

SPLITTER



Manufacturer

Eastonmade
Wood Splitters
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Machine Operator

Andrew Easton

Assistant

None

Time

6 min. 53 sec.

Cords Processed

0.17 Cords

Cords/Hour

1.5 Cords

Eastonmade Ultra

Eastonmade's new "Ultra" firewood splitter showed that it could still make a good showing even with little more than half the horsepower—and manpower—of the other splitters at the Shoot-Out. Splitting a cord and a half per hour is a highly respectable production rate for a splitter designed for home and light production. With only two Eastonmade representatives at the show and two firewood splitters to demonstrate, company owner Andrew Easton decided to run the Ultra solo, while his "assistant" Michael Dzek ran the larger Eastonmade 12-22 splitter. "It worked out well," Andrew said after the Shoot-Out. It gave us a chance to show that our machines can run efficiently with a single operator. It also gave Andrew a chance to show off his muscles, since the bare-bones Ultra does not feature a hydraulic log lifter. "Some of the logs had some girth to them," he noted.

While most of the splitters focused on production, Andrew chose to produce smaller pieces which would easily fit in a woodstove, which meant passing many of the pieces through the 4-way wedge several times. In fact, Andrew says that a lot of his customers are commercial firewood producers

who want a fast, smaller splitter to resplit the oversize pieces produced by large firewood processors. The 4-second cycle time on the Ultra makes it ideal for this purpose. Other users are typically homeowners and small part-time firewood producers.

Controls on the Ultra could not be much simpler. A single hydraulic valve with detent on the return stroke frees up the operator to load the next piece while the piston retracts. The recoil-start 11-hp Honda GX 340 engine has enough power to push wood through the wedge with 14 tons of force. The



hydraulic ram can handle pieces up to 24 inches in length. When asked about the maximum diameter the Ultra can handle, Andrew replied that he had split logs over 40 inches in diameter with no problem. "If you can get it on the splitter, it can handle it," he said. The extra push from the 2-stage hydraulic pump kicks in for crotches and other unusually tough pieces.

Although it is Eastonmade's smallest splitter, the Ultra has many of the features found on their larger splitters. All wear surfaces are replaceable. The single wedge is 12 inches tall, which comes in handy for large pieces, and replacing it with a 4-way wedge is a simple matter of lifting it out of the receiver and putting the 4-way wedge in its place. Wedge height is set by manually pinning it in place. The Ultra features a large outfeed tray that allows the user to set pieces aside when splitting large logs so

they can be resplit without picking them up off the ground. Another clever feature is a hitch receiver on both ends of the splitter so that it can be towed in either direction.

Andrew says he was pleased with the Shoot-Out performance. Its power and speed were well matched to the Shoot-Out logs, and even without help, he was able to match the machine's advertised output of 1.5 cords per hour. Not bad for the smallest machine at this year's Shoot-Out. •



MACHINE SPECS

Model	ULTRA
Power	11-hp Honda GX 340
Cycle time.....	3.9 sec.
Log loading.....	N/A
Max firewood length	24 in.
Options used	Standard machine



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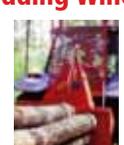
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