

LARGE PROCESSOR



**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**  
Tim Batey

**Assistant**  
Shawn Bencze

**Time**  
15 min. 2 sec.

**Cords Processed**  
2 Cords

**Cords/Hour**  
7.98 Cords

# Blockbuster 22-22

**B**lockbuster returned to the Shoot-Out this year and demonstrated why, after over 30 years of producing firewood processors, their machines are highly competitive. While there have been innovations over the years, Tim Batey, owner of Blockbuster (no, they don't rent videotapes), says that the basic machine construction and many features are still an integral part of their current firewood processors.

On Friday afternoon, Tim put the 22-22—Blockbuster's biggest firewood processor—through its paces. The 10-foot live deck provided a steady flow of logs, and Shawn Bencze, his assistant, ran the skid loader to make sure there would be no time-outs during the event. According to Shawn, the firewood processor ran flawlessly, slicing and splitting the logs with consistent speed. For simplicity, the Blockbuster machines use direct-control hydraulic valves for all functions, though many of them integrate several functions. For example, one valve clamps the wood, runs the chain saw, and lowers the saw through the wood.

The splitting cycle is automatic, freeing the operator to load wood from the live deck, advance a log, and cut the next piece while the hydraulic ram splits the wood and retracts. Another valve raises and lowers the 8-way wedge, allowing the operator to center it on the wood. The operator's station is above and to the side of the splitter, giving good visibility of all the action. And, although the wood drops consistently into the splitting chamber, the safety shield between the operator and the splitter can slide open so that the operator can reach in to straighten up any wayward pieces that might jam up in the splitter.

Tim has nothing but praise for the 74-hp Doosan diesel engine that powers the machine. While Doosan may not be a household name, it is well known to anyone who works with Bobcat loaders as a tough, reliable power plant that already meets Tier 4 emission standards scheduled to come into effect next year.

Blockbuster uses compressed air to retract the splitting ram and raise the saw. Tim explained that compressed air is faster than hydraulics, and helps

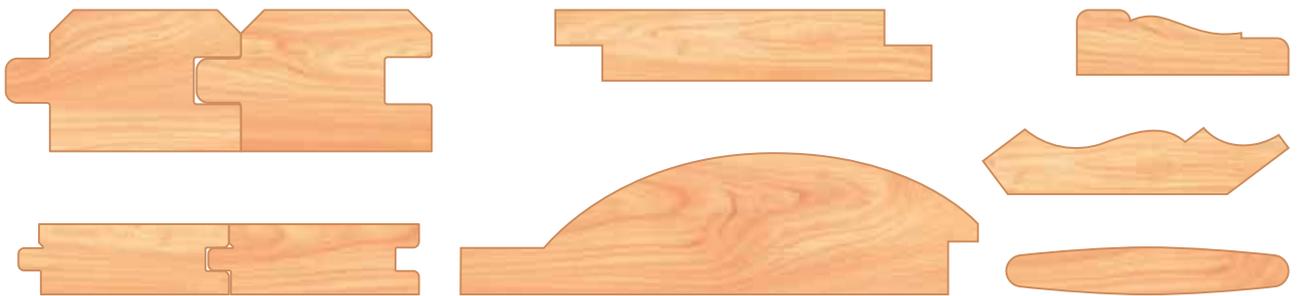
give the machine its quick 4.5-second splitting cycle time. It is also a safety feature. "As soon as you take your hand off the hydraulic valve lever, the compressed air retracts the hydraulics." He also noted that this system is efficient and allows the machine to use less hydraulic oil, saving money on oil changes. "Also, compressed air is handy out in the woods for airing up tires and blowing sawdust off the machine," he said. Other refinements that a person might miss are a hydraulic bar that lifts the end of the log if it pinches the saw and an automatic saw chain tensioner that maintains the correct saw chain tension at all times—no manual adjustment needed. For the Shoot-Out, Tim mounted an 8-

way wedge to produce fireplace-size firewood, though 4-, 6-, 8-, and 12-way wedges are all available. In spite of its size, setup and take-down are pretty straightforward. With the machine in place, the conveyor, live deck, and legs were all set with hydraulics, and the machine was ready to use—or move—in just a few minutes. ●



## MACHINE SPECS

Model .....	22-22
Power ....	74-hp Doosan diesel
Cutoff ....	30-in. bar chain saw, 0.404 gauge
Cycle time.....	4.5 sec.
Log loading.....	N/A
Max diameter .....	24 in.
Options used .....	Extended operator's platform, operator's roof, auto saw tensioner



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