

SMALL PROCESSOR



Manufacturer

JAPA
Imported by Metsa
Machines LLC
236 Genesee St.
PO Box 502
Merrill, WI 54452
ph: 888/848-4842
www.metsamachines.com

Machine Operator

Bob Nelson

Assistant

Ville Kairus

Time

41 min. 23 sec.

Cords Processed

1.5 Cords

Cords/Hour

2.17 Cords

JAPA 435

One of several processors that made the 2018 Firewood Shoot-Out a truly international event was the Finnish-built Japa 435.

Although similar in appearance to other European compact firewood processors, this one is no lightweight in power or production. The Paul Bunyan Show and the Great Firewood Shoot-Out® were a major event for Japa, and several representatives from Finland attended. The Japa firewood processor was provided by the U.S. importer and dealer Metsa Machines, and Bob Nelson, general manager of Metsa, ran the machine, while Ville Kairus, of Finland, assisted.

Although a number of the Japa firewood processors are in use across Europe and North America, the one at the Shoot-Out was specifically modified for the U.S. market. By mounting the processor on a trailer frame and integrating a 38-hp Kohler engine into the unit,

Japa created a portable stand-alone unit that can be transported and used anywhere. The unit operates on the trailer, so all the Japa team had to do to prepare for the Shoot-Out was back it in place and lower the live deck and outfeed conveyor. The 435 is one of Japa's best-selling machines, but what makes it different is the built-on prototype trailer package.

The 435 is the second-largest firewood processor built by Japa. Although at first glance it appears to be a scaled-up version of many of the compact European and Scandinavian firewood processors, closer inspection reveals a number of innovative features. Hydraulically powered blowers directed sawdust from the cutoff saw into one collection bag, and fines into another. But the real magic is under the hood. Once the 0.404 chain makes its cut, the firewood block drops down into a staging area. When the operator starts the splitting cycle, a hydraulic kicker pushes it into the splitting chamber. When

the 18-ton hydraulic ram pushes the wood through the V-shaped Perfect Split™ box wedge, even-size pieces drop onto a vibrating grate that removes the fines before being pushed onto the out-feed conveyor. The return stroke of the splitting ram automatically pulls the unsplit part of the wood back for another pass. While the machine splits the wood, the operator cuts off the next piece. When a sensor determines that the wood is finished splitting, the operator then kicks the next piece of wood into the splitting chamber to repeat the process. With a little practice, the operator can keep the splitter in constant motion.

According to Bob, the 435 is easy to use, with a single joystick control. A company representative spends a day with the customer when delivering the machine, just to make sure everything and



everyone is working properly. The Japa team certainly seemed to be enjoying demonstrating the new machine at the Shoot-Out, and were justifiably proud of the fact that when they pulled the machine out, there was no debris left behind—just a pile of perfectly split, clean firewood.

After the Shoot-Out, Bob said that he was very pleased with the performance of the 435. When asked if he would make any changes, he thought for a moment before saying, “More power! I think we’ll put a diesel engine on the next one.” ●



MACHINE SPECS

Model.....JAPA 435
 Power.....38-hp Kohler EFI
 Cutoff.....22-in. bar chain saw, 0.404 gauge
 Cycle time.....4.5 sec.
 Log loading...2-chain log rack
 Max diameter17 in.
 Options used0.404 harvester head with auto chain tensioner, Kohler 38-hp EFI engine, tandem axle trailer pkg. Perfect Split™ system. Perfect Clean™ system.



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