

# POWER CURBER PROFILES

News and information to make you more competitive



Machine operator Chuck Witfield, shown here pouring a foundation for a second chicken house at a farm in Lavonia, GA, says that foundation work is harder than curb work. The wall has to be exactly right, he says — straight and flat across the top for the framing

## Chasing the Chicken Business

### Georgia **SUPER-B** on the Road 70% of Time

The 5700-**SUPER-B**'s maneuverability is key for an agricultural building contractor in Georgia who keeps his machine on the road 70% of the time.

Mark Thomas and Chuck Witfield are sub-contractors, running the concrete crew of 5 men for Hart's Farm & Builders Supply of Royston, GA. The company builds poultry houses in Georgia and South Carolina.

They need to load and unload the machine quickly. The **SUPER-B** can be loaded in less than 30 minutes, and it transports at legal highway width.

On the job at poultry farms, the sound of the **SUPER-B**'s diesel engine competes with the cackling of chickens in adjoining houses in this exploding agri-business. Hart's Farm builds row after row of poultry houses on these large farms. The foundation crew is followed by a framing crew, and then a finishing crew.

The **SUPER-B** slipforms the foundations for 450-foot and 500-foot houses (137 to 152m) for either broilers (for cooking) or breeders. Houses for the latter, for hatching eggs, are sometimes referred to as egg houses or "layer" houses. Each breeder house holds more than 11,000 chickens; broiler houses hold up to 25,000 chickens.

Grading for the houses is complete when the foundation crew arrives. The 24-inch tall wall (61cm) is poured in a trench and then backfilled for support. The machine runs 8 inches (20cm) below grade. The wall is 4 1/2 inches wide (12cm) at the



Mark Thomas, left, who has run competitive slipform machines, likes the hydraulics on the **SUPER-B**. Mark and Chuck Witfield, right, run the concrete foundation crew for Hart's Farm

top and 13 inches wide (33cm) at the base. It is flared 4 inches (10cm) at the base to create a footing for stability. Six-inch (15cm) anchor bolts are driven through slots in the formed wall 8 feet (2.4m) apart while the foundation is being poured.

Once the foundation walls are complete, Mark and Chuck and their crew are off to another job site.

"The trimmer is key to what we do because we are below grade so much and soil conditions vary," says Chuck. "We

would slow down big time if the trimmer was not working well." Much of the digging is in tough, Georgia red clay.

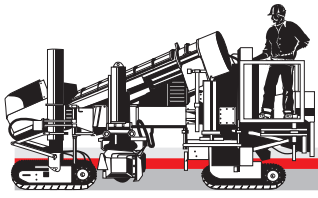
Mark, who owned 2 competitive machines before the Power Curber and has 12 years of experience around curb machines, says that he likes the 5700-**SUPER-B** better because of its hydraulic power. It's also easier to set up, he says.

"The biggest thing is service," Mark adds. "We can call Phil and he will come. He's Johnny-on-the-spot." He is referring to Phil Myers, Power Curbers' service technician for Georgia, Alabama and east Tennessee.

The company previously did curb-and-gutter and sidewalk work, before specializing in foundation work.

The foundation work is harder than curb work, Chuck says. "You want the wall to be straight, and it has to be flat across the top for the framing," he says. "It has to be exactly right." Slump is critical. Every ready-mix company's mix acts differently, and that is a factor in this type of work where the crew works with many different ready-mix companies.

Mark says agri-business slipform foundation work is expanding rapidly in the Southeast, especially in the states of Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, North Carolina and Alabama. **PC**



Photos by Shane Dunstan, Power Curbers' dealer in Australia

Crew knocks posts into the concrete-filled bore holes, after **SUPER-B** slipforms the strip. Highway safety cable will then be installed on posts. The strip prevents grass from growing under the safety cables and make road mowing easier

# Keeping Grass Down in the Down Under

## **SUPER-B** Cuts Out Expensive Hand Work on Concrete Strips



*The slipform application prevents grass from growing close to the highway safety dividers, as seen in this photo, and reduces maintenance costs*

Power Curber 5700-**SUPER-B** owners love slipforming concrete strips that are becoming popular on new road work in Australia.

