

Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe



Japan Rolls Out Line Of Rubber Track Crawlers

Latest new competitor in the fast-growing market for rubber track crawler tractors is the Morooka Co. from Japan. "Competing machines are bigger, heavier and more expensive. Ours are lighter, simpler and cost less," notes Morooka, which has marketed crawlers in Japan the past 10 years.

The patented new Morooka rubber track design was developed jointly with Bridgestone. Tracks are driven by a front idler sprocket. Its teeth mesh into grooves on the underside of the rubber track to provide a positive drive. A two range fully hydrostatic transmission provides power to the idlers.

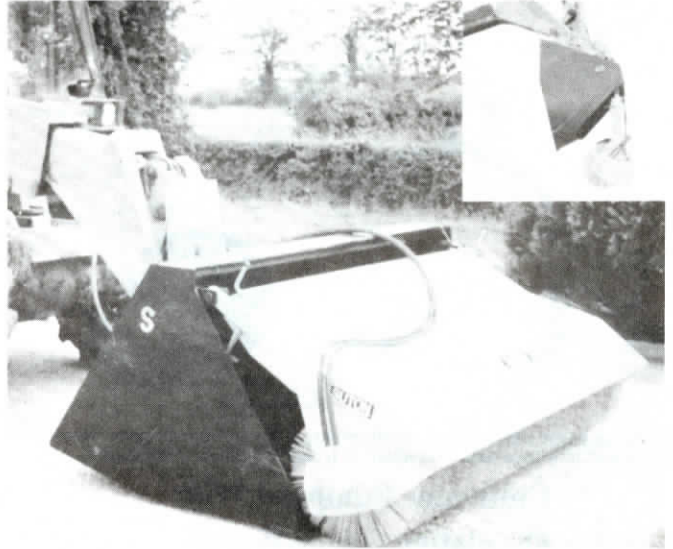
Steering, unlike other makes which use a wheel, is with two levers — one for each track. You push them forward to move ahead and back to reverse — at infinitely variable speed. There is no clutch pedal, no

brake pedal and no gear shift lever. A 3 pt hitch and pto (880 rpm) are standard.

Two models, both with Komatsu engines, are being introduced in Britain — the 100 hp MK-100 and the 220 hp MK-220.

Britain's Farm Contractor magazine notes that "compared to the Caterpillar Challenger, the Morooka crawlers may lack a certain finish. However, they appear to offer a fair degree of robustness which could conceivably appeal to custom operators. It's an appeal which could be further enhanced when it is known that the 220 hp version sells for significantly less than other similar designs."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yuasa Warwick Machinery Ltd., Rothwell Road, Wedgock Industrial Estate, Warwick, England CV34 5PY (ph 0926 497806).



Loader Bucket Sweeper

You can convert your tractor or skid-steer loader into a handy all-purpose sweeper, thanks to the new Bucket Brush attachment from Sutton Mfg.

"It works great for sweeping grain, snow, muck or slurry," says the manufacturer. "And, since it uses existing equipment, it becomes a very economical method of sweeping and collecting."

The brush is driven by a hydraulic motor mounted inside the brush shaft, thereby eliminating any projections and the possibility of damage. The drive motor can be reversed, allowing sweepings to be swept

forward.

The sweeper can be fitted to any bucket equipped with hydraulic tipping. Once attachment brackets are in place, it mounts or dismounts in a few minutes.

Bristles consist of alternating layers of wire and poly. Or, you can order all wire or all poly brushes. It only takes a few minutes to change bristles.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gurney Reeve Co., Sutton, Wymondham, Norfolk, England NR 189SR (ph 0953 603303).



Dutch Rubber-Tracked Tractor Features New-Style Steering System

A Dutch rubber-tracked crawler tractor, designed originally to tow lifeboats to sea, has been modified for farm use by installing a patented new steering system that reduces field damage when turning.

According to a recent report in Britain's FARMERS WEEKLY, the first prototype is powered by a 250 hp, 6-cyl. Volvo engine. When driven in a straight line, the crawler exerts the same low ground pressure as other rubber tracks. But when the machine turns, hydraulic cylinders press down on the two center bogie wheels on each side, causing that area to bulge downward, giving the tracks a pivot point to turn on.

The manufacturer, Knijpstra Constructie, says the new system results in less field damage than other rubber or steel tracked crawlers. It compares favorably with low-ground pressure flotation-type ag tires.

The new crawler has a top speed of 35 mph and is said to have a smoother ride than other rubber-tracked crawlers. A belt between the high-mounted drive wheel and the first set of rollers acts as a shock absorber. Also, shocks at the rear of the track are isolated from the cab by a combination of hydraulic cylinders and nitrogen dampers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Knijpstra Constructie, Heerenveen, Holland.



New-Style Cement Mixer For Tractors, Skid Loaders

"It allows one man working alone to do the work of an entire crew," says the manufacturer of Digamix, a new on-site cement mixer that mounts on the front of your tractor or skid-steer loader.

To load, the operator simply opens the mixer's hydraulic-driven jaws and takes a .5 cu. meter bite right off the sand pile. He then adds water and cement. The bags are tossed onto knives which automatically rip them open. The batch thoroughly mixes on the go in a matter of seconds.

The operator has finger-tip control of the

bucket's lid, allowing him to open it as wide as needed for placing concrete where required and in the needed quantity.

For safety, the mixing paddles only rotate when the lid is fully closed. It only takes a minute or two to mount or dismount the Digamix, and to self-clean it with dry aggregate.

Sells for right at \$5,400 in England.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nathan Digamix Ltd., Ballacorris Farm, Stanton, Isle of Man, United Kingdom (ph 0624 628508).