

SPLITTER



Machine Operator
Paul Mc Cann

Log Handler
Evan Mc Cann

Time
30 min. 49 sec.

Ricks Split
1.5

Ricks/Hour
2.9

Super Split HD

THE FIREWOOD Competition is a great place to learn about machines. Paul Mc Cann and his two sons learned a hard lesson about aerodynamics and that tents make excellent sails. “I tied everything (the tent ropes) to my splitters, like I do at every show,” he later recalled. The 445-pound Super Split log splitters did not stand a chance against the high winds that swept through the exposition area the night before, and the Mc Canns worked to salvage whatever the previous night’s wind storm had left of their tent, and recover their log splitters that had been overturned and dragged through the mud by the canvas sails. Fortunately the tough little machines were not seriously damaged, and by that afternoon they wheeled one over to the Firewood Competition area for the demonstration.

The Super Split is an interesting piece of mechanics and does with

inertia what the other machines do with brute hydraulic strength. Rather than turn a hydraulic pump to multiply the force of the engine, the Super Split uses a pair of 72-pound flywheels powered by a 6-hp Subaru Robins engine. When the operator lifts the control lever, a rack engages a pinion gear and uses the momentum of the flywheels to advance the log into the wedge. The machine then completes the cycle by automatically retracting the rack while bringing the flywheel back up to its normal 300 rpms.

If that explanation is a bit much, suffice it to say that the machine has a 3-second cycle time. In nearly every case, one cycle gave a clean split, but where knots were involved, a second hit was all it needed to pop the wood apart. The wedge is shorter and thinner than most and takes the path of least resistance through the grain—fur-

A PARTICIPANT IN



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ther reducing the amount of power required for a split. Paul is proud of his machine, boasting that “the only person who’s going to beat me on that machine is the guy who buys one.”

Lifting the pieces onto the splitter was the biggest problem for Paul. “There were a couple of times when I really had to grunt. If you can get it up on the machine, it will push it through the wedge.” The optional sorting table reduced the amount of lifting when pieces needed to be re-split. His son Evan managed to keep pace, offbearing the split wood and pushing it through the target holes. For his part, Paul kept the pieces on the small side so that only a few had to go back through the splitter. With the fast cycle time, even these took only a few seconds. Clearly, these two had spent a lot of hours working together with the machine. When the final piece of the half cord of wood went through the target hole, the timekeeper’s stop watch clicked off at 30 minutes, 49 seconds.

Paul noted that when he initially purchased the company in 1991 the biggest customer for the Super Split was commercial firewood producers, but that now a lot of people buy them for personal use. Both groups showed their interest at the Firewood Competition, and several of the machines went home to new owners after the event. ■

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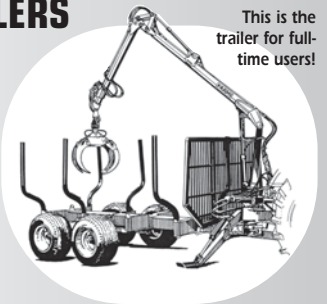
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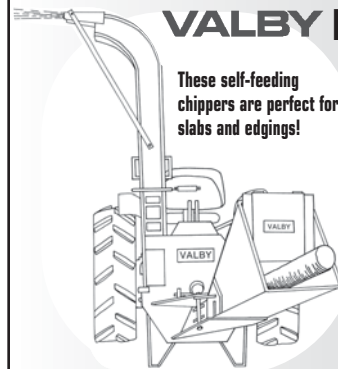
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