

Last autumn Amazone unveiled its latest generation of Catros+ disc harrows. They're topped off with the featured 7003-2TS.



DRIVING IMPRESSION

Amazone Catros+ 7003-2TS disc harrow:

Simple set-up

Amazone is updating its Catros+ range with the latest generation 03 series in both mounted (03-2) and trailed (03-2TS) formats. The machines span working widths of 3.0m to 7.0m, although the key talking point is their Smart Frame.

The new Catros+ range is denoted by a 3 as the last figure within the model name. The complete range comprises four fully-mounted rigid machines (2.5m to 4.0m) and a quartet with hydraulic folding (4.0m to 7.0m), as well as another four trailed machines also ranging from 4.0m to 7.0m.

We had the chance to try out the widest model, the Catros+ 7003-2TS, behind a Fendt 828 Vario. This is Amazone's all-rounder disc harrow for cultivating cereal stubbles, cover crop incorporation or seedbed prep. While the scalloped 510mm diameter disc offers a

depth range of 5-14cm, for shallower work of 2-8cm, Amazone has the 480mm X-Cutter disc up its sleeve.

Straightforward setting

Unlike most other short disc harrows, where you alter the working depth by adjusting the rear roller linkage, on the Catros+ the frame remains rigid and the disc gangs pivot up and down within the 'Smart Frame'. The two rows of discs are connected with a tie rod that ensures the discs are moved in sync. And the major benefit for the user is there's no need to refit pins and clips or adjust the top link.

KEEPING IT BRIEF

Catros+ Pro is a fully mounted machine that can be hitched to a tanker for slurry incorporation.

Catros+ is for stubble cultivation and, when fitted with a seeder, cover crop establishment.

There is a choice of leading tools – knife roller, clod board etc.

A good, durable scale on the right-hand side of the machine is in the operator's line of sight to aid adjustments. And to ensure the cultivator is level when fitted to the tractor, there is a small bubble level on the frame to assist with initial set-up.

Another big plus of pivoting the disc gangs is that the clearance between the rear gang and the roller increases when the discing depth increases. There is also more clearance between the discs and the frame.

Working depth is set manually as standard with the option of hydraulic adjustment.

Walk around

The drawbar is either hydraulic or rigid, the former attaching with a linkage crossbar, hitch ring or spoon, whereas the rigid version can only be carried on the lift arms. This is Cat III/IVN in both scenarios.

The legs are clamped on to the beam with rubber sausages for damping, while the disc bearings are oil-filled and sealed with a rotary seal, making them maintenance-free. Disc-to-disc spacing is 25cm. The outboard discs are adjusted individually as standard on both sides, and an outer board is available for the right side as an option. These help prevent soil from the rear gang being thrown beyond the reach of the firming roller.

The running gear mounts behind the discs.

DATA SHEET	
Amazone Catros+ 7003-2TS	
Working width	7.0m
Transport width/height	3/3.90m
Disc diameter	510mm
No. of discs	56
Cutting angle 1st/2nd row	17°/14°
Working depth	5cm to 14cm
Bar spacing	80cm
Underbeam clearance	50cm
No. of spools	Three da (folding, running gear, depth)
Weight	4,950kg
Running gear tyres	500/50-17
Min tractor power	154kW/210hp
List price	From £58,730
<i>Manufacturer information</i>	

In work, the wheels can either be raised fully so they sit above the discs to help penetration or partially lifted and remain behind the

press, where they act as extra weight on the roller with nitrogen accumulators providing damping. Within the EU type approval, the 7003-2TS can be towed at 40km/hr when on the road.

Other options

The 7.0m Catros+ model is available with a hydraulically adjustable clod board (£6,065) and a hydraulically adjustable knife roller (£14,250). There are also jockey wheels for £2,355 and a large storage box that resides by the drawbar plus additional weight plates (16 x 25kg) for £1,845. But probably the most relevant option will be the GreenDrill 501 seeder, which lists at £11,710 for the 500-litre hopper, hydraulic fan drive version.

In the field

For our quick drive with the Catros 7003-2TS in cereal stubble we had a Fendt 828 up front, which was more than up to the job. The deep ruts from the previous harvest allowed us to test the benefits of the pivoting discs for variable depth control. We were also able to experience the cushioning of the running gear when the wheels were raised out of work. With the discs set to around 8cm, they produced a good, well mixed result.

Christian Brüse



The Smart Frame pivots the two rows of discs to alter the working width while the packer remains fixed.



The front and back rows of discs are connected by a mechanical tie rod with depth adjustment done hydraulically – operator-friendly.



The U-profile rings on the press now have four spokes. There are many press options.



The chunky drawbar is available either as a hydraulic or, as shown here, a rigid version.

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