I'm not a bot

We purchased a little B6000E for a great price and in doing a few small things to it I was wondering what the badge on the grill meant? Being new to these little tractors, I was hoping one of you guys could shed some light on it for me. Sent from my SAMSUNG-SM-G891A using Tapatalk M9000HDCC3, M9000HD, Kubota GS850 Sidekick Nothing to do with the unit at all. 2019 Kubota B2601, FAL LA435, Snow Blower BX2822A, Land Pride rear blade RB1572 Nothing to do with the unit at all. That's a bit dismissive, don't you think, Flip? If it doesn't have anything to do with the unit, what does it deal with? Why would it be attached? How do you know? Do you read katakana? Hiragana? Kanji? Is it even Japanese, or maybe Pinyin? By all means share your wisdom. M9000HDCC3, M9000HD, Kubota GS850 Sidekick That's a bit dismissive, don't you think, Flip? If it doesn't have anything to do with the unit, what does it deal with? Why would it be attached? How do you know? Do you read katakana? Hiragana? Kanji? Is it even Japanese, or maybe Pinyin? By all means share your wisdom. To be more specific to make you whole... Looks to me like an automotive badge someone put on there that has nothing to do with the unit at all. Like putting a 'Moon Equipped' sticker in your window, you do remember Moon Equipment don't you? Maybe my GOA sticker in my side window. Don't mean anything, just a statement. The loose unconnected wires do look interesting though. Not dismissive at all Gene. 1979 B7100DT Gear, Nissan Hanix N150-2 Excavator Don't know, but here's a similar badge on another B model. (B6000, B5000?) B7100HSD, B2789, B2550, B4672, 48" cultivator, homemade FEL and Cab Don't know, but here's a similar badge on another B model. (B6000, B5000?) Looks like the same badge, but one of them is upside down. I have no idea which one. 2018 B2650 HST ROPS, BH77 Backhoe Looks like the same badge, but one of them is upside down. I have no idea which one. Good observation. I took a couple years of Japanese in high school, certainly looks like katikana, but I can't say much beyond that. On point with the orientation, though. Top (original) definitely appears (to me) to be upside down. B2910, BX2200, KX41-2V mini Ex., Beer fridge We purchased a little B6000E for a great price and in doing a few small things to it I was wondering what the badge on the grill meant? Being new to these little tractors, I was hoping one of you guys could shed some light on it for me. Sent from my SAMSUNG-SM-G891A using Tapatalk Hi, Either your picture or the badge is upside down. There are four KatAkana ". The last two represent (sound out) TORA which means tiger. Remember the Pearl Harbor movie TORO TORA TORA? The first two are pronounced Bu Ru in Japanese romage, which actually sounds like Boo Lou in English pronunciation. This probably translates best into Roaring. So considering the badge is on a workhorse, "Roaring Tiger" is likely the most accurate translation. Kinda want one for each of my tractors now Hi, Either your picture or the badge is upside down. There are four KatAkana ". The last two represent (sound out) TORA which means tiger. Remember the Pearl Harbor movie TORO TORA TORA? The first two are pronounced Bu Ru in Japanese romage, which actually sounds like Boo Lou in English pronunciation. This probably translates best into Roaring. So considering the badge is on a workhorse, "Roaring Tiger" is likely the most accurate translation. Kinda want one for each of my tractors now Thank you! The picture is right side up .. so it appears the badge is inverted. And the translation is neat! I appreciate the information! Sent from my SAMSUNG-SM-G891A using Tapatalk I can only guess. I know we are at least the 3rd owners.....but I couldn't pass it up! For the money..... I know I didnt get hurt Sent from my SAMSUNG-SM-G891A using Tapatalk L3450DT-GST, Woods FEL, B7100 HSD, FEL, 60" SB, 743 Bobcat with V2203, and more Its essentially the same as on some models they put a buffalo on them! It's like calling it a water buffalo or a workhorse. Henro nailed it! Last edited: Apr 18, 2020 L245DT W/Loader M8030DT L275DT Now let's be nice to flip. He's been in Quarantine for a while. He's pretty quick on the trigger. James Looks like the same badge, but one of them is upside down. I have no idea which one. The initial post badge is upside down. All other photos on line show it like the B5000. Dave I can only guess. I know we are at least the 3rd owners.....but I couldn't pass it up! For the money..... I know I didnt get hurt Mike, if this is a gray market tractor (not destined for the US originally) find the US equivalent model and use that when getting parts. Kubota will treat you like a leper or COVID-19 positive and black ball you and not sell you any parts if they know you have a gray market tractor. OrangeColoredTractor said: Mike, if this is a gray market tractor (not destined for the US originally) find the US equivalent model and use that when getting parts. Kubota will treat you like a leper or COVID-19 positive and black ball you and not sell you any parts if they know you have a gray market tractor. This is good information to have! Our local kubota dealer is kind of hometown. As long as u can bring them the part number, they have no issue getting me what I need . Which, BTW, is how I came to own it! I bought it from a long time.family friend who is also our retired county attorney... trust me.. this means good people. And he had bought a new bigger kubota with a bucket, etc. I stopped by one day and asked about the little tractor and if he had traded it in... he said no, it quit starting so he parked it in the shed. Long story short here.... it sat about 6 months or so before I got it. "It quit starting because the switch is bad on it" was all I had. He priced it to me at $100us. And it was hard to reach in my pocket in a slow measured manner. Also told me if I couldnt get it going.... he would give me my money back! How's that for a guarantee... and it was in writing! Did I mention it came with a -6 kubota finish mower? A little rough but really serviceable! The local.shop doesnt have a book on this model anymore. So he was out of luck waiting on them to find the part. I got online.. found the kubotabooks site and found the part number. Also had a dealer online verify that number for me. About $45 later I had the main power switch replaced (the off/on switch) and had charged the battery. 