

EXCLUSIVE
Tractors
for 2017

WHM's 924K is a serious mid-utility tractor where power moves up to 70kW (92hp) and is also sold with a fully air-conditioned cab or with ROPS and a front-end loader package. The 924K drives through a 24 speed synchro transmission.

WHM has all AU

WHM K Series rekindles Aussie spirit

The evolution of the all Australian designed WHM tractor has become somewhat a modern day replay of the trials and tributes that went into the early development of what was the basis of modern day tractors.

Such as when the great pioneers Harry Ferguson and Henry Ford looked to forge a long term partnership in 1938, but instead simply ended up butted heads over how a simple and cheap tractor should be built.

This time around an Australian company is at the forefront of getting the right mix of affordability, into a strong build, a model that is simple to operate and most importantly, satisfies current jobbing requirements.

But how to achieve this sees the same set of circumstances that drove a wedge between two of the greatest tractor builders of all time, Ferguson and Ford. That was to get the right level of technology to keep the price point in check.

The majors have left the door open for just this type of tractor, as while some of their builds are from third world

countries, are highly reliable due to the intense protocol they place on their third party makers.

However the lower price point just never seems to make it to the showroom floor.

This is why WHM Tractors through Engineering Director Gary Lynch has had to adopt caution mixed with an iron fist approach to achieve his ultimate goal of a well-made budget priced range.

WHM could have their keen price point tractor made in any of the world's known bargain build hot spots.

In the finish it settled on terrain where a burgeoning tractor maker market will eventually become the worlds biggest and most recognised, China.

But putting this into context, the difference between a down-the-line Chinese tractor build and WHM has no resemblance. WHM is built in China but it is not a traditional Chinese tractor design.

WHM Tractors have been fine tuned over the past eight years to a point where the just released K Series are about to seize the budget tractor crown.

All involved with their development, including the highly tooled Chinese maker that produces 80,000 tractors a year, now sees WHM's K Series models as a world benchmark build for a budget priced tractor.

The heavy-duty K Series tractors include the 674K with a heavy chassis designed for front-end loader work, with power delivered from a 4.2-litre 4-cylinder diesel engine that generates 50kW (67hp).

The 674K offers as standard 12F/12R synchromesh gears and a shuttle transmission for changes on the run.

Available with a fully air-conditioned cab, or in ROPS form, the 674K also offer a purpose built front-end loader capable of lifting 700kg.

The combined weight of the WHM 674K with a FEL is 3.75 tonnes, and that is up to a tonne heavier than many other models in its class.

For hardier applications there is the 924K, where power moves up to 70kW (92hp) and is also sold with a fully air-conditioned cab or with ROPS and a front-end loader package.

The 974K drives through a 24 speed synchro transmission.

All models incorporate power steering and are 4WD.

The greatest advancement of the K Series resulted when the biggest tractor company in China, Lovol, approached WHM with the intention of becoming their leading manufacturer.

This approach was a result of the very good sales results and reputation that WHM has built in the local Australian market. Something Lovol itself has long desired.

But this was not to be a quick changeover. WHM worked intensively with Lovol for over a year to build prototypes and then test them, build more and tested them again, and again.

Much of the extensive rebuilding was due to WHM's philosophy of adhering to a heavy over-engineered specification that guaranteed the end product would stand up to the hard wear Australian farmers expected from a tractor.

WHM knew Lovol had the engineering ability and access to well made components, but WHM also knew that up until now not all those components

WHM K Series tractors offer a fully airconditioned cab with easy access, a flat platform and advanced comfort for a tractor at a budget priced level

Australian design

had ever been engineered together in a Chinese build.

WHM insisted their models would have to withstand working temperatures up to 50 Celsius (122F) so very large radiators and air baffles would also need to be fitted.

To make sure all models could handle a front-end loader with no risk of failure, a relatively massive front axles not common for a tractor in this class, was incorporated into the build.

K Series tractors are the very impressive result of the WHM and Lovol collaboration.

All decks are flat to gain some addition legroom, while the controls are within easy reach beside the seat.

And to prove a point, at a recent field day none other than champion wood chopper David Foster hopped into a K Series cab and looked very comfortable, even appearing to have a little room left over for a lunch box or two.

David's dimensions are worth mentioning, he stands at 197 cm (6'4") tall and weighs in at 158.75 kg (25 stone).

K Series 924K tractors are offered with big and wide 12-ply tyres, and 10-ply on the 674K to help resist pesky hardwood punctures and any other staking.

All clutches are specified



All controls and major functions are within easy reach of the operator while the instrument panel readily reveals all the tractor operating levels – all straight forward and simple functions on the WHM K Series



The adjustable Grammar seat adds a touch of comfort for the operator



The heavy-duty axle and 4WD system on the K Series are purposely over engineered to avoid failure



The extra large radiator with surrounding air baffles is designed to work in harsh Australian conditions where heat can rise up to 50 Celsius

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Available with a fully air-conditioned cab, or in ROPS form, the 674K offers a heavy chassis designed for front-end loader work, with power delivered from a 4.2-litre 4-cylinder diesel engine that generates 49kW (67hp). The 674K offers as standard 12F/12R synchromesh gears and a shuttle transmission for changes on the run

WHM K SERIES

from premier suppliers and a well-known range of engines flows from the former Perkins engines (Tianjin Co Ltd) plant now known as Tianjin Lovol Engines Co Ltd.

