

Dig these diggers

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

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.

ARIENS COMPANY

800/472-8359

www.gravelly.com

Gravelly's Skidster, manufactured by Ariens Co., Brillion, WI, features many attachments and is versatile enough to fit in tight areas and be picked up by a crane and dropped into basements or sewers. Other features include 12-gal. fuel tank, lightweight design, balanced weight distribution and extended dump angle.

Circle no. 256

BANDIT INDUSTRIES

800/952-0178

www.banditchippers.com

The Megabyte large stump and



log shear attachment has a new universal mounting system that allows it to be adapted to any excavator. Adding the Megabyte now only requires that a bushing be inserted in the linkage arm. Made by Smoracy, LLC and marketed by Bandit, Remus, MI, it pulls



◀ Yanmar's mini-excavator has a maximum dig depth of 14 ft., 3 in.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The new Ditch Witch HT25 is a compact, light-utility trencher designed for landscap-



ing 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

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.



Backhoe has 92-in. digging depth with joystick controls and buckets from 8 to 24 in. Comes with 18-hp (optional 20-hp Honda) engine, hydraulic drive through a 2-speed transaxle and power steering.

Circle no. 264

Im reports

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, and a

74-in. model fits 68- to 73.5-in. buckets. Two greasable 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-POWER 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, Centerville, 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 with 8 ft., 5 in. dig depth. Can be ordered with a variable-width undercarriage which extends to 51.2 in. In addition to larger excavators, the company also has a full line of skid-steer loaders and attachments.
Circle no. 269

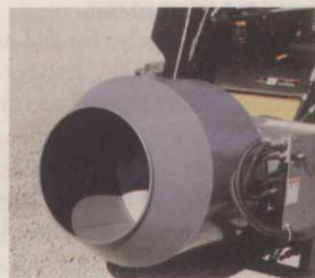
YANMAR 800/365-7260

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 func-

tions. 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

► New Holland's tiller attachment readies a home site

