

Krone Swadro TC1250 rake:

Keeping it simple

Big kit tends to have a good dose of electronics, as these machines are likely to be owned by intensive users. Yet some grass kit makers are now stripping off automated features to come up with more affordable, high-output propositions. Meet the Swadro TC1250

High output, yet deliberately simple, the Swadro TC1250 uses its four rotors to clear 9.80m to 12.50m into a single row to feed a hungry forager, wagon or even a big baler; for the latter think straw rather than grass. Previous Krone rakes have had a much higher level of specification and a price tag to match, so the firm's TC1250, listing at £59,630 compared to the slightly wider but much higher tech TC1370 (£79,595) is an interesting addition.

No electronics

There is a critical difference between no electronics and no electrics. The TC1250 rake



New trapezoidal central beam is designed to prevent vibrations and improve the stress load distribution on the machine.

is not completely devoid of wiring, as it has a simple flick switch controller to minimise the hydraulic demands to one single- and one double-acting spool for the recommended 80hp+ tractor. The only other requirements are a three-pin power socket and connectors for the lights and brakes.

The specification has been pared to such an extent that individual rotor lift for the front end is a £1,490 option, allowing operators to tackle angled headlands – the rear rotors always lift as a pair. A twistable shift gate ensures that the rotor lift/lower is synchronised when coming out and going back in to work.

Adjustable hydraulic suspension is used on the front rotors, while pre-set coil springs take the load at the rear. The drop rate of all four lift rams can be adjusted. Raking height is set by a crank on each rotor, with a durable scale making this a simple task.

KEY POINTS

- ▶ The TC1250 has a flick switch control box – no fancy ISObus controller here.
- ▶ Trapezoidal frame provides the necessary stability and minimises crop debris build-up.
- ▶ TC stands for Trailed Center, with the new panel work helping to identify these latest rakes.

Simple and 'affordable'. Can Krone tempt you with its new entry-level four-rotor rake?



DATA SHEET

Krone Swadro TC1250

Linkage category	Cat II
Working width	9.80 to 12.50m
Swath width	1.40 to 2.20m
Transport width	2.99m
Transport height	< 4.00m
Length	8.90m
Weight	4,900kg
Rotor diameter front/back	3.30/2.96m
Tine arms front/rear	11/13
Hydraulic connections	One single-, one double-acting
Chassis	500/50-17
Power requirement	59kW/80hp
List price without VAT	£59,630
Manufacturer information	

BIG BROTHER: SWADRO TC1370

The TC1370 is the successor to the Swadro 1400 Plus. The new model has a working width of 10.80m to 13.70m and comes well equipped. The rotors, their suspension and equipment are – as with the TC1250 – familiar and proven. The specification level is a lot more extensive and includes single-rotor lift,

load-sensing, ISObus, clutch protection for each rotor... And if you want more, then the options list extends to a ball hitch, articulated drawbar (for smoother towing and more flexibility to marry up with different sizes of tractor) and a choice of terminals and joysticks such as the CCI A3.



Aimed at the intensive user is the TC1370, which is Krone's high-spec four-rotor rake.



A scale indicates the working width. To keep things simple, rake height is individually set using the pictured crank.

Each of the pto-powered rotors has its own friction slip clutch to protect against overloading. A patented 'crash box' allows the working width of the front rotors to be squeezed from 12.50m down to 9.80m. The front rotors also rotate 25% faster so the forage is thrown out wide for the rear rotors to create a neater row rather than tangling the grass into a rope. A central curtain is a £470 option.

Proven rotors

Krone has made it easier to adjust the angle of the rotors compared to on its previous machines. In keeping with its simplified spec, the TC1250 is only sold with four-wheeled bogies with pivoting wheels. The trailed, gimbal-mounted gyroscopic suspension set-up allows the rake to adapt to the ground, both in and across the direction of travel. It also provides the 'jet effect' on the headland, enabling the rear of the rotor to touch down first and then the front so the tines don't clip the ground.

Liquid grease is used to keep the sealed rotors lubricated. These feature Krone's DuraMax cam track, although it can't be adjusted on the TC1250. The arms have a pre-machined bending zone that's intended



A patented driveline sees power come from the middle of the chassis to the pictured gearbox and then out to the front rotor, allowing the rake's working width to be adjusted.

to prevent major damage if the rake snags a foreign object or telegraph pole, and they are easy to swap out when they get damaged. Each arm carries four of the manufacturer's 'Lift' double tines.

What's it like to use?

Above all, the new rake is quite manoeuvrable due to its comparatively short length of 8.90m and the position of the chassis. The trapezoidal main beam stiffens the machine, while visibility is great and unobstructed by a frame or an arm. As you would expect, the rotors do their job effectively.

If you are making the jump from a twin- to a four-rotor rake, then the price tag of the Swadro TC1250 will make it appealing. But if you need a bigger working width and want to stick with Krone, you'll have to look at the more sophisticated, pricier TC1370.

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