



Reeks first sawmill, the Lum-BR-Jak, was built in 1994 from miscellaneous parts for less than \$100.



His second sawmill, the Yellow-Jak-It, came along in 1998. It has some upgraded features but was still constructed primarily from junk parts.



In 2010 Reeks designed his latest new sawmill, the Thriftwood. It's powered by a single phase 220-V motor. No fumes so it can be used inside.

Build Your Own Bandsaw Using Salvaged Parts

Bill Reeks is at it again. He recently sent us photos of his new all-electric Thriftwood bandsaw that puts out no fumes - so it can be used indoors - and starts with the flip of a switch. It's the third in a line of Reeks-designed sawmills that have been duplicated by thousands of do-it-yourselfers all over North America and in 13 countries around the world.

Reeks built his first sawmill in 1994 for less than \$100, using recycled materials and a salvaged engine. Since FARM SHOW first featured that sawmill in 1995, he's sent out more than 10,000 packets of information to interested sawmillers and figures that more than half of those went on to build their own mills.

Bill is "notorious" for his ultra-personal customer service. His "packets" of information contain hundreds of photos and detailed information. And Bill is always available to help anyone who "gets stuck" along the way.

He offers separate packets of information on each of his three sawmills.

1. Lum-BR-Jak - Reeks first sawmill. He built it in 1994 for \$94 using junk parts, including 24 1/2-in. dia. tires. It'll saw logs up to 30 in. dia. Some people still prefer this mill because of its simplicity. A packet of information with 3 books and more than 120 pages of instructions and a complete parts list is available for \$54 (in Canada, send \$58 U.S. money order only).

2. Yellow-Jak-It - In 1998 Reeks wanted a lighter mill with more mobility and he wanted to be able to saw logs up to 36 in. dia. So he used 13-in. "donut" spare tires and wheels. A packet of information with 79 color photos, a 52-page instruction booklet, and a fold-out blueprint is available for \$54 (in Canada, send \$58 U.S. money order only).

3. Thriftwood - Reeks designed this mill in 2010 to run on single-phase 220-volt power. It saws logs up to 24 to 26 in. dia. and comes

with 200 pages of detailed instructions and parts information in a packet that is available for \$54 (in Canada, send \$58 U.S. money order only).

Reeks notes that most guys end up customizing the plans to fit whatever equipment they have on hand. For example, one sawmill builder recently modified the Yellow-Jak-It plans to cut logs up to 55 in. dia.

For a 20-plus page introductory packet that explains the basics of Reeks three bandsaw mills, send \$3.50 (In Canada, send \$4.50 US money order only). "I'm not in this for the money," says Reeks who just turned 82 years old. "Anyone is welcome to stop by my place and take pictures and measurements of my mills and I'll gladly help them get started."

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Easy Way To Remove Stumps

Gene Schendt had some tree stumps in his yard that needed to go, so the Lawrence, Neb., man came up with a simple solution.

"My wife was really tired of having to go around the stumps when mowing the lawn and sometimes hitting them with the mower deck. First, I tried to bite into them with the loader bucket to uproot them, but that ended up getting too rough on the equipment," Schendt explains. "Rather than hiring some-

one for \$90 an hour with a stump grinder, I found a method that was essentially free, easy and worked excellent."

He simply harnessed the power of fire-place embers to burn the roots out.

"For this to work, the stumps need to be good and dry - at least 3 to 5 years old. I did it in the winter and dumped some embers on the top of each stump," he says. "Each stump kept smoking like a cigarette for about

a week until they were completely burnt up - even the roots down underground. In the spring, we filled in the holes with dirt. You could probably do this using charcoal briquettes as well."

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