



## LUCAS MILL Model 10-30

I have sawn thousands of board feet with my 8-27 Lucas Mill. While I love the speed and accuracy at which it cuts dimensional lumber, I've occasionally wished I had the capability to saw 10-inch-wide boards. So when I was given the opportunity to test out the new 10-30 Lucas Mill, I jumped at the chance.



Unrattling the 10-30 Lucas mill and getting it ready for milling was a simple operation. There were a couple items that needed to be unbolted and assembled, and everything was well explained in the directions and accomplished with the wrenches that come standard in the mill's tool box. I had to make a few minor adjustments on the power head to get the blade aligned prior to production sawing, but it went rather quickly thanks to the well-marked adjustment points on the mill. Lucas Mill has a great DVD explaining how the mill operates and how to assemble it right out of the box. It also features a few tips and tricks in using the mill.

There are a number of improvements and upgrades on the 10-30 Lucas Mill. The gear ratio on the

Like all Lucas Mills, the 10-30 breaks down for transport, and the powerhead has detachable wheels for mobility.

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winches used to raise and lower the mill has been changed so raising the mill takes less effort. The difference is subtle from previous mills. I didn't notice the difference as much during the use of the mill as I did at the end of the day when my shoulder was not quite as tired. The trolley lock is an entirely new design. Unlike the previous lock that operates by twisting and binding on the top of the rail (and occasionally failed to catch), the new design has a pin that simply fits in holes drilled in the rails. The downside to this new system is that the trolley lock can only be engaged where there are holes in the rails. On the upside, there is absolutely no doubt the mill will stay locked in place. It takes a little getting used to it at first and at times I found myself hunting for a hole in the rail. It would be a simple matter to drill an additional hole or two where I stop the mill most frequently though. The throttle on the engine has been changed from the Vernier throttle cable used on previous Lucas Mills to a simple pull/push rod connected to the motor. I found that I prefer the new throttle over the older Vernier throttle because it is faster and easier to adjust.

While Lucas Mill has upgraded and changed a few components on their new 10-30, the main sawing operation behind it has remained the same. The mill is still raised and lowered using the winch and end frame design, and the power head trolley rolls back and forth on the rails. Each end frame is composed of four different components that assemble in minutes with no tools. Once the end frames are assembled, it's a matter of simply snapping the rails in place, adding the extensions (if necessary), and rolling on the power head. The mill comes standard with the sidewinder attachment, so moving the power head on the trolley is quickly done with one hand. Cutting dimensions are set using

### Lucas 10-30 Sawmills

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Blade.....                                      | 5 tooth TCT, 3.55 mm plate, 5.7 mm kerf (0.244 in.) |
| Motor .....                                     | electric start, EFI V-twin Kohler, petrol           |
| Maximum log L x D .....                         | 20 ft. x 4 ft. 6 in.                                |
| Cutting dimensions .....                        | 10 in. x 10 in.                                     |
| Double cut .....                                | 10 in. x 20 in.                                     |
| Weight of mill (includes major components)..... | 700 lbs.  |
| Average production .....                        | Variable depends on log and board size              |

#### Contact Left Coast Supplies

43200 U.S. 101, Laytonville, CA 95454

Ph: 888/995-7307

usa@lucasmill.com

www.leftcoastsupplies.com



The 25-in. blade on the Lucas 10-30 can mill up to a 10-in. by 10-in. timber in one pass.

the scales on the power head and the end frames. Sharpening the saw blade is done using the supplied 12V grinder and takes about five minutes. Another handy feature on the 10-30 is the anti-bounce strut, used when making deep vertical cuts to prevent the mill from bouncing. Adjustment on the anti-bounce strut is rather simple. Simply loosen the lock knob, adjust the strut until it's contacting the log, and tighten it back up.

It did take some time to get used to the larger blade on the 10-30 versus my 8-27, but I adjusted to that rather quickly. I did notice a difference between the 10-30 and my 8-27 when taking the maximum horizontal cut with each mill. The 10-30 did not seem to cut quite as fast when taking a 10-inch cut as my 8-27 did taking an 8-inch cut despite the larger blade and additional horsepower. I found it was faster to



The completely redesigned trolley lock leaves no doubt that the powerhead is secured to the rail.

make two cuts (as recommended) than one 10-inch-wide cut. The 10-30 was easily faster when cutting 8-inch-wide timbers though. One thing that did jump out at me was the higher volume emanating from the gearbox on the 10-30. It was so much louder than the gearbox on my 8-27 that I actually stopped the mill and pulled the drain plug to

ensure there was oil in it. A representative from Lucas Mill told me the volume would subside as the gearbox is broken in.

Lucas Mill has changed outlets in North America in the last year and is now selling their mills exclusively through a company called Left Coast Supplies. In addition to changing outlets, they cut their prices significantly. For those looking to purchase a swing blade mill, the lower prices and new features on the 10-30 Lucas Mill make it one to check out. ■

*As a self-described "sawdust addict," J.R. Salzman is both an avid sawyer and woodworker. He is a longtime competitor in professional lumberjack sports, winning eight Men's Professional Log Rolling world titles, and the 2005 ESPY Award for Best Outdoor Sports Athlete. He operates his portable sawmill on a regular basis and has a BS in Technology Education.*



With its Kohler 30 hp EFI engine, the 10-30 had no issues powering through whatever was put in front of it.

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