Lovol apparently bought the rights to these magic engines that carry the standard 100mm bore and 125mm stroke (4" bore and 5" stroke) that are being produced in 3, 4 and 6 cylinder units.

This brings back some history for WHM directors who possess an engineering background as they previously incorporated hundreds of these over square design engines, on stationary pumps for the cotton industry in the 1960s.

WHM models have been built with the least amount of electronics possible, with just a couple of necessary relays and also required dashboard dials.

The K Series tractors are simple and run with standard parts and components that can

be ordered from the massive inventory held by WHM.

Even down to a replacement hydraulic hose, that is specified as a simple JIC thread, available anywhere.

Buyers of budget tractor don't always get such an easy run when it comes to sourcing replacement parts.

A lot of thought, time, money and energy go into a successful tractor build and that is evident with the WHM K Series.

If it was a level playing field – but it isn't – the WHM tractor would be built on our home turf and all operators would be proud to own this K Series tractor range.

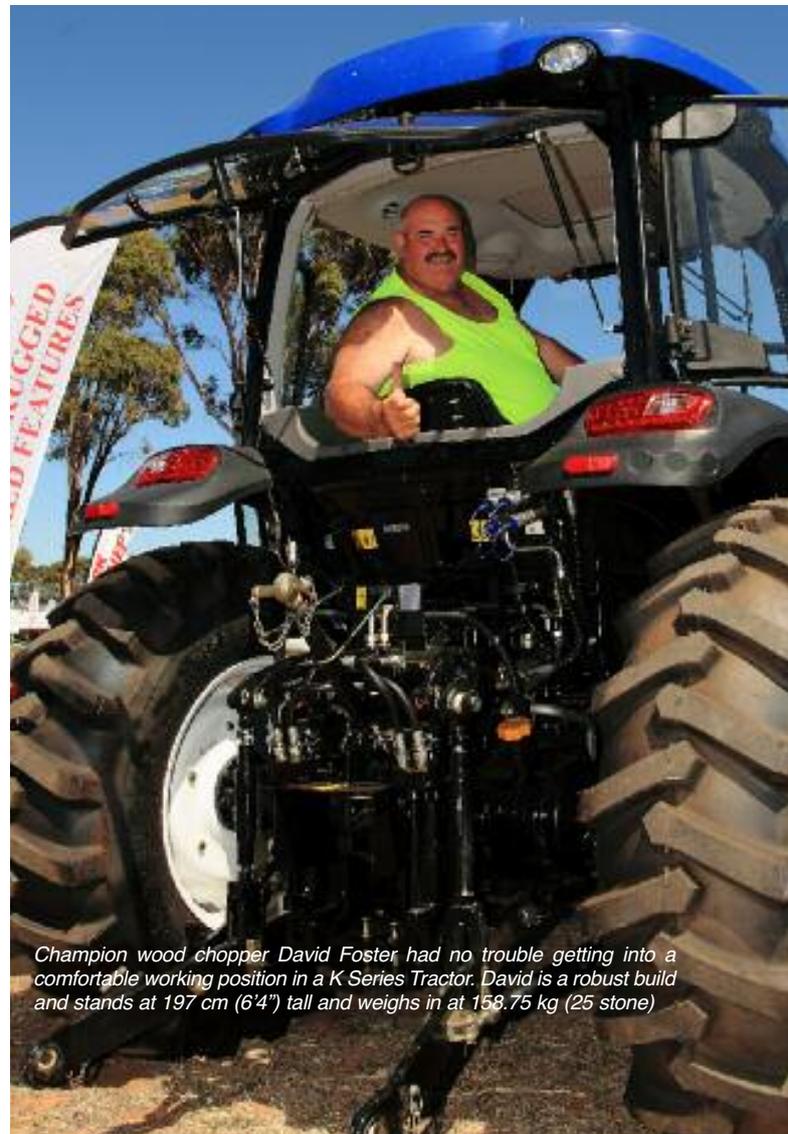
Never the less, with the engineering and specification all Australian, this is the closest we have come in the past 30 years to a production line Australian tractor.

To check for your nearest dealer and K Series 4WD model availability, contact WHM direct on tel: 1300 851 600. □

WHM K SERIES

Model	Engine -	Power -
674 K ROPS	4.10-litre/4-cylinder	50kW (67hp)
674 K Cab	4.00-litre/4-cylinder T	50kW (67hp)
924 K ROPS	4.00-litre/4-cylinder T	70kW (92hp)
924 K Cab	4.00-litre/4-cylinder	70kW (92hp)

Transmissions: 12F/12R on the 674 K, and 24-speed on the 924 K. All with Shuttle shift



Champion wood chopper David Foster had no trouble getting into a comfortable working position in a K Series Tractor. David is a robust build and stands at 197 cm (6'4") tall and weighs in at 158.75 kg (25 stone)