Why is the GE Elec-Trak Tractor switch on?

GENERAL ELECTRIC
Because people by the thousands are switching to the first new idea in garden tractors in a generation—
the GE Elec-Trak Tractor idea!

Can you remember the smell of new-mown grass, the taste of sweet fresh air, the soft clip clip clip of the family lawn mower? These pleasures are here again with the GE Elec-Trak tractor, a quiet, cordless, odorless, dirtless, painless miracle. It represents the same advance over gas tractors as the electric light did over the kerosene lamp.

You don't start the Elec-Trak tractor; you turn it on, like a light. You mow up to 3.5 acres per charge in peaceful quiet and almost shameful comfort. You never touch a gas can or an oily rag again—you ‘refuel’ at your home ‘fuel pump’, any handy wall outlet.

Freed from the tyranny of a noisy, smelly, dirty engine, we concentrated on what the garden tractor is supposed to do. We've replaced the engine with a reliable electric motor and replaced all those long belts and pulleys with the widest variety of mowing systems in the industry, all direct drive — motor to blade.

The tool should fit the job. We give you practically a custom combination of tractor, mower, and grass discharge system. See below. Then see your dealer. You're going to enjoy summer electrically.

Front mounted mower cuts 42 inches of grass before the tractor rolls over it. Patented* ball joint suspension and full rear roller provides total ground following, independent of the tractor. That means clean, even cutting. Three blades, three motors, no belts. Full visibility permits more cutting with each pass, closer trimming from both sides under and around bushes, trees and gardens. Mower goes where tractor can’t.

*U.S. Patent 3,669,996

Mid-mounted mowers in 42 inch width on E12M and 36 inch width on E8 and E10 tractors provide smaller cutting radius, easier maneuverability in tight places and take less storage space. Fast-acting lever lift controls cutting height from operator’s seat.
Most Elec-Trak mowers feature your choice of side or safer rear discharge. Rear discharge with trailer sweeper (shown) permits “one-pass” mowing and sweeping for grass or leaf pickup. Straight-through discharge eliminates clogging in long chutes. Side discharge “broadcasts” clippings when not sweeping, mulches leaves; provides maximum vacuum action for long or wet grass.

Elec-Trak tractors follow the ground, not the tractor, are independently suspended to “float” over your lawn, reduce scalping and high spots. Individual motors keep blades turning at optimum cutting speed, regardless of tractor speed.

There are many different combinations of tractor, mower, and discharge systems to pick from. (See chart below.) There is a best combination for rough ground, rolling lawns, formal lawns with lots of trimming and large “country” lawns. There is a best combination for you, your pocketbook and your lawn. See your dealer for the answers that fit you.

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<th>MODEL</th>
<th>ROTARY MOWER</th>
<th>MOWER DISCHARGE</th>
<th>48 INCH SICKLE BAR</th>
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<td>E12</td>
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<td>E20</td>
<td>42 in. Front</td>
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</tbody>
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That’s why the switch is on!

GENERAL ELECTRIC
Because like all good new ideas,

It’s reliable

Battery electric power always has been dependable power. The reliability of our nationwide telephone system rests on battery electric power. Our astronauts’ lives depend on battery power in space. Until the nuclear era, all submerged submarines ran on storage batteries. And every gas tractor engine needs a battery to start it.

Small gasoline engines, of course, will do your job when they are properly tuned, oiled, grease, tightened... if you change the oil, air and fuel filters regularly and don’t mind replacing belts that break in the middle of the lawn. And many mower engines put out as much pollution per hour as a full-size car. Just imagine if your home appliances were all run by gas engines!

If electric power is so superior to gas power, why aren’t all automobiles electric? They would be, except for the problem of range at highway speeds; 50 miles is about the limit for most electric cars without a recharge, but at tractor speeds they could go four times as far.

This is what makes electric power so ideal for a garden tractor. You can work your electric tractor by day and recharge it while you sleep, taking full advantage of electric superiority. Your home already has its own fuel station... every electric outlet. No more lugging and storing hazardous gasoline, or pouring it into a hot engine. There’s really no need to suffer the disadvantages of gas power, unless you plan to drive your tractor non-stop day and night.

It’s convenient

We’ve lived so long with the internal combustion engine that we tend to forget what we put up with. Wouldn’t it be nice to live without: Sunday trips to the gas station, changing spark plugs, condensers, filters, distributor points, oil leaks, ring jobs, carburetors, mufflers, gaskets? And what do you get from all this trouble? Heat, noise, fumes, dirt, and vibration?

Can you learn to live with cool, clean, quiet, civilized gardening? Mow in the early morning or late at night without disturbing anyone? Instant starting? Practically no routine maintenance?