3rd attempt to start it hit. 5th attempt it ran like a top! I am a walking example of how even a blind squirrel finds a nut from time to.time! Sent from my SAMSUNG-SM-G891A using Tapatalk Mystery badge identified by friend who speaks Japanese. He said: That's Japanese. Blue tora The Japanese symbols in photo below come from Google Translate of "Blue Tora" Dave Last edited: Apr 19, 2020 Thank goodness for Dave_eng's interpretation. Earlier I had googled "roaring tiger" and got an intriguing website www.roaringtiger.com, which clued into another poster's penchant for orange leather seats. Although with some imagination (not mine) blue tiger could have similar connotations. Thanks, Dave! And everyone else too! I'm glad to have the mystery solved! Sent from my SAMSUNG-SM-G891A using Tapatalk Page 2 B2910, BX2200, KX41-2V mini Ex., Beer fridge Mystery badge identified by friend who speaks Japanese. He said: That***8217;s Japanese. Blue tora The Japanese symbols in photo below come from Google Translate of "Blue Tora" Dave That is the literal translation of buru (blue), but not actually the meaning in this case in my opinion... The first two katakana do sound out as the Japanese translation of Blue, but does that make sense on an orange tractor? Perhaps it would on a blue tractor... By the way, not sure if your friend is a native speaker of Japanese, but my wife is... She specifically told me it does not mean the color blue in this case. And when is the last time any of us has seen a blue tiger? Ediit: I should add I chose the adjective "Roaring". Could be energetic or active or something like that. But roaring tiger just sounded appropriate in this case... Last edited: Apr 20, 2020 If you google Kubota Tiger site:.jp you get images of a B6100 with an orange rotary hoe attachment... and advertised as "actual work goods! Kubota B6001bru tiger tractor 4 wheel drive 4WD diesel 3 cylinder 12 horse power RK1000 rotary width approximately 100cm". So maybe Bru, not Buru? Is that the same badge on the front? M4700DT, LA1002FEL, Ferguson5-8B Compactor-Roller, 10KDumpTrailer, RTV-X900 It more-accurately reads ". BRUE TIGEL". And the movie was improperly pronounced "TOLA TOLA TOLA" B2910, BX2200, KX41-2V mini Ex., Beer fridge It more-accurately reads ***8220;. BRUE TIGEL***8221;. And the movie was improperly pronounced ***8220;TOLA TOLA TOLA***8221; Not to start a pi$$ing contest, but you are absolutely wrong about the Brue Tigel comment. It is absolutely BuRu. Check with a native speaker if you doubt this. Bru is not conventional Japanese Romanji, as the language is for the most part syllables that include vowels. And where your tigle comes from heaven knows. It is without a doubt Tora (pronounced tola), which means tiger. Could be a typo on your part? And you are pretty much absolutely wrong about the improper pronunciation of Tora, Tora, Tora. The fact is that when Japanese language is represented in the western alphabet, R is pronounced (by the Japanese) as we would pronounce a L. The Japanese do pronounce Tora, Tora, Tora as we would Tola, Tola, tola. Not sure where you are coming from, but after living and working in Japan for six years, and speaking Japanese relatively well, and graduating from a Japanese university (albeit the international side, where studies aside from language were in English) I think it would be wise to get one's facts straight. But who cares really? Edit: As an aside, how do you think Japanese people that are not that fluent in English pronounce "fried rice"? Invariably 99.9% of the time they say "fried lice". Just the way it is... Last edited: Apr 20, 2020 I never thought my post about the badge translation would get so serious..... it is time to end the discussion on a meaning less topic!!! Dave M9000HDCC3, M9000HD, Kubota GS850 Sidekick Not to start a pi$$ing contest, but you are absolutely wrong about the Brue Tigel comment. It is absolutely BuRu. Check with a native speaker if you doubt this. Bru is not conventional Japanese Romanji, as the language is for the most part syllables that include vowels. And where your tigle comes from heaven knows. It is without a doubt Tora (pronounced tola), which means tiger. Could be a type on your part? And you are pretty much absolutely wrong about the improper pronunciation of Tora, Tora, Tora. The fact is that when Japanese language is represented in the western alphabet, R is pronounced (by the Japanese) as we would pronounce a L. The Japanese do pronounce Tora, Tora, Tora as we would Tola, Tola, tola. Not sure where you are coming from, but after living and working in Japan for six years, and speaking Japanese relatively well, and graduating from a Japanese university (albeit the international side, where studies aside from language were in English) I think it would be wise to get one's facts straight. But who cares really? Of course there are other qualifying aspects we won't allude to here as well, Right Henro?..... Sure you guys don't mean Toga party??? Toga-Toga, John Belushi's call to fame... B2910, BX2200, KX41-2V mini Ex., Beer fridge I never thought my post about the badge translation would get so serious..... it is time to end the discussion on a meaning less topic!!! Dave Amen to that! Good on you Dave! M9000HDCC3, M9000HD, Kubota GS850 Sidekick I never thought my post about the badge translation would get so serious..... it is time to end the discussion on a meaning less topic!!! Dave Amazing what a little virus and being cooped up does to people, isn't it? B2910, BX2200, KX41-2V mini Ex., Beer fridge Henro, you need to get a sense-of-humor... so you can recognize when someone is kidding! Beginning in 1971, I taught numerous Japanese flight students from