



# Ultimate Guide

to Rugged Tablet Forklift Mounting

# Abstract

In the demanding world of warehousing, manufacturing and logistics, efficiency and durability are essential.

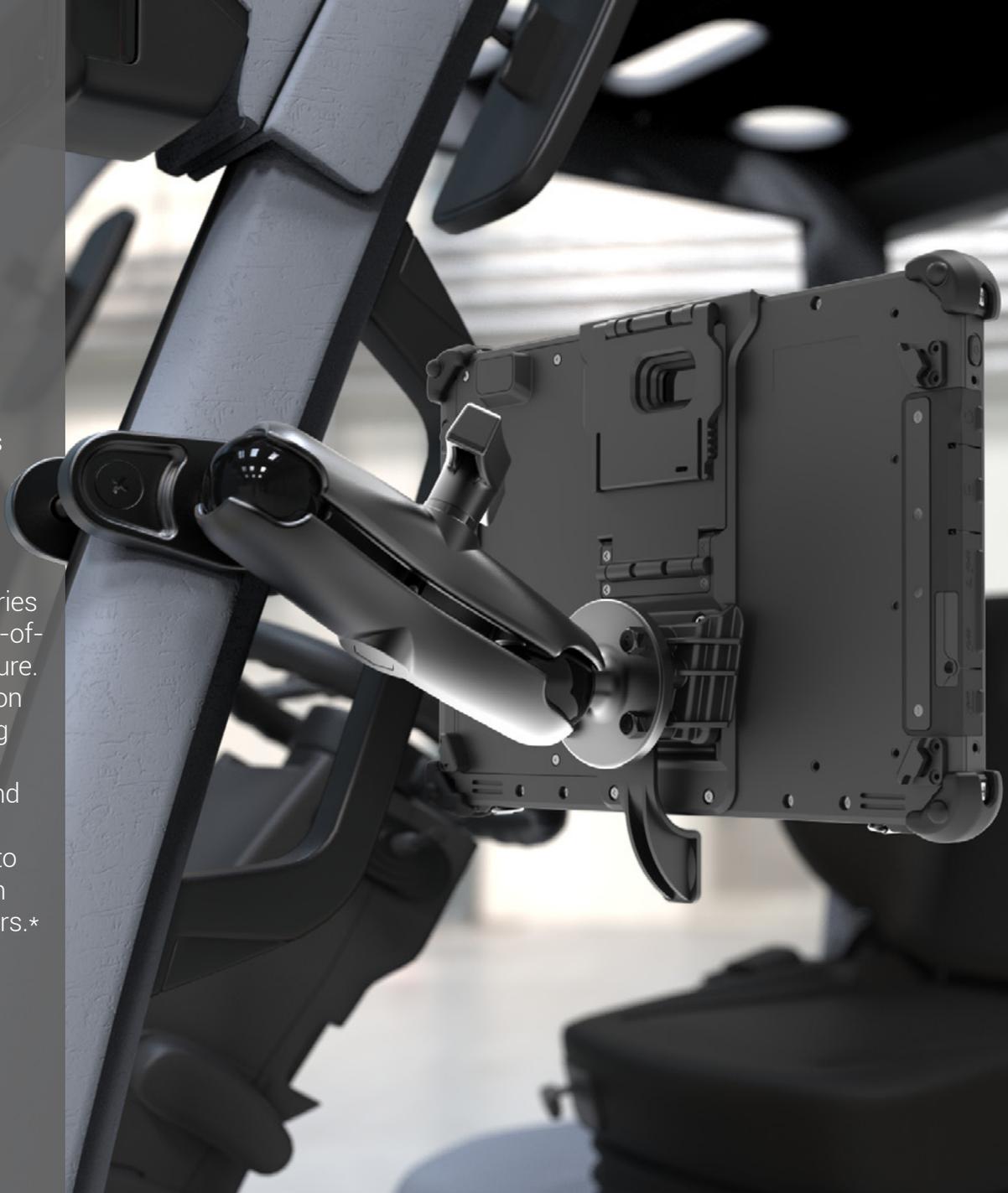
This is a world where equipment is constantly put to the test, and the smallest inefficiencies can translate to substantial losses over time. For many professionals in these sectors, rugged tablets have become indispensable tools, streamlining processes and making data more accessible than ever. However, the true potential of these devices is unlocked only when they're deployed in the most effective manner.

Enter rugged tablet forklift mounting. This eBook is a comprehensive resource, shedding light on the nuances of effectively and safely mounting tablets on forklifts.



## Introduction

Mounting rugged tablets onto forklifts has long been a popular choice for warehousing, manufacturing and supply chain industries thanks to their ease-of-use and rugged nature. Even with automation and robotics making their way into warehouses, demand for forklift-mounted tablets is expected to steadily rise through the next several years.\*



When determining the best solution, consider four main aspects:  
The tablet, mounting, scanning and power requirements.

