Some folks like powerful sports cars, others like locomotives. But it's hard not to appreciate the power exhibited by little skid steers and other diggers as they get pushed to the limit at job sites. Despite their size, they're incredibly tough.

While they're mainly thought of as digging units, most mini-excavators and skid steers today have attachments which allow them to mix fertilizer, smooth seedbeds, chop wood or do any number of other chores.

That makes it important to look beyond basic buckets when buying a skid steer. The industry is moving in two ways: Attachment designers are striving to design tools that will work with as many different manufacturers' products as possible, including tractors. Meanwhile, skid steer marketers are trying to provide their customers with as many specially tailored add-ons as possible.

For those of us who love to zip around on these little powerhouses, the bottom line is the same — we'll get to watch them do even more tricks than we ever thought possible.

**Buying Tips**

- Work in close quarters? Check unit's width
- Check reach of extended digging arm
- Check maximum digging depth
- Compare digging force on units
- See how long it takes you (not the dealer) to change attachments
stumps and breaks down stumps and logs into manageable pieces.
Circle no. 257

**BOBCAT**
701/241-8740  
[www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com)
The 773 G-series loader from Bobcat, Fargo, ND, is ideal for high-altitude jobs or other applications requiring extra power. Like other G-series models, it has a new cab and instrumentation design. Features 56-hp Kubota V2003T engine and increased rated operating capacity from 1,750 to 1850 lbs. New hydraulic power Bob-Tach system allows equipment changes from in the cab.
Circle no. 258

**BRADCO**
800/922-2981  
[www.get-attached.com](http://www.get-attached.com)
The new 625 trencher for skid steer loaders from Bradco, Delhi, IA, features double-standard, anti-back flex chains that do the cutting and a high-torque hydraulic motor that provides digging power. Choose from 30-, 36-, 42- or 48-in. boom lengths and 6- to 12-in. chain widths. Unit has low-profile dirt shield and two-position side shift capability for tight areas. Rock, frost and cup chains are available.
Circle no. 259

**KUBOTA TRACTOR**
209/931-5051  
[www.kubota.com](http://www.kubota.com)
New from Kubota, Torrance, CA, is the K008 Ultra Compact excavator. It's only 33.9 in. wide, and standard features include rubber tracks, adjustable width dozer blade, 2-post ROPS and a 3-cylinder, liquid-cooled Kubota diesel engine. Unit has 140-degree boom swing, quick-release bucket pins, dig depth of 67 in. and reach of 212 in.
Circle no. 260

**BUSH HOG**
334/872-6261  
[www.bushhog.com](http://www.bushhog.com)
Bush Hog, Selma, AL, has a new backhoe that can be mounted either on a tractor or on a skid steer. Called the 962H backhoe, it fits 55- to 100-PTO hp tractors and 30- to 100-hp skid steers. The unit's digging depth is 9.5 ft., while maximum reach is 12 ft., 5 in.
Circle no. 261

**CATERPILLAR**
309/675-5175  
[www.cat.com](http://www.cat.com)
The new M312 and M315 wheel excavators from Caterpillar, Peoria, IL, feature mobility and versatility. The M312 weighs 30,318 to 32,413 lbs. and is powered by a 113-hp Cat 3054 TA engine. The M315 weighs 35,082 to 36,228 lbs. and its 3054TA cranks out 114.2 hp.
Circle no. 262

**DITCH WITCH**
800/654-6481  
[www.ditchwitch.com](http://www.ditchwitch.com)
The new Ditch Witch HT25 is a compact, light-utility trencher designed for landscaping projects like installing sprinkler lines. Made in Perry, OK, it's just 35.5 in. wide. Unit can be equipped with a cab, backhoe, backfill blade and one of three available digging attachments: centerline, wide-centerline and offset. Optional drilling attachment allows installations under sidewalks and lanes. Unit is mounted on rubber tracks with hydrostatic ground drive and independent track controls.
Circle no. 263

**INGERSOLL**
920/582-5000  
[www.ingersoll-inc.com](http://www.ingersoll-inc.com)
The 6000LBH from Ingersoll, Winneconne, WI, is designed as a dedicated loader/backhoe. Loader features heavy lift arms and reinforced bucket with single lever control. Lifts 750 lbs. at full height.
Circle no. 264
Thomas Equipment’s mini-excavator boasts a bucket breakout force of 3,175 lbs.

RAMROD EQUIPMENT
800/667-1581
www.ramrodequip.com
Ramrod Trackmasters from Leon’s Mfg. Co., Minot, ND, are tracked machines designed for sandy, muddy or boggy sites. The machines’ tracks slide over the surface rather than turn and twist like tires. Unit has 900-lb. capacity, 65-in. lift height and is powered by a 23-hp gas or diesel engine. With tracks, it’s 42 in. wide.
Circle no. 265

LAYTON & ROSE
800/879-6507
The Rockaway removes rocks and debris as it tills and fluffs soil. It pins onto existing utility, high-capacity or low-profile skid steer buckets. Made by Layton & Rose, Johnstown, PA, the 67-in. version fits 60- to 66.5-in. buckets. The 69-in. version is for 62- to 68.5-in. buckets. A 74-in. model fits 68- to 73.5-in. buckets. Two greaseable bearings and one roller chain are the only maintenance items.
Circle no. 266

NEW HOLLAND
717/355-1371
www.newholland.com
Bi-directional tine rotation allows New Holland’s line of tillers to operate with the skid steer moving either forward or backward. Distributed by New Holland Construction, Carol Stream, IL, and manufactured by Alitec, they’re ideal for tilling home sites prior to landscaping. Unit has 6-in. working depth and comes in 52-, 73- or 84-in. cutting width.
Circle no. 267

PUG POWER
877/PUG-POWR
www.pugpower.com
The Dig-It towable backhoe line from Pug Power, Jackson, MS, is designed to be pulled by a half-ton pickup truck at highway speeds. Units are 35 in. wide and are self-propelled via hydraulic drive to individual wheel motors. Model 148 and 158 both have digging depth of more than 8 ft. and digging force of 4,100 lbs.
Circle no. 268

THOMAS EQUIPMENT
866/BE TOUGH
www.thomasloaders.com
The 1.5-ton 15 Series mini-excavator from Thomas Equipment, Centreville, New Brunswick, Canada has a 17-hp Isuzu diesel engine and a bucket breakout force of 3,175 lbs. Unit comes standard with long dipper arm and comes in 52-, 73- or 84-in. cutting width.
Circle no. 269

YANMAR
800/365-7260
The B7-Sigma offset-boom, zero-tail swing model is the latest medium size offering from Yanmar, Buffalo Grove, IL. Maximum dig depth is 14 ft., 3 in. and 13 ft., 11 in. at the full left offset position. A flow control 3-pump hydraulic system with two variable displacement pumps maintains straight and accurate travel speed, even when operating other hydraulic functions. It’s powered by a Yanmar Clean & Silent 57-hp 4TN98 direct-injected 4-cylinder diesel.
Circle no. 270

WORKSAVER
217/324-5973
www.worksaver.com
The SS-585 skid steer mixer from Worksaver, Litchfield, IL, has all-welded steel drum construction with internal paddles to provide uniform mixing and clean dumping. It’s equipped with a direct mount all-welded frame which fits skid steers with universal style attachment systems. Sturdy roller chain drives the drum. Ideal for mixing cement, fertilizer, potting soil or inoculating seed. It has a 5 cu. ft. capacity (one bag).
Circle no. 271