The concrete strip measures approximately 19 to 24 inches wide and is 4 inches deep, depending on job specs (500 to 600 mm wide by 100 mm deep).

The concrete strip prevents grass from growing under the highway safety cables that are to be installed between the lanes. The strip allows grass-mowing crews to run their machines next to the edge of the concrete, reducing the cost of mowing. It also reduces the saturation of the soil around posts during rain.

This slipform work is fast, easy and a good money-maker, according to Shane Dunstan of Aran International in Queensland, Power Curbers' dealer in Australia.

Slipforming the work increases production enormously – from 328 feet to 4,920 feet per day on a recent job (100m to 1,500m).

In these photos made on a job site in Melbourne, Daniel Ingold and South East Concrete of Tweed Heads slipformed about 2.5 miles (4 km) of the concrete strip, with another 155 miles (250 km) to be slipformed this year.

Typically, the paving crew sets up the stringline, and the 5700-**SUPER-B** trims the grade – sometimes plowing through grass. A small machine follows the **SUPER-B** and bores the holes for the posts to be inserted. The **SUPER-B** then returns to the beginning of the run and slipforms the strip. The crew then knocks the posts into the concrete-filled bore holes. Finishers then insert a reinforced bar, rolled into a spiral, into the holes. The concrete strip is then trowel finished and broomed.

Shane Dunstan, Power Curber dealer in Australia, can be reached at 61.7.3206.3782 or shane@aran.com.au



The work is fast, easy and a good money-maker

## Daily Machine Maintenance Saves Thousands

*Excerpts re-printed with permission from Equipment Today magazine.*

Keeping slipform machines running and maintenance costs down comes down to two key points, Craig Neuhardt, vice president of manufacturing for Power Curbers, says in a recent article on maintenance in *Equipment Today* magazine.

“Plenty of oil and grease and a lot of clean water,” Craig says, “and you can save yourself literally thousands and thousands of dollars spent on metal parts.”

The article, “Cure Concrete Paver Downtime,” was published in the February issue.

“The cost of the parts, the cost of the oil, the cost of the time to wash the machine up are very minimal compared to what happens if it breaks down while the machine is operating,” Craig says in the article.

He recommends:

- Clean away concrete build-up after each pour. “Because concrete is such an abrasive material, when you don’t clean it very well, it can have a dramatic effect on anything that moves,” Craig is quoted as saying. Mechanical devices – chains, belts, auger flightings, bearings – are exposed to so much concrete that they are a very routine maintenance item, he says. After washing, lubricate

the machine, greasing all bearings and checking other areas. “It forces the water out of the bearings and makes sure everything is lubricated,” he says. “Then when they start the day, they don’t have to worry about doing it. It ties all of that service into a one-shot deal.”

- Perform a walk-around inspection of the machine before use to check for lubrication and fluid levels. “If everybody just checked the fluids on a daily basis, life would be a whole lot better,” Craig is quoted as saying.

- Check the trimmer regularly for signs of wear or damage. “The trimmer is always exposed to the dirt,” Craig says. “... nearly half of the engine horsepower can go through the trimmer at some point. It’s working very hard if it’s in a very harsh environment. You have cutting teeth, bearings, a drive mechanism – all those pieces have continual wear on them.”

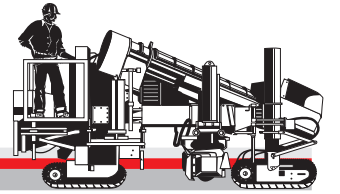
Other suggestions:

- Clean the radiator for proper air flow and to prevent excessive heat buildup.
- Check for loose, frayed or cut wires or cords and loose fasteners or bolts.
- Inspect hoses for damage or leaks.
- Make sure all safety guards are in place.



### Australian Service School

Thirty contractors and Power Curber owners and operators attended service school at Conrad Jupiter’s Hotel on the Gold Coast in Australia May 9-11. The school, the first held in Australia by Power Curbers, was coordinated by Shane Dunstan of Aran International, Queensland, Power Curbers’ dealer in Australia. Lee Myers, service technician, and Randy Chandler, sales representative, presented the school, which covered concrete mix, electrical basics and troubleshooting, machine set-up, maintenance and applications.



