



# PALAX®

*Importer/  
Distributor*  
Carl Neutzel

*Machine Operator*  
Carl Neutzel

*Log Handler*  
None

*Time*  
22 min. 31 sec.

*Cords Processed*  
1.5

*Cords/Hour*  
4.0

## Palex Power 90S

CARL NEUTZEL, OWNER of Neutzel Services, found himself unexpectedly busy in the hours before the Firewood Competition. He volunteered to use his Nokka forwarding trailer and grapple loader to move firewood logs to another competitor's location before bringing up his own load of logs. "That's what you've gotta do," he explained. And while the rain sent most of the salesmen scurrying back to their tents, Carl seemed not to mind or even notice. "I didn't melt," he commented.

An import from Finland, the Palax 90 firewood processor was the only PTO-powered machine to use a circle saw cutoff blade. The 50-hp Kubota tractor Carl rented for the event looked like the perfect choice to move and power the machine,

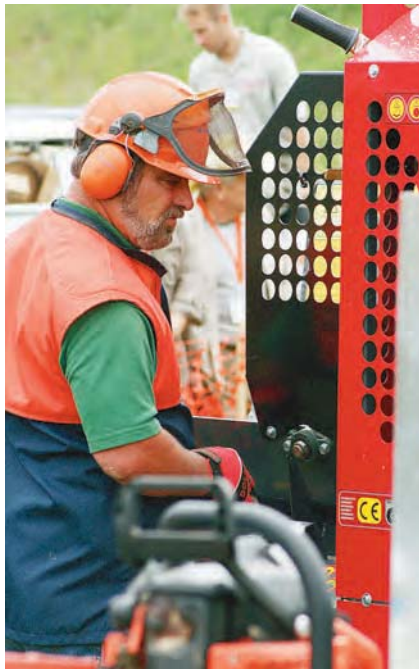
although Carl pointed out that many users use smaller tractors once the 2,800-pound machine is in place.

Carl says of the Palax 90, "Everything is powered by hydraulics and is self-contained."

*Carl volunteered to use his Nokka forwarding trailer and grapple loader to move firewood logs to another competitor's location before bringing up his own load of logs.*

Once the machine was in place, Carl and his assistant used a hand winch to fold down the 14-foot conveyer, and set up the infeed conveyer and live deck. To demonstrate how the machine would be used in the "real

world,” they loaded a forwarding trailer with firewood logs, then used the grapple to load eight logs on the live deck before the start of the event. As he processed the logs, his assistant



used the grapple loader to replenish the supply.

“We were all right with the logs,” Carl recalled. We did have one piece fall into the splitting chamber crosswise, and we had to stop the clock to clear the jam, but other than that, everything went fine. According to Carl, the size of the logs was good for the machine, and it had no problems.

The circle blade cutoff saw did its job smoothly and quickly. Another time-saver, Carl noted, was the “optimi” system that retracts the hydraulic ram only as far as necessary for the length of firewood being cut. “This saves on cycle time, and results in less wear on the machine. For a splitter head, Carl selected the 4-way wedge. Fewer splits require less force, and may have saved some time. The pieces would have been fine for fire-

places and wood furnaces; however, many of the resulting pieces were on the large side for indoor woodstoves.

As far as the machine operation, Carl says, “I don’t have a tendency to rush things. Time is important, but I want to run it so someone will see it like they’d be running it.” Even at that, the machine kicked out its cord and a half of firewood in 22 minutes, 31 seconds, for a rate of 4 cords per hour.

Not one to dodge the issues, Carl talked about the availability of parts for his foreign-built machines and the fact that they use metric size parts. “I’ve handled Palax for about five years now. The stuff that comes from Finland and Norway is very good.” He continued, “A lot of the parts are available locally and we keep a good supply in stock.” ■

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