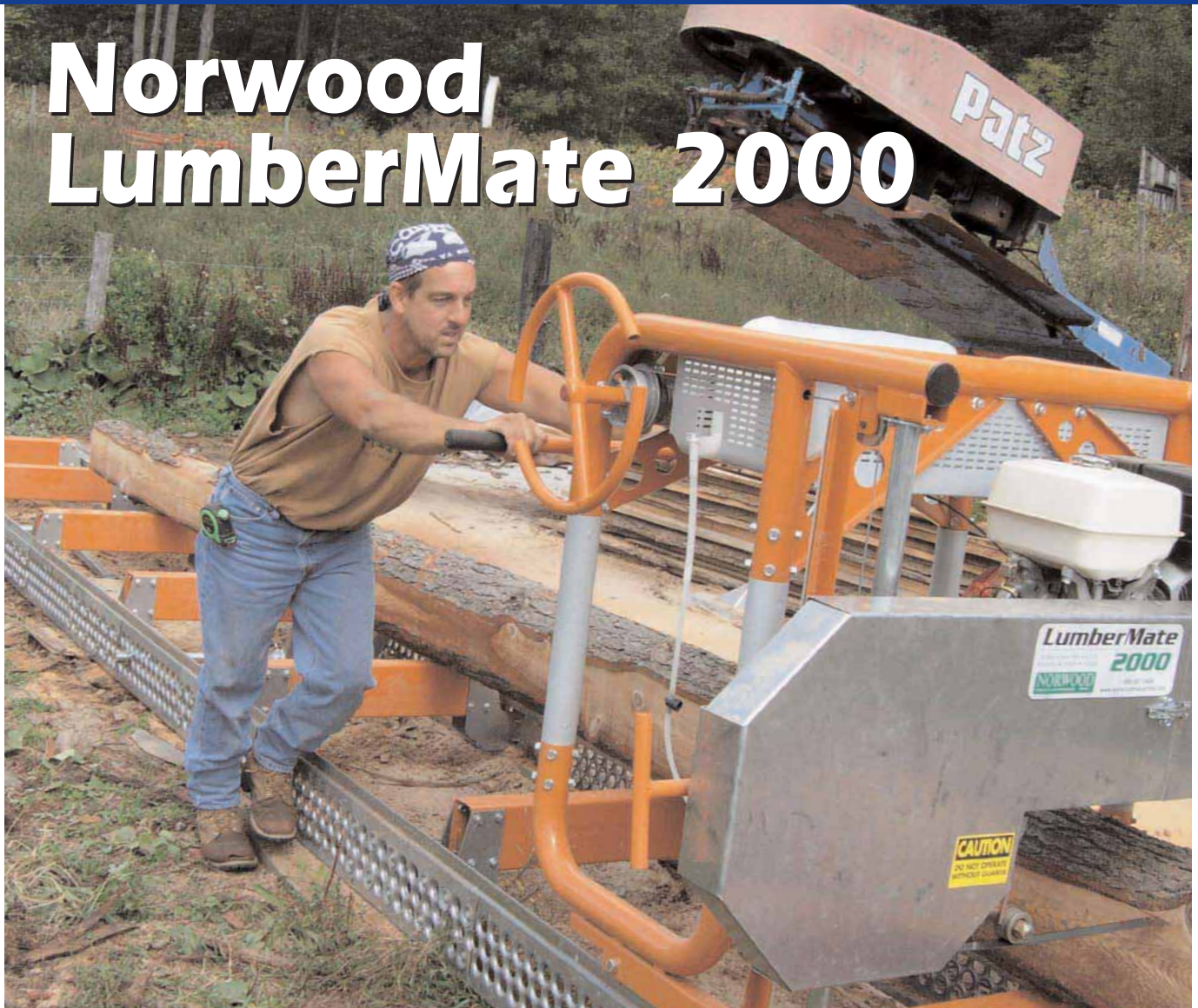


# Norwood LumberMate 2000



**There was a time when the old village sawmill could only saw long timbers if the log carriage track of the mill was extended and an extra trailer added onto the end of the log carriage. I can remember occasionally seeing older sawmill buildings which had a hole cut in the side of the building where the end of a long carriage track would stick out. They had to do this to make enough space for the sawing of long timbers. But times have changed, and we have a new generation of sawmills.**

**M**any of the new portable sawmills can easily and quickly be set up and leveled right on flat ground surfaces—even on the back lawn if desired. And with a little track extension, there's no limit to the length of timber that can easily be processed.

I saw a recent example of this in upstate New York. I was visiting with Russ Beers in Hamilton, New York, and he agreed to demonstrate his Norwood LumberMate 2000 sawmill for me. Though the mill looked new, Russ had put about 20 hours of occasional use on it in the year and a half since he had owned it.

Russ is a steel construction worker and spends a little time on custom sawing projects. But it appears that the largest motivation for his purchase of a sawmill was his decision to build a 4,700-square-foot home across the road from the old farmhouse. His design called for some long beams, he had the timber on the property, and he wanted a sawmill that could provide his needed product. Russ added, with no hesitation, that “the Norwood LumberMate has suited my needs quite well.”

