

Hud-Son's HFE-21 HOMESTEADER BAND MILL

After enduring a 30 year lust, I bought a band saw mill, Hud-Son's Little Oscar 118, a hobbyist's mill, just what I needed to saw occasional logs from firewood trees and cut something for my shop.

Unfortunately, some of my logs were too large for the Hud-son mill, so when an opportunity arose to get their new Homesteader, I did, and the new mill took a 20-inch elm log I cut last winter. It is a major improvement over my previous mill, with all controls on the operator's side of the mill and a lube tank for lubricating the blade when sawing resinous woods.

Being a "pusher" mill, the Homesteader is not a production tool, which is fine with me, but more power would help with large

logs. It has a 21-inch log capacity and its 6.5-hp gasoline engine has cut 16-inch cherry and 20-inch elm logs. Since the operator pushes the mill through the log (Figure 1), it is easy to slow down for large knots and to speed up as the log width decreases. As the maximum size log that can be secured with the dogs is about 15 inches, larger logs must be secured with a "cheater" (Figure 2).

Although I did not anticipate much custom sawing, most of my work has been for someone else. A cabinetmaker friend needed some

4 x 4 cherry for turning stock and helped me run the mill while he decided how to cut the logs. Another wanted cedar timbers for raised garden beds. And for my own cabinet stock, I saw short sections out of trees that would otherwise go into the firewood pile. In order to saw sections as short as 4 feet, the first two dogs must be spaced to hold short logs.

Each log is an individual challenge, and as I open it up, I can saw to maximize unusual



Fig. 2. The mill setup with cheaters in a 20-inch elm log.



Fig. 3. With the mill elevated and both dogs raised, it is easy to turn logs on the track to find the best opening face.

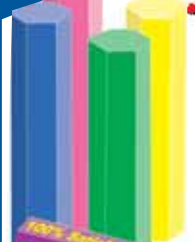


Fig. 1. Photo of operator pushing the mill through a pine log. Note all the controls and adjustments are readily accessible.

grain or sizes for projects in my wood shop or for other woodworkers. I've even tried some bias cuts to make plaques and signs. In addition to meeting my needs for lumber, it is producing unexpected income, probably enough to pay off its affordable price. My band-sawn boards require a minimum of planing, so 4/4 can actually be 7/8 of an inch—that means an extra board out of an 8-inch cant. And the sawn surface is so smooth that I can laminate 1-1/2 x 1/2 laths together for greenhouse arches without planing them.

My track is mounted on a raised platform using 2 x 6 spruce L-girders for longitudinal support (Figure 3), and with both dogs raised, it is easy to turn logs to find the opening face. Unlike my 118, with welded, 6-foot track sections, the HFE-21 has 4-foot tracks that bolt together. This makes for cheaper shipping, but alignment and leveling are more time-consuming, and I must constantly check the track for

Guaranteed
Lowest Prices!



AMARK

THE BEST LUMBER MARKERS

FOR YOUR VISION SYSTEM

100% Satisfaction Guarantee
FREE SAMPLES!

Family Owned & Operated for 20 Years!

24 COLORS, 2 SIZES Covering the color spectrum with a wide range of choices. 2 sizes 1/2" and our long-lasting 3/4."

HEX SHAPED Hex marker provides greater shear strength & less breakage.

BREAKTHROUGH FORMULA with the highest quality fluorescent pigment commercially available in a marker. No skipping, missing, or breaking.

5 DIFFERENT GRADES Not all marking conditions are equal. That is why AMARK produces fluorescent lumber markers in 5 different hardness categories.

MACHINE EXTRUDED AMARK MARKERS are machine extruded, not poured from a mold.

CRAYON HOLDERS Wooden and aluminum holders 3/4" & 1/2" sizes.

RECYCLING! Send us your marker stubs, color and hardness separated. We will re-extrude our wax @ .25, and other wax @ .45 cents a stick.

PO BOX 1524 BORING, OR 97009 TEL: 503-663-9257

TOLL-FREE: **1-866-66AMARK** (26275)

Fax: 503-663-2850 Email: sales@amark-flm.com

Q: If Trees Could Talk, What Would They Say?



A: They would certainly confirm:

That they have seen thousands of smiles from the Frangard winch owners since 1970. With 4 Models that can fit tractors from 25-110 HP, their ease of operation, and a well-established dealer network, it is no wonder that their owners are content. THE TREES ALSO APPRECIATE HOW THIS EQUIPMENT IS "LIGHT ON THE LAND" IN CONSERVING AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT TO OPTIMIZE GROWTH.

