

BRO-TEK



1. **Introduction:**

A. Proud Owner:

. You are now the proud owner of a Bro-Tek Thumb. This Thumb (BX-BH-TTL) is made for your Kubota backhoe BH. It will outlast your original Kubota tractor & be ready for your next one. Please read these instructions, before installing the Thumb. The Thumb has been designed for easy installation & pre-painted, to match your Kubota. This bolt on Thumb is shipped complete in a box, all hardware included (Except top-link & pins, which all comes factory with a 3-point assembly). Design to be very easy to install & assemble. Contact area; have been treated to hard facing. Unit is foldable, unlimited adjustment. Thumb can move rocks, stump, tree.... Great item to have!

B. Feedback:

. We would love any feedback that you could give us (Positive/Negative), to improve our product line. Please email us your comments/pictures too:


bro-tek@hotmail.com or you can reach us at www.bro-tek.com

2. Safety Precautions:  **Important Safety**

- A. Park on a firm level area.
- B. Stop engine, set brake, remove key and wait for all moving parts to stop before starting installation.
- C. Block up or rest the backhoe before working beneath unit.
- D. Read and understand the original Kubota backhoe Operator's Manual. Read all precautions found in the tractor and loader manuals.
- E. Never use the Thumb without having the front-end loader & Stabilizer pads firmly on the ground.
- F. Keep all persons, at least 20 feet away from the backhoe/Thumb at all times. When a heavy load is being moved with the thumb, this can have serious injury if all precautions are not taken. Make sure to mark a safety perimeter around the work site.
- G. Take special precautions for operator & bystanders on hillside. The material can tumble a very long distance; use barriers to secure the material to a tight area.
- H. Never go underneath or nearby the thumb, even if the tractor is stopped. The boom should always be lowered to the ground, before the operator steps out.
- I. Never assume the load is secure in the Thumb. Always keep the load to the lowest/closest possible to the ground/tractor. This will help to reduce a tip over.

3. Tools/torque/Parts required:

- A. **Wrenches** or **socket** (3/4")
- B. **Torque wrench** (50Lb-Ft =70N/M) .

- C. **Top-link & the two pins from your BX tractor.**  **Important:** These are normally come with the 3-point assembly. These parts will be needed (see below picture).



4. Assembly Instructions:

A. Once you have followed the safety precautions & have removed the Thumb from it's packaging, please take notes of all the parts & follow the assembly instruction.

B. Free up work place of all disturbance & clutter. Take your time installing it (This can be easily be done by one person in 10 minutes).

C. After having done this a few times, most people will fully assemble the thumb, except the two top bolts. Then slip the thumb onto to boom.



For the first time around, install the top two bolts, Lock/washers by hand. Do not tight it all the way, like the one in photo.

Note: The front of the plate will have #'s stamps on the inside of them; these should be towards the bucket.



D. Install other two bolts & the two pins, in the lower holes.



E. By having the two pins in the place with the lock washer & nuts hand tighten it will gives you some play in Thumb to pull back on it (see previous photo, the Thumb will bind itself onto the taper boom). Torque the nuts at the 40 lb-ft rating, in a crisscross pattern, while always checking the pins for free movement.

F. Check clearances around the Thumb side plates & nuts/bolts (Various opening), no point of contact should be noticed except for the Bucket\the jaw of the Thumb.

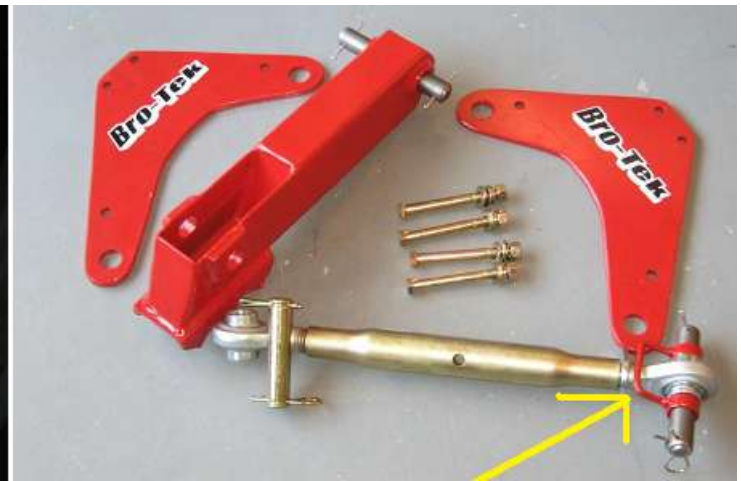
G. Install Thumb-arm in the front hole & secure the pin with a cotter pin.




H. Install the rear pin & secure with the locking clip. This will check the full close position. If rear pin is hard to move, check your bolts. Note: Some grease & fine sanding of the pin/hole can help in some situations.




