

Post Pounder Doubles As Heavy-Duty Log Splitter

If Carmen Mawson of Ardmore, Alberta, had gone out to buy a log splitter, he would've had to spend about \$2,500 to buy what he wanted from a manufacturer. Instead, he converted his post pounder for less than \$100 and it will split logs of almost any length.

"It took about two hours to build and about \$30 worth of scrap metal. It works like a charm," says Mawson.

A splitting wedge simply bolts to the base of the post pounder's hammer.

He used a 2-ft. length of angle iron to make a bracket that fastens to the bottom of the hammer. It attaches with two bolts to both sides of the hammer housing. The wedge - an old axe head - welds onto the bracket. The splitter is reinforced by a pair of steel rods that extend from the bracket to both corners at the top of the hammer housing. The rods simply wedge up into the corners of the hammer housing and absorb the shock as the hammer drops down.

To use the splitter, Mawson positions the hammer housing straight up and down and places a railroad tie under it so that the hammer never reaches the bottom of its stroke. He uses the original controls located at the back of the post pounder to operate as a splitter.

"It has enough power to split logs up to 20 inches in diameter, in almost any length," says Mawson. "I raise cattle so I needed a post pounder anyway. The bracket that supports the wedge is held on by only two bolts so I can quickly convert the machine to its original use as a post pounder. I think the same idea would work with any pull-type post pounder.

"It works faster than most commercial splitters because most of the time I have to lift the hammer only about 6 to 12 in. above the wood before hitting it. The hammer weighs about 500 lbs. so it usually splits the log on the first hit. If the wedge ever gets stuck in the wood I just raise the hammer up and drop it again. I use a wood burning stove to heat the water in my cattle tank and it takes



"It has enough power to split logs up to 20 inches in diameter," says Carmen Mawson about his "post pounder" splitter.



Homemade wedge - an old axe head - welds onto an angle iron bracket that fastens to bottom of post pounder's hammer.

logs up to 30 in. in length."

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To split wood, Kuefler simply bolts a homemade splitting wedge to base of post pounder's hammer.

Low-Cost Log Splitter Built From Post Pounder

"It didn't cost anything to build except a little cutting and welding, and it made use of a machine that used to sit idle most of the year," says John Kuefler, High Prairie, Alberta, who can now convert his post pounder into a log splitter.

Whenever he needs to split wood, Kuefler simply bolts a homemade splitting wedge to the base of the post pounder's hammer.

To make the wedge, he welded a pair of catches onto a 1/2-in. thick steel plate, which slides into another pair of catches welded onto the post pounder's weights. A single bolt is used to fasten the plate to the post pounder. He used an old worn-out moldboard plow share to make the wedge's cutting edge. The wedge's sides were made by cutting two sections out of a 24-in. dia. steel pipe and then welding them in between the plate and the cutting edge.

To use the splitter, Kuefler positions the hammer housing straight up and down and

places a big tree stump under it so that the hammer never reaches the bottom of its stroke.

"It works better than I ever imagined. I've never come across a log that it couldn't handle," says Kuefler. "It has enough power to split wood up to 3 ft. in diameter, in almost any length. Most of the logs I split are about 24 inches long.

"It works faster than most commercial splitters because most of the time I have to lift the hammer only about 6 to 12 inches above the wood before hitting it. The hammer weighs about 600 lbs. so it usually splits the log on the first hit.

"I still use the post pounder for a few hours every summer. It takes only about one minute to remove or install the wedge."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Kuefler, Box 571, High Prairie, Alberta, Canada T0G 1E0 (ph 780 523-2680).

Easy-To-Assemble Windmill Handles Big And Little Jobs

You can pump water from a well or pond or produce compressed air for aerating with the Delta Jr. windmill from Dutch Industries, Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan.

The Delta Jr. windmill features an 8-ft. rotor with 24 galvanized steel blades. It is direct drive with no transmission. The "delta" blade design gives the mill more torque at lower wind speeds.

It can pump a maximum of about 10 gal. of water per minute or compress 5 cu. ft. of air per minute at 10 psi, depending on wind speed.

The mill comes with a 10-ft. tower that sits on three footings, which anchor it securely to the ground. And once assembled, both towers tilt down to make windmill maintenance easier.

Windmill and basic tower sell for about \$2,000, including either a water pump or aeration kit. You can add another water pump or aeration kit for about \$290. If you need a taller tower, you can add up to two additional 10-ft. sections to the lattice tower, giving you a 20 or 30-ft. tall tower. These sections are available for about \$200 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dutch Industries, P.O. Box 568, Pilot Butte, Sask. S0G 3Z0 (ph 800 663-8824; Website:



Delta Jr. windmill is equipped with an 8-ft. rotor with 24 galvanized steel blades.

www.dutchind.com) or, in the U.S., Dutch Industries, P.O. Box 441, Dodge City, Kan. 67801 (ph 800-947-8455; E-mail: gcruson@dutchind.com).



Decorative, non-pumping windmills are made entirely of aluminum and stainless steel so they won't rust.

Ornamental "No Rust" Windmills

"They're nice for the farmer who wants the look of the old windmill, but not the price," says Joel Johnson, Accessible Systems, Inc., Johnson City, Tenn., about his company's new decorative, non-pumping, aluminum windmills for yards and gardens.

The company offers models that range from 6 to 30 ft. high. The 6-ft. dia. model has a 24-in. dia. fan while the 30-ft. high model has a 6-ft. dia. fan.

"They're made entirely from aluminum and stainless steel so they'll never rust," says Johnson. "They cost a lot less than a used

real model. Also, pumping windmills are built a lot heavier so they're more difficult to handle. The fans on our windmills simply free-wheel so there's not as much wind stress on them. A 6-ft. model sells for \$139 while a 30-ft. model sells for \$1,099.

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