Q: What exactly is an operator training simulator?
A: John Deere’s Operator Training Simulators are a cost-effective, safe, and efficient way to train new operators in a risk-free environment. Highly detailed and realistic lessons teach proper operator technique, machine controls, and safe operation in a virtual jobsite. The simulators are intended for new operator training, safety training, cross-training, or countless other training needs. The operator sits in the simulator seat, uses replica machine controls, and works in a virtual jobsite environment projected on the TV screen in front of them.

Q: What is included when you purchase a John Deere Simulator?
A: The simulator includes the portable simulator stand, adjustable seat and armrests, replica machine controls, and simulator software with single computer license. By customer request, the customer is responsible for supplying a computer and TV monitor. A safety, maintenance, and operation DVD video is also included that helps teach machine basics before attempting the simulator lessons. Documentation including setup instructions, help information, and lesson scripts are also included.

Q: Is it possible to purchase a computer through John Deere?
A: Southwest Research Institute, who helps develop and build the John Deere Simulators, can build a high powered desktop computer capable of running the simulator software smoothly. For $2150 Southwest Research will build the computer, install all necessary simulator software, activate, and test the software with your simulator hardware. Because of all the different graphics cards and computer configurations available on the market, we strongly encourage our customers to purchase a computer with the simulator. If you have an IT department or choose to purchase your own computer, we require that you run the computer specs through John Deere before purchasing to ensure you won’t run into any problems with the simulator. Please contact Jandi Ludin at LudinJandi@JohnDeere.com to purchase a computer or verify a computer you want to purchase.

Q: Is it possible to purchase a TV monitor through John Deere?
A: To avoid costs associated with procurement and shipping, we recommend that you purchase a TV monitor locally. We recommend a 46”-52” TV monitor (LCD, LED, etc).

Q: How do I place an order for a simulator?
A: There are a few options when purchasing a simulator. You can work with your local John Deere Construction Dealer when ordering simulators. Simply mention the John Deere Bookstore ID that corresponds with the simulator you are interested in purchasing, which are Excavator (SIM5600), 4WD Loader (SIM5700), Motor Grader (SIM5800), Crawler Dozer (SIM5900), Backhoe Loader (SIM6000), Motion Platform (SIMMOT), Computer (SIMCOMP). You can also purchase any of the simulators online with a credit card by clicking the “Buy Now” link on the individual simulator web pages at www.JohnDeereSimulators.com

Q: How long does it take to get the simulator after purchase?
A: From the time of purchase it takes 8-12 weeks to build and ship.

Q: How is the simulator delivered? Is there any assembly required?
A: The simulator ships as one complete unit on a covered pallet. Remove the simulator from the pallet and connect the simulator to the computer to get started.

Q: What add-on options are available to complement the simulators?
A: John Deere offers optional products to complement the simulator training, including an immersive head tracking device, grade control system training on select simulators, and an exciting optional and universal motion platform. For more information contact Jandi Ludin at LudinJandi@JohnDeere.com
Q: How big are the John Deere Simulators?
A: The John Deere Simulators are completely built around customer input and feedback. Portability was a high priority for our customer, so all simulators are built with portability in mind. The simulators are only 120-200lbs and can fit through doorways and can easily loaded into the back of a pickup truck or SUV. The motion platform is only 50lbs and can easily be switched from simulator to simulator. The simulators only require about 4’x4’ of floor space.

Q: Is the training on John Deere Simulators specific to John Deere Machines?
A: No. The John Deere Simulators were built to address the need to teach machine controls, hand-eye coordination, safe operation, and operator technique. We kept the simulators as generic as possible so the information learned on the simulators can be applied to all the machines at a training site or jobsite. For example the excavator simulator features both excavator style and backhoe style control patterns. The motor grader features controls that are laid out in the industry standard pattern that will apply to newer style controls and older mechanical style controls.

Q: Is there any safety information or training included?
A: Safety training is very important to operator training. All John Deere Simulators feature safety tips, caution messages, warning, and safety violations when unsafe acts are performed. Safety violations include, but are not limited to: tipping the machine, contacting underground or overhead utilities, bucket contact with truck cab, spoil pile placement, maneuvering close to a trench, contacting jobsite personnel with the machine, traveling too fast, unsafe bucket carry height, working with attachments, etc.

Q: Is there any training material that can be printed before attempting the simulation?
A: All 8-10 simulator lessons include a lesson script. The lesson script is presented on screen each time the lesson is attempted. This lesson script can also be printed and made available to the operator before they attempt any lesson. The lesson scripts include step-by-step instructions on how to successfully meet all objectives. They also include tips from the pros on how to improve productivity, information on how they will be scored, and safety reminders. The lesson scripts are an important piece of the simulator training and act as a ‘virtual trainer.’

Q: How is the operator scored? Can you track the progress of an operator?
A: One of the most powerful features of the John Deere Simulators is the integrated Budget Based Scoring. After every lesson, a budget based score sheet is presented to the operator. The operator can quickly see how their performance compares to a skilled operator. Everything is shown as a dollar figure, and the operator can easily see how their performance is affecting the bottom line. An instructor can add as many operators and jobsites, and they can access each operators score sheets to track performance and areas for improvement.

Q: What type of support and warranty come with the simulators?
A: All simulators come with a 90 day parts warranty and 1 year of free email technical support.