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Tractor Arch

Owner's Manual

You will find this implement handy if you have a tractor and any reason to move logs. The logs will stay clean if you are milling them on your portable sawmill. The ground will remain virtually undisturbed, and you will be able to move logs that your tractor could only dream about before. In the photo below this tractor and arch are hauling a capacity load / log, with little or no disturbance to the ground, log or tractor.

Use

The arch is a steel structure with minimal working parts. Equipped to be pulled from either a drawbar hitch or a hitch mounted to a 3-point mounted tractor winch (like a Farmi, Fransgaard or others). In the drawbar models, the logs are lifted into the arch with a hand or power winch, while on the tractor winch models, the line is lead through the arch to pick up the logs or to pull them into the arch.



Rigging

You'll notice in the diagram on the photo above, that the logs are always picked up by the arch, not the tractor. The amount of the log that is into the arch, determines how much of the log weight is picked up, with just the tail left to drag. If the log is 16 feet or less the entire log can be fully suspended. On longer logs, the little drag at the tail is often a slight advantage, as the log trails straight. When the log is fully suspended, the nose of the log will want to be held into the arch at one of the provided ring areas (Fig. 1 & 2).

With the standard hand-operated winch, there are two ways to hook the choker. On smaller and lighter logs, the choker is hooked to itself, and the winch line picks up the log (Fig. 3). On larger and heavier logs, the supplied bell is used to double the power or roll the log (Fig. 4). When using the power doubling option, the block will split to one side, and the bell to the other; allowing the log to rise much higher in the arch.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

With longer logs the drag is greater, but most of the weight is suspended and the log trails to tractor by articulating in the arch. rather than scalping the inside of the corner as when just dragged by the end.



Uses & Options

While a tractor has great pulling power, it has limited mobility and safety limits in the forest environment. If there is any serious sloping terrain in your operation, please think seriously of keeping to the road and using a winch line to bring logs to the tractor.

The Tractor Arch has provision for mounting a power winch in the front or rear receiver. In the front receiver, it can be used to pull the Tractor Arch and load out of a problem area, or rigged to string the arch and pick up logs. The rear receiver mount would be used when pulling logs to the arch and tractor.



Maintenance

- ✓ Daily check coupler, winch, and snatch blocks
- ✓ Oil the handle shaft bushing of hand winch daily
- ✓ Grease the cogs on the hand winch weekly
- ✓ Keep tire pressures at recommended pressure
- ✓ If equipped with power winch and batteries, charge batteries nightly

Reminders

- ✓ Break in the new choker of whatever winch you are using
- ✓ Take a little extra time to pull out choker slack before winching
- ✓ Never pull all of the line out of your winch (always leave at least three wraps of line on the spool)
- ✓ Brace yourself when winching in a log (take out the slack, then grab onto the arch with your free hand)
- ✓ Always lower your load in control **never let the handle spin freely**
- ✓ Two speeds on the hand winch are available just by pulling out the gear change lever and pulling the crank up or down