I. The top link does require a Top-link spacer (U shape, supplied in the kit) to be installed across the top link when using the Thumb. Once finish using the Thumb, a good practice is to always store away the top-link, the spacer & the pin together.



J. Check everything out for clearances & binding. Recheck nuts & bolts after the first use & every month afterward.

K.  **Important Safety:** If there is a point of contact on the 2 side plates (hydraulic fitting/lines) or sign of metal fatigue, do not continue to use the thumb, until the problem is fixed.

L.  **Important Safety:** Do not over extend the top-link; this can create a danger situation, by bending the top-link. Maximum Length of the Top-Link should always be below 24 inch.

5. **Congratulations:**

You have successfully installed your Bro-Tek Thumb. I hope this was a pleasant experience & that you would recommend this product to all of your tractor friends. The Thumb can remain on the tractor, for all the preventative maintenances & the every day use.

6. **Thank you:**

We would like to thank you for supporting us & hope to do future business with you with, our new upcoming line of products.

www.bro-tek.com

Model# BX-BH-TTL

bro-tek@hotmail.com

Bro-Tek Thumb; Kubota BX22, BX23, BX24 & BX25 backhoe BT600 & BT601



Bro-Tek has been making these thumbs for the BX, but also the following tractors, for many years now. Request are always welcome for other tractors/Backhoe model # listed.

Kubota B series with Backhoe (BH75, BH90, BT750C, BT751, B4572A, B4672A, B4690B).

Kubota Escavator (KX41-2).

New Holland TC30 & TC40 (BH 757C & 758C)

Woods Groundbreaker Backhoe (BH6000, BH6500, BH7500, BH9000, BH70-X & BH80-X).

John Deer with Backhoe (260 & 448)

Power Trac (1430, 1425)

Massey Ferguson GC2310 with Backhoe (BH2375).

Kioti CK25HST with Backhoe (KB2085, KB2365, KB2375, KB2385, KB2475).

China Backhoe LW-7

Branson with Backhoe (B7620).

Kelley 750

7. New products, now available:

Steering Guard For those of you, that want to protect the expose front steering cylinder (\$\$\$) & steering joint/boots, there is now a new guard available. It bolts to the existing holes in the frame all hardware included (Except top link which comes with the BX tractor). Only takes 4 minutes to install.

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Tool Box For those of you that want to protect the front of the tractor & have a carry all tool box, there is now a new tool box available. It bolts to the existing holes in the frame all hardware included. Only takes 2 minutes to install.



Skid plates The one thing that all Kubota tractors should have is the rear skid plate. The skid plate will save your machine from expensive repair. It can be very easy installed in 10 minutes. There have been reports of damage oil filters punctures, plastic transmission fan damaged & transmission casing cracked by rocks.

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Under the BX, very good coverage. Very easy to install. Rear view, access to oil/drain

For those of you, that want to protect the fuel filter/pump & expose wiring, there is now a front extension available. It bolts to the existing holes in the frame & to the Bro-Tek rear Skid plate. Only takes 4 minutes to install.



Important I do not recommend having the front skid plate with the mid mount mower (MMM) installed on your machine. Note: Removing the front skid plate only takes 3 minutes.



Brush Forks is (4) a bolt on. Unit will be ship in an 8 pieces in a box. One piece of angle iron will have to be purchase locally & some minor welding is required for final assembly. Design to be very easy to install & assemble.

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Ripper tooth is a pin/bolt on. Unit will be ship complete in a box, all hardware included. Design to be very easy to install & assemble. Tip area ; is harden steel. Unit is great for ripper frozen/hard pack soil, tree roots etc... Fits Kubota Model# BX22,23,24 & BX25.
Great item to have!



Ripper/trenching plow option is a bolt on to the ripper. Unit will be ship complete in a box, all hardware included. Design to be very easy to install to the ripper. Unit is great/must have for trenching. Fits Kubota Model# BX22,23,24 & BX25.

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Wheel Spacers option is a bolt on to the rear axle. Unit will be ship complete in a box, all hardware included. Design to be very easy to install to the axle. Unit is great/must have for any uneven terrain. Fits all Kubota BX's. These will add a total of 4". **Note for those with the Mid Mount Mowers:** The 4" spacers will only work with a 60" MM Mower.



8. **How much & How to order:**

New combo deals are out every months, please us send a request for these to bro-tek@hotmail.com

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If you decide to purchase, please reply to confirm your Telephone #, full delivery address, tractor model #.

Once we've received your information, we will send you, a Pay-Pal request for the amount to your email address. I've every items are normally in stock, ready to be ship the next day.

Pay-Pal will take you through the step by steps to create your account, should take 5 minutes to setup (easy to setup).

