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# INUKTUN MINITRAC™



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#### **About This Manual**

This manual has been prepared to assist you in the operation and maintenance of your Eddyfi Technologies Inuktun equipment. Correct and prudent operation rests with the operator who must thoroughly understand the operation, maintenance, service and job requirements. The specifications and information in this manual are current at the time of printing.

This product is continually being updated and improved. Therefore, this manual is meant to explain and define the functionality of the product. Furthermore, schematics or pictorials and detailed functionality may differ slightly from what is described in this manual.

Eddyfi Technologies reserves the right to change and/or amend these specifications at any time without notice. Customers will be notified of any changes to their equipment.

Information in this manual does not necessarily replace specific regulations, codes, standards, or requirements of others such as government regulations

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#### Description

# **Product Description**

The Inuktun Minitrac™ 8000 crawler track is a small, self-contained tractor module complete with its own electric motor and drive train. The track may be powered directly from a DC input or include its own embedded drive electronics. Minitracs™ are designed for harsh environments such as confined spaces, underwater, hot or cold temperatures, mud and sand, mild radiation, and chemical solutions. Applications include storm and sewer pipe inspection, Oil & Gas inspection (Onshore/Offshore), potable water pipe inspection, nuclear facility inspection / waste cleanup and OEM / custom-built systems. Standard length Minitracs™ measure 420 x 100 x 84 mm (16.5 x 4.0 x 3.3 in), these can be fitted with an extension which increase track length to 510 mm (20.1 in). Minitracs™ are made in three materials to meet application needs: aluminum, brass, or stainless steel; and can have clutched or non-clutched drive wheels. In all versions, the final drive power is delivered through a deep lug rubber track belt. Minitrac™ modules may be operated in pairs to make a steerable platform or used in multiple pairs to make a steerable train. Tracks are available in two voltage ranges: 36 − 70 VDC and 180 − 400 VDC.

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# Specifications

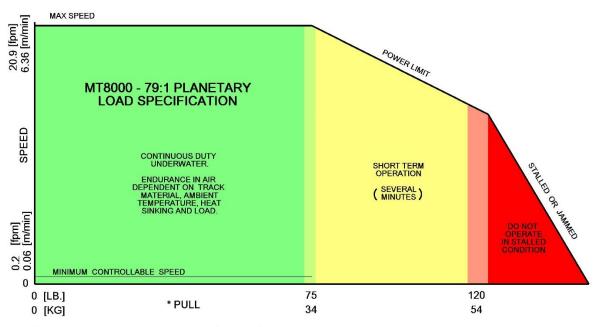
	Standard		36 – 70 VDC	
Operating Voltage	High Voltage		180 – 400 VDC	
Operating Power			225W Peak	
On arating Current	Standard		6.3 A Peak	
Operating Current	High Voltage		1.3 A Peak	
Maximum Speed			6.4 m/min (20.9 fpm)	
Pull Rating			See Basic Load Specifications below	
Payload			Up to 70 kg (150 lb)	
Operating Temp			0 ° - 50 °C (32 ° - 122 °F)	
Operating remp			90 °C (195 °F) Maximum Internal	
Duty Cycle	In Water		100%	
Duty Cycle	In Air		Dependent upon load and heatsinking	
Communications			RS-485 Device Protocol	
Feedback			Temperature, motor current, motor speed	
Depth Rating			60 m (200 ft)	
	Standard Length	Aluminum	5.7 kg (12.5 lb)	
		Brass	12.2 kg (27 lb)	
Weight		Stainless Steel	11.8 kg (26 lb)	
TTOIGHT	Extended Length	Aluminum	7.2 kg (15.8 lb)	
		Brass	16 kg (35.3 lb)	
		Stainless Steel	15.4 kg (33.9 lb)	
Lubrication			ISO 150 Food-grade Gear Oil	

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# Load & Speed Specifications:

# **Basic Loading Specifications**



<sup>\*</sup> Operating with rated 150 lb. [70 kg] payload, driving straight on a level surface.

