

It's a mini adventure

Hitachi is a make that is in use the world over, dealing with all different needs. Consequently the excavator range varies in operating weight from just 800 kg to a massive 740,000kg.

The mini digger range has always been popular and due to its compact size is used mostly in densely populated urban areas. Designed to function efficiently and safely in even the narrowest jobsites, Hitachi's commitment to maintaining top efficiency while considering the construction environment is exemplified by their mini excavators. Reduced noise for night time construction and low exhaust emissions are just some of the features that make these machines more environmentally-friendly.

The smallest mini digger currently on offer is the EX8-2B, which weighs in at just 0.8 tonnes. Powered by a Kubota Z482-B engine, this mini digger certainly shouldn't be underestimated just because of its size. Able to fit through the smallest space, the EX8 can get through doorways and right inside a house. With a rated engine HP of 6.4kW at 2 450 rpm and a bucket digging force of 9.6kN, this digger is built for action.

The slightly larger zero tail swing mini diggers are also ever increasing in popularity and Hitachi recently developed the range even further so it now boasts the Zaxis 30U-2, the Zaxis 35U-2, the Zaxis 40U-2 and the Zaxis 50U-2. Their arrival has helped improve coverage of a growing market demand for short-tail-swing mini excavators and their design is based around four main characteristics.

Stability

Stability is obviously hugely important to any machine and the U-2 range has had this further added to by having the track frame and the enlarged counterweight made as heavy as possible to create a lower centre of gravity. The swing post, in contrast, has been designed to be as light as possible and has been placed more towards the centre of the machines.

Maintainability

In order to minimise downtime, operators need to have a machine that is easily accessible for repairs and routine maintenance. As with all Hitachi machines, this range is designed to be trouble-free and all components are easily accessed. Service personnel can tilt the cabin or canopy to an angle of up to 50 degrees (the widest in its class), which provides access to the main control valve and the swing device. On the right side of the machines a convenient maintenance cover makes the battery, radiator, fuel tank and hydraulic oil tank all accessible. On the rear, left side of the machine, there is a second maintenance cover that provides access to the hydraulic oil pump and the pilot filter.

Durability

The durability of the machines has been improved in several aspects: the machines have a one-pin system to reduce jerking of the swing post. The upper structure of the machine, on the front left and right corners, has been reinforced with D-shaped protection. Original HN bushings are used at all pin joints on the front attachment to extend lubricating intervals to 500 hours.

Operator Comfort

Excellent operator comfort contributes to the user-friendliness of the U-2 machines and ensures that operators retain concentration for longer periods. The new ergonomic design incorporates air conditioning and shock-absorbing rubber mounts for the cabin. All machines with cabins feature air-conditioning as standard, a radio (also standard) and a two-piece door that folds open to remain within the width of the tracks of the machine.

The whole purpose behind the design of the short tail mini excavators is to get the job done as quickly and as efficiently as possible. This is a principle that is carried out not just through the mini digger range but to every product that Hitachi produces.

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