



Hakki Pilke 1x42 "Green Speed" Firewood Processor

"When I purchased that processor, it saved my marriage."

The above quote by Don Hill of Bridgewater, New Hampshire, was made when he and I were standing in a field next to his home looking at his Hakki Pilke firewood processing machine. At the time, I wasn't quite sure what he meant by the statement, although I had a suspicion. Don has an attractive New England home with a profuse variety of flowers and vegetables on the grounds—it was obvious that the property displayed the efforts of someone who loved outside work.

When Don introduced me to his wife I understood the dilemma that had supposedly been cured by a firewood processor. I had seen Mrs. Hill toiling in the gardens during our discussions, diligently working, and I realized that she deserved a good share of the credit

for the attractive grounds. Then Don told me that they burned wood for heat, and described how he and his wife would cut and split enough wood themselves to heat a modest-sized two-story home. His wife is a hard worker. But it wasn't long before Don Hill bought a Hakki Pilke firewood processor. Their marital situation was not really in peril, of course, but every family member is happy that they now own a firewood processor.

The 1x37

The model Don bought is the Hakki Pilke 1x37, a smaller model in the company line, which is able to process logs up to about 15 inches in diameter. The smaller machine is fine for Don, because processing the wood is a family affair. His wife is a frequent operator, sometimes with the help of the children, and for the benefit of all

in the family, Don has slowed down the conveyer belt, an easy adjustment to make on the Hakki Pilke. They hadn't cut more than 30 cords in their first year of ownership, before I arrived, but are quite contented with the machine. Don is perfectly satisfied with his production of a cord per hour.

The 1x42

Sometime later, I had an opportunity to observe one of Hakki Pilke's larger production models over in eastern New York. I stopped in at the farm of Albert LaRue, near Ballston Spa, where he had a Hakki Pilke 1x42 "Green Speed" set up among the spacious and attractive layout of the buildings on his farm, which has been in

Photo above: The log deck position had to be changed due to the long logs, necessitating weight on the rear.

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Trailer: Tandem axle, 8'6" wide, 22'-30' long, 11'8" high, 5-7 tons, Electric brakes.

Saw: Superior Carbide Slasher - Cut wood instead of sharpen chains. 44" to 60" diameter, 2 ga Carbide Slasher.

Engine: 50 to 170 HP or PTO Drive with user's tractor.

Hydraulics: Commercial Shearing.

Splitter: 35 - 45 tons, 3-5 second cycle time; 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 21 way pkg wedge. Capacity: 4" to 27" Log diameter: 0" to 48" Block Length. Lifetime warranty on the entire splitter chamber.

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During a stop in the action, Albert LaRue raises the protective screen to show the splitting area.

the family since 1774. I could see that Albert had many activities to keep him busy, including equipment repair, excavating work, raising heifers, and the production of lumber and firewood. To add to the list, Albert also spends a little time as a Hakki Pilke dealer in the area.

Being thoroughly familiar with the machine, Albert pointed out the pluses and minuses as he ran some logs through the processor. He showed me many of the small conveniences and talked about why he likes the design, which allows easily made adjustments on the service points that are located under protective covers. When cutting a log, the feed conveyer is inclined or tipped a little to keep the log in place, and there is a spring-loaded pressure wheel to hold the log steady. As a safety feature, the protective covers over the cutting and splitting areas have to be closed down for the machine to function.

The splitting action is accomplished by two different cylinders, the larger one activating only when needed on a tougher cut. The smaller cylinder has a force of 4.2 tons and seemed capable of dealing with the average size material that Albert fed through. When a large block was encountered by the splitting wedge, I could hear the larger cylinder kick into action. It is capa-

Hakki Pilke 1x42 Green Speed

Power requirement.....	30 hp
Splitting force	small cylinder, 4.2 tons large cylinder, 14.5 tons
Splitting wedge	2-/4-way
Maximum log diameter	16.5 in.
Hydraulic pressure.....	2,755 psi
Hydraulic oil volume.....	17 gal.
Weight	2,348 lbs.
Length—output conveyer	13 ft. (foldable)
Length—feed conveyer.....	7 ft. 2 in.
Length of machine, folded	8.9 ft.
Height of machine, folded.....	8.2 ft.
Cutting bar.....	18 in.
Price (with hydraulic log deck)	\$34,900

Manufacturer: Maaselän Kone Oy, Finland

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ble of delivering a force of up to 14.5 tons. Cycle time will increase from 2.8 to 4.8 seconds per cut when the larger cylinder goes into action. It can handle some tough wood. The standard 2- or 4-way splitting blade (6 or 8 optional) is within easy reach, and the height adjustment can be controlled hydraulically.

Albert had some trouble with the processor's log deck. Cutting logs that would at times be as long as 30 feet, he had to move the log deck back a little from the feed conveyer. When doing so, there was no ground support under the front end of the log deck next to

the conveyer, and the deck tended to tip down with the weight of logs. Albert had to remedy that by placing weights on the back end of the log deck. He feels that the log deck legs should be moved forward by the manufacturer toward the front end of the conveyer.

Albert believes the manufacturer has created a good arrangement for the log feed. The log deck has two hydraulically-powered feed rolls, and with the addition of another feed roll placed at the end of the feed conveyer, the logs usually move onto the feed belt without any problem.

For production, Albert said he



Processor in transport position on the tractor. The height is about 8 feet.



Albert LaRue shown placing a bag in the frame. A loaded bag which has been removed is seen at left.

can cut 2 to 3 cords per hour when working alone. The machine can handle logs up to about 16 1/2 inches in diameter. A power source of at least 20 hp is required.

Albert has come up with a clever idea for packaging the firewood that he sells; he bags the wood. He has designed and built some upright metal frames which hold a sturdy bag while it is being filled directly from the conveyer. The metal frame pieces are 1 inch square on the base and 3/4 inch on the upright; the bag is an import product and made of a tough plastic composite. It holds from 2/3 to 3/4 of a cord, and a \$10 refund is made for the return of the bag.

The Hakki Pilke model 1x37 that has given Don Hill and his family so much contentment is somewhat smaller than the 1x42 "Green Speed" model, and, of course, can't quite measure up to the performance of its larger cousin, but it is similar in almost every respect. It even has the hydraulic features with the optional model known as 1x37 "Easy."

So, as I learned from both of these very pleasant experiences, there is a firewood processor that can satisfy almost any situation. ■

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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