

Krone EasyCut F400 Fold front mower:

# One metre more

In 2019, Krone presented the EasyCut F400 CV Fold, a front-mounted mower with a working width of over 4.0m. We grabbed the chance to try out the latest version.

**T**he vast majority of front-mounted mowers operating within the UK and Ireland are 3.0m machines due to the transport width, though some buyers have dared to go for a 3.5m unit. So, you can understand why Krone wanted to push the boundaries and develop a 4.0m mower, listing the following reasons for its decision:

- Larger overall working widths when used in combination with a typical triple-mower outfit.
- Improved efficiency when operated as part of a zero-grazing regime.
- Though probably less relevant for our part of the world, it can work in steep Alpine regions where tractors can be fitted with dual wheels that often exceed the cutting width.

We caught up with the latest version of the EasyCut F400 Fold, supplied complete with merging augers instead of a conditioner to cut fresh grass.

Compared with the already familiar F320 Krone has redesigned the headstock for the F400 so it can match the outputs of tractors of up to 500hp and the large triple combinations that it's likely to be partnered with. One detail of this beefier design are the Cat III balls.

## Raise independently

The integrated linkage has two hydraulic rams with accumulators allowing up to 1.0m of travel. The driver can see the pressure gauge (60 bar is the target) on the right-hand side from the cab. A single-acting spool is required

## KEEPING IT BRIEF

With the F400 Fold, Krone has a 4.0m wide front mower without a conditioner.

The two outer discs fold back hydraulically for a transport width of less than 3.0m

In its transport position, the driveline remains connected, the bed is sealed and the disc timing maintained.

*The EasyCut F400 Fold has a 4.04m working width but folds hydraulically for transport.*







The two outer discs swing backwards hydraulically, the side guards automatically folding upwards. Convenient.



A hydraulic motor powers a sprocket to slew the wing into its different positions.



The suspension system is worked by a single-acting spool, which also lifts the mower at the headland. It's an effective set-up.

for operating the raise/lower, while a double-acting service is needed for folding in and unfolding the two side units.

For uniform weight distribution and cutterbar suspension, Krone opted for a split driveline. The bed is powered from the left-hand side. Depending which is fitted, the conditioner or swath auger is driven from the right.

### Sealed bed despite folding

But the far more interesting aspect: how has Krone gone about folding the cutterbar from a working width of 4.04m to a transport width of 2.99m? The engineers have used the space between the mower and the front wheels of the tractor to park the side units when in road mode. Two hydraulic motors swing the two side units backwards almost 180°.

The patented design bit is that the power flow is not interrupted. According to Krone, this brings two advantages: the position of the discs and their timing is maintained; and there is no potential for operator error. On the other hand, the driveline that runs in an oil bath and is lubricated for life, remains completely

sealed, regardless of whether it's in its work or transport position. The blades, the quick-release system and the disc protection design are identical to on the rigid SmartCut bed in the smaller EasyCut mowers.

### Swathing auger

One challenge is grouping 4.0m worth of grass into a swath that the tractor can straddle. To overcome this, the three outer discs rotate inwards. The top hat on the outer disc boasts wider carriers, while its neighbour has a half-height drum.

Crop flow is assisted by the 450mm diameter swathing auger, the working speed of which is determined by the pto. Krone says that a 750rpm speed is the ideal, as this preserves the structure of the forage, and mushing is prevented. Adjustable auger hoods determine the width of the row.

The F400 Fold benefits from the new design of the current EasyCut models, which is also reflected in the design of the stretched, sloping protective covers instead of metal panels. This is to avoid secondary damage



A new feature, not shown on the preview machine at the last Agritechnica, is a swathing auger for grouping 4.0m of cut grass into a row that fits between the tractor wheels.

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## DATA SHEET

### Krone EasyCut F400 Fold

Work width	4.04m
Transport width	2.99m
No. of discs	Nine
Merger auger	450mm
No. of spools	One double-, one single-acting
Weight	1,650kg
Tractor power	74kW/100hp+
Price	£38,000
Manufacturer information	

caused by stone marks that can then lead to broken paint and rusting as well as keeping parts prices low.

● As we are on costs, the list price for the F400 Fold is a considerable £38,000. To put that into perspective an F320 of a similar spec is around £25,000.

### Other details

- Also new is the rigid CR version of the F400, which has a roller conditioner for lucerne.
- LED lights and warning panel cost £210 extra.
- Optional Fold equipment includes a VKMS camera system for £3,100, which allows the operator to see from the front when pulling out of a gateway or at a junction. This is especially relevant for markets where the distance from the operator to the front of the machine exceeds the permitted legal dimensions.

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