

PRODUCT REVIEW

Model "H" Restoration Guide released in second edition

Here we finally have a full-blown repair manual for all versions of the John Deere model "H" tractor. This book is 208 full-size pages organized into nine chapters supported by 12 appendices and a 600-plus entry subject index listing. I haven't counted the number of illustrations, but be assured there are plenty of pictures and drawings to help you become familiar with your JD "H."

This book includes many references to Field Service Bulletins and to earlier "DIR" series technical books—both issued by Deere and Company over the years. Some are of interesting historical value, while others bear significant and needed technical data not found in any of the three manuals you should also have: operator's manual, parts catalog and the JD-4 I&T shop service manual.

Chapter 1: Basics, Tooling and Facility—Restoration and its variations are discussed along with approaches to initial cleaning, choices you should make up front with emphasis on writing your plan and the concept of a journal is introduced. Planning should include where you will look for needed parts, services and supplies and arranging for storage during teardown.

Chapter 2: Sheet Metal—This chapter was prepared apart from the main tractor in response to so many questions fielded over the years and includes guidance for removing, reworking and reinstalling sheet metal and associated elements of the tractor like fuel tanks, shutter controls and gauges.

Chapter 3: Engine—The chapter opens with a wide range of basic information to help the reader get to know the JD "H" power plant. Topics include but are not limited to the lube system, crankcase ventilation, air filtering, carburetion, cooling, antifreeze issues, gasket data, torque values, compression testing, replication, importance of thrust washers and inspection criteria to apply.

Chapter 4: Transmission, Final Drive and PTO—This chapter opens with an overview of the JD "H" drive train from crankshaft, through the clutch and transmission to the



final drive. The concept of a reduction gear and sliding shaft (typical in JD drive trains) is explained.

Chapter 5: Steering and Front Ends—This chapter differs in style from the others. It opens with some neat techniques for steering wheel restoration, defines basic steering criteria, explores the usual causes of loose steering and suggests remedies available to the restorer.

Chapter 6: Basic Tractor—This chapter comes in to address a series of subject areas not neatly collectible into sections of a tractor to include rear wheel removal and restoration, some notes on tires, a history of the pan seat used on JD "H" tractors along with the drawbar, hydraulics and more—those with JD part numbers assigned. The list of special fasteners includes a narrative description of each.

Chapter 7: The Electrical System—This chapter opens with a listing of original equipment installed on your "H," a major section dealing with generators, starters and lighting systems (how they operate and how to troubleshoot them).

Chapter 8: Carburetors—This is a brief chapter starting with a complete narration telling how the DLTX-26/46 carburetor works, defining the two separate "circuits" for idle and load fuel. Diagnosing tractor failures involving the carburetor are explored to include some simple no-wrench tests you can perform.

Chapter 9: Paint and Painting—This chapter combines the author's experience along with tales from others plus some theory and technology. A wide range of coatings is discussed to include aerosol canned paint, primers, "rust converters" and filler primers. Paint hardeners and the profound health issues they bring to bear are presented.

The Appendices and Subject Index: There are a dozen appendices taking up 35 pages and following the nine basic chapters, some of which are reference data and some more laden with instructional content. The subject index contains just over 600 line items, making this book very well cross-referenced. Some subject items are listed and referenced using more than one of its common names so that finding the data you are seeking should not be difficult.