

Elevating Scaffolding or a Mast-Climber? Consider These Real-Life Factors Before Writing The Check.

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Some of our customers own both - a mast-climber and our Heavy-Duty Non-Stop scaffolding. Why would they own both? And, if mast-climbers are here to replace crank-up scaffolding, why do the great majority of masonry contractors still use crank-up scaffolding? Is it because mast-climbers cost triple what the best adjustable scaffolding costs, or is there more to it?

Well, mast-climbers do have one whiz-bang feature (“just push a button...”), but today’s contractors don’t get easily dazzled into buying a piece of gigantically expensive equipment that might well spend 2/3 of its life sitting idle on the yard. In this paper we’ll look at **all** the everyday factors that come into play when deciding on a \$90k+ mast climber or \$30k Non-Stop.

1. What do most of your jobs look like? Are they generally long, straight walls, or chopped up with lots of inside and outside corners? Are they generally 32 feet and higher, or are they generally under 32 feet?

Our customers with both tell us **the only place for mast-climbers is on 32 feet and higher, long, straight walls**. They don’t say it’s better on high straight walls... that’s just where it becomes practical. Why 32 feet high? As one user told us, “You simply can’t justify the expense of moving it from wall to wall unless you’re going to be on that wall for a while, and the job must have a lot of high walls to make it worth the extra trouble of hauling all that hardware out to the job.” Why straight walls? “It takes a lot of extra \$2000 brackets and assembly time to turn corners, or scaffold an inset or a bump-out with a mast-climber,” said another contractor.

If the bulk of your work is under 32 feet, **Non-Stop is your best choice**. Because Non-Stop is a modular system of independent 7-foot-wide towers, you can set up cut-up walls with lots of inside and outside corners, bump-outs, insets, even radius walls, **just as fast as a straight wall**. Non-Stop will be working for you everyday, on every wall, on every job, not parked on the yard waiting for the right job to come along. One customer told us, “**My Non-Stop can go everywhere a mast-climber can go... but mast-climbers can’t go a third of the places my Non-Stop goes.**” Would you buy a truck you could only drive two days a week?

2. How much heavy equipment do you own? You’ll need a 10,000-pound forklift and 18-wheelers to move your mast-climber around the job, and to and from the yard. 133 feet of Non-Stop, 45 feet high, can be carried to the next job with a 3/4-ton pickup and a gooseneck trailer. And you don’t even have to take it apart, just take out the x-braces, and maybe a tower section or two. You can move it from wall to wall with a 4000-pound lift; in fact, you can move 100 feet of scaffolding 45 feet high in less than an hour and a half. You can’t do that with a mast-climber, or even frames.

3. Are you ready to tackle urgent repairs? A \$300 repair can cost thousands when your \$600 per hour crew is standing idle. You need to fix a popped hydraulic hose fast. Mast-climbers also rely on gas engines, limit switches, batteries, electronics, hydraulics, etc. etc.

Non-Stop is beautifully low-tech, it always works, and comes with a lifetime warranty.

4. Let's debunk a few myths around mast-climbers and elevating scaffolding:

Myth #1: When you use elevating scaffolding, you have to hire an extra man just to crank.

False. The normal working pattern on elevating scaffolding is to tend the masons for 20 minutes, crank for 3, tend for 20 minutes, crank for 3, etc. And we're talking about cranking one-handed, even with a full pallet of brick on the scaffold. It's a fairly easy task. The laborers have plenty of time to tend the bricklayers because *they never leave the them*. Look at all the things the laborers are *not* doing anymore: they are *not* hopping planks and materials, they are *not* tearing down and re-building scaffolding; in fact, using Non-Stop, their *only* job is to tend the masons. There is no reason to leave them. Even if it was true that mast-climbers used one less laborer, you would give that back (and a lot more) with the \$60k price difference and the repair bills.

Myth #2: Mast-climbers travel up and down at 30 feet per minute - a lot faster than elevating scaffolding.

True... but meaningless. You can't lay brick at 30 feet per minute. What *is* true is that both systems keep the wall belly-button-high to the bricklayer 100% of the time. And that's what makes you money.

Myth #3: Just pick that mast-climber up and move it to the next wall in the same time as Non-Stop.

If you have a 10,000-pound forklift **and** identical walls, go right ahead. If the walls are different configurations you'll have to dis-assemble and re-assemble a lot of special brackets and fittings. In most every case, Non-Stop will leave them in the dust. All the towers are identical, and using just two accessory bars you can set up any outside and inside corner combination just as fast as a straight wall. Radius walls and weird angles are just as easy, with *no* special accessories.

5. Cost to own. 105 feet of Non-Stop and about 100 feet of mast-climbers do the same thing: They keep the wall waist-high to the mason all day long. Non-Stop does that for about \$30,000 and mast-climbers cost about \$90,000. That's **three times** the initial investment! Over the life of your Non-Stop, you can expect to replace your cables about every 8 to 10 years at \$40 each. That's it. Any defects are covered under our **lifetime warranty**.

Compare that to all the maintenance items built into mast-climbers: engines, hydraulics, electrical, etc. One of our customer said it best, "...every time that thing breaks it's a \$2,000 bill."

	NON-STOP	MAST-CLIMBERS
Initial investment for 100'	\$30,000	\$90,000
Cost-effective starting at:	12-foot-high walls.*	32-foot-high walls.
Where to use it:	Use it on virtually every wall, inside and outside corners, radius walls, odd angles, you name it, right out of the box.	Anything other than straight walls require special platforms, adapters, attachments, and outriggers.
Forklift requirement	Any 4,000-lb. lift.	10,000-lb. lift.
Haul job to job	Any goose-neck or utility trailer	18-wheelers. (About 3 times as much hardware).

	NON-STOP	MAST-CLIMBERS
Warranty	Lifetime Warranty including freight.	?
Starting a new wall	Starts on the ground. Move it in first.	Must run walls scaffold-high first, then move mast-climber in.
Weight capacity	Land 4,000 pounds per tower (every 14 feet).	Must be calculated for each span to prevent overloading.

*Our customers say Non-Stop is their first choice on any wall that's 2 frames high and over. Non-Stop goes in place first, before the wall is started - no more running scaffold-high and moving - which means you get extra savings on shorter walls.

Which is the best choice for all your work?

36 years of experience have shown that **Non-Stop** works on virtually every wall on every job (up to 552 feet high).

If you have a lot of long, straight walls over 32 feet high, mast-climbers might be the answer for you. But what scaffolding will you use on the rest of your work? Please don't go back to old-fashioned frames.