



POWER CURBER PROFILES

News and information to make you more competitive

Rehab Work

Adjust Legs Up, Down As Needed



Russ LaBarre

The 5700-B is the machine of choice for rehab work. In this project (photo to right) by R G L Concrete Contracting Inc. of Binghamton, NY, note the position of the machine's right rear leg. It's 14 inches (35.5cm) higher than the left leg. The machine's left rear track is 2 feet (.6m) away from edge of curb.

Russell LaBarre of R G L says that the majority of his curb work is rehab and the 5700-B that he bought used maneuvers well in those jobs. "Most of the time, we're working in a ditch, below the sub-base of the road," he says. "We just adjust the post on the machine and drop the mold up or down. We can get down in a hole to pour and keep the machine up higher."

Russ changes the standard 42-inch (107cm) trimmer to a 2-foot (61cm) trimmer that works well in the tight confinement.

Russ says he loves the maneuverability of the 5700-B. "At first, that machine would be my worst enemy or my best friend, but that was just the learning curve."



The back of curb passes within inches of the utility pole in this rehab job in Indiana.



In this rehab application involving 18-inch curb (45.7 cm) in New York, the base of curb is 14 inches (35.5cm) below grade and 18 inches (45.7cm) from the edge of pavement.



Right rear leg is 14 inches (35.5cm) higher than left leg

Photo by Tim Mejer, Power Curbers' Regional Sales Manager

Photo by Don Spyr, Power Curbers' Technical Support

Photo by Don Spyr, Power Curbers' Technical Support

From the Operator's Platform: Power, Simplicity, Visibility

Having operated a competitive curb machine for seven years, Troy Reighter of Cougar Contracting Specialties in Ft. Myers, FL, says he was skeptical about the company's move to a Power Curber 5700-B.

Six months on the operator's platform has changed his mind. "That thing will outrun the other machine any day," Troy says.

"This one definitely has a lot more power, and it turns a lot better," he says. "With the higher sub grade, you don't have to worry. That trimmer is going to trim right through it."

"Everything is simpler to run. Everything is right there." The control panel is easy to read, making the machine easy to control, he says.

With the competitive machine, Troy says he almost had to have his back to the concrete. With the 5700-B, "you just look to the left to see the curb," he says. The mold was beneath the competitive machine, making it hard to see the product, he says.



Troy Reighter

CDs/DVDs AVAILABLE

- Power Curber - 5700-SUPER-B
- How-To Pour Tight Radius
- How-To Pour Sidewalk
- How-To Center Pour
- Power Curber Extruders
- Power Pavers



For a CD, contact Sandy Daily at Power Curbers, 704-647-6120 or e-mail, sdaily@powercurbers.com



'Pulling Ability with 5700-SUPER-B is Major'

Wilson Brothers Construction of Honea Path, SC, is on its sixth machine in the Power Curber 5700 Series.

Bryan Lusk, son-in-law of one of the founders, Jimmy Wilson, has run a 5700 and four 5700-Bs. The company bought a new 5700-SUPER-B this spring.

"You can tell that somebody that ran a curb machine had a part in this new design," Bryan says. "I like the new positioning of the controls. They're moved to the left where you can watch the curb and use the controls at the same time" with no extra movement.

Bryan noticed an immediate difference in the machine's power. "There's lots more power," he says. "Before, if you had everything operating - vibrating, trimming and crawling - it would load the engine up. You can't load this engine up." **The 5700-SUPER-B has 50% more horsepower.**

Dodd Wilson, son of Jimmy and now president of the company, also noticed an immediate difference. "The pulling ability with the SUPER-B is major," he says.

Both Dodd and Bryan like the location of the fuel and water tanks and the increased capacity.

Bryan also noticed a temperature difference. "All the heat is blown out to the right of the machine," he says. "It's better for operator comfort. There's no more hot fluid flowing through valves on the control panel.

"The valves used to be on the dash," says Bryan. "Now, they're controlled electronically from the dash but located underneath the hood." This relocation keeps the

console much cooler.

Another plus is that seals between the auger door and housing keep concrete from leaking onto the machine, he says. Servicing is easier with the engine compartment much more accessible.

Wilson Brothers ordered the Network Control and Quick Connect options on the new machine.

"About 80 percent of our work is DOT, and we do a lot of curb going from holding to spilling and then back," says Bryan. **The Slope Control on the Network Control is a tremendous plus,** Bryan says. "Before, it took two men plus me to do a transition from holding curb to spilling," he says. "One had to adjust each sensor

and another man was dialing to change the pitch on the machine. The micro automatically recalibrates the sensor. Now, I can do it alone from the operator's platform."