For more information

Frangård

For dealers near you, contact:
Frangard North America

Tel-450-654-6126

Fax-450-654-2559

email: allen.tardif@videotron.ca
or visit www.frangard.dk

Nobody Builds a Better Sawmill for the Money & We Guarantee it.

FEATURES:

★ Balanced, vibration free, rock solid 4-post head system

★ Convenient & portable hand held sawmill control box

★ Board dragback & gravity feed offload roller - offers a true one man operation

★ Price right & Guaranteed - How can you go wrong?

AC-36
HYDRAULIC
SAWMILL



Call for your
FREE DVD & Catalog
today!



COOK'S SAW MFG., LLC

1-800-473-4804 WWW.COOKSSAW.COM

Hud-Son HFE 21

Max log capacity.....	21 in.
Max board width	19 in.
Bed length.....	2, 6-ft. track sections bolted together
Band wheel diameter	16 in.
Band wheel surface.....	polypropylene belting
Band	1-1/4 in. Hud-Son band blade
Guide system.....	Hud-Son shoe guides
Carriage feed.....	manual
Log loader	hand winch lift system
Power.....	6.5-hp gas
Options	5-hp power 220 V single-phase motor

MANUFACTURER ■ CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hud-Son Forest Equipment Inc.
 8201 State Route 12, Barneveld, NY 13304
 ph: 800/765-7297 ■ fax: 315/896-2627 ■ www.hud-son.com

level. The solution to this is to place (or weld) a long square steel tube under all the cross members.

I set up the mill as Hud-Son recommends, with the moveable dogs on the operator's side of the track, but after sawing about a dozen logs, switched the track to place the fixed dog on the operator's side. This enabled me to pull the log to me when dogging—easier than pushing—and once I slab a log and turn it, the blade enters clean wood. But, lacking the muscle to turn my 20-inch elm, I sawed it to the middle, then turned it, and learned why the moveable dogs go on the operator's side. (1) Stops on the track cross members hold cants, but the blade guide on the off-side is about 3 inches in toward the center. With stops on the operator's side, there are only 17 inches of clearance between the stop and the guide. (2) With the fixed guide on the off-side, the wood being sawn is closer to the blade guide, with less chance for the blade to wander. If all else fails, follow the directions—so I switched it back.

The dogs caused several problems on small (6-inch) logs:

- the fixed dog slips off rounded log sides,
- the moveable dog point has considerable play; when edging boards or sawing small logs or cants, the dog pressure caused twist and the sawn surfaces were not square.

Figure 4 shows my changes to the dog assembly. A nail welded to the top of the fixed dog projects out about 1/8 inch and enables me to dog larger logs, as the point can dig

into the underside of a round log (Figure 5). On the moveable dog, the offset point was removed and welded atop the vertical post to reduce twisting of small logs and cants. To minimize chances of hitting the dog when sawing 1 inch above the track, the end of a projecting bolt was ground off and the offset clamp handle was straightened. The only other problem I encountered was slippage of the clutch. It is possible for oil and debris to get into the clutch, so a spray can of brake

Nothing Eats Wood Like a

BEAVER

“The Firewood Factory”

Starting at
\$8995
 Optional Features Available



Beaver model 16

- 1 to 3 plus full cords per hour (128 cubic feet)
- Cuts up to 16+” diameter.
- Splits wood from 12” to 24” lengths.
- Splitter cycle time super fast 4 seconds.*
- Honda, PTO, electric or Kubota diesel engine options.

*with optional features.

Firewood-Bundlers/ Wrappers In Stock! \$1,995

BEAVER
 FIREWOOD PROCESSOR
800.569.6813

Many Different Sizes Available

www.woodbeaver.net

FREE FREIGHT
 on bundlers to the lower 48!

sales@rsinc.net

LUCAS MILL
THE ULTIMATE PORTABLE SAWMILL!

Mill Your Own Lumber!

Model 618
Complete 6" Mill

SALE PRICE!
Only
\$12,999

Model 723
Complete 7-7/8" Mill

SALE PRICE!
Only
\$14,999

Model 830
Complete 8" Mill

SALE PRICE!
Only
\$17,999

Model 1030
Complete 10" Mill

SALE PRICE!
Only
\$18,999

Call Us for Lucas Mill Slabbing Solutions!

Lucas Mill's flagship circular swing-blade portable sawmills are designed to efficiently mill both hard and soft timber species, and can be operated on any terrain. The versatility of these mills provide operators with the ability to cut both small and large boards to specific dimensions. The Lucas Mill does this while minimizing waste and costly down time which can occur with more expensive bandsaw mills

See our website for more information, specifications and demonstration videos!

