SOFTWARE & TECH

Bobcat Clark 310

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795583262355443

Introduction to the Bobcat Clark 310

The compact equipment world is filled with legendary machines, and few names carry as much weight as Bobcat and Clark. When these two industrial powerhouses come together in a model like the **Bobcat Clark 310** , operators and fleet managers take notice. Often misidentified as a standalone model from a single manufacturer, the **Bobcat Clark 310** actually represents a specific variant of the Bobcat 310 series skid-steer loader that incorporates Clark-manufactured drivetrain components or axles. This article dives deep into everything you need to know about this robust machine—from its history and specifications to maintenance tips and real-world applications. Whether you are considering a purchase, searching for **Bobcat Clark 310**parts, or simply want to understand why this unit remains a staple on job sites, you are in the right place.

The compact utility loader segment has evolved dramatically over the decades, but the **Bobcat Clark 310** continues to earn respect for its durability, simplicity, and ease of service. Built at a time when Bobcat was refining its skid-steer design philosophy, the Clark collaboration added a layer of robust axle technology that helped the machine handle rough terrain and heavy loads. In the following sections, we will explore the machine's origins, its technical highlights, and why it remains relevant even in today's modern equipment lineup.

History and Development of the Bobcat Clark 310

Bobcat, a brand under Doosan Bobcat, originally launched the 310 model as a compact skid-steer loader in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It was designed to fill a niche between the smallest Bobcat (like the 300 series) and the larger 600 series machines. The **Bobcat Clark 310**designation emerged because some production runs used axles and final drives sourced from Clark Equipment Company, a longtime supplier of heavy-duty powertrains. Clark's involvement meant the 310 gained a reputation for exceptional traction and torque delivery, especially in muddy or snowy conditions.

The partnership between Bobcat and Clark was not exclusive to this model, but the **Bobcat Clark 310** became one of the most recognizable collaborations. The machine featured a rear-engine design typical of early Bobcats, with the engine sitting behind the operator for better balance. It was initially powered by a gasoline engine, later offering diesel options. The **Bobcat Clark 310**quickly found favor among landscapers, farmers, and small contractors who needed a nimble loader that could squeeze into tight spaces without sacrificing lifting capacity.

Why the Clark Name Matters

Clark Material Handling Company is famous for its forklifts and axles, but its drivetrain components were widely used in off-road equipment. For the **Bobcat Clark 310**, the Clark axles provided superior durability compared to some other units of the same era. Operators reported fewer failures in the final drive, allowing the machine to work longer between overhauls. This reliability is why many used **Bobcat Clark 310**units still command premium prices on the resale market, even decades after production ended.

Key Features and Specifications

The **Bobcat Clark 310**is not the largest or most powerful skid-steer, but it excels in maneuverability and simplicity. Below is a list of its most notable features and general specifications. Note that exact numbers can vary slightly depending on the year and engine option.

- Engine Power: Typically 25–30 horsepower, air-cooled gasoline or diesel (e.g., Wisconsin VH4D gas, or Kubota diesel in later versions).
- Operating Capacity: Rated at approximately 800–1,000 lbs (rated operating capacity at 50% of tipping load).
- Operating Weight: Around 2,800–3,200 lbs, making it easy to trailer behind a half-ton pickup.
- Lift Height: Roughly 85–90 inches at full lift, sufficient for loading small dump trucks or hoppers.
- Drive System: Hydrostatic drive with Clark planetary axles offering limited-slip differential action.
- Bucket Width: Standard bucket width of 48–60 inches; quick-attach system for swapping attachments.
- Fuel Tank: 6–8 gallon capacity, allowing several hours of continuous work on a single fill.

One of the most important aspects of the **Bobcat Clark 310**is its short wheelbase and tight turning radius. With a width of only about 48 inches, it can navigate through narrow gate openings and around obstacles that larger machines cannot handle. This makes it ideal for residential landscaping, barn cleaning, and small demolition projects.

