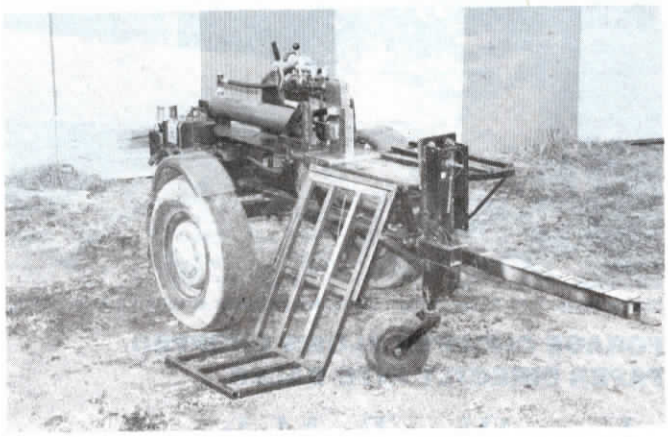
"Made It Myself" Wood Saws, Splitters



"Lift Up" Log Splitter

"It saves your back," says Elvin Haas, Rolla, Mo., about his "lift up" log splitter with a hydraulic-powered lift platform that raises big chunks of wood up onto the splitting table.

Haas says the splitter has another even more important back-saving feature. "I mounted the splitting wedge on the end of the cylinder shaft. This way the wedge goes through the wood and the wood stays on the splitter to be split again or thrown into a truck or trailer when it's finished. There's no need to continually pick wood up off the ground. I don't know why all splitters aren't built this way."

The splitter has a 24-in. stroke, 4-in. dia. cylinder mounted on top of a large I-beam. The splitting wedge is 8 in. high. On top of the wedge is a second, 4-in. high wedge that's set back about an inch. The large wedge engages the wood first and then the 4-in. wedge enters the split as it opens up.

The splitter's lifting table can handle logs up to 2 ft. in dia. It's raised by a 6-in. long cylinder that's connected to a steel cable threaded through pulleys. The lift table is made out of 1-in. sq. tubing.

The hydraulic controls and splitting components were purchased from Northern Hydraulics (801 E. Cliff Rd., Burnsville, Minn. 55378). An old 3-gal. propane tank serves as hydraulic reservoir. Haas equipped the splitter with 15-in. wheels and hubs from an old car. He pulls the splitter behind a trailer or truck so that as he splits he can easily load up the chunks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elvin G. Haas, Rt. 1, Box 259, Rolla, Mo. 65401 (ph 314 364-4201).

Hand-Operated 4-Ton Splitter

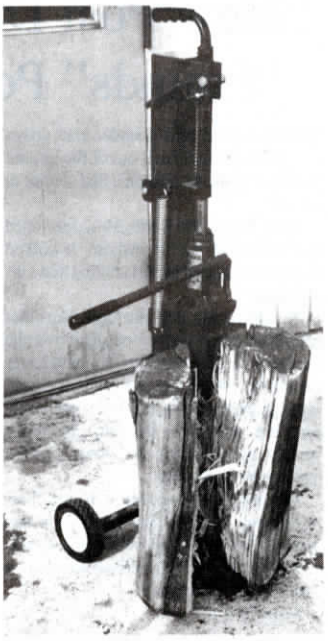
"My hand-operated wood splitter is lightweight and easy to use," says Erling Selstad, Thief River Falls, Minn.

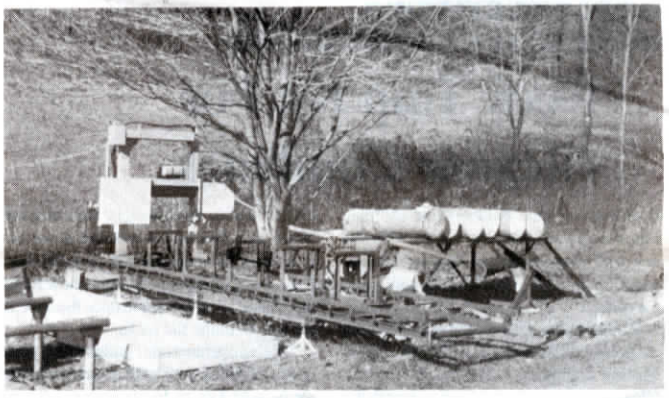
Selstad's wood splitter is equipped with a 4-ton hydraulic jack that's bolted on top of a splitting wedge. The jack and wedge are lowered down into position over the wood by a 12 in. long adjustable toothed rack. When you pump the jack handle the rack locks in place, allowing the jack to force the wedge down.