The above diagram details the speed and loading specifications of the standard 8000-Series Minitrac™. There are three regions defining performance:

- Continuous Duty: Preferred continuous operating range.
- Short Term Operation: Operation permitted for several minutes.
- **Stalled / Jammed Condition:** Automatic limiting is engaged to protect the motor and gearing. Do not operate the track in the stalled or jammed condition.

#### Influences on Loading

For a typical tracked vehicle there are multiple factors that can increase load and influence track performance. These include the following and are detailed below:

- Additional Payload
- Inclines
- Effects of Differential Steering (skid steering with parallel tracks)
- Curved Geometry of a pipe
- Elevated Temperature / Poor Heat Sinking / Thermal Shut-Down

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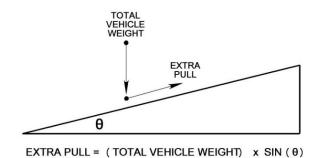
# **Additional Payload**

**Additional Payload** may be added to the track, but the expected pull performance must be de-rated as per the calculation below. Additional payload also affects differential steering, inclines and curved pipe geometry (see below).

#### **Pull Reduction = 0.25 x Extra Weight**

#### **Inclines**

**Inclines** cause the track to lift the vehicle weight against gravity and increase the track pulling load. Calculate the incline load using the equation below. Magnetic downforce does not affect loading from inclines — only forces from gravity. Note that the constant load from gravity becomes a significant factor on vertical surfaces because the motor is working to resist the load even when the track is stopped.



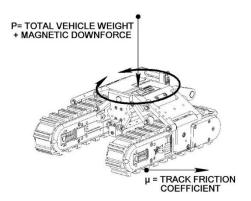
Additional pull required to climb an inclined pipe, pole or rope.

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# **Differential Steering**

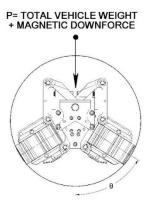
Differential Steering means steering by varying the speed of two tracks such as with a tank or bulldozer. During the steering process the tracks are dragged sideways in addition to forward / backward movement. The sideways movement adds to the total track load and requires extra torque from the motor. The greatest increase in loading occurs during a spot turn; the load being calculated as per the figure below. A typical 41 kg (90 lb) VT150 MKII vehicle on a surface with friction coefficient  $\mu$  = 0.5 will experience an additional 12kg (27 lb) load per track to execute the spot turn. The same maneuver done on fine dry concrete or low-pile carpet will result in over 23 kg (50 lb) of extra motor load! When steering on a vertical surface include only the magnetic down-force for the differential steering load calculation.



Additional Load On Each Track For Differential Steering = 0.6 x  $\mu$  x P

# **Curved Geometry**

**Curved Geometry** inside a pipe will increase the payload on a track depending on the angle of contact with the pipe. For nearly flat tracks the increase is small. For a contact angle of 60°, the load is doubled. The same calculation is used for a track contacting the outside of a pipe. Include both vehicle weight and magnetic downforce for this calculation.



Load on each track =  $P / (2 \times \cos \theta)$ 

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# Elevated Temperature & Thermal Shutdown

'Duty Cycle' refers to the length of time a track can run before overheating. The duty cycle of the Minitrac™ 8000 track depends on:

- Track Material Thermal Conductivity (Aluminum, Brass = Good; Stainless = Poor)
- Ambient Temperature
- Track Load & Speed
- Wet / Dry Operation
- Heat Sinking

A track typically converts about 25% of the electrical input into motive mechanical power with the remainder being converted into waste heat transferred to the environment outside the track. When run continually at maximum power in a warm environment - up to 50 °C (120 °F), the tracks can heat up to the maximum temperature within ½-hour. However, this does not represent normal operation. Typical usage will include much starting and stopping for visual/NDT inspections and moderate loading for most of a pipe run for pulling tether – so reaching the thermal limit of the track is not expected to be a common operational concern. When tracks are bolted to a chassis, it further acts as a heat sink to help cool the tracks.

