



BRUTE FORCE

Manufacturer

Brute Force Distributing
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Machine Operator

Josh Szydel

Assistant

Clayton Szydel

Time

18 min. 32 sec.

Cords Processed

1.5 Cords

Cords/Hour

4.86 Cords

Brute Force 18-24

Brute Force returned to the 2018 Shoot-Out with their popular 18-24 firewood processor. Josh Szydel owns the Wisconsin-based family business and was in charge of operating all three of the Brute Force machines participating in the Shoot-Out. Assisted by his father, company founder Clayton Szydel, the son/father team showed what this mid-size processor could do. While Josh ran the processor, Clayton filled the log deck and occasionally straightened out a piece of wood between the splitter and the conveyor.

“The 18-24 is built to the same specs as our larger units,” Josh said. There is no skimping on materials. The 38-hp Kohler gas engine powers a single-stage pump that runs all moving parts on the processor. The 30-inch 0.404 chain saw cutoff saw can handle logs up to 21 inches in diameter, but Josh says it really hits its peak production on logs in the 14-inch- to 16-inch-diameter range, so the Shoot-Out logs were the perfect size. The mud on the logs was another story. “If you have

clean wood, you can cut 10 cords between chain swaps,” Josh said. “But I hit one crotch that had a big chunk of mud in it and it really dulled the teeth, so I put on a fresh chain.” The time-out to put on a fresh chain did not incur any time penalty, but it did break the rhythm of running the processor, probably adding a bit to the time. The chain is just like on a chain



