

PROCESSOR



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

Machine Operator
Larry Wafer

Log Handler
Mark Goose

Time
15 min. 38 sec.

Cords Processed
2.5

Cords/Hour
5.8

Hakki Pilke 1x37

THE HAKKI PILKE 1x37 was one of two machines representing Maaselän Kone Oy, a Finnish manufacturer of wood processing equipment. As sales manager for Resource Recovery Services, Larry Wafer occasionally demonstrates the 1x37 for customers, but he is not a professional firewood cutter. At the Firewood Competition, he demonstrated that the machine has a quick learning curve and that sometimes less is more.

Larry thought the logs for the event were good, but noted that some of the larger ones pushed his machine to the limit. Designed for a maximum diameter of 15-1/2 inches, he found himself feeding 16-inch pieces through the machine. "It has a 16-inch bar on the cutoff saw," he explained, "and on some of them, it barely reached through."

The 1x37 needed only half the power output of the 40-hp John Deere tractor on the other end of its PTO input. The only hydraulic devices on this model are the infeed conveyer and splitting ram. The saw blade is a standard 16 inch, 0.050

gauge chain saw bar powered by a pulley which runs any time the PTO is turning. The outfeed conveyer is also powered by a pulley. The rest was "sweat equity" on Larry's part, as he used muscle to pull the saw blade through the wood and set the wedge height adjustment, which is linked to a mechanical lever. Larry used a 4-way wedge which could be retracted

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for a 2-way split on the smaller pieces. A foot switch activated the splitting cycle, sending the hydraulic ram out and back in 2.8 seconds with 6 tons of force.

"We just brought the bare bones equipment that people need for the machine, so that they can see that it does work without all the options,"

Larry explained. The “bare bones” and a little muscle, however, were all the team needed to make an impressive showing with the firewood processor. The two of them managed to cut and push all the wood through the 4-way splitter in 15 minutes, 38

seconds— just 5 seconds ahead of the larger and more automated Hakki Pilke 1x42. For his part, Larry claimed that he did not take any shortcuts, and that he ran the machine exactly the way he would want his customers to do it.

Part of the “less is more” philosophy applies to the power source. The 1x37 can run on as little as 20hp, and the PTO drive means that the user saves the cost of an extra engine. This makes it attractive to a wide variety of customers, ranging from sawmills to landscapers, and even private landowners who co-op to buy the machines.

After the Firewood Competition, Larry demonstrated how quickly he could exchange the 4-way wedge for a 6-way. “It takes about 30 seconds to do it,” he told the audience, as he set aside the 4-way wedge and dropped the 6-way unit in place. He then neatly folded up the infeed and out-feed conveyers, lifted the 1,500-pound machine with the tractor’s 3-point hitch, and drove off across the mud back to his booth. ■



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