When a tracks internal temperature reaches 90 °C (195 °F) it will automatically shut down and wait until its internal temperature drops below 75 °C (170 °F) before restarting. If the tracks are operating underwater, such as in a flooded pipe, heat transfer is excellent, and the duty cycle may be considered continuous.



Note: Stainless steel tracks will require special consideration for cooling, as they reach thermal shutdown sooner due to the extremely poor thermal conductivity of the stainless steel itself.

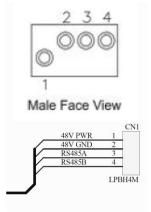
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# Track Pin-Out

#### **Standard Tracks**

The Standard Minitrac™ 8000 crawler track uses a 4-pin, low-profile connector (Subconn LPBH4M). Contact Eddyfi Technologies for details of the RS-485 control protocol.

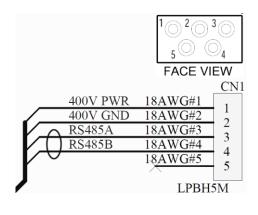


Pin Number	Pin Function
1	48V +
2	48V GND
3	RS485A
4	RS485B

FIGURE 1: MINITRAC™ 8000 STANDARD PIN-OUT

# High Voltage Tracks

The High Voltage Minitrac 8000 crawler track uses a 5-pin, low-profile connector (Subconn LPBH5M). Contact Eddyfi Technologies for details of the RS-485 control protocol.



Pin Number	Pin Function
1	400V +
2	400V GND
3	RS485A
4	RS485B
5	NC

FIGURE 2: MINITRAC™ 8000 HIGH VOLTAGE PIN-OUT

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#### Certification

The Minitrac™ 8000 crawler track is built in accordance with the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC, Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive 2004/108/EC and Directive 2014/30/EU.



#### Safety

In order to be able to use this product properly and safely, every user must first read these operating instructions and observe the safety instructions contained therein. Take care of these operating instructions and keep them in a place where they can be accessed by everyone.



**CAUTION**: Failure to follow these safety instructions may result in injury or equipment damage.





**CAUTION:** Disconnecting the track while the power is on can cause damage to the track. Disconnect the power source before servicing the product.





**CAUTION: High Temperature!** Under rated operating conditions this track can become very hot, up to 80 °C (175 °F).



**WARNING: Spark Hazard** - Under no circumstances should this equipment be used in a potentially explosive atmosphere.

- The Minitrac 8000 is an industrial product. All personnel operating or maintaining this equipment must be competently trained.
- There are no user serviceable parts inside. This product may be serviced only by qualified technicians or trained personnel.
- Our equipment is used in many varied environments from hot/dry to confined spaces to deep underwater. Such diverse environment risks must be addressed by the operators who are trained to work in such surroundings. As such, the operator is responsible to determine safe site setup and appropriate procedures for operation and maintenance of the equipment.

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- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn while operating and maintaining the equipment.
- Do not use the product or any component exposed to pressures higher than the rated working pressure.

In addition, observe the following precautions when cleaning or servicing the Minitrac™ 8000:

- Do not operate the track with a damaged connector or cable. Inspect connectors and cables regularly for damage.
- Avoid creating a pinching hazard when designing a vehicle based on these tracks.
- Lay the track on its side if you are powering it up on the workbench.
- DC-Controlled tracks (without internal driver) must be protected by current limiting either by fuse or electronically by the power supply. Current limiting and fuses are included standard with Eddyfi system controllers.

Call the Eddyfi Technologies Service department for assistance or service if needed.

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# Setup & Operation

# Mounting Dimensions – Standard Length Belt

Overall dimensions for mounting the Standard Length Minitrac<sup>™</sup> 8000 crawler tracks are given in the following Figures. The pattern of six M6 mounting holes is repeated on both sides. Maximum screw penetration in the side plate is 12mm. Longer screws will bottom out or bind against the idler wheel. Manual tensioning blocks may be required for Extended Length tracks in certain conditions.