## SPECS

### Norwood LumberMate 2000

Max log diameter .....	31 in.
Max width boards sawn .....	24 in.
Max log length .....	13 ft. on standard log bed 40 ft. or more with extensions to bed
Productivity .....	1,100 to 1,500 bf/day, 1 x 12 lumber
Log bed .....	2-1/2 in. x 8 in. twin debossed steel rails, 3/8 in. thick in critical areas, cross members 3 in. x 6 in.
Water tank .....	4 gal.
Saw carriage .....	2-1/2 in. tubular steel
Saw blades .....	silicon, steel, 1-1/4 in. x 0.042 raker-style
Power unit choices .....	13-hp Honda, 15-hp Kohler, 20-hp Honda, or 23-hp Briggs & Stratton
Price (without options) .....	\$4,890 to \$5,890 depending on power unit chosen
Options .....	Toe boards, log-sider and shingle jig, log loader/rotator, blade sharpener, tooth setter, cam dogs, trailer package, saw carriage cover, support legs, quick-leveling feet, 4-foot bed extension, detach- able 2-foot bed extensions

#### MANUFACTURER

Norwood Industries Inc. 252 Sawmill Dr., Buffalo, NY 14225

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**MANUFACTURER'S COMMENTS:** Norwood keeps growing and remains committed to developing new technology and equipment to help people work their land, work their forests, and mill and process their own lumber. We have expanded our stable of sawmills and developed a host of other hardworking equipment, including a range of log skidders, tree harvesting tools, and practical ATV and tractor attachments.

Russ Beers prefers a ground level setting for his sawmill.

The mill is set up at ground level between the house and the old barn, and there is plenty of space to put down as long a carriage track as might be needed. Russ had 32 feet of track laid out and leveled in front of the saw carriage and was sawing some 28-foot-long timbers while I was there. The sawmill's standard track length is long enough to handle 13-foot logs, but optional 4-foot sections can be easily attached, even exceeding 40 feet if desired. The bed sections are made of 2 1/2 inch x 8 foot twin debossed galvanized steel rails, 3/8 inches thick, with 3 inch x 6 inch box-beam cross-bunks. They sat on the ground, but were, of course, blocked a little for leveling.

I inquired about assembly of the mill and was told by Russ that it was not at all difficult. He brought the mill home from the factory in the back of his pickup truck with the components packaged on pallets in kit form. Then Russ and a helper put the mill together in two days.

#### Outside Setup

A sawmill set up at ground level certainly has some advantages for a person working alone. Large logs can readily be rolled onto the log bed, especially with the use of the optional log-loading winch. The Norwood mill can saw logs as large as 31 inches in diameter, and there are a couple of other optional items that can enable the operator to turn large logs on the deck, even when working alone. The log-loading cable and winch can also be used to rotate the log in place. And there are the movable toe boards on the log deck that have built-in rollers for positioning the log on the deck.

Russ leaves his mill out in the open and keeps it looking new by employing a cover to protect the saw carriage from the elements. But



Log bed extensions provide the capability of sawing long timbers.

## SAWMILL REVIEW

some mill owners choose to set up their portable mill inside a building. That was the case with the owner of a Norwood LumberMate sawmill that I located further up north on the eastern end of Lake Ontario.

### Inside Setup

Howard Loomis of Pulaski, New York, set up his Norwood mill in a garage-type structure. Sharing the space with a number of other items, the sawmill is obviously a piece of machinery that gets only occasional use. But Howard is a finish carpenter by trade, and the mill is ready on demand for special uses.

Howard has had his sawmill for two years, but it still looked new to me. As with my previous contact, Howard described how it required only two days for two of them to unpack the mill parts from the pallets and assemble them—with the help of the provided instruction



Howard Loomis operates his part-time Norwood mill inside a utility shed.

booklet and video, of course.

As he operated the sawmill, Howard pointed out that he purchased the largest power unit that's available for the LumberMate

2000, a 23-hp Briggs and Stratton. His personal recommendation is that one should not skimp on power. That was contrary to what Russ Beers had said; Russ has the

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smallest motor available, a 13-hp Honda, which seemed to be doing a satisfactory job for him.

All the functions are manual on the standard mill, and the saw carriage moved smoothly down the track on the log bed. Howard spoke highly about what he referred to as the one-step throttle and the centrifugal clutch. I believe that there is also a power feed option available for the mill. The manufacturer claims an accuracy of 1/32 inch on the cuts. It has been demonstrated that the mill can saw a veneer sheet as thin as 1/10 inch.

Howard has also extended his log bed beyond the 13-foot standard, laying out 18 to 20 feet of bed so that he can saw a 16-foot log. The short bed length that comes with the mill would not seem to be a very practical standard for most users. The dogs provided with the mill can clamp low enough to hold a 1-inch board on

the bed but the manufacturer can also provide some interesting cant-dogs that can grip as low as 3/4 inch without marring the edge of the board.

### One More Feature

There is another interesting feature of the Norwood mill that neither of these operators was using, but which I consider worth mentioning. A trailer package is available which includes a torsion axle, full-size wheels, and other necessities. The mill can be operated while sitting on the wheels and stabilizing jacks, but more importantly, the wheels can be easily removed and the mill lowered by one person to operate at ground level. Placing the saw carriage at the front end of the log bed, the rear of the log bed is raised with a jack and the trailer axles and wheels removed with a quick-release. And one person can do the whole process alone. The manufac-

turer claims a setup time of seven minutes.

I was fascinated to see this demonstrated—never having seen it before—although there are possibly other manufacturers that offer a similar feature. With this capability the mill operator is able to saw extra-long beams, even when the sawmill arrives on a trailer.

I would have to say that the Norwood LumberMate 2000 is a handsome-looking sawmill with its bright and shiny steel bed and orange saw carriage. Of special note is the mill's versatility as a portable unit that can process either short or very long timbers. ■

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*Bill Gove is retired from a forestry career with private industry and with state government as a wood utilization specialist and lives in Williamstown, Vermont. He is a regular contributor and is the author of several books on the history of railroading and logging.*

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