

LARGE PROCESSOR



Manufacturer

Multitek
North America LLC
375 Progress St.
Prentice, WI 54556
ph: 800/243-5438
www.multitekinc.com

Machine Operator

Colton Fodor

Assistant

Dave Foytik

Time

13 min. 15 sec.

Cords Processed

2 Cords

Cords/Hour

9 Cords

Multitek 2040xp2

When Multitek wanted an operator who could really show what their 2040xp2 firewood processor can do, they brought

in a customer who uses it every day in his firewood business. With a 125-hp John Deere diesel engine under the hood and over 10,000 cords under his belt, Colton Fodor has learned how to push the machine to the limits beyond the normal operating envelope and reduce the cycle time by nearly 25%.

Colton's first Multitek firewood processor had the smaller 91-hp diesel engine but it just couldn't keep up with him, so he traded up to the 125-hp model—identical in most ways to the one he used at the Shoot-Out. The biggest difference, he said, was working next to other machines with a crowd watching. "It was nerve-racking at the beginning," he recalled. But once he settled into the quiet, air-con-

ditioned cab and put on some music, he relaxed. "I like to get down and jam out with old-school AC/DC," he said. "I got into the rhythm, I was set, and it didn't feel any different from when I was working at home."

While most of the Shoot-Out participants liked the quality of the wood provided, Colton expressed some disappointment. "You have to understand that all those logs that we ran at the Shoot-Out are straight, with no branches," he said. "At home, we run a lot of crooked firewood." He continued, "One of the reasons we went with the Multitek is the grapple feed that moves the log. No matter how crooked a log is, it brings it down and clamps it tight during sawing. Once you learn to use it, you can set logs back and straighten them out. It's like having an extra hand, almost."

Sitting next to a 60-inch-diameter blade might seem a little intimidating, but Colton says that he feels at ease

running the machine. “I am in a cab with bulletproof windows, plus the saw swings down away from the operator, so I felt pretty safe,” he said. All processes are controlled by a pair of joysticks. According to Colton, the learning curve on the big machine is pretty quick. “When I get new guys, it just takes a couple of hours for them to catch on.”

Now, for Colton’s secret for fast firewood processing. When cutting the 16-inch firewood, he pushed it into the wedge about 18 inches—just far enough for the next piece to fall into the splitting chamber—before manually retracting the splitting ram. Since the ram travels 18 inches instead of the full 24, he reduces the splitting cycle time by 25%. And since the machine can cut off wood faster than it splits, his overall production is significantly increased. It also requires more power, since the blade has less time to spin back up to full

speed after each cut, which is why he moved up to the 125-hp model. “You can really go through some wood!” he exclaimed. “You have to catch it at just the right time while you’re also advancing the next log and running the cutoff. I’ve tried to show my other operators how to do it, but not everyone gets it.” By using this technique to push the machine to its maximum, Colton not only improves his business production, but also pushed the Multitek 2040xp2 to the top of this year’s Shoot-Out. ●



MACHINE SPECS

Model.....2040xp2
 Power125-hp John Deere
 Cutoff60-in. circle saw, inserted tooth
 Cycle time.....3 sec.
 Log loading5-strand live deck
 Max diameter20 in.
 Options used.....Secondary tip pan



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