Applications and Use Cases

The **Bobcat Clark 310**was built for versatility, and its range of attachments makes it a true multitool. Common applications include:

Construction and Site Preparation

On small construction sites, the **Bobcat Clark 310**excels at grading, backfilling, and moving piles of sand or gravel. Its compact size allows it to work behind buildings or in basements where excavators cannot fit. With a hydraulic breaker attachment, it can handle light demolition tasks such as breaking up concrete slabs or asphalt patches. The Clark axles provide the necessary torque to push through dense soil and rock without stalling the engine.

Agricultural and Farming Operations

Farmers appreciate the **Bobcat Clark 310**for cleaning livestock pens, moving feed, and clearing snow from feed lanes. Its low ground pressure means it can operate on softer surfaces without sinking, as long as soil moisture is moderate. The ability to quickly switch from a bucket to a manure fork or a grapple makes it a year-round workhorse on many small and medium-sized farms.

Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance

Landscapers rely on the **Bobcat Clark 310** for grading lawns, spreading mulch, and installing sod. The machine’s precise hydrostatic controls allow an operator to feather the throttle for delicate work near paved surfaces. With a broom attachment, it can sweep driveways and parking lots. Because the **Bobcat Clark 310**is easy to transport on a small trailer, it is a favorite for mobile landscaping crews.

Maintenance Tips for the Bobcat Clark 310

Proper maintenance is crucial to extend the lifespan of any skid-steer loader, and the **Bobcat Clark 310**is no exception. Because these units are older, parts availability and mechanical condition vary. Here are some essential maintenance practices:

1. Regular Oil Changes: Change engine oil every 100 hours or annually, whichever comes first. Use the

recommended viscosity for your climate (typically 10W-30 or 15W-40 for diesel versions).

2. Hydrostatic Fluid and Filter: The hydrostatic system is the heart of the Bobcat Clark 310. Check fluid level daily and replace the filter every 500 hours. Use only the specified biodegradable hydraulic oil or equivalent.

3. Clark Axle Inspection: Since the Clark drivetrain is a defining feature, regularly check axle seals and gear oil levels. The manual recommends SAE 80W-90 gear oil for the planetary hubs. Look for leaks near the wheel seals and repair promptly to avoid contamination.

4. Chain Case Maintenance: The chain case that transfers power to the axles should be inspected every 200 hours. Adjust chain tension as needed to prevent premature wear of sprockets and bushings.

5. Battery and Electrical: Older Bobcat Clark 310 models may have simple wiring systems. Clean battery terminals and check for corrosion on connectors. Replace worn starter motors and alternators immediately to avoid downtime.

6. Lubrication Points: Grease all pivot points on the lift arms, bucket linkage, and steering controls daily. This keeps the machine operating smoothly and prevents excessive play.

Many owners find that sourcing genuine Clark replacement parts is becoming more challenging, but aftermarket suppliers like Loader Parts Source offer compatible components. Always verify part numbers using your machine's serial number plate, which is typically located on the frame near the operator seat.

Common Issues with the Bobcat Clark 310 and How to Solve Them

Over decades of use, certain problems have become common for the **Bobcat Clark 310**. Knowing them ahead of time can save you frustration:

- Hydrostatic Drive Slipping: Often caused by low fluid level, contaminated oil, or worn drive pump. Start by checking the fluid and filter. If the problem persists, you may need to rebuild or replace the hydrostatic pump.
- Axle Seal Leaks: The Clark axles can develop leaks at the wheel hub seals. Replacing the seals is straightforward but requires pulling the wheels and hub assembly. Use genuine Clark or high-quality aftermarket seals.
- Engine Overheating: Air-cooled engines like the Wisconsin VH4D rely on clean cooling fins. Blow out debris with compressed air. If overheating continues, check the timing and carburetor adjustment.
- Battery Drain: Old wiring insulation can crack and short. Inspect all harnesses for bare wires and replace any damaged sections.

Comparing the Bobcat Clark 310 with Modern Compact Loaders

While modern skid-steer loaders offer cab comfort, electronic controls, and higher horsepower, the **Bobcat Clark 310**holds its own in several areas. Let's compare it with, for example, a new Bobcat S450 or a Kubota SSV65.

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