

SPLITTER



Eastonmade 12-22

Manufacturer

Eastonmade
Wood Splitters
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Canada
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woodsplitters.com](http://www.eastonmade
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Machine Operator

Michael Dzek

Assistant

None

Time

4 min. 48 sec.

Cords Processed

0.17 Cords

Cords/Hour

2.1 Cords

“Big Mike” Dzek took the controls of Eastonmade’s 12-22 firewood splitter this year. Mike has been in the firewood business for about 3-1/2 years and owns two of their 22-28 splitters, so he was a natural choice to run the smaller 12-22, fully outfitted with log lifter, conveyor, and several wedge configurations.

The 12-22 is Eastonmade’s midsize firewood splitter. Company owner Andrew Easton says he chose to put this one in the Shoot-Out because it would be his company’s fastest machine for the Shoot-Out, with a 4.9-second cycle time. The Shoot-Out logs may as well have been matchsticks for the 12-hp Honda GX 390 engine and 22-gpm high-pressure hydraulic pump. The optional 16-foot conveyor had its own 5-hp Honda power supply, and made a neat pile. In a firewood business, it would be useful in filling a customer’s truck or trailer.

Mike started out with the smallest pieces first, putting them through the standard 6-way wedge, to get them out of the way. A push on a pair of levers engaged the autocycle, ramming the

wood through the wedges, and automatically retracting the hydraulic piston for the next piece. While the splitter was busy with its task, Mike was staging the next piece, ready to drop it in the moment the machine was ready. Matching the rhythm of the splitter’s 5-second cycle time, the splitter was in constant motion. When he got to the larger pieces, he made a quick wedge change—so quick that he didn’t even ask for a time-out—and finished up the pile with the optional box wedge. This V-shaped wedge shaved the firewood into uniform 4-inch square blocks. After each pass, Mike pulled the bolt of firewood back for another until it had been reduced to firewood-size pieces perfect for woodstoves or fireplaces. While this was slower than a single pass through the wedge, the quality of the wood was excellent. “When we went into it, we agreed that we were going to take a little more time and produce a good quality product,” Mike said. “There’s no point in splitting firewood if people can’t get it into their stoves. When you’re selling, you’ve got to have a product that people want, something that’s a little bit different. Quality control happens

right at the splitter.”

This philosophy has served Mike well. A lot of the work he does is for campsites, which gives him a market during the off-heating season. “The wood produced is the perfect size for that,” he said. He operates two top-of-the-line Eastonmade 22-28 splitters and sells roughly 300 cords of wood per year. Although these machines are somewhat slower, the

extra power comes in handy working with the logs he gets from tree services. Mike says that the machine will split anything it can lift. “I’ve split wood up to 52 inches in diameter, but I don’t recommend doing it every day,” he said. “But I do a lot of wood in the 42-inch-diameter range. You do need to be in pretty good shape to be in the firewood business,” he concluded. ●



MACHINE SPECS

Model	12-22
Power	12-hp Honda GX 390
Cycle time.....	4.9 sec.
Log loading	Hydraulic
Max firewood length	24 in.
Options used.....	Box wedge, 16-ft conveyor

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