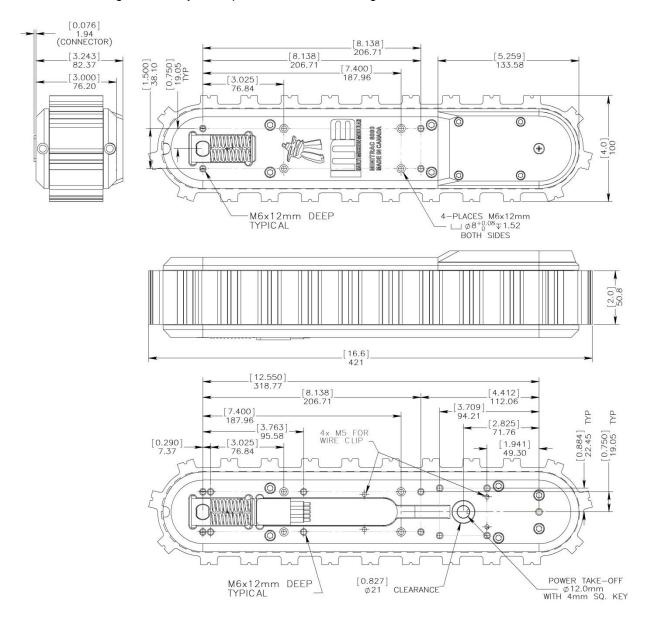


FIGURE 3: STANDARD TRACK MOUNTING PATTERN (NOTE: THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION)

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# Mounting Dimensions – Extended Length Belt

Overall dimensions for mounting the Extended Length Minitrac™ 8000 crawler tracks are given in the following Figures. The pattern of six M6 mounting holes is repeated on both sides. Maximum screw penetration in the side plate is 12mm. Longer screws will bottom out or bind against the idler wheel. Manual tensioning blocks may be required for Extended Length tracks in certain conditions.

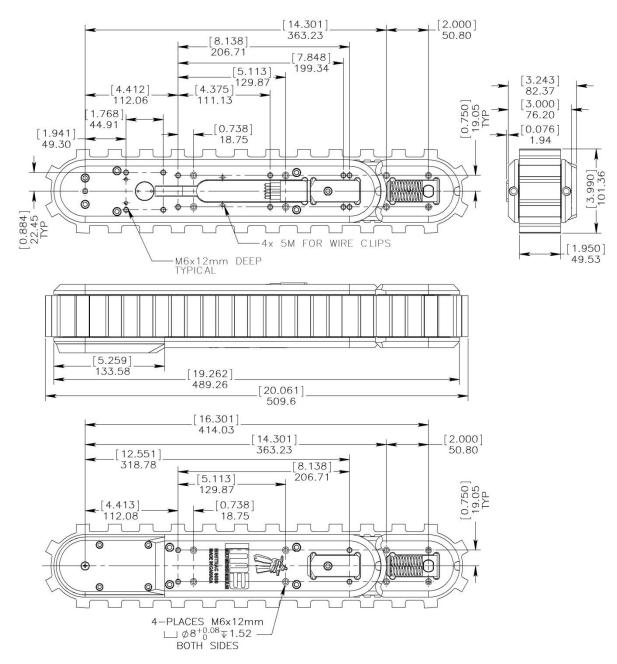


FIGURE 4: EXTENDED TRACK MOUNTING PATTERN (NOTE: THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION)

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# Power Take-Off

The Minitrac<sup>™</sup> 8000 crawler track features a power take-off shaft located just behind the drive wheel. The shaft taps power from the main bevel gear, positioned in front of the final drive gears. Engage with the shaft using a cup with a standard 4mm key. The speed of the shaft is roughly twice the drive wheel, but at half the torque. Specifically, the gear ratio for the power take-off is exactly twice the planetary ratio for your track. The power take-off may be used to drive other devices such as brushes, lead screws, wheels, etc., effectively turning the track into a multipurpose servomotor. We recommend that you remove the belt while using the power take-off.