Check Out Our Videos Online



800.322.4539
baileysonline.com

FARMI[®]
FOREST
SINCE 1962

Skidding Winches

- Pulling force 6,600-13,300 lbs
- Winch & Skid full trees & logs
- Large drum provides trouble-free spooling
- Easy wire rope extraction
- Simple to use & maintain
- Proven to last



Wood Chippers

- **Biofuel Chips!**
- Log diameters up to 15"
- High production capacity
- Low operating costs
- Maneuverable
- Uniform chip size = high chip \$\$ value
- Structural strength = less down time
- Simple design = easy maintenance



Firewood Processors

Loaders & Forest Trailers



NORTHEAST IMPLEMENT



For all your Forestry needs:

- Professional grade equipment
- Live customer service in USA!
- Replacement parts in stock

888-589-6160

www.northeastimplement.com

SAWMILL REVIEW

cleaner is nice to have handy in the event that happens.

With band wheels only 16 inches in diameter, there is quite a bit of stress on blades compared with the 19-inch wheels on larger saws. Hud-Son recommends using a torque wrench with 30 to 35 pounds of torque to tension blades, so I torque to the lower range to extend blade life and always detension the blades when finished sawing.

Clean logs are a must to extend

blade life. I keep mine clean by forwarding them to the mill deck with a Logrite ATV arch and drop them onto wooden stringers. Any extraneous dirt is removed with a long-handled barbecue cleaning brush. Eventually I hope to get water to my mill, and electricity so I can clean logs and clean the track with a shop vac. It is essential to keep the track clean, especially when sawing resinous woods. Resinous sawdust can build up on track rails and in the carriage wheel



Fig. 4. Modified dogs. The fixed dog (left) has a projecting 1/8-in. point at top while the moveable dog (right) has had the offset point moved to the top of the vertical post.



Fig. 5. With a point welded on the fixed dog, it can dig into the underside of a log surface and hold it firmly.

LENOX® WOODMASTER C-SHARP™



TRY IT TODAY!

WOODMASTER C-SHARP™ features a proprietary backing steel process, a new tooth geometry for extended fatigue life and multiple blade sharpenings. The Ultra-sharp ground teeth are precision set provide efficient cutting, faster feed rates and a smooth finish. Rake options include 7° and 10°. Thicker .055" blades are also available to meet sawyers' needs.

Try it today by contacting your LENOX WOODMASTER Distributor.

301 Chestnut Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028-0504 USA | Customer Service 800-628-8810
lenoxtools.com | facebook.com/lenoxwoodmaster | ©2012 LENOX, Newell Rubbermaid

grooves, causing the head to wobble and the saw blade to cut unevenly.

There is no waste from my mill. The sawdust goes to two neighbors for chicken bedding and the slabs go into one of Eric Ellis's cutting cribs to be cut to 16-inch lengths for my shop stove and kitchen cookstove. Instead of buying slabs from a mill down the road, I now have more than enough and sell the excess.

Now with gasoline prices much higher than \$0.17/gallon when I bought my first car, I am happy with my fuel-stingy 6.5-hp sawmill, though more horsepower would help on large logs. In a permanent setup such as mine, the only improvement would be electric power. Pushing is no problem and is helpful when problems develop. All things considered, I'd give the HFE-21 about 10 thumbs-up. ■

Ben Hoffman is a forester with 28 years experience in state, federal, and private (including two years as a private logging contractor) forestry and 17 years in academia. Ben is retired as a Maine Licensed Forester, and Vermont Land Surveyor. He may be reached at ben@mainestream.us.

Pioneered in the 60's, Proven World-wide.

Mobile Dimension Saw is Still the Best!



**Accurate Lumber,
High Production,
Easy Operation,
Maximum Log Recovery,
Low Expenses, Makes it
The BEST Saw for You!**

1-877-272-9645

Mobile Mfg. Co.

PO Box 250, Troutdale, OR 97060

Fax: (503) 661-7548

www.mobilemfg.com



www.mobilemfg.com

kiln-direct.com

KILNS FOR LUMBER, PALLETS, AND FIREWOOD

that just happen to be small...

MINIQUICK FIREWOOD KILN



SMALLQUICK FIREWOOD KILN



- WOOD WASTE OR GAS HEATING
- MEETS USDA HT REQUIREMENTS IN 10-16 HRS
- DRY GREEN FIREWOOD IN 24-48 HRS
- MINIQUICK WITH 6 CORD CAPACITY
- SMALLQUICK WITH 12 CORD CAPACITY

Heavy duty
firewood
baskets



Call us today to learn more...

910 259-1624

WWW.KILN-DIRECT.COM

910 259-1625

SALES@KILN-DIRECT.COM

200 A PROGRESS DRIVE, BURGAW, NC 28425