student through Airline Transport ratings, most of whom could only READ basic English and not speak or understand the spoken English for many weeks after beginning ground school classes. Fifteen of them were employed by JAL immediately upon completing my courses. Three were chosen for instructors at the Self Defense Forces. Perhaps some readers might be impressed with your Japanese experiences but having had the job of teaching English as well as flight lessons to non-English-speakng Japanese, I am not. What I posted earlier was a JOKE! Sorry, I was about to delete that post, as reflecting on it I did not like the tone of my response, but I guess since it has been quoted that will not work now. Oh well... M9000HDCC3, M9000HD, Kubota GS850 Sidekick While we are on the subject, I'm curious about why Kubota puts rather cryptic stuff on the cap that covers the steering wheel nut on their tractors and why it changes from model to model. Case in point, I have a 2002 M9 and a 2004 M9 and each have a different, distinct steering wheel cap. One looks like a checkers board, the other lookes like a starburst. Why not a Kubota logo on the steering wheel, it's the first thing you see when you sit in the seat. Curious about that, always have been. Seems strange to me there is no uniform logo. M4700DT, LA1002FEL, Ferguson5-8B Compactor-Roller, 10KDumpTrailer, RTV-X900 I fixed that for you Henro. I guess I could have been a bit more kind myself. (Gomen ne) Last edited: Apr 21, 2020 Unlocking the secrets of your Kubota RTV is easier than you might think! Knowing the year of your RTV is crucial for ordering the correct parts, understanding its maintenance schedule, and even determining its resale value. Luckily, Kubota cleverly encodes this information within the serial number. This article will guide you through the process of finding and deciphering that serial number, empowering you to understand your machine like a pro. Finding That Elusive Serial Number: Where to Look The first step is locating the serial number on your RTV. Kubota, in its wisdom, hasn't made this a completely uniform process across all models and years. However, there are a few common places to check: Under the Seat: This is a very common location. Lift the seat, and you should find a metal plate or sticker affixed to the frame. The serial number will be clearly marked. On the Frame (Rear): Look at the rear frame, typically on the right-hand side. You might find a stamped number or a plate welded onto the frame. Glove Box: Some RTV models have the serial number printed on a sticker inside the glove box. Engine Compartment: While less common, it's worth checking around the engine compartment, especially near the firewall. Pro Tip: Grab a flashlight! Even in well-lit areas, the serial number can be tucked away in a shadowed spot. Also, take a picture of the serial number once you find it. This provides a backup in case the plate becomes damaged or illegible. Don't forget to write it down too! Cracking the Code: Decoding the Serial Number Now that you've found the serial number, the real fun begins! The format of the serial number can vary slightly depending on the RTV model and year. However, the core principle remains the same: certain characters within the serial number indicate the year of manufacture. Here's a general breakdown of how to approach decoding, keeping in mind that this is a guide and specific model years can have variations: Identify the Model: Knowing your RTV model (e.g., RTV900, RTV-X1100C) is essential. This helps narrow down the possibilities and find information specific to your machine. Check your owner's manual or any purchase documents for the exact model. Understand the Serial Number Structure: Kubota serial numbers typically consist of a combination of letters and numbers. Some common patterns include: Early Models: Often use a simpler numeric sequence where the starting digits might correlate to the production year. Later Models: Frequently incorporate a letter within the serial number that corresponds to a specific year. Consult a Kubota Dealer or Online Resources: This is arguably the most reliable method. Your local Kubota dealer has access to Kubota's internal database and can quickly tell you the year of your RTV based on the serial number. Several online Kubota forums and resources also exist where experienced users can help you decode your serial number (though always verify the information from multiple sources). Important Considerations: Serial Number Length: Pay attention to the length of the serial number. Different models and years have different serial number lengths. This can be a clue in itself. Letter Prefixes: Some serial numbers begin with a letter prefix. This prefix may or may not be relevant to determining the year. Beware of Misinformation: The internet is a vast resource, but it's also full of inaccurate information. Always cross-reference information from multiple sources before making any assumptions about your RTV's year. Let's look at some examples, keeping in mind that these are simplified illustrations and should not be taken as definitive for all Kubota RTV models: Example 1 (Hypothetical Early RTV Model): In this simplified example, the first two digits (12) might indicate a year of manufacture, such as 2012. However, without specific model information and cross-referencing with a reliable source, this is just speculation. Example 2 (Hypothetical Later RTV Model): Serial Number: RTVX1100CA56789 In this case, the letter "A" might represent the year of manufacture. For instance, "A" could correspond to 2015, "B" to 2016, and so on. Again, you'd need to consult a Kubota dealer or a reliable online resource to confirm this. Why is finding reliable information so crucial? Because assuming the year based on a guess can lead to ordering the wrong parts, performing incorrect maintenance, and ultimately damaging your RTV. Online Resources: A Word of Caution While online forums and websites can be helpful, exercise caution when relying on them for serial number decoding. Verify