

Skid Steer Loader Certification in Seattle

A skid-steer loader is actually an engine powered machine which has a small and rigid frame. It is outfitted with lift arms which are used to connect to different labor saving attachments and tools. Typically, skid-steer loaders are four-wheel drive vehicles that have the left-hand side wheels operating independent of the right-hand side wheels, even if various models are outfitted along with tracks instead. On the four-wheel models, having each side independent of each other allows the wheel speed and rotation direction of the wheels to determine what direction 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 maneuver for particular applications that require an agile and compact loader.

The lift arms on the skid-steer loader are located at the side of the driver along with pivots at the rear of the driver's shoulders. These features makes the skid-steer loader different as opposed to the conventional front loader. Due to the operator's nearness to moving booms, early skid loaders were not as safe as traditional front loaders, particularly throughout the operator's exit and entry. Modern skid-steer loaders today have various features in order to protect the driver including fully-enclosed cabs. Like other 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 can carry material in its bucket.

There are several times where the skid-steer loader can be used rather than a large excavator on the job location for digging holes from the inside. To begin, the loader digs a ramp to be utilized to excavate the material out of the hole. As the excavation deepens, the equipment reshapes the ramp making it steeper and longer. This is a particularly helpful technique for digging beneath a building where there is not sufficient overhead clearance for the boom of a big excavator. Like for example, this is a common scenario when digging a basement beneath an existing house or structure.

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

In the year 1957, the first 3-wheeled, front-end loader was invented in Rothsay, Minnesota by brothers Cyril and Louis Keller. The brothers invented the loader to be able to help a farmer mechanize the method of cleaning turkey manure from his barn. This machine was compact and light and consisted of a back caster wheel which allowed it to turn around and maneuver within its own length, enabling it to execute similar jobs as a traditional front-end loader.

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

The M-400 soon became the Melroe Bobcat. Normally the term "Bobcat" is used as a generic term for skid-steer loaders. The M-440 was powered by a 15.5 HP engine and had 1100 lb rated operating capacity. The company continued the skid-steer development into the mid 1960s and introduced the M600 loader.

Many makers have their own models of the skid steer loader that is just known as a Skidsteer within the construction trade. Bobcat, Komatsu, Mustang, John Deere, JLG, New Holland, Gehl Company, LiuGong, ASV, Hyundai, JCB and caterpillar are some for example, amongst others.