And when you run low on “fuel” how about just plugging into the nearest electric outlet for a few minutes or overnight. Your Elec-Trak tractor is always ready to go when you want it. A built-in charger makes any standard 110-volt outlet your fuel supply. Throw away that gas can forever.

When your gas tractor runs out of gas, that’s it... start walking. But Elec-Trak tractors won’t leave you stranded: even if you forget to check your fuel gauge, just let it rest for 10 minutes and the power pack will recover enough strength for the trip home.

The heart of the system is the Elec-Trak tractor power pack. Elec-Trak tractors carry from three to six power pack modules. The E10M, E12M, E12, E15 and E20 models carry a five year power pack warranty, the E8M and E10HM heavy duty unit, 3 years.

Elec-Trak tractor power packs are built like industrial batteries with up to 2,000 hours of rolling time before losing any real storage capacity. Ordinary car batteries wouldn’t retain full power for 50 hours in an Elec-Trak tractor. The Elec-Trak tractor power pack stores enough “fuel” to mow from 4/6 acres per charge with the “suburban” E8M up to 3.5 acres with the heavy-duty models. You can use the chain saw and the hedge trimmers for several days on one charge. You can even add an auxiliary booster pack for up to 5+ acres of mowing on one recharge.

It’s powerful

Electric power is different from gas power; it rises to the challenge. The torque (applied force) increases automatically with the load applied to it.

The stall torque of an electric motor is far superior to that of a gas engine, with peak output up to 10 times continuous rated capacity. That’s one of the reasons that all modern locomotives are either all electric or convert diesel power to electric for driving their rows of powerful wheels. The Elec-Trak tractor’s peak torque ranges from the equivalent of an 8 horsepower gas engine with the E8M to 16-18 horsepower with the E20.

What’s more, Elec-Trak tractors have up to 70% of their weight over the rear wheels, just the opposite of gas tractors. This gives Elec-Trak tractors traction at the wheels, and in actual tug-of-war tests, an E12 has easily out-pulled the five leading makes of gas tractors of equivalent rating.

In fact, an Elec-Trak tractor has pulled a 20-ton locomotive and a 30,000 pound airplane. In case you keep things like that on your lawn.

It’s economical

There are three ways to measure economy — the cost of day-to-day operation, maintenance and service, and overall wear and tear. The short, medium, and long range view.

Short view: It costs about 5 cents an acre for the electricity to mow with an Elec-Trak tractor, compared with about 35 cents an acre for well-tuned gasoline engines.

Medium view: You have no oil to keep full or change, no spark plugs, points, or filters to replace — just a minimum of routine maintenance. There are fewer parts to lubricate, wear out and replace.

Long view: It normally costs up to $50 per year to maintain, repair and rebuild the average gas tractor, or about $250 for a five year period. If you had to replace all your Elec-Trak tractor power pack modules (very unlikely), after even 8 years, you could do for about $200... giving new life and many more years of service to your tractor. GE makes available...
It has a lot of traditional values...

to Elec-Trak tractor owners, through its dealers, a special battery price that's about 1/2 less than retail. And during this time you've banked about 30 cents for every acre you've mowed. These economics have convinced industrial users, from railroads to lift truck operators, that electric means economy.

You can mow up to 3.5 acres of lawn-like this — on one charge with the E12, E15 or E20 Elec-Trak tractor with heavy duty power pack. If you wanted to mow some more, you could get 25% of total power recharged while you had a one-hour lunch, or up to 85% of full power on a five-hour siesta. And you'll get 50% more range per charge by adding the optional plug-in booster pack.

It's safer

The whole family can enjoy Elec-Trak tractoring. It's loaded with safety features. Like the exclusive seat switch — the tractor, mower, or snowblower won't start unless you're on the seat, and power stops instantly if you leave it. Most important...mower blades stop in one to three seconds whenever you turn them off or leave the seat and a patented GE system prevents accidental restarting unless you switch it off and on again. The front mount mower and patented comfortable walk-through designs makes mounting the tractor easier and safer while the rear discharge models provide greater bystander protection.

Whenever you depress the brake all the way, all drive power shuts off on large models. A main disconnect on the larger units allows you to safely remove all power and leave the tractor completely inoperative. The power system is safer, 36-volt, direct current and fully insulated. The Elec-Trak tractor also has a balanced weight design and a low center of gravity for greater stability. Finally, you can forget forever about pouring gasoline over a hot tractor engine.

What Makes the Elec-Trak Tractor Work?

