



# Blockbuster 18-20

## Manufacturer

Blockbuster Inc.  
2756 Kentucky Ave.  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641  
ph: 319/986-5525  
[www.blockbuster-inc.com](http://www.blockbuster-inc.com)

## Machine Operator

Shawn Bencze

## Assistant

Tim Batey

## Time

15 min. 25 sec.

## Cords Processed

1.7 Cords

## Cords/Hour

6.62 Cords

Saturday's Shoot-Out presented us with a dilemma. A couple of the smaller processors had been given a few logs that were larger than they could handle.

Shawn Bencze, operator of the Blockbuster 18-20 processor, readily agreed to take them in exchange for some of his smaller logs. After all, the 18-20 is designed for logs up to 20 inches in diameter, and the difference in time between processing a 12-inch log and a 14-inch-diameter log is slight. Of course, when you have the owner of the company (Tim Batey) as your assistant, you're going to do everything possible to make the machine look good! Not that it took extraordinary effort. Shawn has been with Blockbuster for 22 years and cut up through the ranks to become shop foreman. "I know every bolt in that machine," he said. The 49-hp Doosan diesel was a good match for the machine. It is quiet, and ran all of the hydraulics smoothly and efficiently.

The 18-20 is pretty well self-contained. As Shawn described it, "We just hook onto them, pull them in place, drop down the legs, fold down the live deck, and it's good to go." The Blockbuster team had its

own skid steer on hand to reload the deck (Tim's job), so there were no delays. And while the mud in the logs, which proved the nemesis of many of the chain-saw-powered processors, didn't slow down the 18-20, the saw chain auto-tension system makes changing the blade a quick and easy job. After the Shoot-Out, Shawn showed me how quick it is to loosen the chain, replace it, and re-tension it in less than a minute.

Because of the size of the logs, Shawn chose an 8-way wedge to produce more manageable chunks of firewood. By keeping the wedge centered on the wood, he was able to produce good-quality material. The operator's station gives a good view of the cutoff saw and splitting chamber, which is important for any firewood processor. Controls are within easy reach, and a sliding window provides easy access if the operator needs to adjust a piece of wood in the splitting chamber.

Another Blockbuster innovation is the inclusion of an air compressor on the machine. "You can always use compressed air out in the woods to air up a tire or blow out sawdust," Tim explained. "But the real advantage is that the compressed air returns the

splitting ram and the saw cyl. (and the saw shuts off) at the end of its stroke. This not only reduces the amount of hydraulic oil needed, but also gives a faster cycle time. Our machines were designed this way since the beginning.”

“We made firewood!” exclaimed Shawn. Although they accepted wood that other processors couldn’t handle, the Blockbuster 18-20 processor managed to put out good-quality firewood at a very competitive rate •



### MACHINE SPECS

Model .....18-20  
 Power ....49-hp Doosan diesel  
 Cutoff .....25-in. bar chain saw, 0.404 gauge  
 Cycle time ..... 6 sec.  
 Log loading.....N/A  
 Max diameter .....20 in.  
 Options used .....Extended operator’s platform, last piece slide table, auto saw tensioner

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