

Push-Blade selection for bulldozers and other important tractor features



Standard or LGP undercarriage?

Before a bulldozer is being purchased the best suiting features should be selected for the work the machine is supposed to do. Most important is maybe the decision what kind of track shoes a track type tractor should have to be usable for the designated area. Running on standard shoes a bulldozer might sink into soft ground or the traction is insufficient. Working with a Low ground Pressure (LGP) undercarriage might help.

On the other hand, if an LGP tractor is used on hard soil or on underground with gravel and rocks the wear on parts is extended and expensive parts need to be replaced soon.



CAT D7H with standard undercarriage and ripper



CAT D6N with LGP-Tracks and Folding Blade

Blade selection

For most machines two different blades are available. The so called S-blade is a blade with a straight edge. It is mainly used for fine grading and in harder compacted soil. A special form of an S-blade is the PAT blade (Power Angle Tilt). It is built in a way it can be moved in all directions. It is also called 6-way-blade. On some tractors, especially in Europe a so called Folding Blade or Angle-Blade is used to keep transport width below 3 meters.



CAT D6R with SU-Blade



U-Blade of a Caterpillar D10T

Big bulldozers have sometimes a U-Blade. This form is used mainly in coal applications if large amounts of soil need to be moved.

To have a compromise between the U-Blade and the S-Blade for fine grading the Semi-U-Blade or SU-Blade was invented. It does not keep the large amount in front of the bulldozer as a U-Blade and does not have the same ground penetration ability as an S-Blade but it can be used to push soil with appropriate volume and keep ability of fine grading on the other hand.



Caterpillar Tractor D7H with straight S-Blade



Komatsu D65XW with wide undercarriage

Ripper and Ripper Valve

If a machine has no ripper attached but the user might need to fit one afterwards it should be checked, if the machine has a ripper valve. On some machines a ripper valve is an optional feature and if it is not yet available the assembly of a ripper hydraulic circuit is very difficult and expensive.

In some applications it might be a winch is required and for work in forest it can be useful to have sweeps to protect machine from falling trees.

In some countries an air conditioner is optional equipment and not fitted to all machines.

If you require further advice about bulldozer selection, do not hesitate to get in contact with us. We do not want to sell machines to you and might be able giving an unbiased opinion.

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