Automatic Charger
The built-in automatic charger plugs into any grounded household outlet, converts 110-120 AC power to 36-volt DC to refill the power pack. Plug in when you're not using it and when the water level is once a month, and your Elec-Trak tractor is always ready to go.

Power Pack
Energy stored in the long-life power pack is regulated by the control system (like a variable speed drill) to power the drive motor.

Control System
Different models offer you a choice of foot pedal, single lever forward/reverse or simple clutch-brake speed control.

Modular Components
The unique GE system of modular components controls everything with simple plug-in elements. All you see are easy to reach switches.

Drive Motor
The drive motor, fully enclosed to protect it from dirt and moisture, transfers power to the transaxle.

Accessory Outlet
This second outlet is your 36-volt power for all accessories (hedge trimmer, chain saw, edger, etc.) and turns your tractor into a mobile power source.

Transaxle
The rugged, cast-iron transaxle takes power from the drive motor, converts it through the gear range, and turns the drive wheels.

Disc Brake
The large disc brake is mounted on the transaxle for sure, quick stops.

That's why the switch is on! GENERAL ELECTRIC

2. U.S. Patent No. 3,627,542
Because it’s a great big family of tractors... to be sure there’s one for your size lawn and your size budget.

Meet the GE Elec-Trak family.

From left to right: E20, E15, E12, E12M, E10M, and E8M. First three sport front-mounted mowers, the other show off mid-mounts.
E20
- Heavy duty power pack standard equipment
- 16-18 horsepower class
- 8 forward speeds, 4 reverse in each of 4 ranges (32 speeds forward)
- Foot pedal speed control with forward/reverse switch
- Push button cruise control for constant speed work
- Electric front lift
- Super foam bucket seat
- Electric accessories, PTO outlets, headlights and dashlights
- Instruments show fuel level and power use rate
- Built-in GE Elec-Trak tractor safety seat switch, snow thrower interlock and instant-stop mower blades
- Mounts 42-inch snow thrower, 48-inch dozer blade or 30 inch rear tiller

E12M
- 12 horsepower class
- 8 forward speeds, 2 reverse in each of 3 gear ranges (9 speeds forward)
- Mid-mount mower for tighter cutting radius
- High back foam seat
- Electric accessories, PTO outlets, headlights and dashlights
- Quick acting lever lift
- Single lever speed control
- Control puts forward and reverse at your fingertips
- Instruments show fuel level and power use rate
- Hill holding startup control with power pulse button for smooth pickup
- Built-in GE Elec-Trak tractor safety seat switch, snow thrower interlock and instant-stop mower blades
- Mounts 38 inch snow thrower or 48 inch snow dozer blade

E10M
- 10 horsepower class
- Standard “big tractor”
- 36-volt Elec-Trak tractor power pack (six 6-volt Elec-Trak tractor batteries) and fast recharger
- Heavy duty power pack
- 3 speed torque ranges forward, 1 reverse
- Simple, feather-touch clutch control and brake on one pedal
- Fuel level gauge
- Built-in GE Elec-Trak tractor safety seat switch, snow thrower interlock and instant-stop mower blades
- Large disc brake
- Fast acting lever lift for attachments
- Molded foam seat
- Electric outlet for plug-in hand tools
- Mounts 38 inch snow thrower or 42 inch snow dozer blade

NEW HEAVY-DUTY EBHM
- Same features as the EBM but with 3 more batteries to give heavy-duty service
- While EBM will mow up to 1 acre, the new heavy-duty EBHM will mow up to 2 acres.

WARRANTY SUMMARY (for residential use)
In addition to a one year warranty against defects on all tractor parts, the Elec-Trak tractor features a five-year battery warranty (three years EBM and EBHM). The battery is warranted against defects for the first two years, with a pro-rata charge during the last three years or models E20, E15, E12, E12M, E10M. The EBM and EBHM batteries are warranted against defects for the first year, with a pro-rata charge during the next two years. See applicable Owner’s Use and Care Manual for complete warranty statement.

That’s why the switch is on!
GENERAL ELECTRIC
Because GE Elec-Trak tractors offer more than 40* attachments and accessories...

Your tractor is a portable outdoor power center, an electric outlet on wheels. Hand tools simply plug into the tractor for power...the wide range of heavy-duty attachments adapts your Elec-Trak tractor in minutes for a variety of specialized jobs.

*Pictured are just a few of the many attachments/accessories designed to fit most Elec-Trak Tractor models. Ask your dealer for specifics on applications.

...and because price is the best news of all.

For the name of your nearest Elec-Trak Tractor dealer (he’ll give you a cost comparison) call this toll-free number today!

800-243-6000

In Connecticut, call 1-800-882-6200

GENERAL ELECTRIC

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