



Bill Thoms

**Importer/
Distributor**
Bill Thoms &
Resource Recovery

Machine Operator
Jerold Visser

Log Handler
Ted Koopman

Time
13 min. 43 sec.

Cords Processed
1.5

Hakki Pilke 1x42

JEROLD VISSER is no stranger to the wood business, or the Firewood Competition. He had worked for Timber Harvester sawmills before his association with Hakki Pilke, and currently owns the smaller 1x37 firewood processor. Like many owners, he and his assistant Ted Koopman cut wood part-time. According to Jerold, “Up in New England, a lot of customers just cut for themselves and a few others, but we also have people in the firewood business that cut 2,000 to 3,000 cords per year, so it runs the whole gamut.” Although neither of them had used the larger 1x42, they were more than willing to put it through its paces.

Moving the 2,348-pound machine with a 3-point hitch requires a fairly stout tractor. The 75-hp Kubota tractor handled this task with no com-

plaint. Once the competition began, the tractor ran slightly above an idle to turn the hydraulic pump on the Hakki Pilke. “To run the machine, you only need a 25-hp tractor, but it takes a larger tractor to pick it up and move it,” Jerold explained. “At many shows, we just use a 20-hp Honda engine.” While Jerold ran the con-

“It was so quick to clear that I didn’t take a time out.”

—Ted Koopman

trols, Ted was stationed on a Nokka grapple loader, ready to keep the log deck loaded for splitting. As a result of their teamwork, there were no delays in the cutting and splitting process.

All functions of the 1x42 are hydraulically controlled. While the

controls are not automated, the hydraulic levers are in a cluster that made it easy for Jerold to advance the log against an adjustable stop, cut the wood to length with a chain saw-type slasher bar and ram the wood through a 4-way splitter before sending it up the outfeed conveyor. Jerold pointed out that the height of the splitter can be adjusted to accommodate different diameters of wood. The splitter can also drop down to split a smaller piece in half. They did not use the 6- or 8-way wedges. "We try to separate out the logs so that we change out wedges as little as possible," Jerold explained.

A jammed piece of wood gave Jerold the chance to demonstrate another feature of the machine. When he lifted the cover, all hydraulic power shut off, and all moving parts stopped

immediately. With the jammed wood cleared, he closed the cover, and the machine came back to life. Besides the obvious safety aspect, this feature speeds up operation. "It was so quick to clear that I didn't take a time-out," he recalled.

The size of some of the firewood crowded the machine's 16-

inch-diameter capacity. "The infeed had no problem with the knots, but I trimmed a couple logs back a bit just to be sure I wouldn't have any problems at the show," said Jerold. Running through its 15 logs in only 13 minutes, 43 seconds, the 1x42 had a brief, but very impressive run. ■



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