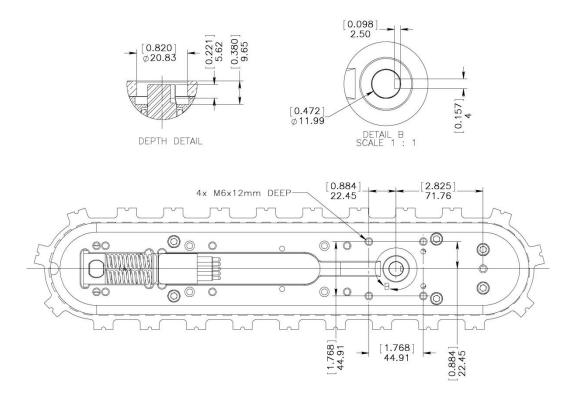


FIGURE 5: MT8000 POWER TAKE-OFF

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#### Maintenance

Minitracs™ 8000 have been designed to provide reliable performance and minimum downtime for maintenance. The frequency of maintenance will be largely dictated by the type of use and the environments the tracks are subjected to.Eddyfi recommends the following maintenance procedures.

# Scheduled Maintenance and Servicing

The scheduled maintenance suggested below is in addition to normal equipment operation inspections.

#### Daily

Daily or before each use of the Minitracs™:

- 1. Visually inspect the Minitrac and track belt for damage; if the track belt is torn or stretched it may need to be replaced. Check for correct belt tensioning.
- 2. Ensure that fasteners are in place and secure.



Note: Do not use the track if it looks damaged, or if the cabling looks damaged.

#### Weekly

Verify by visual inspection that there are no traces of oil near or on the sides of the drive wheel and the track belt. This would indicate that the oil seals may have been damaged by debris or have become worn by abrasion.

# Monthly

The monthly checklist provided below is suggested for all Minitrac<sup>™</sup> types and should be performed more often if the tracks are used extensively (more than 100 hours per month).

- 1. If muddy, thoroughly wash down the track body and wheels. Use only standard water line pressure; do not use a pressure washer on the equipment. Remove and clean the track belt / skid plate if dirt is packed underneath.
- 2. Remove buildup or dirt from drive wheel teeth.
- 3. Check the oil level and condition of oil.
- 4. For tracks equipped with a clutched drive wheel, test for the free-turning of the track belt. It should be able to turn easily by hand in at least one or both directions. Any serious stiffness may be caused by a jammed idler wheel, jammed drive wheel, or a build-up of sand under the belt or skid plate. For tracks equipped with a direct-drive wheel, the belt should be able to be back-driven by hand while the power is off to test for belt stiffness. Operating with a jammed belt may cause the belt to tear.

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# **General Cleaning**

To maintain top performance and get maximum life out of the Minitrac™ and its seals, it is important to prevent excessive dirt buildup under the track belt and around the wheels. Buildup may cause the track to lose speed and pulling ability, ultimately reducing the life of the seals or stretching and ruining the track belt. For best cleaning, the track belt should be removed.

For general cleaning of the Minitracs, wash with detergent and a stiff brush. The tracks may be sprayed off using regular water line pressure.

**Note:** Do not pressure wash, or steam clean the tracks because they are not sealed against these extreme pressures.

# Belt Replacement & Tensioning (Spring Tension)

#### To remove the belt:

- Install the spring compression screws (M8x50 socket cap screws) at the front of the track and completely compress the tension springs as illustrated in the figures below. Note that the spring compression screws should be lubricated with never-seize or light grease before use.
- 2. With the tension springs compressed, the belt is free to move by simply sliding it off the drive (rear) wheel and over either side plate of the Minitrac, as below.
- To install a new belt, place it on the idler wheel up front, then slide the belt over one of the side plates and onto the drive wheel. When the tension screws are backed off again and removed, the springs automatically tension the belt.