the Source: Is the website or forum reputable? Does it have a history of providing accurate information? Look for Model-Specific Information: General information about Kubota serial numbers may not apply to your specific RTV model. Cross-Reference Information: Don't rely on a single source. Check multiple sources to confirm the information. Be Wary of "Magic Decoders": Avoid websites that claim to have a universal "serial number decoder." These are often inaccurate or simply don't work. The Best Approach: When in doubt, contact your local Kubota dealer. They are the experts and have access to the most accurate information. Why Knowing the Year Matters: Real-World Applications Knowing the year of your Kubota RTV isn't just a matter of curiosity. It has several practical applications: Ordering Parts: The correct parts are essential for proper maintenance and repairs. Knowing the year ensures you order the right components for your specific RTV model. Maintenance Schedules: Maintenance schedules vary depending on the year of manufacture. Following the correct schedule helps keep your RTV running smoothly and extends its lifespan. Resale Value: The year of your RTV is a significant factor in determining its resale value. Recalls and Service Bulletins: Knowing the year allows you to check for any recalls or service bulletins that may apply to your RTV. Understanding Upgrades and Features: Different model years may have different features or upgrades. Knowing the year helps you understand the capabilities of your RTV. Insurance Purposes: Insurance companies often require the year of manufacture when insuring your RTV. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Q: Where is the serial number located on my Kubota RTV? A: Common locations include under the seat, on the rear frame, inside the glove box, or in the engine compartment. Use a flashlight to help you find it. Q: Can I look up the year of my Kubota RTV online? A: While some online resources exist, it's best to verify the information with a Kubota dealer. Online sources can be inaccurate or model-specific. Q: What if I can't find the serial number on my RTV? A: Contact your local Kubota dealer. They may be able to help you locate the serial number or provide other ways to determine the year of your RTV. Q: Does the length of the serial number matter? A: Yes, the length of the serial number can vary depending on the model and year. This can be a clue in itself when trying to decode the number. Q: Is there a universal serial number decoder for Kubota RTVs? A: No, avoid websites that claim to have a universal decoder. These are often inaccurate or don't work. Conclusion Deciphering your Kubota RTV's year of manufacture through its serial number unlocks a wealth of information crucial for maintenance, repairs, and understanding your machine's capabilities. While online resources can be helpful, always prioritize consulting with a Kubota dealer for the most accurate and reliable information. actually, i don't want to decode or understand the VIN, i just want to know when my tractor was made. every single search inquiry made figuring this out more confusing. if someone that understands how to decipher this alpha/numeric code would be kind enough to tell me, i would be grateful. here is what's on the top of the engine: KT2 D89 3706M. BX-25D ,PTB. Under Armor, '90&'92-B7100HST's, '06 BX1850 FEL Bill, I know that you know that the year made has little bearing on the machine. True - certain years did have tweaks that made them different slightly thus buying a certain part will have to have a serial number to establish which version - I.E. B7100 - old version vs new version. Your machine was built from 1983-1990 - which I am sure you know. Now maybe there is a version of the engine of something that may have changed during those years, thus the reason for the inquiry. NIW knows quite a bit about those engine codes - maybe a PM to him? I am sure others know more about the stamp too. Reactions: 1 user BX1860, FEL, RCK54P MMM, BB1548 Box Scraper, Quick Hitch, Piranha Bar, BX6315 Reactions: 1 user B2650, loader, MMM, pallet forks, tooth bar, rear blade, JD 318 w/plow, JD X350 I went through this exercise some time ago for the same reason as you. I wanted to confirm a tractor's age. I found out that you cannot decode Kubota ID (serial) numbers to give the tractor's manufacture date. The serial numbers are sequential. Tractors are usually dated by date of original sale rather than date of manufacture. The three methods I have used to find out a Kubota tractor's age are: 1) Give Kubota customer service the information via e-mail and they will probably give you the date of manufacture and the original selling dealer. 2) A dealer has access to the information. A dealer may help you out (especially if you buy parts or get service from the them (or, they are just willing to be helpful). 3) Look at websites selling used tractors that give a date of manufacture and serial number. Tractorhouse usually gives a year and a serial number. Compare the information to what you have and you can get close. Hope that this information is useful to you. Reactions: 1 user M4700DT, LA1002FEL, Ferguson5-8B Compactor-Roller, 10KDumpTrailer, RTV-X900 I called the nearest Kubota dealer and he gave me the date it was mfr'd, the date it was first sold, the name and contact info of the selling dealer, the name and city of the buyer, and the dates and type of service history that dealer posted. I contacted the selling dealer and they emailed me copies of the work orders performed on the tractor. B2650, loader, MMM, pallet forks, tooth bar, rear blade, JD 318 w/plow, JD X350 Good job GeoHorn! I am sure that Bill8200 will be glad to have the info (I'm just assuming that you got the information on his machine). I have to say that I am pleasantly surprised at the cooperation level you received from the dealers. Some dealers are "show me the money" motivated, and do not consider that being helpful builds a lot of good will. Last edited: Nov 9, 2020 M4700DT, LA1002FEL, Ferguson5-8B