

Correct Operational Techniques

Tracks can pull more - so reduce loads at low speeds

Tracks deliver much less slip in high torque, low speed operations. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines and stay above the minimum speed for full load operation. Never exceed the maximum ballasted weight in order to gain more traction in lower gears.

Use proper amounts of ballast

Ballast the tractor to achieve no less than 2-5% slip under heavy pull conditions. In addition, the best track performance comes from even weight distribution along the entire track length. Correct ballast will result in reduced treadbar wear, longer rolling component life, less compaction, and improved ride and turning performance.

Maintain correct track tension

In a friction drive system, proper track tension is critical to achieve maximum tractive performance. Inadequate tension can allow more material between the track and wheels, allow track to drivewheel slip, and increase the potential for untracking.

Keep irregular material out of the track

Track systems are designed to allow for some amounts of material to pass between the drivewheel and track. However, noncompressible objects (such as rocks) will cause very high localized track loading, which can result in chips, chunks, and in some cases tears, of the track.

Use care when crossing ditches or transitions

Track machines have certain maneuvers that should be approached with care. One example is during a transition from a sloped to a flat area, especially if transitioning at a diagonal. The front and rear portion of the track may be in contact with the ground, while the midframe rolling components are unsupported. If dynamic turning is attempted during the transition, the risk is high for untracking to occur. Operate at low speeds, and avoid turning, to minimize the risk of untracking in these situations.

Rule #5 : Use manufacturers recommendations and common sense when operating tracks in unusual situations, and they will give you excellent performance and a long and trouble-free life.

Track Steering Techniques

Track machines have the capability of being able to spot turn when needed. However, use care when doing this in order to avoid berming or turf damage and to minimize treadbar scrubbing.

When operating with a hitch mounted implement, steering will benefit by having the sway blocks removed when in the operational position. When using drawbar implements, let the drawbar swing to improve steering performance. Row corrections will be easier to accomplish, and the load on the implement and hitch will be reduced.

When turning at the end of the field, the best steering performance can be gained by using a "bump" or "ratchet" steer technique - turning in several small turns, returning to the neutral position between each ratchet steer. This helps gain more traction and complete the turn more efficiently and with less ground disturbance than by attempting to power and spin through the turn.

Where to learn more

For additional information on care, operation, and maintenance of tracked tractors, refer to the manufacturer's operation manuals, or consult with your dealer for other publications available on this subject.

More information on the Hi-Yield and Durabuilt agricultural track series may also be found at:

<http://www.camoplast.com>



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Agricultural Track Operational Guidelines



Advice and techniques to maximize your track system investment



Congratulations on the purchase of your Camoplast agricultural track! Please take a few minutes to read and understand both the benefits and limitations of tracked machines. By following these guidelines, you will do your part to maximize your investment and achieve longer overall track life.

The basic rules in maximizing track life are:

- ✓ Follow correct break-in procedures
- ✓ Maintain proper track alignment
- ✓ Know ways to maximize treadbar life
- ✓ Use correct operational techniques

The following paragraphs review and describe these guidelines, and will help you understand both the best way to gain the benefits as well as understand the operational differences of tracked tractors.

New Track Break-In

Tracks (specifically the guide lugs), especially on a new machine, will benefit from correct break-in procedures. Correct break-in will help reduce the initial amount of guide lug and midroller wear. During the first few hundred hours, the track components undergo a polishing-in process. During this time, rubber flash is worn from the wheels, and a smooth steel to rubber interface is developed. During this critical time, the new rubber surfaces benefit from contact with the soil, which acts as a dry lubricant, to facilitate smooth break-in and minimize guide lug scuffing. Track should be operated in soil as soon as possible. Significant amounts of operation, especially high speed roading, before introduction into the soil should be avoided.

Rule #1 - Always break-in a new set of tracks in the field and if possible in dry and dusty conditions.

Rule #2 - Avoid extended roading at high speeds with a new set of tracks during the break-in period.

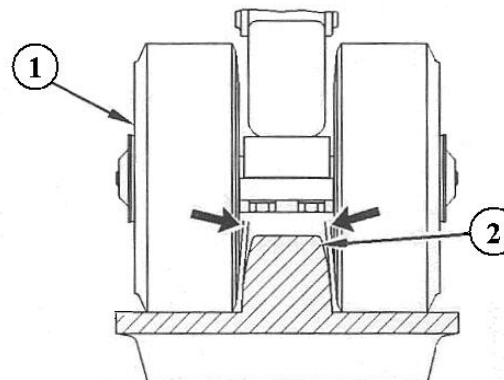
Maintain Track Alignment

It is very important to periodically check track alignment. Alignment can change due to track component wear throughout the entire life of the machine, not only during the break-in. Misalignment, if left uncorrected, will cause heating and eventual destruction of one side of the guide lug, as well as cause unbonding of the mating midrollers.

The primary way to verify alignment is to check the temperature of the guide lugs during field operation. If there is significant difference in the temperatures between opposite sides of the guide lug, then the track may be out of alignment.

A second way to check alignment is to drive without any steering input on a flat surface for at least 3 complete track revolutions. Then coast to a stop without steering or braking. Observe if there is clearance with the midrollers (1) on both sides of the guide lugs (2). The amount of clearance should be roughly the same. If one side has no clearance, then the track is likely misaligned. Refer to the manufacturer's operator's manual for specific ways to adjust or correct misalignment.

Rule #3 - Periodically check track alignment. Always check alignment whenever tracks are installed, or if tractor gage width is changed.



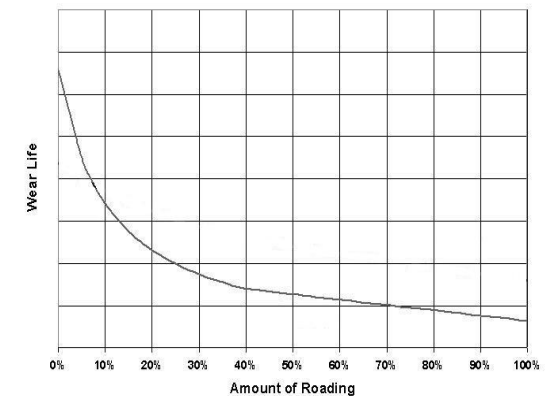
2nd method to check track alignment

Maximizing Treadbar Life

Several operational factors influence treadbar wear rates. These include soil conditions, weight and balance, maximum drawbar pull, and individual operator technique. One factor (unrelated to field operation) that has a significant effect on treadbar life is the overall amount of high speed roading operations. Treadbar wear life will be reduced as the amount of high speed roading increases. The amount of treadbar wear (scrubbing) on the road can be minimized, however, by avoiding the road crown, reducing the machine weight, and always maintaining the correct balance.

Another way to increase track life, especially when roading a heavy machine on a hot day and with a hitch mounted implement, is to lower the maximum travel speed. This will reduce the peak temperatures on both the treadbars and guide lugs.

Rule #4 - Minimize roading, and if possible, reduce overall speed when you travel on the road. Always follow correct weight and balance specifications in order to minimize track temperatures and treadbar scrubbing.



Roading affects treadbar wear life