



BUILT FOR LIFE.™

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## History of the First American-Made Rototiller

Troy-Bilt® produces a variety of yard and garden tools that has aided generations of enthusiasts in creating the perfect outdoor haven. It started more than 60 years ago when it introduced the first American-made rear-tine rototiller that changed the face of home gardening in the United States.

In 1937, C.W. Kelsey unveiled the first American-made rear-tine rototiller, the *Model A-1*. Kelsey's inspiration was an imported, commercial German machine known as the Earth Grinder. He was determined to design a rototiller that was suited for the rocky American soil while satisfying the needs of home owners. After nearly two decades, the *Model A-1* was manufactured in Troy, New York, and was a 400-pound, 4 ¼-horsepower machine with cleated steel wheels. It featured Kelsey's exclusive rear-mounted tines and power-driven wheels, which would define the Troy-Bilt brand for years to come.

Kelsey retired after 26 years in the business. Picking up where he left off was George Done, who previously worked as Kelsey's chief engineer. In 1962, Done designed a 4 ½-horsepower, rear-end tiller known as the *Trojan Horse*, that was heavier and more powerful than previous models and a single-purpose machine. With the demand for orders increasing, a new six-horsepower model with an electric starter was added to the *Trojan Horse* line in 1965.

Rototillers were once a specialized agricultural piece of equipment and evolved into a distinctive product with the innovation of early pioneers such as Kelsey and Done. Despite the hundreds of improvements since Kelsey's day, two features from the original design have remained the same – rear-mounted tines and power-driven wheels – changing the way we garden today.

### **About Troy-Bilt**

In 1937, Troy-Bilt introduced the first American-made rototiller. Troy-Bilt has expanded on its legendary expertise and durable product line to create a complete selection of the industry's finest lawn and garden tools. Troy-Bilt's award-winning product line includes top-quality tractors, mowers, tillers, cultivators, trimmers and a variety of outdoor power tools. Troy-Bilt machines are built to last and engineered to take on the toughest challenges to make jobs simpler and safer. For more information, visit [www.troybilt.com](http://www.troybilt.com).

Troy-Bilt is owned by MTD PRODUCTS INC, a leading global manufacturer of outdoor power equipment headquartered near Cleveland, Ohio. Additional MTD brands include Cub Cadet®, Yard-Man®, White Outdoor®, Yard Machines® and Bolens®. Products can be found at home improvement stores, mass retailers, hardware stores, independent dealers and farm supply stores. For more information, visit [www.mtdproducts.com](http://www.mtdproducts.com).

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