Compactor-Roller, 10KDumpTrailer, RTV-X900 Good job GeoHorn! I am sure that Bill8200 will be glad to have the info (I'm just assuming that you got the information on his machine). I have to say that I am pleasantly surprised at the cooperation level you received from the dealers. Some dealers are "show me the money" motivated, and do not consider that being helpful builds a lot of good will. I was referring to the information provided to me when I inquired of my own previously-owned tractor, not that of the OP. And Yes!... the cooperation I rec'd from my local dealer gave me the desire to do more business with him whenever sensible. An example is the fluids and filters I purchase... While I can get them elsewhere, I don't.... I buy from my local dealer as a show of support and appreciation for their attitude. It has paid off handsomely too. When I had some after-market adaptors mfr'd for my pin-on FEL ...I needed some extra 30mm pins to attach them. None to be had anywhere without special-order, so I drove to the helpful local Kubota dealer who listened to my plight.... found the outrageously priced pins normally provided on a FEL by the U.S. mfr'r.... and the freight charge... Then said, "Hold on...!...". He went into the back of his shop and located a bin where un-used assembly-parts are tossed... and returned with 30mm pins which are rarely used in Back-Hoe installations and are usually tossed into the trash. They fit perfectly. (Charged me $10) L3450DT-GST, Woods FEL, B7100 HSD, FEL, 60" SB, 743 Bobcat with V2203, and more On a B8200 there is no simple way to know when it was manufactured or sold. There is no real numbers system to follow. Unlike the B7100's there was only one run of that tractor, so they are essentially the same tractor from the first made to the last made. On the geared model only, they did make some changes to the hydraulic system and engine along the way in production. If yours is gear driven, give us the serial number, and I can tell you if it was early production or later production, and even with that they don't put a date to it. FYI: The date of the tractor will be the first sold date, and not the date it was made. Very different than an automobile. Just wondering how can I tell the year of my Kubota? I bought it in 2008 but I'm not sure if it is in fact a 2008? Also the model number BX1850TV54 does not really match up with anything when I look up parts. Everything listed is for BX1850D. L3450DT-GST, Woods FEL, B7100 HSD, FEL, 60" SB, 743 Bobcat with V2203, and more There is really no way to tell, Dealer might be able to give you the answer, it really doesn't matter, life of a tractor is not like the life of an automobile! Autos, go by miles and years old. Tractors go by model and work done (hours of use). Last edited: Nov 24, 2014 Not all tractors. My old 640 Ford numbers tell me model, year made and more. My L175 has no pedigree numbers, best guess, between 1972 and 1977? L305DT, B7100HST, TG1860, TG1860D, L4240 According to the information I got from Kubota the older machines were only dated by the date they were put into service (sold). BX2660 w/ LA243 Loader and RCK60B23BX It's not exact, and they could have been changed in the past, but the wheels usually have a date of manufacture stamped in them. It can give you a ball park idea at least. The wheels usually would have been made before the tractor was, so it can tell you the tractor is no older than XXXX. L4600 HST, FEL, Root Rake, Land Pride Grapple, Two way radio I have the same question, I just recently purchased a L4600 which I assumed was a leftover 2013 tractor as it has been replaced by the L4701. I contacted Kubota with the question, asking what year my tractor is and if they could tell me the date of manufacture. Of course, I had provided Kubota the serial number of the tractor. Surprisingly - Kubota responded and said that even though it is a L4600 it is a 2014 tractor. I have the same question, I just recently purchased a L4600 which I assumed was a leftover 2013 tractor as it has been replaced by the L4701. I contacted Kubota with the question, asking what year my tractor is and if they could tell me the date of manufacture. Of course, I had provided Kubota the serial number of the tractor. Surprisingly - Kubota responded and said that even though it is a L4600 it is a 2014 tractor. I just bought a new L4600 and the date of Mfg. tag on it says 2013 on the left side of the engine down low Tags : kubota | Neil form Messick's here to share something significant that has happened in the Kubota world here recently. For years, this company has used a simple five-digit serial number for all of their equipment. That has been highly problematic for us. Even within a product family, that five-digit serial number can duplicate across equipment. You need a combination of both the full model code and the five-digit serial number to uniquely identify a machine. There are cases where we would punch in a serial number for a BX series tractor into our computer and come up with two different machines that have shared that same serial number. It was quite annoying. Recently here though, Kubota has switched to a full 17-digit serial number and those digits mean things. Today, we're going to talk through the new serial number structure. Maybe that number that's on the side of your equipment is going to tell you something about your machine that you didn't know. Now, if you've never gone looking for your serial number before, it's located on the front right-hand corner of your tractor, potentially in two different places. There is a sticker here that's printed on the front of the machine that has the serial number burned into it. If that sticker seems to come off of your machine as stickers often do, you'll find the number also stamped into the frame of the tractor. Again, we're looking on most machines towards the front right-hand side of the unit. Now, explaining what these 17 digits mean is complicated. Several pages of paper here. There is some consistency across all of the models. We're going