FIGURE 7: TRACK BELT REMOVAL STEP 2



FIGURE 8: TRACK BELT REMOVAL STEP 3

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#### Belt Replacement & Tensioning (Manual Tensioning)

The manual tensioning block is an optional component for tensioning the track belt manually using a tensioning screw instead of springs. This is sometimes required to prevent belt skipping when the track is operated at full power in the reverse direction. Typically, the manual tensioning block is ordered with the track from the factory but may also be ordered separately.

#### Belt Removal / Replacement

- 1. Referring to the figure below, remove the plastic cover plates and completely loosen the M6x40 idler wheel tensioning screws to release the belt tension.
- 2. The idler wheel will slide inward enabling the track belt to slip off the rear drive wheel.
- 3. Belts are installed again by placing the belt over the loose idler wheel, then slipping it onto the rear drive wheel. Adjustment of the track belt tension and idler wheel alignment is described in the next section.

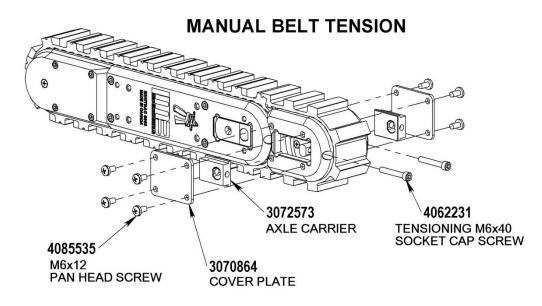


FIGURE 9: IDLER COVER PLATE (SPRING REPLACEMENT BLOCK)

# **Block Tension and Alignment**

Before tensioning the track belt, ensure the track is clean underneath the belt.

 Belt tension and idler wheel alignment are adjusted using the M6x40mm tension screws located in the end of the side plates near the idler wheel. The screws accept a 5mm Allen wrench. Rotate the screws clockwise to tension and counterclockwise to slacken. Apply Loctite 243 to the tensioning screws to prevent loosening and stainless-stainless thread galling in the idler shaft.

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Belt tension should be adjusted evenly with each adjustment screw until there is no obvious slack in the belt between the idler wheel and the drive wheel. When this is achieved, check the belt tension (see next section).

**IMPORTANT:** The front idler wheel must now be properly aligned as described below. Misalignment of the idler wheel will cause the track belt to rub against the side plates. This could degrade track performance, potentially resulting in the track belt becoming completely jammed and stopping the unit.

- 3. Idler wheel alignment must be checked next, preferably by using a caliper. Measure the gap between the forward portion of the idler wheel axle stub and the front end of the idler wheel mounting slot on each side of the track body. The gaps on both sides must be equal to within 0.5 mm (0.020 in)
- 4. After the idler wheel has been aligned, re-check the track belt tension by pulling up on the middle of the belt with your thumb. Correct track belt tension will allow a gap between 9 12 mm (0.38 0.50 in).
- 5. Next power up the Minitrac<sup>™</sup> on its side to verify belt tracking, watching for an even gap between the belt and the two side plates.
- 6. After the belt is aligned, replace the plastic side covers to prevent dirt and small bits of gravel from falling between the idler wheel and belt.

#### Gearbox Oil

#### Checking the Oil

The oil level in the Minitrac should be checked at least once per month if the track is under heavy use. The following outlines the procedure for checking the oil level.

- 1. The oil level is checked, drained, and filled by way of an oil port underneath the track belt either at the top or bottom. To access the port, the track belt must be removed.
- 2. Once the belt and skid plate are removed clean off dirt from around the oil port.
- 3. Remove the oil plug. Ensure that the plug's O-ring is clean and not damaged.
- 4. Inspect the oil. It is normal to see metallic wear particles from the gears. Under heavy operation in gritty environments, the oil may become dirty due to grinding sand at the seal interface. Change the oil if it is not clear.
- 5. The oil level must be just covering the transverse shaft visible through the hole when the track is laying flat on a level surface.

