

LM REPORTS

YOUR GUIDE TO PRODUCT RESEARCH

COMPACT EQUIPMENT & SKID STEERS

BEFORE YOU BUY

- ▶ Take a test drive. According to the Skid Steer Purchasing Guide available at BuyerZone.com, "many dealers have a 'tow and show' trailer they use to bring a demo model for you to try out."
- ▶ Design ahead of time. Are you looking for longer reach, more power, ergonomic controls? What combination of features are you willing to pay a little more for to get the job done?
- ▶ Choose attachments wisely. Along with what features you desire, think about the costs of attachments. Again, says BuyerZone.com, "most skid steer owners spend the bulk of their time using one or two attachments. Remember that you can rent attachments for a day or week as needed. If you find yourself renting the same attachment repeatedly, you can always purchase it later."

Kubota →

The new U17 zero-tail swing compact excavator provides increased hydraulic flow for fast, responsive operation and heightened traction force for tough backfilling jobs, as well as rubber tracks for a smooth ride and low ground pressure. On the U17, productivity is maximized with a bucket close to the blade, while operator costs are reduced with features like a digital control panel. The 17-hp, Kubota D902-E3 engine teams up with an 11.9-gpm hydraulic pump capacity to boost versatility for a wide range of tasks. www.kubota.com or 888/4-KUBOTA, Ext. 900

General Equipment Co. ↓

Designed for skid steer loaders, small excavators, knuckleboom cranes and small backhoes, the 671 DIG-R-TACH Series 16 earth drilling attachment is intended for smaller hydraulic systems. The Series 24 is designed for larger hydraulic systems found with backhoes and excavators. Featuring a two-speed chain/sprocket drive and a 5- to 20-gpm hydraulic flow range,



the Series 16 balances smaller flow volumes in proportion to auger diameters. The result is a cleaner hole with less loose soil and debris. For higher-capacity drilling, the Series 24 operates in a 15- to 25-gpm hydraulic flow range and delivers a maximum drilling torque of 2,018 ft.-lbs. at 2,500 psi. www.generalequip.com or 877/DIGGER-5

John Deere

The new small-frame CT315 45-hp compact track loader already meets interim Tier 4 emissions standards. It features a 12.6-in.-wide track and a narrow overall machine width of just over 60 in. Rated for 1,500-lb. operating capacity, the unit's cushioned bucket and lift cylinders provide smooth deceleration at the end of the boom-lower position — and cushion the bucket when curling and dumping a load. The Deere PowerTech 4024T 4-cylinder 2.4-L engine provides engine-lugging capability while working heavy loads. www.johndeere.com or 309/765-8000

Caterpillar

The new 279C, 289C and 299C feature durable, steel-embedded track and steel undercarriage components for maximum life in aggressive applications. The compact track loaders deliver solid traction and reduced wear on sites with sticky, rocky soils. All three models feature two-speed drive systems, with a maximum speed of 8.5 mph, for fast movement around large sites. The electrohydraulic joystick control of the drive motors delivers straight-line tracking, and electronic torque management optimizes productivity. Caterpillar-exclusive drive motor seal guards extend the lives of seals and final drives. www.cat.com or 888/OWN-A-CAT.

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Cub Cadet Yanmar ↑

Built on a large chassis to accommodate a wide array of attachments, including a front loader with a universal quick-attach bucket, backhoe and three-point implements, the new Ex450 compact tractor can be used for everything from cutting grass to backhoe trenching and excavation. The unit is powered by a four-cylinder, liquid-cooled, 45-hp direct-injection Yanmar diesel engine. www.cubca-detyanmar.com or 866/246-4971

Bobcat

With a width of 47 in., the T110 compact track loader can travel through narrow openings or grade on narrow lot lines without treading on a neighboring property. Among the 26 available attachments are hydraulic breakers for demolishing concrete or asphalt; pallet forks for mov-

ing material; soil conditioners and tillers for preparing landscapes; augers for planting trees or installing fence posts; snowblowers for clearing snow; and trenchers for installing utility or irrigation lines. The Bob-Tach attachment mounting system is standard on the T110, which has an auxiliary hydraulic flow of 12.5 gal. per minute. The cab of the T110 offers many of the same comfort features as larger Bobcat loaders, including a suspension seat, superior all-around visibility, easy-to-read instrumentation panels and an optional enclosed cab with heater. www.bobcat.com or 866/823-7898

Ditch Witch

Both the RT10 and RT12 compact, walk-behind trenchers feature fully hydrostatic steering for easy handling, and are available with either high-flotation tires or heavy-duty tracks that oscillate. Both units also feature a trail wheel that increases stability and reduces breakover when loading and unloading or going over a curb. Options include a pin-on backfill blade that efficiently restores the trench after the product is installed, and the



Roto Witch, an attachment that enables the operator to bore under obstacles. ditchwitch.com or 800/654-6481

Toro ↑

The latest additions to the Dingo compact utility loader family include the narrow and wide track TX 427 models. Both loaders feature a 27-hp Kohler engine that delivers added torque for increased pulling and digging force. These models also come standard with a heavy-duty, two-stage air cleaner. Featuring four independent hydraulic pumps, the loaders deliver 16.9 gpm of flow to each track, 11.4 gpm to the auxiliary hydraulics, and 6 gpm to the loader arm. The auxiliary hydraulics on both models pump 19 hp flow to the attachment for increased productivity in ground-engaging applications. Both are also compatible with Toro's multitude of compact utility loader attachments. www.toro.com/dingo or 800/DIG-TORO



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