Most comments on Pay-Pal are: "Paypal was easier than I thought"

All the info for Pay-Pal is on the web, Pay-Pal is used all the time to buy/sell on eBay & outside of eBay.

If there are any more questions, please ask away.

Thanks again,

Richard/ Bro-Tek@hotmail.com

9. A few feedbacks from customers:

Hey Richard its Henry I'm glad you got the payment I have the thumb on so far, I believe I am going to put on the skidplate today I have used the thumb it works great!

Richard,

I Received the Thumb for my Kubota BX-23 today. That device is built tough and should last a longtime. Thanks! For building a good product, getting it out promptly and having instructions that are clear and complete. "Excellent Job" Thumbs Up!

Regards,
Roy

Awhile back I ordered one of those Bro Tek thumbs but hadn't had a chance to use it until today. Only took about 10 minutes to bolt up. After tying a rope to it and pulling it down with the BX23. I used the thumb to lift it out of the Mrs' flower garden then hold it up so I could cut it up for firewood. Sure beat having to man handle it It did pretty good, was like having a helper.

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Hey Richard,, I thank you for the pdf file with the instructions for my thumb, it opened ok , and I would like to say that the instructions were great and very informative, good job. Also, I think you have done a good job on engineering the thumb for the BX tractor. I don't know why it isn't a stock item on the tractor; it really looks like a factory piece. Although I haven't used it yet I know it will be a very useful addition to my tractor. I live in the hills of east TN. So it will come in very handy moving (big) rocks and logs out of the creek, also placing railroad ties for landscaping. Richard I could go on and on about how I intend to use the thumb. Again thanks for a great-engineered piece that will add a lot more ways to use my tractor. As I said before, I am interested in your other products for the Kubota tractor so we may be doing business again in the near future, money and my wife permitting.

Thanks again, Billy T.

Just a quick note to let you know my thumb arrived in good order and I installed it in less than ten minutes. Already picked up and moved a dozen railroad ties with it.

Thanks for making a great little product.

Nick T.

Thanks, Richard. Thumb arrived in good condition with all the necessary hardware. Easy-easy install. Got to work with it right away. Can't imagine how I got along without it all these years. Best regards. Mark

Richard. hi. I just recieved the package. 8-6-07. every thing looks great. appears to be really well built. I will be installing them this weekend. thank you for your help and prompt delivery. I will contact you later on the debris fork. thanks again jeff. panama city florida.

Hi Richard,

My thumb and tooth arrived last week and I had a chance to use them both. They work great, thanks. I'm going to have to experiment a little more with the trenching adapter to figure out how to get the best use out of that tool, but so far so good. I just wanted to let you know they arrived in great shape. Rob

Richard,

I want to let you know the thumb and skid plates arrived yesterday; anyway I picked them up at the post office yesterday (Saturday).

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The skid plates mounted easily as well.

Anyway, thanks, love what you are doing, wish I had your talent. I already picked up some rocks with the thumb. One was big enough it lifted the front wheels of the ground.

Best regards,
Rick in Idaho

Don't mean to use this post as a selling point for the Bro Tek but, it does need a rebuttal 🍷
With the Bro Tek, theres no need for any welding or any other modification to mount and use it. Theres been not one instance of the Bro Tek thumb moving and/or damaging any part of the tractor and in my case the Bro Tek thumb has grasped, lifted and deposited everything I've tasked it to. While on the other hand, theres has been many posts here and on other boards of the Wallenstein thumb bending during use, and of course damaging hydraulic fittings on the bucket ram. Now I generally don't recommend one product over another as I realize there are many variables in why one picks a particular tool/product over another and I always say more-power to ya but with that said, which is better, a tool that requires NO modification to work properly or one that requires additional welding and/or other modification to work properly?

Using the top link is no problem either. It's actually kinda slick to find a good alternative use for a tool designed to be both adjustable and load bearing that would otherwise sit on a shelf collecting dust when the BH is mounted 🍷

Thanks, your product was better than expected very seldom can a Buyer get what is advertised. I personally cant see anyone with the Backhoe attachment not having one . The Thumb is worth the money. I have a 2008 model BX24 it was a perfect Fit , It was like it was made personally for this tractor .

When I first got the thumb I was skeptical, it appeared a little light weight to me. But it works like a champ, so far I love it, can't imagine living without it, truly an evolutionary step, I actually ended up crushing a couple rocks. Richard is one easy fella to deal with, a couple emails and my thumb was at the door in about 8 days.

I bought a Thumb from you a couple years ago for my tractor and have really used it a lot. I am building a railroad tie retaining wall at the moment and could not do it with out the thumb. My dealer here in Johnson City, TN. Ask about how the thumb is doing every time I go in there to get oil ect. I told him the tractor should have come with one from the factory.haha. Any way I recently started reading some of the tractorbynet.com forums lately and I see that you are making wheel spacers for the BX24 that give it a 4" wider stance. My place is very hilly and I have had some close calls turning the tractor over. Richard I would be very interested in buying a complete set of the spacers. If you want to, could you e-mail me some information on how I could buy the wheel spacers?

