

Hercules Engine News



By Glenn Karch

Sparta Economy Model CX

In mid-1912, a new Economy engine model was being produced by the Holm Machine Mfg. Co. at Sparta, Mich. The new Model CX would take on characteristics that would be later continued into the Hercules line of engines. Later in 1912, the Holm company would be acquired by the Hercules Buggy Co. of Evansville, Ind. Serial numbers for the Model CX fall between 23,000 and about 40,000.

The 4, 6, 8 and 10 HP size engines had design changes including a wet head with the exhaust now on the off side and the intake on the ignition side of the engine. The governor, less speed control, now took on the look of the future Hercules governor.

By 1913 the Elkhart magneto would become an option at extra cost that could provide electrical current to the igniter. The igniter remained the same, but a new blade-type trip was introduced.

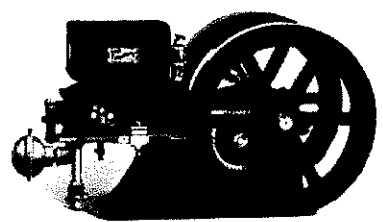
Currently, there are 224 of the CX models on my list of engines known to still exist. The breakdown of those with known HP size is as follows:

1 HP	1.5 HP	4 HP	6 HP	8 HP	10 HP
54	34	46	53	14	2

There were no 2 HP Model CX engines simply because they were not revised, but remained as the Model CA.

1½-Horse Power Economy Gasoline Engine

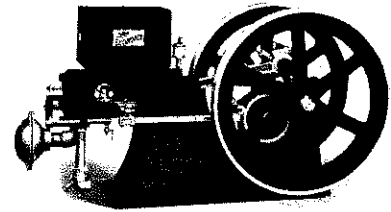
\$32⁹⁵



For the first time, in 1912, a 1 HP, 3-1/4-by-5-inch bore and stroke engine was being produced. This basic engine, with modifications and new horsepower ratings, would continue in production until 1929.

4-Horse Power Economy Gasoline Engine

\$75⁹⁵



Elkhart Magneto, \$12.95 Extra. See Page 3.

No. 47A4511 4-Horse Power Economy Gasoline Engine and Equipment, with 124-inch pulley. Shipped from our factory at Sparta, Mich. Shipping weight 775 pounds. Price..... \$75.95

No. 47A4601 4-Horse Power Economy Gasoline Engine and Equipment, with 124-inch pulley. Shipped from warehouse near you, as explained on page 24. Shipping weight, 775 pounds. Price..... \$78.45

Specifications of 4-Horse Power Economy Gasoline Engine.
 TYPE—Four-cylinder, water cooled with water cooled cylinder head. INTAKE—Side and front. BORE—4½ inches. STROKE—5 inches. SPEED—600 revolutions per minute. FLY WHEEL—Diameter, 26 inches; weight, each, 125 pounds. PULLEY—12 inches in diameter. CRANK PIN DIAMETER—1½ inches. CRANK PIN DIAMETER—1½ inches. CRANK DIAMETER—2½ inches. CRANK WEIGHT—60 pounds. SHIPPING WEIGHT—775 pounds.

Specifications of 4-Horse Power Hand Truck.
 Our 4-Horse Power Hand Truck is made of 5-foot wood beams, 8½x12 inches, securely bolted and well braced to metal axle; wheels, 14 inches front and 16 inches rear, with 2-inch steel track fitted with hand tongue; width of track over all, 56½ inches. Holes are bored in beams and bolts fastened to frame engine to track. Shipping weight of truck, 145 pounds.

Specifications of 4-Horse Power Horse Truck.
 Our 4-Horse Power Horse Truck is made of 7-foot wood beams, 8½x12 inches, securely bolted to wood axle with 2½-inch shafts; wheels, 24 inches front and 30 inches rear, with 2½-inch steel tires; fitted with shafts and a combination seat, tool and battery box including footboard. Hole in place of shaft at same price. No axle is specified if pole is wanted, otherwise we will send shaft, 4-foot 8-inch truck. Truck shipped from factory in Illinois. Holes are bored in beams and bolts furnished to fasten engine to truck. Shipping weight of truck, 561 pounds.

What a 4-Horse Power Engine Will Do.
 Our 4-Horse Power Engine is a good size for general farm work. It will run the usual size machines found on the average farm and will take care of some of the larger machines, giving a limited capacity. It will run all machines usually run by hand, grinders, rollers, shredders, light sawing cutters, wood saws from 30 to 36 inches in diameter and many other light power drive machines. It is also a good size for small shop work to run lathes, drill presses, forges, planers, shapers and trip hammers. All the above priced engines in complete all ready to run, with gasoline tank to the base, holding sufficient gasoline for an eight hours run under full load. Equipment consists of battery, coil, wire and switch, two wrenches, pliers, starting crank, pulley, lubricators, grease cups, oil can, funnel, can of oil and grease, with book of instructions telling how to run and take care of the engine.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Except for the 2 HP size, the rest of the line bears a lot of similarities and some interchangeability of parts with the Hercules line to come in 1914. Production of all engines at Sparta ceased in the early fall of 1913 at about number 36,000. The move of machinery, parts, supplies and personnel to Evansville, Ind., began. Sometime during the winter of 1913-1914, assembly of 4,000 more Sparta-type Economy engines began at Evansville.

In all, about 36,000 of the Sparta Economy engines were built. Five hundred fifty-nine of them are known to still be around. That is 1-1/2 percent of the total production. Who knows how many more are still lurking out there.

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