to work through the parts of the serial number here that are consistent globally across all equipment, and then talk about some of the specifics of particular models. The first three digits are going to be an indicator for the company's business unit or engineering group, if you will. It's not a direct indicator of the factory, but it does start to look that way when you dive into it. There's only a handful of valid values here. Those are A5K, KBC, KBG, KBT, KBU, or in the case of some hey tools, I saw some ZPM and UKG. Again that refers to the business unit, the engineering department that's going through and manufacturing that piece of equipment. Searching through our system, I didn't find equipment that has every one of those variations on it, but there's definitely a lot of KBG here from the turf side and a lot of KBU that you're going to find on the tractors. The fourth digit here is going to tell you what portion of the product line that piece of equipment is coming from. Now in a compact tractor that's going to go through and you're going to have individual digits here that are going to indicate that this is say maybe a B series tractor, or an M, or an L series tractor. It is not literally B, L, M, like you find on the side of the hood. These are probably more internal representations of exactly where in the product family this machine lies. Those first four digits, they're telling us, called almost the project identifier of that machine within Kubota. We're going to jump down to some other digits here that are consistent across all models, so the 10th, 11th, and 12th digit. The 10th digit and the 12th digit tell us when that machine was manufactured, both the year and the month. We'll put up on the screen here exactly how to decode exactly what those digits mean. This is an interesting number to us because this isn't something that we could ever identify before. Tractors are not sold in model years. The year of your equipment is considered the year that you bought it. On our end, there was actually never a way that we could tell you when a piece of equipment was manufactured. Now with the 17-digit serial number, we can actually do that. You can pick out the month and the year that the machine was produced out of that serial number. Again, if you're selling your tractor, or you're looking for something on the secondary market, we don't use those numbers as the year of the machine. The year is the original sale date of the unit. Sitting there in the 11th digit, for some reason smack in the middle of the time that the machine was produced, is the factory that it was produced in. You've got an identifier in there that tells you what plant produced the machine. Now, we're going to jump backwards here, back to digits five, six, seven, and eight. Those are referred to as a machine descriptor. What they mean is going to vary depending on exactly what product you're looking at. If we're looking at compact tractors, say majority of what Kubota is known for, in digit number five, you're going to have a series indicator, and that's going to show you iterations of a machine over time. Oftentimes in the full model number, you'll see a -1, -2, -3, as small changes are made during a machine's production run, that can now be identified here in the serial number as well, in the fifth digit. The sixth digit is going to be an indicator about some kind of reference to the machine's horsepower. I don't know exactly how those are going to decode. I couldn't figure out by looking at the stuff that I had in stock, but that's what it says here in my paperwork. Number seven is going to tell you something about the type of transmission that's in that machine. Number eight is going to be a reference to whether it's ROPS or a CAB. As you move across the rest of the product line, you have very similar things happen in other product series. Referring to the model number, the amount of horsepower that the machine has in somewhere or another in digits five, six, seven, and eight. Digit number nine is what's referred to as a check sum. In the computer world, if you go through and do mathematical calculations on the rest of these digits, you're going to have a resulting answer that is stored in digit number nine. By running an algorithm on this serial number and comparing against that check sum digit in number nine, you're able to mathematically say whether there's been an error in one of these other digits. Digit nine doesn't mean anything to us, but it gives a way to verify that the serial number that we're looking at is correct. Finally, the end of the serial number, digits 13 through 17, the five digits there at the end are our same old five-digit serial number that we have been used to using for decades. That number there at the end is a sequential number. Every machine that rolls off a production line, that number just increments up one at a time for every machine that rolls off. One thing that's a little interesting is you can look at those numbers and get some kind of idea on how big the machine population is or where exactly your machine was in the production run. When I looked at two of the machines I had here on our lot, one of our RTV-X 1100s has a serial number up in the 75,000 range, referring to just how many RTV 1100s have been sold. On the converse side of that, I have a used round baler in stock right now, a BB 4180 with a serial number down at 169, meaning it would've been one of the first ones produced. If you're looking for one of those late model type machines and you don't want to wait for one where the factory has gotten up the speed and gotten used to what they're producing, you're going to want to look for higher serial numbers rather than lower ones. What can we learn about this tractor right here by looking at the serial number? We're going to start here at the beginning with KBU. That's going to tell us that this is out of the compact tractor engineering department. The first digit here is going to be a C, that tells us that this is a BX series tractor. The next identifier is going