**TABLETS**



**MOUNTING**



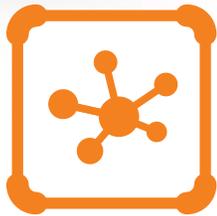
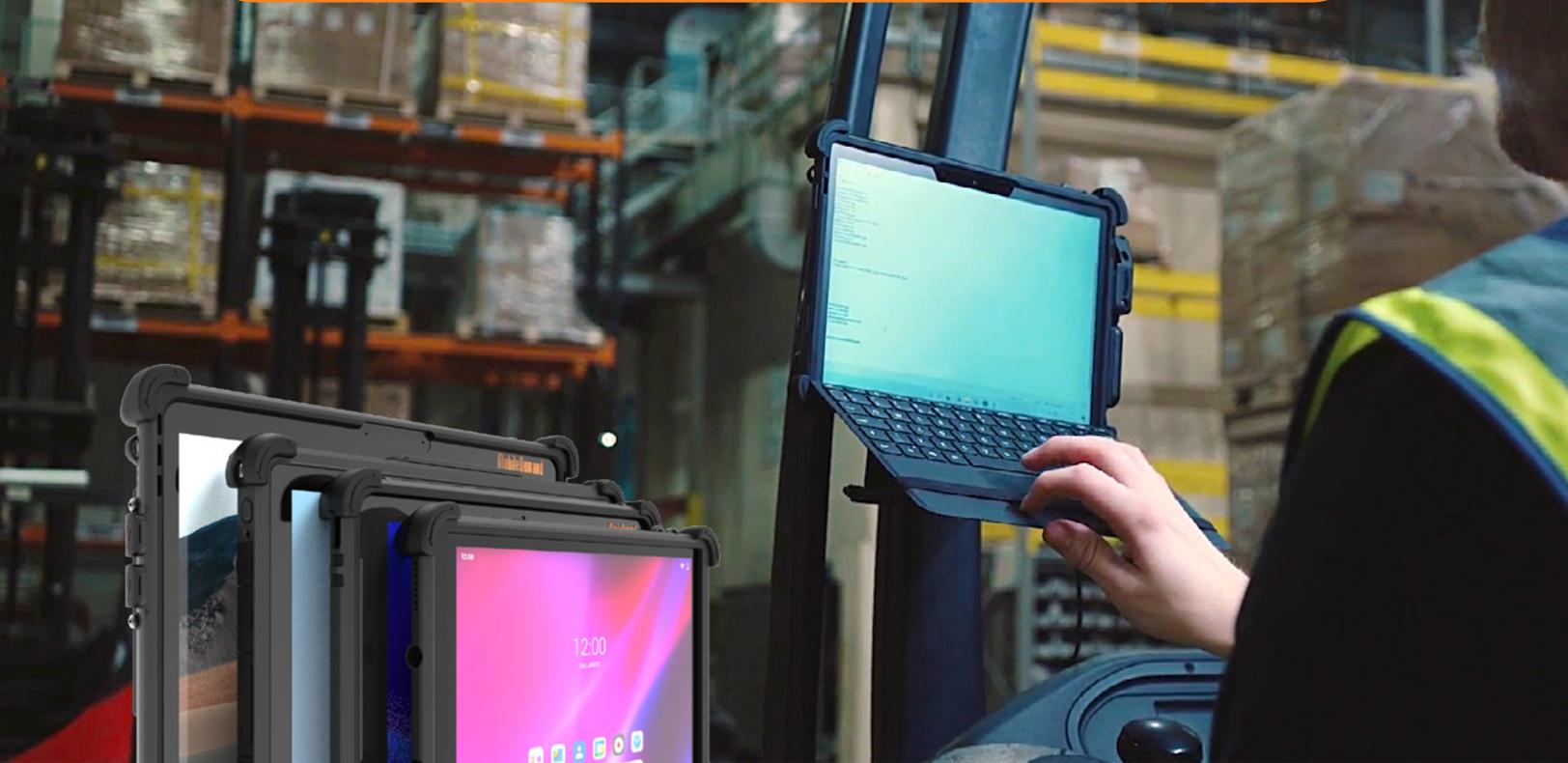
**SCANNING**



**POWER**

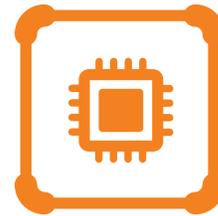


# TABLET SELECTION



## Operating System

The Windows versus Android operating system debate continues to divide, with many companies having a set preference that cannot be swayed from, while others are open to either. Windows remains dominant in the rugged tablet market, accounting for 75% of rugged tablet shipments. This is due in part to the ease of use for workers and IT support teams, especially if Windows is used in the back or traditional office, and the ability to multi-task or run multiple applications at once. Android has been gaining some traction, however, due to improved security features, ease of deployment and application customization. Cost of deployment and lack of compatibility for legacy Windows applications remain a significant barrier to Android adoption.\*\* Knowing your preferred OS up front can help to narrow down options.