Bryan says that he sometimes changes molds two times a day and at least two to three times a week. "I can't believe I ever owned a machine without this Quick Connect," he says. **The Quick Connect allows you change molds in a matter of minutes.**

Jimmy Wilson, who is semi-retired, says he started doing concrete work 42 years ago "the hard way." He and his brother, Ted, started the business in 1979.

He remembers the major decision the company made to buy a Power Curber. As it turned out, "we had a job with 106,000 feet (32,330m) in it, and that job paid for the machine," he says. **PC**



Jimmy Wilson, center, one of the founders, with son, Dodd, left, and son-in-law, Bryan Lusk. Dodd and Bryan run the curb machines.



"There's lots more power; you can't load this machine up." — Bryan Lusk

The Georgia Way

■ No Turning Back: Curb Machine Changes Business

After you buy a curb machine, "there's no turning back."

That's the way Ed Miles and his sons, John and Thomas, describe their approach to business.

The Miles family has operated Miles & Sons for 33 years in Savannah, GA. Ed, his dad, and an older brother started the company, and his boys grew up in the business. "Toting forms on Saturdays when we were 8 years old," is the way they remember it.

"The company started in the under-brushing business," says Ed. "We had done concrete work and tried to get away from it, but every time I needed work, it resorted back to concrete. The best living seemed to be in concrete."

That was especially true after they bought a used Power Curber 5700 in 1991.

"There was no turning back," says John. "The machine is the wave - in the future, of the future, and for the future." They had been pouring 800 feet (244m) of curb a day by hand and it took all day long, John says. "We would be worn slap out."

With the machine, pouring the same footage, "we were done by lunch time, rather than 7 o'clock, and could focus on setting string in the afternoon."

They are now on their 4th Power Curber and keep two machines running, averaging about 3,000 feet a day. Ninety percent of their work is curb.

They've looked at competitive machines each time they upgrade, but come back to the Power Curber because of machine design, Ed says.

"There's better visibility and it's easier to reach the controls," he says.



Ed Miles, left, and sons John and Thomas: "Best living seemed to be in concrete"

■ Curb Market a Natural for Grading Contractor

Lewis Robertson, who has specialized in asphalt work for 30 years in the Augusta, GA, area, says that moving into the curb market was a natural for Robertson Grading Inc., located in Evans, GA.

"We do primarily subdivision and new development work," says Lewis. "We would go in and do the sub-grade work and leave, and somebody else would put the curb in. Then we would come back.

"There was a market for a curb contractor in that area. Curb work fits in so well with grading and asphalt."

Lewis had been around a competitive curb machine while previously working for APAC.

He chose a Power Curber because he likes the features. "It's not nearly as bulky or big," he says. "It's compact and simple. I like the single track in front and the two tracks behind. I didn't like the other machine's left track running right in front of

the mold."

He also likes the auger. "It's a better way to deliver the mix to the hopper," he says. "I remember a lot of headaches with the belt."

He started with a used Power Curber and recently bought a new 5700-B.

Power Curbers' service department was a lot of help with the used machine, Lewis says. "They were so helpful, even if the price had been more, I would have bought the new Power Curber. We have a real good working relationship."

He emphasizes quality in his work and says that the general contractors with whom he works encouraged him to move into the curb market. "They wanted me to do the work," he says. "I tell my guys, production is great, but I want quality. I don't want to be known for being the fastest. I want to be known for being the best."



John Cox, Adam Cox (back row), Lewis Robertson and Curtis Carver want to be known for being the best



SUPER CURBER

Striving for the Best in Missouri

When Midwest Mudjacking spiffed up its Power Curber 5700-B for the 2004 spring season, Mike Steidley decided to go the extra mile.

First, he used a clear sealant, Dupont Imron 3460, that is used on ready mix trucks to help alleviate concrete build-up.

Secondly, he changed the logo to make his machine the "Super Curber," not knowing that Power Curbers was rolling out its 2004 version of the 5700-B under the name 5700-SUPER-B.

Mike's thinking was: "The machine does a super job, and we do, too." Mike is president of the company. His partner is Tim Koenig. Ray Burns is project manager and Darrel Eikel is machine operator. They have found that the sealant is helping with clean-up. "Anything that helps with general clean-up is worth the money," says Mike.