to be the series, and this is a number 1, so this is the first iteration of this tractor. The D is going to tell us that it's a reference to the horsepower. My hunch is that that D is a reference to the number of cylinders because in German, which is what they use to refer to their engine model codes, it's a three-cylinder engine. The H here is going to tell us that it has a hydrostatic transmission. The R is that it's a ROPS machine and not a CAB. The K is our check sum number. Now here's where we get interesting, so the manufacturing year here is N, which tells us that this machine was produced in 2022, even though it just arrived here, and the month of that would've been M which was in December. We're sitting here January right now, so it would have been produced about six weeks ago, which is interesting. If we look at the factory that this came out of, this would be out of the N factory. D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, N. There's a range here for what is KMA. G through H tells us that this is KMA, which I could have told you off the top of my head. Then the last five digits here at the end, is our iterative serial number. Just that increment that happens of 84,131. There's a lot of the X 23s out there. Maybe that tells you something about your piece of equipment that you didn't know already. This system has been in place now for probably about a year. Looking around our parking lot most of the equipment that's out here today does use this newer standard, although you do see the old five-digit number floating around in a lot of places too. That's often probably going to be our go-to number here for a while. If you're shopping for a piece of equipment and we can help, or you got parts of service needs for a machine you've already got, give us a call here at Messick's. This is what we do. We're available at 800-222-3373, or check out our website at messick's.com. Ever wondered how old your trusty Kubota RTV is? Whether you're buying used, need to order the right parts, or are just curious about its history, determining the year of manufacture is crucial. While Kubota doesn't always make it straightforward, decoding the serial number is the key. This guide will walk you through the process, helping you accurately pinpoint the year your RTV rolled off the assembly line, and why this information is so vital. Why Knowing Your RTV's Age Matters Knowing the model year of your Kubota RTV isn't just about satisfying curiosity; it's a practical necessity. Here's why: Ordering the Right Parts: RTVs, like all machines, evolve over time. Parts that fit a 2010 model might not work on a 2015 version, even if they look similar. Knowing the year ensures you order compatible components, saving you time, money, and frustration. Accurate Maintenance: Maintenance schedules often vary depending on the model year. Older RTVs might require more frequent servicing or different types of fluids than newer models. Determining Fair Market Value: When buying or selling a used RTV, the year of manufacture significantly impacts its value. A newer model, all else being equal, will command a higher price. Identifying Recalls and Service Bulletins: Manufacturers sometimes issue recalls or service bulletins to address potential issues with specific model years. Knowing your RTV's year allows you to check for any applicable notices and ensure your machine is safe and up-to-date. Insurance Purposes: Insurance companies often require the year of manufacture to accurately assess the value and risk associated with your RTV. Finding the Serial Number: Your Starting Point Before you can decipher the year, you need to locate the serial number. This is usually a stamped or printed code located in one of the following places: Under the Seat: This is a common location. Lift the seat and look for a metal plate or sticker. On the Frame: Check the frame rails, particularly near the front or rear of the vehicle. On the Engine: Some models have the serial number stamped directly onto the engine block. On the Dashboard: In some newer models, the serial number might be located on a sticker on the dashboard. Pro Tip: Grab a flashlight and a wire brush. Sometimes the serial number is obscured by dirt, grime, or rust. A little cleaning can make it much easier to read. Once you've found the serial number, write it down carefully. Double-check that you've copied it correctly, as even a single incorrect digit can throw off your search. Decoding the Serial Number: Cracking the Code Unfortunately, Kubota doesn't use a universal serial number system across all its RTV models. The method for determining the year varies depending on the specific RTV series. However, there are some common patterns and resources you can use: 1. Kubota's Online Resources: The official Kubota website is always a good starting point. While they might not explicitly list a serial number decoder, they often have owner's manuals and parts catalogs available for download. These documents can sometimes provide clues about the serial number format for specific models and years. Contacting a Kubota Dealer: Your local Kubota dealer is an invaluable resource. They have access to Kubota's internal databases and can often quickly identify the year of your RTV based on the serial number. Be prepared to provide them with the full serial number and model number. 2. Online Forums and Communities: Numerous online forums and communities dedicated to Kubota equipment exist. These forums are often populated by experienced owners and mechanics who have encountered similar questions before. Searching the forums for your specific RTV model and "serial number year" can often yield helpful results. TractorByNet: This is a popular forum with a dedicated Kubota section. MyTractorForum: Another active forum with a wealth of information on Kubota equipment. 