# Slotted Drain

*In this ditch application of a slotted drain the compressor, used to inflate plastic tubing, is left running overnight while the concrete sets. The next day, it is deflated and removed, leaving the drain. Plastic tubing is also used in curb and gutter application below*

## Now You See It: Now You Don't

### Curb and Gutter Application



Photos by Shane Dunstan, Power Curbers' dealer in Australia



### The Result

**S**lipforming a slotted drain application is impressive during the pour, but as you can see from the photos, the end result looks very much like any other curb-and-gutter work. The majority of the application is buried.

This project was done at a small industrial estate in the northern suburbs of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The estate is in a low lying area near wetlands.

With a standard curb and storm water drainage system, the road could have quickly become flooded during heavy rains.

Slotted drain increases the capacity to remove the water from the road and to provide surge capacity if the storm water drainage system flow rates slow because of rising levels in the wetlands, where the water flow is discharged.

This profile includes the over-hung lip with integral curb head to prevent bicycle tires from getting trapped in the slot. Bicycles frequently travel along this roadway.

In the first photo, you see both the curb that will be exposed (to the right), and the portion of the application to the left with the drainage inside that will be covered. You do not see the slot on the exposed curb side.

The second photo shows the side that will be left exposed with the slot just under the curb.

In the third photo, a member of the crew of Nationwide Wide Slipforming Pty Ltd. in Bradbury, the contractor, finishes the curb-side. Note that the application is below grade.

In the final photo, the drainage side of the application has been

backfilled, leaving the curb and gutter exposed. Water will drain into the slot and move to the discharge area

through the underground pipe formed in the concrete by the plastic tube.

The machine slipforms the concrete over the plastic tube, and the next day the tube is deflated and pulled out of the profile.

Power Curbers' dealer in Australia, Aran International Pty. Ltd. of Queensland introduced the idea of a slotted drain to Australian design engineers six years ago.

## Let's Talk Machine Features

### Direct-Drive Auger Cuts Maintenance



Paul Worth

All the changes in the 5700-SUPER-B are for the better, says long-time Power Curber machine operator Paul Worth.

"I like not having a chain on the auger," Paul says, referring to the direct-drive conveyor on the SUPER-B. The advanced hydrostatic direct-drive conveyor with high torque reduces maintenance.

"The machine doesn't stall, and it's so much more powerful," says Paul. "We can work faster. We pour at least 500 to 600 feet a day more. It's a lot more productive."

The SUPER-B has 50% more horsepower, increasing trimming and pouring capabilities.

Paul's family owns Worth Construction in Fruitland, MD.

### Speed, Accessibility Are Key Factors



Rex Mueller

Rex Mueller, owner of Dust Devil Contracting of Meza, AZ, has owned a 5700-B for four years and also has had a competitive curb machine.

"I've been around all of them," says Rex. "I like the functions, the speed, and the accessibility of the 5700-B."

He particularly likes "the vision off the machine," he says. "You can see the product and the chute man."

He also calls the Quick Connect Mold Mount on his machine "a money-saver." The Quick Connect option allows the operator to change molds on a machine in a matter of minutes.

### Canadian Contractor Doubles Production



Frank Perez

A Montreal contractor more than doubled his curb production with his first Power Curber, which he purchased used four years ago. He had been using a competitive machine.

Frank Perez of Bordure et Trottoir says that after a month of working with the used Power Curber, he decided to order a new machine also. He has been running both machines and is looking forward to purchasing a SUPER-B.

"I'm very satisfied with the machine," says Frank. "We have broken our one-day record pouring stand-up curb this year."

### 'The Auger Is Way Better Than the Belt'

The competitive curb machine that Glen Cassidy Wages has operated is not as operator friendly as the Power Curber he now runs, he says.

Glen works for Southwest Concrete Construction of Artesia, NM.

"The Power Curber will do more production," he says, "and the auger is way better than the belt. The auger holds the pressure on the mold and makes a better curb."

