

**ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION MANUAL**  
**for**  
**THE TRAIL TENDERIZER**  
**by Tidd Tech, Ltd.**

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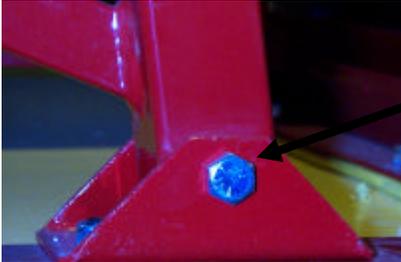


**Assembled 4' Trail Tenderizer shown with optional TrackSetter**

# PLEASE READ THIS MANUAL THOROUGHLY BEFORE OPERATING THE TRAIL TENDERIZER

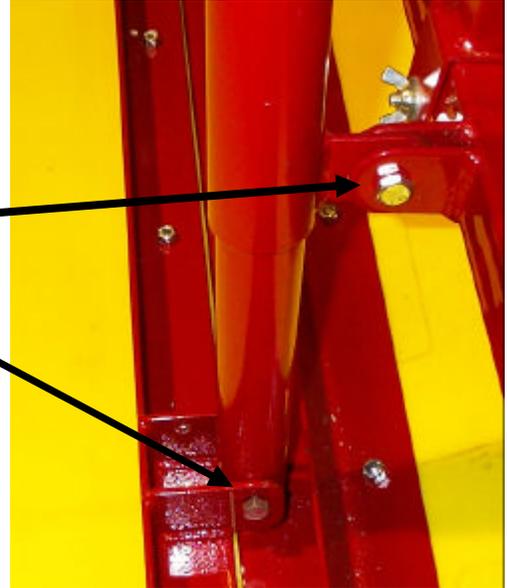
## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to assembly, carefully remove all items from the packing crate. You will have to unscrew the bolts in the ends of the crate. Unwrap the drawbar. Open the carton containing the Track Setter and Lift Lever.



STEP 1. Attach the **drawbar** to the compactor using 3/8 x 2-3/4" inch hex bolts and locknuts.

STEP 2. Attach the raise/lower JACK to the tabs at the front of the compactor (3/8 x 2-3/4" hex bolt and locknut), and on the cross piece of the drawbar (3/8 x 1-1/4" hex bolt and locknut).



STEP 3. Attach the two steel **skid plates** to the rear corners of the compactor bed with two 5/16 x 3/4" button head socket screws on each. Note that the plates can be rotated in four positions after they have worn down due to dragging the machine on dirt or pavement. Make sure to call us and order replacement skid plates before you wear into the bolt holes.

STEP 4. Insert the appropriate hitch in the drawbar and fix with an 8 penny nail. Bend the nail over on the underside of the drawbar to prevent any injury when handling. See the operation section of this manual for more information on shear pins.



If you have not purchased a TrackSetter with your Trail Tenderizer, then you are finished with assembly and may now continue with the operation section of this manual. If you have purchased a Tracksetter, please open that box now and follow the Tracksetter Assembly Instructions. Once you have assembled your Tracksetter, please continue with the operation section in this manual.

## **OPERATION OF THE TRAIL TENDERIZER**

### **SAFETY**

Normal and prudent care should be taken when operating the Trail Tenderizer. The Terrain Tenderizer Teeth are very sharp, and should be treated with respect. Never reach under the front edge to move the groomer.

Be careful lifting the groomer. Its weight is often increased by snow piled on top. Deep or icy snow makes moving the groomer even more hazardous. Be sure you have secure footing, bend your knees, and keep your back straight. By pivoting the unit on one and then the other rear corners (tracking fins) you should be able to zig zag the machine to the location you want.

Do not run over skiers on the trail. It's very bad for repeat business. Seriously, if you groom during the day, stop and make sure that skiers are completely out of your way before passing them. **NOTE:** The six foot wide groomer sticks out rather far on each side. Take this into account, especially near skiers and trees.

The tow hitch of the groomer is supplied with a shear pin mechanism. You should use eight penny coated or galvanized nails for the shear pins. The pin should break upon serious impact with rocks, stumps or trees. It is far better to go back and get the groomer than to go over or through the windshield. If the pin breaks constantly in rough terrain, you can increase the size of the nail slightly.

