

# A coveted species

*The rock-hungry Gill Beetle morphs into an even better drill for today's budget-conscious contractor*

Rock drills come in all shapes and sizes. But Ed Gill and his family-owned business, Gill Rock Drill in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, continues to focus attention to a drill that has stood the test of time for many years. It's the Gill Beetle, a ground-dwelling species with a hearty appetite for rock.

And while it recently underwent some innovative new design changes, including a new John Deere Tier 3/Stage III A diesel engine, its core characteristics have remained consistent since the original design created by W. Irwin Gill in the late 1950s. What makes the Gill Beetle a mighty good specimen for today's drilling is its low cost, versatility, and reliability.

Gill Rock Drill mines good value from John Deere engines. It drills down to the core reasons of reliability and good value, says president Ed Gill. "You can't make money unless you're drilling. You need a reliable piece of equipment. When other machines need repair, ours are still out there working.

The Gill Rock Drill can create holes 10 to 61 centimeters (4 to 24 in.) in diameter, giving it the versatility to drill a variety of holes on the same job.

We have John Deere engines operating over 12,000 hours without an overhaul. Plus, John Deere engines are rated as the lowest fuel-consuming engines in their horsepower range."

Ed recalls his first experience with his John Deere engine distributor nearly 12 years ago. "Bell Power System was the first to respond to our need for a sound-attenuated enclosure," says Ed. "They continue to work with us very closely, building compete power units."

Today, a 129-kW (173 hp) PowerTech Plus 4045H engine hydraulically powers the new Gill Beetle 300, making the track-mounted unit not only compact but also more powerful than ever before.

A higher-horsepower engine and cooling system actually influenced the development of a compact design for the new Gill Beetle 300. "We use the engine's fan to flow air over the hydraulic cooler, eliminating the need for another hydraulic motor to run a fan," explains Ed.

Measuring only 2.6-meters (8.5 ft.) wide and weighing 12.7-metric tons (28,000 lbs.), the drill is easily transportable by airplane, crane, barge, or over the road without a permit. And this Beetle is highly adaptable. It can drill holes 10 to 61 centimeters (4 to 24 in.) in diameter, giving it the versatility to drill a variety of holes on the same job. Plus, it can drill up to 152 meters (500 ft.) in tight or difficult to reach areas, making it ideal for geothermal well installations.

Ed Gill and his daughter, Debbie.



The drill comes with a separate air compressor that provides power to the down-the-hole hammer, adding to its compact design. As a result, it can access almost any drilling project whether it involves rough terrain, low-height restrictions, narrow passages, or small enclosures.

Ed took a forward-thinking approach to the new Gill Beetle 300, incorporating a Tier 3/Stage III A engine. "Emissions compliance has been the driving force of our new design," says Ed. "Our design changes are motivated by operator suggestions, and that's why John Deere engines are our power of choice."



A PowerTech Plus 4045H engine hydraulically powers the new Gill Beetle 300.

Emissions Cert.	Tier 3/Stage III A
Engine Model	PowerTech Plus 4045HF485
Displacement	4.5L
Rated Power	129 kW (173 hp) @ 2400 rpm
Cylinders	4
Aspiration	Air-to-air aftercooled
Distributor	Bell Power Systems, Inc. Essex, Connecticut (860) 767-7502 www.bellpower.com