Glenn O. Hawbaker Added PowerTilts to their Backhoe Fleet to Reduce Manual Labor, Lower Costs and Increase Operator Safety

“With PowerTilt, we were able to keep just one machine on the job site and tilt the attachment instead of repeatedly moving specialty machines between job sites. If it were up to me, I’d put PowerTilt on all of our backhoes.”

— Paul Peters II, Backhoe Operator, Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.

Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. brings 55 years of experience to the highway, commercial and residential fields throughout central Pennsylvania. They continue to grow their business by expanding their reputation for safety, quality, service and reliability. That’s one of the reasons they purchased their first PowerTilt five years ago and another one in 2006 – with their eye on purchasing PowerTilts for their entire backhoe loader fleet. PowerTilt has changed the way they’ve approached their grading and excavating business while at the same time positively impacting their bottom line and overall customer satisfaction.
Life Before PowerTilt

Prior to using PowerTilt, Glenn O. Hawbaker faced two challenges on the job site. They were using large and expensive Gradall specialty machines to grade and slope, and spent extra man-hours to swap these machines in and out of job sites. The large rubber tires on the specialty machines often caused the Gradalls to slide or operators to spin around when a rock was hooked, making for an unstable work environment.

With PowerTilt, Hawbaker could keep just one machine on the job site without the expense or logistics involved in scheduling the Gradall excavators between the different job sites.

The Hawbaker crew was also having difficulty with the outriggers on their specialty excavator and backhoe fleet – they had to take their hands off of the controls to tilt the outriggers and move the machine at different angles around the job site. When the outriggers were tilted at an awkward angle, the operators felt uncomfortable and unsafe. When they added the PowerTilts to their existing CASE backhoes, they kept just one machine on the job site to tilt their bucket or attachment instead of moving the entire machine to get the right angle. “Now with PowerTilt, we’re doing everything on the fly – we tilt and grade at the same time,” stated Peters.

Multiple Benefits from a Single Attachment

By switching to PowerTilt, Glenn O. Hawbaker and its customers received a wide range of expected and unexpected benefits. “We saved on labor, got tasks done faster and safer, and increased the appearance of the end product. What’s more, we had the unexpected benefit of people asking us what tool were we using, and how we were getting more work done with less hand work,” stated Peters.

1. **Labor savings:** Before PowerTilt, they did a lot of hand work – touching up the soil and raking the stone off. Now they just grade with PowerTilt and they’re done.

“An unexpected benefit of PowerTilt was people asking what tool we were using, and how we were getting more work done with less hand work.”

— Paul Peters II, Backhoe Operator, Glenn O. Hawbaker
I use PowerTilt with a variety of attachments – ripper shanks, compactors and hammers. I hate to take PowerTilt off the machine – it keeps me on the job all the time.”

— Paul Peters II,
Backhoe Operator,
Glenn O. Hawbaker

2. **Cost savings:** The Hawbaker crew used to swap in their specialty Gradall machines and repeatedly reposition them on the job site. Now they use fewer machines on the job site and simply tilt the bucket or attachment instead of moving the entire machine, resulting in tasks getting done faster and more efficiently.

3. **Increase in safety:** The specialty excavator machines and backhoes were always unstable with their outriggers on varied slopes. PowerTilt remains on a single machine and they simply tilt the bucket or attachment up to a total of 180 degrees side-to-side swing rotation instead of repositioning the machine.

4. **Increase in appearance:** Before PowerTilt, the work site was uneven and needed manual labor to even out the highest spots. With PowerTilt, they don’t have to prep or rework the site when it’s time to landscape.

**Diversity of Tasks Performed with PowerTilt**

Glenn O. Hawbaker uses their two PowerTilts on their entire fleet of backhoes to perform a wide range of tasks throughout the construction process, ranging from site preparation, earth excavation, sub-grade placement and grading, utility installation, site concrete, site cleanup and landscaping. Ninety-five (95) percent of the time they use a grading bucket with PowerTilt, whereas five (5) percent of the time they use other attachments. Peters stated, “I hate to take PowerTilt off the machine. I can perform a broad range of tasks with PowerTilt, and it keeps me on the job all the time.”

The most common applications for PowerTilt include:

1. **Top soil work:** They dress up topsoil behind curbs and sidewalks more smoothly than when they were using manual labor.

2. **Grading:** They can easily create a 2 percent grade for sidewalks according to the APA specs.
3. Pond work: Whether they are building settlement or storm retention ponds, they can easily smooth all the surfaces to make them more attractive.

A Versatile Tool for Multiple Attachments

Glenn O. Hawbaker uses PowerTilt with a variety of attachments in addition to their commonly used 5’ grading buckets to improve their machine’s versatility. They first learned about PowerTilt when they saw a local municipality using a 1’ bucket to dig around pipes. Since then, the Hawbaker crew has used PowerTilt for a variety of specialty applications.

They have used PowerTilt with ripper shanks to rip frozen soil in the winter, or to rip rocks and stumps in tough-to-get corners or ditches. Compactors work equally well with PowerTilt when soil needs to be compressed around utilities or on slopes. PowerTilt has even worked well with hydraulic hammers when they needed to dig footers where there’s lots of lime stone in the foundation corners.

Inside Helac’s Rotary Actuator Technology

PowerTilt uses Helac Corporation’s innovative sliding-spline operating technology to convert linear piston motion into powerful shaft rotation. Each actuator is composed of a housing and two moving parts — the central shaft and piston. As hydraulic pressure is applied, the piston is displaced axially, while the helical gearing on the piston OD and housing’s ring gear cause the simultaneous rotation of the piston. At the same time, gearing on the piston ID and shaft cause the shaft to rotate and tilt the bucket.