



Wood-Mizer

Sawyer
Nick Burdine

Tailman
Greg Baire

Log Scale
348

Sawing Time
34 min. 2 sec.

BF/HR
638

Net Yield
362

Percent Scale
104%

Percent Overrun
4%

Wood-Mizer LT50 HDD47-RW

ONE REASON PEOPLE attend or read about the Shoot-Out is to learn about new ideas and technologies that advance the art and science of turning round logs into flat boards. This year, Nick Burdine and Greg Baire (returning from an outstanding demonstration of the LT28 the previous day) showed that the blade wasn't the only cutting edge on the Wood-Mizer LT50. The computerized "Accuset" networks took over the task of calculating and setting the blade height, and was, according to Nick, absolutely accurate, and a real time- and wood-saver. One of the most innovative options, however, might have been missed by the casual observer. Nick ran the mill from a

cigar-box-size remote control he carried around with him. "The wireless control has a range of roughly 100-yards, and controls all head functions—feed/return, carriage height, debarker, and guide arm," he explained. With the networks programmed, the wireless control allowed Nick to saw from any location around the mill, while returning to the sawyer's station only to load, turn, or clamp a log. This gave him the freedom to move around the mill and watch the machine more closely.

It takes more than fancy technology to cut a board. It was Nick and Greg's teamwork and expertise that made their demonstration truly impressive. For example, the team



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saved steps and lifting by setting up saw horses to hold the rough boards until they were ready for edging. To save time sawing, Nick split the cant and set the two halves side by side on the mill so that he could cut two 10-inch-wide boards with each pass. The 47-hp Yanmar engine had no trouble powering the blade through both cants in each pass. Yellow poplar is lightweight, and Greg was able to offbear the boards and stack

them as quickly as Nick could cut them.

Unfortunately, some of the boards did not meet lumber scaler Skip Mourglia's high standards. According to Nick, "That last cant came unclamped and rolled on us, and that caused some wedge-shaped boards." The loss of seven boards cost 49 BF in the final tally. In spite of this, the team still exceeded the log scale by 4%! When they signaled the timekeeper to stop, they had stacked 362 BF of acceptable boards in just over 34 minutes for a production rate of 638 BF per hour. ■



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