## Technical Specifications

A thorough performance assessment is essential for any prospective tablet choice, especially if the software or applications it supports are crucial for workflow completion. Start by determining the minimum and maximum technical specifications that will run the mission-critical software. For lighter, web-based software or repetitive tasks like basic data entry, lower-end consumer device with a rugged case may suffice. However, if running a powerful, high ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system, then a rugged device with a powerful enough processor to handle the constant connectivity and stream of real-time data being accessed by your ERP system should be considered. In order to effectively utilize the required software, it's vital to determine the needed connectivity. A warehouse, plant or yard must have a strong enough Wi-Fi or LTE signal to maintain connection throughout the entire facility to prevent downtime due to connection failures.

# MOUNT SELECTION



To determine the best mounting option, start with the ownership of the forklift. In many cases, leased lifts cannot be drilled into, while full ownership typically allows for drilling into the machine itself. Next, consider where on the forklift the tablet should be located. For example, out of the operator's line of sight or within reach for easy data access and entry.



## Upright Post Clamp

The Upright Post Clamp gives workers access to the device while operating the forklift. This no-drill option with an adjustable clamp can move the mounted tablet up and down the post, especially important for worker ergonomics.



## Overhead Roll Cage

The Overhead Roll Cage is recommended when a tablet is used as a fixed monitor. Two metal plates sandwich a post on the overhead cage for a secure hold without drilling into the forklift. This attaches to a powered dock, which can be articulated to position the tablet at various viewing angles.



## Fixed Forklift Mount

The Fixed Mount allows for the tablet to be placed nearly anywhere on the lift. The Snap Rail can be added directly to the dash or posts, or an arm and ball can be added for tablet articulation.

# SCANNING SELECTION



The barcode continues to remain a popular choice for inventory tracking in warehouses and distribution centers. Use of barcodes requires a scanning solution, and there are quite a few options.



## Handhelds

Handheld scanners are ergonomically designed with a pistol grip and trigger pull for comfort even through long hours of scanning. These scanners come in both cord-free, Bluetooth connected varieties, and corded varieties. Be weary of corded scanners, however. Many lift operators find the cords are easily tangled or ran over, causing damage and downtime.



## Wearables

Wearable scanners are preferred by forklift operators, as they can scan without ever leaving the cab. These hands-free, multi-range scanners enables more flexibility and time savings across the entire supply chain. At MobileDemand, we recommend the ProGlove MARK 3. Boasting a scanning range from 4-inches to 20-feet, the intuitive wearable delivers unmatched productivity.

# POWER SELECTION



Keeping devices powered up is essential in maintaining productivity and preventing downtime.



## Power Banks

External power banks are a common choice when lifts are rented. Enables the tablet to stay powered up without having to mess with the internal workings of the lift itself. These do require additional planning to ensure the power banks are routinely charged.



## Swappable Batteries

Businesses who frequently remove the tablet from the mount to complete tasks tend to prefer hot-swappable batteries. This enables a user to remove the current tablet battery and replace it with one that is fully charged, all while keeping the device running.



## Direct Wire

Tablets that require constant power should use a direct wire kit which powers the device directly from the lift's battery. Direct wire kits come in many varieties, and determining the best option starts with the knowing the voltage of the lift, which will prevent any potentially damaging power surges. Gas or LP (liquid petroleum) tend to have lower voltage levels, around 11 to 27 volts. Electric batteries offer higher voltage, typically ranging between 20 to 60 volts. When installing the direct wire kits, it is essential that the wires aren't being pulled or twisted too harshly. Proper wire strain relief will prevent any damage.



## Bundled Solutions



Tablets



Mounts



Scanners



Power

Navigating the intricacies of forklift mounting can feel like walking through a maze with no exit. As mounting experts, we developed Forklift Mounting Bundles with everything needed (tablet, mounting, scanning and power) to enhance productivity and streamline operations. Bundles are fully customizable to your unique needs, whether you're a small business looking to optimize a modest

warehouse operation or a larger enterprise aiming to streamline processes across multiple sites, there's a bundle tailored for you. Our bundles deliver optimal workflow functionality and operational success – enhancing efficiency, boosting pick times and decreasing labor costs, all while staying within your company's desired budget.

## Resources

\*Forklift-Mounted Computers Market Forecast,  
Trend Analysis & Opportunity Assessment 2021-2031  
<https://www.futuremarketinsights.com>

\*\*Android Making OS Gains in Enterprise Tablet Market  
Despite Windows' Dominance  
<https://vdcresearch.com>



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