**ALWAYS CARRY A SUPPLY OF SHEAR PINS IN THE SNOWMOBILE.** A good idea is to duct tape several nails near the hitch. Use them only when you've forgotten to put some in the snow machine. It is actually fairly rare that you break the shear pin, except during low snow times, like at the beginning of the season, or by hitting trees.

## **USE OF THE LIFT LEVER**

The lift lever is designed to allow you to eliminate the track without getting off the snowmobile. Set up the lever system as described in the assembly instructions.

There is a trick to getting the slotted hook to engage and disengage without touching it. If you pull the lever up and slightly toward the center of the machine, the slotted hook will drop down on the bolt and remain in the hooked position. To release the hook, pull the lever back and slightly to the side, away from the center of the machine. When you release it, the bolt should slide back in the long end of the slot, thus lowering the track setter. You might need to tighten or loosen the bolt just a little. A bit of practice helps. Once you see how this works, the action is very quick and efficient. You may need to adjust the tightness of the bolt that slides through the slotted plate. Flip the track setter up onto the compactor bed for long distances where you aren't setting tracks (see below).

## **PACKING NEW SNOW**

The easiest way to pack new snow is to keep the angle of the compactor bed as low as possible so that the snow doesn't build up under and in front of the compactor. Use the hand crank to raise the front edge of the compactor bed about half way up to the drawbar. Drive a few yards at grooming speed and see if the snow is rolling easily under the bed. If it is billowing up over the front edge, raise the front a bit more. If snow is being dragged along by the back edge, lower the front. Remember that as you gain speed, the compactor will tend to plane up to the surface.

If you raise the track setter with the Lift Lever (for skate lane packing with no tracks), the track setter will hang out in a cantilevered position. This puts a lot of downward pressure on the flexible yellow comb, pushing it hard into the snow. The result is an excellent combing action in firm snow conditions. In soft powder, the comb may be pushed so hard downward that snow is carried along and a significant drag is put on the snowmobile. To avoid this situation, flip the track setter up onto the compactor bed. The weight is now off the yellow comb, and drag is reduced.

## **BACKING UP**

It is difficult to back up very far with the groomer attached. It tends to jack-knife at the hitch. Some backing is possible provided that you raise the yellow comb off the snow surface. This is done by flipping the track setter up onto the compactor bed and pulling it forward toward the raise/lowering crank. You can secure the track setter in this forward position with the rubber tie-down strap provided. Stretch it between the crank handle and the track setter's plastic base (between the hinges). You will notice the comb bending upward as you slide the track setter forward. **NOTE:** It is a good idea to leave the rubber tie-down strap connected between the crank handle and some other part of the compactor bed to prevent the crank from spinning as a result of vibration. In this way, the height of the cutting teeth from the snow will remain constant.

## **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

Deep new snow (over 10-12") may require two passes to get sufficient air out of the powder to make a skiable surface. If the snow is very deep, you will probably have to run the snowmobile alone without dragging the Trail Tenderizer (this is also the perfect application for a Tidd Tech Roller). You can usually set good tracks on the second pass. If the groomer bogs down, remove the track setter(s) and put it/them on the back of the snowmachine or leave them off at the base lodge. This gives you less drag from the groomer and more traction on the machine.

Grading uneven surfaces is done in one of two ways. With soft, powder snow, you can raise the compactor to the highest angle so that you drag snow along, filling in the low spots automatically. With settled, or crusty snow, drop the teeth to a fairly low angle, and cut off the high spots. Snow will be dragged into low spots to level the surface. Don't be concerned if some snow piles up on top of the compactor, you can pull it along until you find a deep hole, then dump or shovel it into the hole.

## **FIRM OR CRUSTY SNOW**

The Terrain Tenderizer Teeth do a lot of surface renovation as long as the snow is reasonably workable, i.e. you can kick your heel into it. Adjust the depth of the teeth so that snow is just rolling under the front edge of the compactor. A couple of turns of the crank make a big difference in how successful your renovation works. Generally you should keep the compactor bed horizontal, so that the weight of the whole unit is on the teeth. If the teeth are too low, they will create a lot of drag on the snowmobile and may bounce, creating a washboard effect. Raise them up enough to not overwork or overheat your snow machine. On steep uphill, it is sometimes advisable to raise the teeth a bit to make pulling easier, then groom that trail in the opposite direction on the next pass with the teeth fully down on the downhill.