He also likes the hydraulic offset. With the competitive machine, Glen says, he had to "put something down to go over a manhole. With the Power Curber, you just suck it in and go around."



Glen Cassidy

# SLIPFORM PARTNERS

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## SUPER-B: More Power, More Trimming Ability on Job

After operating two other Power Curber machines for the past 8 years, Bill Crabtree of Crabtree Contracting in Belton, MO, upgraded to a new machine this year. He is finding that the new machine adjusts better to rough grade.



"With my first two machines, if I didn't have a real smooth grade, it would reflect back into the curb," says Bill. "Every bump I went over, it was reflected back into the curb. The new one compensates the grade better."

"The grade doesn't have to be as close with this machine. The dirt guys that I work with, I tell them to leave (the grade) plenty high. The machine will come on through it. The dirt guys can do their job faster and have me ready to pour curb faster."

"A lot of the other curb contractors have to have (the grade) within .10'," he says, while he works with the grade at .25' (1/4 foot).

"I'm trimming at 3 inches," he says. "If I trimmed that high grade with the other machine, I would have to turn something off ... (such as) the conveyor ..."

Thicker grade with the old machine would pull the machine down. It would almost shut the machine off. The new machine ... everything keeps running, and I'm getting a better looking product.

"I can trim through a couple of inches of shale rock and pour a nice curb." Bill likes the additional pressure on the conveyor system on his new machine.

Bill has poured 15,000 feet of curb-and-gutter with the SUPER-B in the last 3 months. "I've had some real good days," he says. "I've poured 600 to 700 feet an hour, and I'm still waiting on trucks. The travel speed on this machine is a little faster, and it will trim more."

In addition to a 50% increase in horsepower, the 5700-SUPER-B's conveyor auger has increased speed and more torque.

All in all, the new machine has meant less finish work for the crew and a faster pour.

In addition to the curb-and-gutter, Bill recently trimmed and poured 5-foot sidewalk, getting 1,500 feet on the ground in 4 or 5 hours.

He also likes the travel controls on the SUPER-B. "I can finesse (the speed) a lot better," he says. "The joystick (on the older machine) was a little harder to position, whereas I can move that dial (on the SUPER-B) a little bit to increase or decrease speed."

"The machine is altogether quicker," he says.

## TC-2700 by Power Pavers



**The texture cure machine is doing a great job. There's no drift in the product. It's nice and straight and will be a good ride. The city is delighted with the work and so am I.**

— Nick Kempf, Metro Pavers, Iowa City, IA

The TC-2700, a texture cure machine, is one of many paving products manufactured at our Iowa facility. Power Pavers, Inc. The TC-2700 adds texture and cures concrete pavements up to 27 feet wide (8.23m) with optional extensions to 32 feet (9.75m).

Power Pavers, Inc. also manufactures slipform machines, the SF-2700 and the SF-3000, for paving up to 32 feet (9.75m) wide; placer spreaders, the PS-2700 and the PS-3000, for placing and spreading concrete in front of slipform paving machines up to 32 feet (9.75m) wide.

More information on these products is available on our website, [www.powerpavers.com](http://www.powerpavers.com), or by contacting Dan Napierala, National Accounts Manager, at 319-230-1384.

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# POWER CURBER PROFILES

Summer 2005

Power Curbers, Inc.



6-foot (1.9m) sidewalk: 'It would have been a lot more expensive by hand,' says contractor



Machine skiving off existing curb

## Sidewalks in Ireland: SUPER-B Eases Work

we want."

General contractor H Boylan & Sons Ltd. of County Monaghan, Ireland, purchased a Power Curber 5700-SUPER-B this year to speed up sidewalk and curb work in its housing developments.

"It would take a couple of months (to do sidewalk in a current project) by hand," said Anthony Boylan. "The machine will do it in a week and a half. It would be a lot more expensive by hand. Now, we have the machine and we use it when

Bryan Hebble-Thwaite of PC Slip Form

Pavers/Concrete Equipment Ltd., of Arnsdale, UK,

is Power Curbers' dealer in the UK. He can be

reached at 44-1524-762-762.

Photos by Wayne Hrbý, Power Curbers' Service Technician