

Space Saving Storage Solutions at Cardiff Audi



Automotive manufacturers have traditionally dictated the parts storage areas within dealerships provided under Retail Standard Codes. This has predominately been shelving products forming a single or double open floor mezzanine system. However, changes have taken place within these manufacturers which has seen **automated storage systems**, in particular the Hänel Lean-Lift, **controlling**

the flow of parts for major manufacturers from their suppliers in mainland Europe, to their UK warehouses and onto their UK dealerships.

This allows many advantages to all parties and has driven an acceptance and an encouragement to introduce automated storage in dealerships.

Hänel products have been installed in numerous BMW, Porsche, Toyota and Audi dealerships across the UK. Indeed, the Cardiff Audi centre, which has recently opened its doors at a two acre site on the outskirts of Cardiff, has installed two Hänel Lean-Lifts, supplied by Industore; the sole supplier of Hänel automated storage systems across the UK and Ireland.

The 18-car Audi showroom is one of the largest new car showrooms in Britain with more than 70 approved used Audis also available. The £7m centre also boasts a 19 bay service area and employs 80 staff.

The Hänel Lean-Lift **increases the amount of available floor space by up to 80 per cent**. At Cardiff Audi this allowed a reduction of space required for the parts department thereby facilitating a **maximisation of showroom floor space** and allowing an increased number of service

bays. With a footprint of just 2.8m x 2.8m the Lean-Lift system enables the **storage of thousands of components in a motorised storage unit**.

Goods are loaded in trays at the **ergonomically** positioned access point, then, at the **touch of a button**, the goods are stored on the Lean-Lift's vertical axis. Retrieval of components is achieved by simply keying the location assigned to a component when it was first stored.

By **saving space**, allowing simple user operation and faster storage and retrieval times the Lean-Lift offers great potential to all automotive dealerships. Further benefits include a reduction in stockholding and a **rapid payback period**.



“We installed one Hänel Lean-Lift in our Newport operation where it quickly proved its worth. The original plan for Cardiff was to simply bring the racking from our previous premises; however, we eventually opted for two Lean-Lifts. We’re extremely satisfied with the results. The secret to getting the most from the system is to pack the shelves as effectively as possible. I’ll admit I was a bit of a Doubting Thomas at first as far as their capacity went, but they are amazing.”

Robert Fairfield, Parts Manager, Cardiff Audi

