

Small electric tractor with host of attachments is

Low-Cost Utility Vehicle for Small Plants

IT'S A TRACTOR, forklift truck, groundskeeping machine, maintenance vehicle, and power supply all rolled into one. That's the way General Electric describes its new I-5 Elec-Trak battery-powered industrial tractor which can be equipped with a number of special attachments to perform a variety of jobs inside and outside the plant.

Designed especially for small and medium-size plants in need of a rugged low-cost utility vehicle, the tractor complies fully with all applicable sections of ANSI B56.1-1969 and is claimed to be the first unit of its type to receive Factory Mutual Engineering Corp. Class E approval, as required by OSHA. It is powered by six lead-acid batteries that can be quickly recharged (approximately 5 hours for 80 percent recharge) on 110 v, 60 Hz a-c. The batteries provide 36-v power to the d-c drive motor and to receptacles for major attachments and hand tools.

In use, the tractor derives its capability to perform as a versatile utility vehicle from a family of special attachments developed for material handling, maintenance, and groundskeeping functions. Three forklifts—52, 78, and 96 in.—are available. Rated at 750 lb load capacity, they can be quickly attached and plugged into the accessory receptacle for power. A feature of these lifts is quick-change front or rear mounting, at the user's option.

The forks are 36 in. long (18-in. load center), and the electrohydraulic lift is activated by a lever control—pull to raise, let go to stop, and push in to lower at fast or slow speed. Included with each of the lifts is a 200-lb bumper/counterweight and a full overhead guard that meets ANSI B56.1-1969 requirements. Special attachments for barrel handling, appliance stacking, and other tasks are also being developed for the forklifts.

For building maintenance, the tractor pulls a rolling maintenance shop to bring men and tools to the job. A maintenance cart kit can be used to convert a 1000 lb capacity, 12-cu ft cart to one with a galvanized steel worktop, twin lockable storage compartments, and tool separators forward. A 180-amp d-c arc welder which takes its power from the tractor is also offered, as well as a 110-v a-c inverter for providing power to small tools. Other optional accessories are a double seat and a footplate to give the rig four-passenger capacity.

The trailer also can be equipped for housekeeping jobs. An electrohydraulic trash compacting trailer, a 500 lb capacity front end loader, a 48-in. rotary

broom, and an industrial tow-behind vacuum are available as attachments that take their power from the tractor.

For groundskeeping, a line of established plug-in lawn care and snow removal equipment is offered. These attachments include rotary and reel mowers, snow throwers and plows, and plug-in portable power tools for grounds maintenance.

The basic tractor weighs 960 lb with batteries and produces up to 900 lb of drawbar pull without wheel weighting. A foot pedal controls speed in both forward and reverse and a pushbutton cruise control holds the speed at its most efficient level. Safety features include a "deadman" seat switch to cut drive power, disk brakes, and horn.

Principal advantages claimed for the tractor as a plant vehicle are:

- pollution-free electric power
- multiple function capability with one machine
- low capital and maintenance costs as compared to conventional specialized equipment that would be required to perform same tasks.

Manufacturer's suggested list price for the basic tractor is \$2195 (FOB Schenectady, NY). Attachments run from \$40 for a plug-in drill to \$1190 for the 96 in. telescoping fork lift to around \$3000 for the 3.5-cu yd electrohydraulic trash compactor.

TRACTOR SPECIFICATIONS

Overall length: 76 in. **Tread:** 28 in.
Overall height: 42 in. **Wheel base:** 39½ in.
Overall width: 36 in. **Outside turning radius:** 97 in.
Weight (with batteries): 960 lb
Drawbar Pull (continuous motor rating in lowest gear): 900 lb
Power Pack: 6 v, heavy duty, lead acid battery propulsion modules.
Power pack rating: 220 amp hr at 20 hr rate
Charger: Built-in; requires 110-v, 15-amp, single-phase, standard grounded outlet. Approximate charging times are:
 Major recharge (80%) 5 hr*
 65% recharge 3½ hr
 40% recharge 2 hr
Speed Range: Variable up to 9 mph

*Charger runs longer for full battery equalization.



Versatility of Elec-Trak tractor stems from family of accessories which can be attached or detached simply and quickly. As a result, machine can be adapted to a variety of handling, maintenance, and groundskeeping jobs.

Hard surface vacuum attachment plugs into and is towed by tractor. It can be detached and manually pushed into smaller spaces.

Three-reel gang mower attachment is representative of a variety of groundskeeping accessories that can be used with tractor. Basic tractor is powered by six batteries and produces up to 900 lb of drawbar pull. With this mower, tractor can cut up to 40 acres of grass on a single battery charge.

If you would like to receive more information about this product, circle number 490 on the postcard in this issue.

For complimentary copy of this article circle 446 on post card
