



1922 Fordson Tractor



Manufacturing Information

Manufactured By	Ford Motor Company
Assembled At	Rouge Plant, Dearborn, Michigan
Annual Production	66,752 (in 1922)
Total U.S. Production	737,977 (1917 thru 1928)
Horsepower	20
Weight	2,700 pounds/1,227 kilograms
1921 Cost	\$395

Innovations

Small, light, affordable
Chrome carbon steel, stronger than vanadium steel
Engine block and transmission/axle housing acts as frame
Engine similar to Model T but heavy duty
Easier to start than competitors
Carburetor has water bath air cleaner to filter out dust
Starts on gasoline. Runs on less costly kerosene.

Early Tractors

Henry Ford was born on a farm and dreamed of the tractor, earlier than the automobile. By 1905, he was tinkering with his “automotive plow”. Not wanting to distract from Piquette work, he rented a nearby barn for tractor development. Early designs were Model T based and prototypes were built at Piquette but it never went into production. Later, Ford patented a tractor that used its engine block and transmission/axle housing as the frame and began producing it in 1917.

The Fordson was priced affordably for small farmers and it could replace four horses, costing about \$150 each. Further, each animal required about five acres of land to grow its food. The tractor needed less care than animals and was less physically demanding than driving teams of animals.

Initial Fordsons were shipped to the U.K. for the war effort. U.S. Sales began in 1918 at a price of \$750. By year’s end, Ford was the world’s leading tractor producer. However, competition increased in subsequent years and Ford lowered the price to \$395 to maintain sales. Likely weary of the price wars, Ford ceased U.S. production in 1928.

This Tractor is Owned by the Museum



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Jill Woodward in Honor of Don LaCombe

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