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# Draining / Filling the Oil

- 1. Following the procedure above, locate and remove the oil plug.
- 2. Drain the oil into a clean pan, tray, or clear empty container by turning the track over and allowing it to rest level for 20 minutes or so. This allows for the best possible visual inspection of frothing oil, dirt, etc.
- 3. When replacing the oil, DO NOT OVERFILL THE TRACK. Oil should just cover the transverse shaft visible through the oil fill-port. The oil will flow slowly inside the track requiring you to top up the oil twice more after leaving the track to stand for ten minutes between fillings.
- 4. Re-install the oil plug, wear strip and track belt.



**NOTE:** Over filling the track may cause oil leaks under heavy loads because of the volumetric thermal expansion of the oil.



**NOTE:** Minitracs™ 8000 crawler tracks are factory filled with ISO-150 weight food-safe gear oil. Eddyfi recommends the continued use of food-safe gear oil when the tracks are used in a clean environment. Otherwise, the tracks may be refilled with **SAE 30W** motor oil. Tracks sent to Eddyfi for servicing will be refilled with **ISO-150 food-safe** gear oil.

#### Overhaul

For extended service and maximum reliability of your Minitracs, Eddyfi Technologies offers a factory overhaul of the Minitrac. The factory overhaul constitutes an investment by the equipment owner in preventative maintenance. As such, the overhaul should be considered discretionary. We recommend that the Minitracs be thoroughly serviced once a year or after 500 hours of operation. This includes complete disassembly, cleaning and inspection of the Minitrac components with focus on the drive train and motor, and the replacement of O-rings and seals. In the overhaul, the track unit is completely disassembled. All internal components including the belt, motor, driver, gears, bearings, and seals are inspected and replaced where necessary.



**WARNING: SHOCK HAZARD. High voltage components inside.** This product may be serviced only by qualified technicians or trained personnel.

#### Track Extension Block

An extension block can be installed onto the Minitrac 8000 crawler track to enable use of an extended track belt. This will extend the effective track length by 95 mm (3.8 in).

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- 1. The extension block kit includes the block and extended track belt.
- 2. From your standard track, remove the belt, long side plate, idler wheel, and springs. The short side plate opposite the connector must remain on the track.
- 3. Install the springs and idler wheel into the extension block. See Figure 10 below.
- 4. Install the assembled extension block onto the track. The block will clip into the slots where the springs were installed before.
- 5. Install the extended track belt. See Belt Replacement & Tensioning.

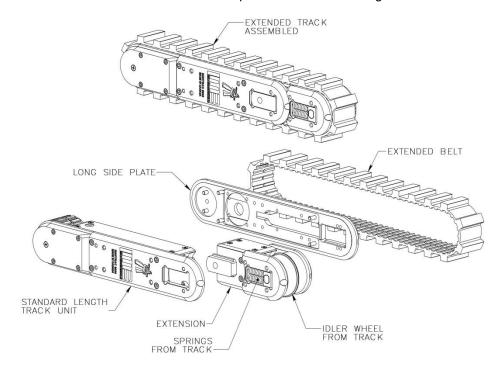


FIGURE 10: TRACK EXTENSION BLOCK

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# Parts and Repairs

# Ordering Parts/Customer Service

Spare and/or replacement parts are available for your product and can be ordered directly from your local office.

When ordering parts always make sure to quote the sales order acknowledgement (SOA) number and/or the serial number of the system component in question.

