driven machine comes with white tracks so it doesn't leave marks on driveways and footpaths – a pleasing aspect for the client too. Driving the machine is completed via a wireless control; again, a simple application.

It was quick and easy to set up and stabilise the OMME 3700RBDJ on the sloped driveway, and it was put to the test on this job where power lines were a major issue as 70 per cent of the large eucalypt hung over the high voltage power lines. Throughout the job it remained stable and flexible to reach the entire crown of the tree, with its 170°

basket rotation giving optimum flexibility for the work to be carried out. The guys working were able to complete the safe take down of the tree without the extra effort and risks of climbing in an unsafe situation.

The power source of the OMME 3700RBDJ is a 3-cylinder water-cooled diesel Kubota engine which runs smoothly and quietly. It also has eight high-capacity deep-cycle battery back-up options for times when the engine isn't running.

This machine left me impressed with all aspects of its delivery and covered the entire safety requirements needed on the day. I will keep the OMME 3700RBDJ EWP in mind for future equipment hire to complete those jobs where access just can't be reached any other way. **AA**

# VERMEER S650TX MINI SKID STEER

REVIEWER ONE: YANNICK GUEZOU

THE BEAUTY OF THE NEW S650TX MINI SKID STEER IS THE FACT THAT THE TEAM AT VERMEER CONSULTED WITH THEIR USERS WORLDWIDE IN THE DESIGN PROCESS. THE RESULT IS A PRODUCT THAT HAS INCREASED POWER AND ENHANCED CAPACITY WHILE STILL RETAINING ITS SMALL SIZE.



My first thought when I saw the machine arrive on site was: "This machine is not going to be able to handle the job." I thought this for two reasons – firstly, the access was extremely difficult and awkward; and secondly, the size of the small machine. We needed to move a few sections of more than 300kg of gum tree trunk and thick logs to a clearing (the client wanted to retain the wood for woodwork).

To start the job we used a variety of attachments including a log grapple which is an apt description for what it does. We used this to pick up the lower section of the trunk, which must have been over 2m long with a diameter of at least 1m. Not one person on site thought the machine was up to it, so it was amazing to see the Vermeer S650TX pick up that log with ease.

The other attachment we tested was a bucket which we used to pick up the debris,

even out of the ground. This particular bucket could also open (like giant pinchers) which was useful to grab large logs.

The Vermeer S650TX Mini Skid Steer was easy to operate given what it can do. There is a single joystick to manoeuvre the machine while the other two controls are for guiding the attachments. There is a thick bar around the controls to rest your hands on and prevent accidental acceleration. The platform is spring-cushioned and high enough to keep you dry; it also has side cushions to prevent bruising if riding over tough uneven terrain. The platform pushes down with your body weight and as soon as you step off the machine stops – a safety feature in case the operator falls from the machine.

The Vermeer S650TX Mini Skid Steer is small, light, versatile, safe to use, and would be an asset for any landscaping or larger arborist company.



REVIEWER TWO: TIM ROBINSON

WE PUT THE VERMEER S650TX MINI SKID STEER TO THE TEST IN A MAJOR WAY FOR THIS TEST DRIVE.



The work site had difficult access on the side of a hill, not to mention it had been raining for days leaving us with 6 inches of mud in some areas. The wood to be moved was large sections of trunk and limb that the owners of the property were keeping from the large eucalypt that my co-road tester had cut down.

All the above circumstances could not slow down the Vermeer skid steer, with its powerful 25hp water-cooled Kubota diesel engine and skid steer track drive it just pushed and pulled itself out of any situation that I put it into. Without this machine there is no way we could have moved the logs up and out of the bushy and steep terrain we were working in.



The lifting capacity of the S650TX was tested to the limits using the log grapple; I estimate some of the logs to have been around 800kg in weight and we still climbed the muddy and bushy terrain with little effort. Awesome is the only word to use!

We also attached the four-in-one bucket which was just as useful as the grapple as you could pick up large logs or load smaller ones by hand and then travel to the drop site. The change from the log grapple to the bucket was quick and easy with no time wasted.

I must mention the ease of use of the simple joystick controls, in as little as 30 minutes



you could be confident in using this machine and loving every minute of it. The S650TX definitely did the job of five or six labourers.

The Vermeer S650TX has two fuel tanks with a capacity to hold nearly 55 litres of diesel fuel so you should be able to work all day without the need to refuel the machine. There are many other attachments like the Toothed Bucket, Harley Power Rake and the Standard Trencher.

Finally, the guys at Vermeer tell me they also do a more powerful version of this machine with similar dimensions – you can find all details on the Vermeer website [www.vermeer.com.au](http://www.vermeer.com.au) AA