"It works slow but is much easier to use than a splitting mall. It weighs less than 70 lbs. so I can lift it into the back of my pickup," says Selstad, whose legs are paralyzed.

The wood rests on a base made from 3-in. sq. steel tubing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Erling Selstad, G27 Michael St., Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701 (ph 218 681-7791).





Home-Built Sawmill

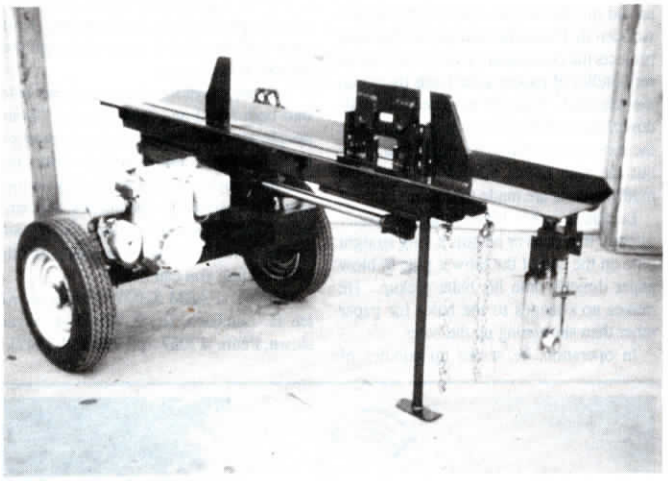
"It's a precision mill that'll cut exact dimension lumber with a minimum of waste," says Marlin Yoder, Killbuck, Ohio, about his home-built sawmill fitted with a bandsaw type blade.

"Most circular blade type mills with stationary blades require as much as 45 ft. of track to saw a 20-ft. log. Because the blade on this saw moves and the log remains stationary, it'll cut a 20-ft. log with just 24 ft. of track," says Yoder.

The mill is fitted with a 1 1/4-in. by .042 in. by 3/4-in. pitch band blade which is powered by a 14-hp. Tecumseh engine. A 5 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine powers a hydraulic pump, directional valve, and flow valve that are combined into a single unit to move the mill head up and down and back and forth. The hydraulic power unit, which is mounted to one side of the mill head, can be removed for use on other equipment such as a splitter, conveyor, and so on.

The mill carriage is 14 ft. long with 5-ft. wings on either end which can be tilted up for transport. Logs roll onto elevated log holders from a feeder table off to one side.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marlin Yoder, 38288 TR 19, Killbuck, Ohio 44637 (ph 216 276-0891).



Two Way Log Splitter

"One operator can keep three people busy with this dual-action splitter," says Ed Paepke, owner of Paepke Machine Tool about his two-way splitter that splits on both its forward and return stroke.

He built the new splitter because he felt most single-action splitters are too slow and built too close to the ground. Because the cylinder is positioned below the cutting table on his splitter, the operator doesn't have to bend over as far to operate it.

"I built it in 1982 and it's still in excellent condition. It shows minimal wear on all sliding and moving parts. It'll cut 24-in. long chunks at either end. Wings on both sides of the cutting table hold wood in place. It's equipped with snowmobile trailer tires, which we run at low pressure to prevent bouncing in transit. While splitting, the hitch folds down out of the way. It trails well behind a car or truck but is also easy to pull by hand in the woods. Takes only about 45 min. to split a heaping pickup truck load of wood," says Paepke, noting that the cost of new parts to build the splitter would be about $960 today. He sells plans and a parts list.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paepke Machine Tool, S3296 Fox Hill Road, Baraboo, Wis. 53913 (ph 608 356-6922).

Sawmill Wheel Drive

"I got tired of trying to keep drive belts on the pulleys," says Garland Petefish, Jacksonville, Ill., who rigged up a wheel drive for his farm sawmill.

Petefish used two small trailer wheels mounted on a shaft that connects up to a pto shaft from a tractor. The wheels are mounted on a tilting frame that's controlled by a hand lever he salvaged from a cultivator. To engage the saw, he simply tilts the wheels into the belt pulley, tightening it as needed according to the job. The more power required, the tighter he makes it.

"The key is using two tires. I saw a farmer who used just one wheel and it slipped," he says.