3. Common Serial Number Patterns (Examples - note these are not exhaustive and can vary): Early RTV900 Models: Some early RTV900 models had serial numbers where the first few digits indicated the year. For example, a serial number starting with "100" might indicate a 2004 model. However, this is not a reliable method across all RTV900s, and you should confirm this with other sources. Later RTV Models: Some later models use a more complex alphanumeric system. The year might be embedded within the serial number, but it's often not immediately obvious. You'll likely need to consult a Kubota dealer or online resources to decipher it. Specific Model Year Runs: Sometimes, specific model year runs have unique serial number prefixes or suffixes. For example, all RTV-X1100C models manufactured in 2018 might have a serial number starting with a particular code. Important Caveats: Serial Number Changes: Kubota sometimes changes its serial number system mid-year. This means that two RTVs with consecutive serial numbers might actually be from different model years. Grey Market Machines: "Grey market" machines are RTVs that were originally intended for sale in other countries and then imported into the US. These machines might have different serial number formats or lack readily available information. Partial Serial Numbers: If you only have a partial serial number, it will be much more difficult to determine the year. It's always best to have the full serial number. Beyond the Serial Number: Other Clues While the serial number is the primary source of information, other clues can sometimes help you narrow down the year of your RTV: Model Number: The model number itself can provide some indication of the year. Kubota often introduces new models or updates existing models on a regular basis. Researching the history of your specific model number can give you a general timeframe. Features and Specifications: Compare the features and specifications of your RTV to those listed in Kubota's brochures and manuals for different model years. Changes in engine size, transmission type, or other features can help you pinpoint the year. Paint Color and Decals: Kubota occasionally changes the paint colors and decals used on its RTVs. While this is not a foolproof method (as parts can be repainted), it can sometimes provide a clue. Date Codes on Parts: Some individual parts, such as tires and batteries, have date codes stamped on them. While these parts might have been replaced, they can sometimes give you an idea of the earliest possible year of manufacture. Frequently Asked Questions Where is the serial number located on a Kubota RTV900? The serial number is usually located under the seat, on the frame near the front, or stamped on the engine block. Can I determine the year of my Kubota RTV with just the model number? While the model number provides a general timeframe, the serial number is needed for precise identification. What if I can't find the serial number on my RTV? Contact a Kubota dealer and provide any other identifying information you have. They may be able to help you locate it. Is there a free online Kubota serial number decoder? While some unofficial websites claim to offer this service, their accuracy is often questionable. It's best to rely on official Kubota resources or a trusted dealer. Why does Kubota make it so difficult to find the year of manufacture? Kubota's primary focus is on providing parts and service through their dealer network. They may not see a need for a readily available online serial number decoder for consumers. Final Thoughts Determining the year of your Kubota RTV by serial number can seem like a detective mission, but with the right information and resources, it's achievable. Remember to start by carefully locating and recording the serial number, and then leverage Kubota's official resources, online forums, and your local dealer to crack the code. Knowing your RTV's age unlocks a wealth of information, from ordering the right parts to understanding its maintenance needs, ensuring your machine stays in top condition for years to come. What year was my kubota RTV 500 manufactured: serial 28399…vin. A5KA1CGAPBGO28399 Member BCZoom posted this info: So, since it's a B that would make it a 2012 or 2022. Not sure just interpiting what Zoom posted. If the VIN # is 16 characters, the year is in the 9th position. If it's 17 characters, it's in the 10th position. First year of production was 2013. Your local kubota dealer can tell you exactly what year it is and if there are any outsatnding recalls on it. Additionally they can tell you is if is stolen. And I'm sorry for misinterpiting the 'B'. I'd never seen the 'code year' chart before. Thanks Zoom!!!!!!! Is this just for RTV's. If so does such a thing exist for mowers. I bought a ZD326 used and always wandered when it was built. Is this just for RTV's. If so does such a thing exist for mowers. I bought a ZD326 used and always wandered when it was built. VIN's are for vehicles. Not sure if your ZTR qualifies. I know my ZTR doesn't have one. I'd think your chassis would have a serial # that could be decoded to figure out the year. The engine should have a serial #. Get that serial # then go to this site to get the year/month of manufacture. VIN's are for vehicles. Not sure if your ZTR qualifies. I know my ZTR doesn't have one. I'd think your chassis would have a serial # that could be decoded to figure out the year. The engine should have a serial #. Get that serial # then go to this site to get the year/month of manufacture. Yes that should have occurred to me. A serial number lookup is what I need. I will get the engine serial number and try that. Thanks Hello, I am new to this forum and am thinking of buying some level of Kubota tractor. I have an 80 acre farm/woodland area in rural Appalachia. It has 700-1000 feet of elevation and is 70% wooded. I am needing a machine for lawn mowing, ditch digging, and moving pallets around. My neighbors have a full size tractor that we do all the brush hogging, post digging and larger jobs like hauling logs to my woodmill. So i am mainly needing something for " medium" sized maintenance stuff. I am an auto mechanic and am fine with getting older models. Just wondering what i need to lookout for