

Skid Steer Loader Training in Whitby

The engine powered skid-steer loader consists of a small and rigid frame, equipped along with lift arms that can attach to numerous industrial attachments and tools so as to execute various labor saving tasks. Usually, skid-steer loaders are four-wheel drive vehicles which have the left-hand side wheels working independent of the right-hand side wheels, even if some models are outfitted with tracks instead. On the four-wheel models, having each side independent of each other allows the rotation direction of the wheels and the wheel speed to determine which course the loader would turn.

The skid-steer loader can carry out zero-radius turns or likewise called "pirouettes." This added feature enables the skid-steer loader to be able to maneuver for particular applications which require a compact and agile loader.

On a skid-steer loader, the lift arms are alongside the driver along with pivot points behind the driver's shoulders. This makes them different as opposed to a traditional front loader. Due to the operator's closeness to moving booms, early skid loaders were not as safe as conventional front loaders, particularly throughout the operator's exit and entry. Modern skid-steer loaders nowadays have various features to protect the driver including fully-enclosed cabs. Similar to various front loaders, the skid-steer model can push materials from one place to another, is capable of loading material into a trailer or a truck and could carry material in its bucket.

Many times a skid-steer loader can be used on a job location rather than a big excavator by digging a hole from within. To start with, the skid-steer loader digs a ramp leading to the edge of the desired excavation, and next it uses the ramp to excavate material out of the hole. As the excavation deepens, the machinery reshapes the ramp making it longer and steeper. This is a particularly helpful way for digging beneath a structure where there is not enough overhead clearance for the boom of a large excavator. Like for instance, this is a common scenario when digging a basement beneath an existing building or house.

There is much flexibility in the accessories that the skid steer loaders are capable of. Like for instance, the traditional bucket of many of these loaders could be replaced with various accessories that are powered by the loader's hydraulic system, including pallet forks, backhoes, tree spades, sweepers, mowers, snow blades and cement mixers. Some other popular specialized attachments and buckets comprise angle brooms, dumping hoppers, wood chipper machines, grapples, tillers, stump grinders rippers, wheel saws, snow blades, and trenchers.

The 3-wheeled front end loader was invented during the year 1957, by Cyril and Louis Keller in their hometown of Rothsay, Minnesota. The Keller brothers made this machine in order to help mechanize the method of cleaning in turkey barns. This equipment was compact and light and consisted of a rear caster wheel which allowed it to maneuver and turn around within its own length, allowing it to execute similar work as a conventional front-end loader.

The Melroe brothers of Melroe Manufacturing Company in Gwinner, N.D. purchased in 1958, the rights to the Keller loader. The company then hired the Keller brothers to help with development of the loader. The M-200 Melroe was actually the outcome of this particular partnership. This particular model was a self-propelled loader which was launched to the market in 1958. The M-200 Melroe featured a 12.9 HP engine, a 750 lb lift capacity, two independent front drive wheels and a rear caster wheel. By 1960, they replaced the caster wheel together with a rear axle and introduced the very first 4 wheel skid steer loader which was known as the M-400.

The term "Bobcat" is utilized as a generic term for skid-steer loaders. The M-400 soon after became the Melroe Bobcat. The M-440 version has rated operating capacity of 1100 lbs powered by a 15.5 HP engine. The company continued the skid-steer development into the mid 1960s and launched the M600 loader.

Many manufacturers have their own models of the skid steer loader which is simply known as a Skidsteer in the construction industry. Bobcat, Komatsu, Mustang, John Deere, JLG, New Holland, Gehl Company, LiuGong, ASV, Hyundai, JCB and Caterpillar are a few for instance, amongst some.