The Trail Tenderizer has difficulty grooming extremely hard-frozen granular or solid ice. Nothing you put behind a snowmobile short of plastic explosives will affect rock solid ice. However, the teeth will texture the top surface and make it smoother and flatter so that skis slide easily (and quickly!) over it.

Our motto is: IF IT'S WHITE, IT'S ALL RIGHT; IF IT'S GRAY, IT'S O.K.; IF IT'S BLUE, SO ARE YOU; AND IF IT'S BROWN, IT'S TIME TO SHUT THE PLACE DOWN.

Setting track in hard snow sometimes requires one or two concrete blocks in the compartments of the track setter(see below). Another way to set better tracks in hard snow is to remove the sidewall tracking fins on the track setter, or move them up using the extra pair of bolt holes. By doing this, only the track cutters are hitting the snow. With the sidewall fins off or in the higher position, *you must raise the track setter(s) to cross roads*. Otherwise, you will scuff the molding blocks and dull the cutters.

## **WEIGHTING THE TRACK SETTER**

Buy two 4" solid concrete blocks (4 x 8 x 16) available at most building supply stores. The blocks fit into the hinged cage of the track setter. You can set tracks in powder with no weight on the track setter. One block in the rear compartment will create more packing on the track molds. One block in the front compartment will put more pressure on the track cutting teeth for harder snow. With both blocks on the track setter, you will have increased the weight of the track setter to at least 112 pounds. This should set a good track in very hard conditions. However, it is a lot of weight to pull up hills. After some experimentation, you will discover the best arrangements of weight to set ideal tracks in various snow situations.

## **OBSTACLES**

Hitting rocks, roots, trees and other obstacles is not recommended. But, of course, you will do this, so just slow down when you do. The groomer is designed to ride over rocks etc. even with the teeth down. However, high speed impacts may dull, bend and/or break the teeth, and distort other parts of the groomer. Be nice to the machine and it will serve you for a long time. The teeth on the cutting bar can be resharpened with a four inch angle grinder when they get dull. It's a quick, easy maintenance task and will improve the performance of the teeth. This is necessary usually only once or twice a year, or after extended use in low snow.

## **CROSSING ROADS OR BARE SPOTS**

You must raise the cutting teeth and flip the track setter(s) up onto the compactor bed before crossing plowed roads or snowless sections. The groomer will ride on the tracking fins at the

back corners of the compactor and not harm the urethane comb. These tracking fins will eventually wear down. They can be repositioned in four directions, and eventually replaced.

## **OFF SEASON STORAGE**

Clean your Trail Tenderizer at the end of the season. A good wash with a garden hose will do. Inspect the tooth bar for worn or missing teeth. Sharpen the teeth with an angle grinder. Straighten any bent pieces. Paint any exposed steel parts of the groomer. A spray can of rust resistant paint is adequate. Use a piece of cardboard to mask the plastic parts. **NOTE: Store the groomer on a couple of boards up off the ground and cover it with a tarp. UV sunlight can degrade the plastic and make it more brittle.**

With proper maintenance and care in its use, the Trail Tenderizer will last for many years.

**LIMITED WARRANTY**  
**ON THE "TRAIL TENDERIZER"**  
by  
**TIDD TECH, LTD.**

Products from Tidd Tech, Ltd. carry a one year warranty. If the equipment fails due to a defect in materials or workmanship within one year from the date of purchase, Tidd Tech, Ltd. will repair or replace the part free of charge.

This warranty is not transferable and does not cover damage resulting from anything other than defects in material or workmanship. This warranty does not cover damage caused by unreasonable use, nor replacement of non-defective parts that may wear and need to be replaced within the warranty period.

For warranty service you must, at your own expense, arrange to deliver or ship the product or part(s) for warranty repairs to Tidd Tech, Ltd. at the address below.

This limited warranty is in lieu of all other express warranties. Tidd Tech, Ltd. shall not be liable for any special, incidental or consequential damages.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

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