#### Inuktun Services Ltd. (Canadian Headquarters and Manufacturing Location)

2569 Kenworth Road, Suite C Nanaimo, BC, V9T 3M4 CANADA TF 1.877.468.5886

T +1.250.729.8080

info@eddyfi.com

www.eddyfitechnologies.com

#### Eddyfi Technologies - US (American Authorized Distributor and Service Centre)

812 W 13th Street Deer Park, TX, 77536 USA T +1.281.542.3292

info@eddyfi.com

www.eddyfitechnologies.com

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# Warranty Repairs

Warranty conditions are specified in the Warranty section. Should any conditions of the manufacturer's warranty be breached, the warranty may be considered void. All returned items must be sent prepaid to Eddyfi Technologies at the above address.

#### Factory Returns to Canada

Some sub-assemblies of your Eddyfi Technologies product are not field-serviceable and may need to return to the factory for repair. Warranty claims must return to the factory for evaluation.

To return an item for evaluation or repair, first contact Eddyfi Technologies at our toll-free number or e-mail address. Eddyfi Technologies will supply a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number with detailed shipping and customs instructions. Items shipped without an RMA number will be held at Eddyfi Technologies until the correct paperwork is completed. If cross-border shipments are not labelled as per the instructions, the items may be held by customs and issued additional fees.

All returned items must be sent prepaid unless other specific arrangements have been made.

When the product or system is being shipped anywhere by courier or shipping company, it must be packaged in the original packaging it was received in. This measure greatly reduces the consequences of rough handling and subsequent shipping damage.

Eddyfi Technologies cannot be held responsible for damages due to improper packaging. Shipping damage may have significant impact on repair turnaround times.

# Product/System Drawing Package Availability

Mechanical assembly and electrical wiring diagram drawing packages for your equipment are available in PDF format upon request. Printed copies may also be purchased from Eddyfi Technologies. Contact your local sales contact for more information.

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# **Limited Warranty Policy**

Eddyfi Technologies will repair or replace, at its expense and at its option, any system or component, subject to the limitations and / or exclusions specified herein, which in normal use has proven to be defective in workmanship or material provided that, within one (1) year of the purchase date, the original purchaser returns the product prepaid, accompanied by proof of purchase, from a sales agent authorized by Eddyfi Technologies, and provides Eddyfi Technologies with reasonable opportunity to verify the alleged defect by inspection.

#### **Warranty Limitations and/or Exclusions:**

- 1. This warranty does not apply to light bulbs.
- 2. Batteries, fuses, transistors, integrated circuit modules (IC's), voltage regulating devices and electrical plugs and / or connectors are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of shipment to the original purchaser.
- 3. Any article purchased from, but not manufactured by, Eddyfi Technologies is sold with only such warranties as are made by the manufacturer therein. Eddyfi Technologies only warrants that it has title thereto, free of all liens or encumbrances.
- 4. This warranty does not apply to units which are damaged by connection to improperly wired AC receptacles.
- 5. Track belts, tethers, view ports and other components subject to wear through abrasion are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of shipment to the original purchaser.
- 6. Any damage caused by failure to observe proper packing or to observe instructions for operation and maintenance as contained in the Instruction Manual furnished with the equipment, by accident in transit or elsewhere, will not be covered by the warranty.
- 7. Repairs are warranted for 90 days.

Eddyfi Technologies may require that certain components may be returned, prepaid, to a manufacturer's authorized station for inspection and repair or replacement.

Eddyfi Technologies will not be responsible for any asserted defect which has resulted from Acts of God, normal wear, misuse, abuse, improper configuration, repair, or alteration made, or specifically authorized by, anyone other than a representative of Eddyfi Technologies authorized to do so. The giving of, or failure to give, any advice or recommendation by Eddyfi Technologies shall not constitute any warranty by, or impose any liability on, Eddyfi Technologies.

The foregoing constitutes the sole and exclusive remedy of the purchaser and the exclusive liability of Eddyfi Technologies and is in lieu of any and all other warranties, express, implied or statutory as to merchantability, fitness for purpose sold, description, quality productiveness, or any other matter. Under no circumstances shall Eddyfi Technologies be liable for special, incidental or consequential damages, or for delay in performance of this warranty.

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