Thank you, Billy T.

Hi Richard,

I finally got around to bolting on the backhoe thumb a while back and have actually been using it for the past few months. I can't believe the things you can do with this thing!! It's worth it's wait in gold! In fact, I'm sorry I didn't get one earlier. Great investment!! Nobody should be without one.

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I have a brotek on my bh80x and it works great. Best mechanical thumb for the money in my opinion.

This cedar stump took me about 2 hours to dig out several weeks ago. I finally got around to moving it today. I couldn't lift it with the loader and didn't want to drag it and scrape up the lawn. I finally managed to grab it with the backhoe and the thumb. I had to have a big rock in the loader bucket to balance the load. It looks like there is dirt in the loader bucket as well in one of the photos, but that was just a bad angle I was shooting the picture at. If you ever are doing this, it helps to have the boom as close to the tractor as you can when you grab the stump. Then you extend the dipperstick to raise the load. It slipped out a couple of times, in the second photo you can tell I grabbed it from a better angle. I was able to drive like this for about 600 feet and drop it out of sight. (first Pic)



Hello Richard,

Shipment arrived yesterday. The thumb fit perfectly and took less than 10 minutes to install – it took me longer to unpack and get my tools together. I have not had the opportunity to try it yet – I did not receive a top link with my tractor. I will call the dealer this morning to ask why. The root ripper looks like it can sure do the job, I may try it this weekend; all inside jobs have been cancelled for the weekend – it's father's day.

Thanks again,
Denny

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Just wanted to tell you how impressed I am with your products. I purchased the skid plates and a thumb attachment from you. They were built solid and with great detail. Installing them on the Kubota by your directions was so easy and fit great! Just the way you hope things would be. You have an outstanding product line that I would recommend to anyone looking to improve their tractor.

Rick in Washington State

Richard

It is getting way to easy to spend money!! Pay Pal was easy as you said. You should be all set. If not let me know and I will send you the transaction Number.

I look forward to receiving the plate.

Then I will start buttering up to the wife for the brush forks.

Bill

With the aid of a pry bar at age 42 thirty four years ago I manually installed these tie's and rocks, landscaping. To reposition them now at age 76 would be impossible without Bro-Tek. Wow what a good product.



I just wanted to let you know that I have installed the skid plates and thumb, and am very happy with them. They are much better made and finished that anything I could have come up with. It sure is nice being able to drive the tractor over the rough parts of my property without having to worry about damaging the transmission cooling fan. I haven't tried the ripper hook or trencher attachment yet, but I'm sure they will work as they are supposed to.

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I'm very satisfied with my order, and will have no reservations about recommending your products to others.

I purchased a thumb for my Kubota BX 23 a few weeks ago and I am happy to say that it's great. It takes a little time to get use to it . Once you master the thumb it's a joy to work with it. I am lifting smooth granite blocks that weigh as much as the backhoe can lift. It grabs those things and does not slip. The trick is to butt the thumb on the piece and then close the bucket. Hats off to you and your product. Bravo... Thanks Dooronron

I just installed the Bro-Tek thumb and rear skid plate this past weekend. The thumb went on in no time at all and it took minutes get used to using it.

Well, it was a very good purchase. The rocks I'm picking up now would have blown my biceps and back out. I put a hunk of concrete in the FEL and just went around "cherry picking" rocks up. I'm about to rebuild a retaining wall on a pond. So I just drive over and back up to the wall. The backhoe allows me to place the rock down over the wall and into the water before releasing it.

So far, it's worth every penny comparing to the Dr's bills I would probably have if I wasn't using it. If your thinking about getting one, I would not hesitate.

Before you spend money on steel to build a thumb, check out [Bro-Tek: Tractor Add Ons](#). I bought one last Fall and couldn't be happier with it. Mine is on a Woods Groundbreaker on a Kubota L2250. According to Richard at Bro-Tek, he can fabricate a thumb for any backhoe. I don't think you can design, purchase the high quality hard steel and bolts and build a thumb for the price of the Bro-tek, approx. \$300. There are plenty of pics and videos on u-tube and other forums. The unit bolts on in minutes and works perfectly. No one has been able to explain why it is necessary to spend lots of money for a hydraulic thumb when the bucket does all the work. The hydraulic unit on a thumb is only used to adjust the position of the thumb. I set my thumb in the desired position by adjusting the top link and have never had to move it. If you want the thumb totally out of the way, it takes one or two minutes to pull the pins, rotate the thumb up against the boom, replace the pins, throw the top link on the tractor and you are ready to go. Good luck.
