

Checklist for Buying a Used Compact Track Loader

INTERIOR / COMPARTMENT

- Open up the back and check out the rear compartment
 - Filters
 - Battery
 - Starter
- Look for leaks and make sure all the shrouds are in place.
- Unscrew the filter housing and check both filters inside for debris.
- Pull out the filters and see if there's any dirt in the housing.
- Look for dates and hours on the engine and filters to determine the last time the machine was serviced.
- Look at the radiator for damage and debris.
- Pay attention to electrical wiring to see if it is worn down, clean, and wired properly.
- If there is black soot on the back door it is a sign the exhaust system may have a problem.

UNDERCARRIAGE / TRACKS

- Check the sprockets
- Check the idlers
- Check the rollers.
 - Note: If the sprockets have pointed teeth, that is a sign they need to be changed. Idlers are wearing down if the smooth surface is showing a groove.
- Check to see if rollers are loose.

BUCKET / ATTACHMENT

- Check the teeth and the overall bucket stability.
- Detach the bucket by pulling the levers of the coupler up and check to make they work properly. Make sure there are no bends or fractures. The coupler is critical since these loaders use a variety of attachments. Also check the step indentions on the bucket for hairline fractures.

CHECK FOR OPERATION

- Get inside the cab and start the machine to see if it starts without issue.
- Record the machine hours.
- Check the interior and exterior lights.
- Test the heat and the air conditioning. You certainly don't want to sweat or freeze to death.
- Also, make sure you're comfortable in the seat.
- Be sure to also test any emergency shutdown systems.
- Execute several lift and dump cycles, noting any hesitations or play in the bushings.
- Get a good feel for how the controls work.
 - Make sure they center in neutral.
- Tilt the bucket down and push down, noting if there's any play in the bucket pins and linkage.
- Make sure the auxiliary hydraulics are working properly.
- Check the hydraulic drive operation after you've had the engine running for at least 10 minutes.
- Also have a second person go back to the engine compartment to check for exhaust and oil leaks.

CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING

Go over your checklist and determine how much work the machine will need to be made ready for proper use. When you have an idea of what is needed (or desired) to bring the CTL/MTL up to your standard, contact a parts company to see how much those items will cost. This will give you a great basis to make a reasonable offer.

NOTES:

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