"I think that we put down the best slipform curb in St. Louis," says Mike. "We care about what we do. The biggest thing with slipform equipment is understanding the variables. You've got your speed, the mix, the vibration, whether the sun's out ... a million and one variables. Until you understand all that, I don't think you'll ever be good at it."



Cummings, McGowan & West Inc., St. Louis, Power Curbers dealer in Missouri

Midwest Mudjacking is on its second Power Curber, having bought a 5700 sixteen years ago.

"I ran the competitor's machine in St. Louis over 30 years ago," says Mike. When it came time to buy his own machine, he chose the smaller 5700.

"I liked yours better," he says. "There was a reason I wanted a small machine, and it's proven true. It has turned out great. We're the only guys in St. Louis that

can turn a 3-foot radius (.9m). With the competitive machine, if you went around a radius, the back of the mold actually slid and wouldn't come back. The Power Curber mold is fixed to the machine.

"We took the time to learn. I went through my share of learning. I enjoy the machinery and understand how it works."

Mike also liked the idea of a smaller machine for the rehab work that is a big part of his company's business. The 5700 series is better suited for rehab work than the competitive machine, he says.

Midwest Mudjacking is also willing to take on a risky application, such as the 32-inch barrier (81cm) that they poured against a wall, using a counter weight to balance the machine.

Mike likes the auger on the 5700-B, although he was not convinced of its superiority over the belt when he bought the machine. "If you run the concrete up a belt, a lot of the mud is bubbling to the top of the hopper," he says. "On the 5700-B, the mud never segregates." **PC**

Extruder Corner



Tab Patton

'For the investment I've made in the Power Curber 150, compared to the other equipment I own It doesn't take a rocket scientist to run the numbers. Three jobs with the extruder and no more than 15 hours, and I've paid for the machine.'

— Tab Patton,
Tab Patton Construction,
Woodruff, SC

'The extruder is great. There's no comparing the savings in labor from doing the work by hand. It also enables us to work immediately after bad weather, since we pour curb on asphalt with the extruder.'

— Stan Black,
Bulldog Construction,
Madison, MS



Stan Black

Pennsylvania Contractor Doubles Business in 5 years

John D'Amico of D'Amico Concrete Inc. in Morton, PA, says that owning a Power Curber 5700-B has allowed his company to more than double its business in the last five years.

"Our business has grown because of us having the machine," he says. "We do more work at a quicker pace. The majority of our jobs are very schedule-intensive. We are having to meet deadlines. Realistically, the machine is the only way we can meet them."

The machine's features, such as the Quick Connect Mold Mount, are time savers. The Quick Connect is excellent when you're pouring three or four different kinds of curb in one day."

says John. "It saves you a lot of time."

The Quick Connect allows the operator to line up the coupler with the mold and the mold is put into place hydraulically. The change takes less than five minutes, as opposed to changing the mold by hand, which can take up to an hour for larger molds.



John D'Amico, right, and son, John Jr., in business together



John D'Amico: "Realistically, the machine is the only way we can meet deadlines"

Worth Noting

■ The book, "101 Power Strategies – Tools to Promote Yourself as the Contractor of Choice" by Austin, TX, construction consultant Paul Montelongo, Pine Hill Press, is a collection of ideas. A couple: Memorize a 30-second description of what you do and why you're the best contractor for the job. Nominate your own company's projects for awards. (866-494-1911)

■ The U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has recommended a one-time increase of 5.5 cents per gallon in a federal motor fuels excise user fee to boost highway and bridge construction and safety. The Federal Highway Administration says that the average vehicle in the

U.S. consumes 592 gallons of motor fuel a year. The user fee would cost an additional 9 cents per day, or \$32.56 a year. That's "Nine Cents A Day Is All You'll Pay to Save Lives and Improve Our Highways." (Source: Dr. William Buechner, Vice President Economics and Research, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, *TransportationBuilder* magazine, www.artba.org)

■ "U.S. construction jobs can't be exported. If construction jobs move overseas, it's simply because what has to be built is located overseas. Construction is always a matter of geography; a job always has a site. You can't move dirt with a laptop." (Source: Marcia Gruver, Editor, *Equipment World* magazine, March, 2004, issue.)

Concrete Paving

Curb, Gutter, Barrier



Pavement



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POWER CURBER PROFILES

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Power Curbers, Inc.

SUPER!

'You can tell that somebody that ran a curb machine had a part in this new design.'

- Bryan Lusk,
Wilson Brothers

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