

3-Pt. Bandsaw Cuts Firewood Fast, Quiet

Patrick Burrington cuts firewood quietly, quickly and easily with his 3-pt. mounted bandsaw. Powered by a 3 hp Briggs and Stratton, it seems to run forever on a fill of gas.

"With the bandsaw, I'm not bent over with a screaming chainsaw or burning up fuel with a tractor-powered buzz saw," says Burrington. "It's so quiet I can visit with someone while I'm slicing wood. It easily does as much work as a buzz saw without the noise, danger or expense."

Burrington notes that he has used the saw 6 or 8 times since building it in the summer of 2013, and has yet to refill the tank. That includes cutting up a cord of wood the first time he used it.

"I can drive to a pile of wood, cut it up, pick up the bandsaw and move to the next pile," says Burrington. "The motor only runs at a fast idle, but the saw cuts through anything while the tractor sits, not getting worn out running a buzz saw."

Burrington copied the general design of a standard bandsaw, adapting it to a 3-pt. hitch. The hitch portion of the frame is fabricated from 2-in. square tubing, with the remainder of the frame largely made from channel iron and scrap angle iron left over from other jobs.

Most of the components were purchased online, including the motor, gearbox, pulleys and bandsaw blades. He also fabricated a few

of his own parts, using his OMAX waterjet cutting table.

"I buy a lot of components from Surplus Center in Nebraska," says Burrington. "I bought 4 blades on eBay and sized the saw and placed the pulleys to match."

Burrington did the math to determine pulley size to get the bandsaw running at the right speed. He placed a worktable on the blade and added legs to the underside of the frame to get his preferred working height. A 6-ft. long, drop-down arm provides additional working area where Burrington can stack lengths of wood to cut.

"It has saved my back immensely," he says. "I stand up straight without bending over."

Burrington ran a belt drive from the Briggs and Stratton to a 20:1 right angle gearbox at the saw blade drive pulley.

The bandsaw itself is about 6 ft. tall and a little wider than the 3-pt. hitch on Burrington's model 60 Deere. The saw blades are 3:4 blades, the coarsest he could find.

"I can cut wet green wood, even with sap, and not worry about plugging up the teeth," he says.

Since the saw was to be used on Deere tractors, Burrington painted it Deere green and yellow. The feet make it easy for him to pick it up and drive away or drop it where it's needed just by pulling the pins.

"I didn't put safety shields on the saw



"It does as much work as a buzz saw without the noise, danger or expense," says Patrick Burrington about his home-built, 3-pt. mounted bandsaw.

when I built it," says Burrington. "I expected to need to adjust tracking once I got it going. However, I haven't had to touch it. I'm thinking about adding some shielding, and would definitely provide shielding if someone wanted one built for them."

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Bandsaw is belt-driven by a 3 hp., Briggs and Stratton engine.



Dave Bond built this dump trailer out of a 1952 Ford F-6 dump truck. "It works great for hauling and dumping big loads of firewood," he says.



Dump Trailer Built From 1952 Ford Truck

"I saved a lot of money by building my own heavy-duty dump trailer out of a 1952 Ford F-6 dump truck," says Dave Bond, Southbridge, Mass.

The trailer uses the dump truck's original pto-powered hoist with a homemade adapter attached to the tractor pto. Bond cut the frame rails off the truck and bent them in toward the front, then attached the frame to the tongue from an old Deere 14T small square baler. The axle and steel wheels are from an old steam boiler. A homemade handle operates the control valve to raise and lower the body.

"We use it for hauling and dumping firewood and other jobs around our farm. It eliminates the need to unload wood by hand," says Bond. "We use our Deere 2350 tractor to pull it. The dump truck sat in the woods until we decided to make a trailer out of it. We added wooden sides to the box to increase the capacity."

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Log Splitter Equipped With Buzz Saw

"I built this pull-type log splitter and buzz saw together on one machine so I can quickly cut up smaller logs and branches with the saw and run bigger logs through the splitter," says Harold Schenk, Evansville, Ind.

The 2-wheeled rig's mainframe is built from an 8-ft. long, 10-in. I-beam. The shaft-driven, 30-in. dia. buzz saw mounts on back of the I-beam and splitter on front. The splitter is equipped with a 4-way wedge that's operated by a 4 by 24-in. hydraulic cylinder. Both the saw and splitter are powered by separate 3 hp, electric motors that drive

hydraulic pumps.

A "tilting table" that's hinged at the bottom is used to operate the saw. "I place the log on the table and push the table in, then saw the log off and bring it back to repeat the process. It's a quick way to make firewood and works a lot faster than using a chainsaw," says Schenk. "I can cut up an 8-ft. log in a few seconds."

He uses the rig in woodlots located close to his house. "At first I used a gas engine to power the unit, but when I moved to town I wanted to use it inside my heated garage, so

Low-Cost Backhoe Log Splitter

"I got damed tired of having a backache every year from splitting firewood," says Canadian inventor Jim Forester. "That's when I came up with the idea of using my backhoe to split wood."

Forester's simple and unusual approach to splitting evolved after he spent a few months thinking about the problem. "I came up with several different ideas," Forester says, "but a lot of them wouldn't work. Eventually I figured it out, and once I did, it only took a few hours in the shop to make it."

First he cut a 12-in. wide by 24-in. long piece from 1/2-in. flat steel. He drilled three 3/4-in. holes 10 in. on center along both sides, about an inch from the edge. Then he welded that piece to the lift arm of his backhoe just above the bucket hinge.

A 12-in. piece of I-beam bolts to that plate. "With 3 holes on each side I can adjust the position for shorter or longer chunks of wood," says Forester.

Inside the 24-in. wide bucket is the splitting part of his invention. It's made of two pieces of metal from an old wood chipper welded together into a cross pattern. Vertical plates on each end bolt to the sides of the bucket and hold it in place near the top of the bucket. To split wood he places a chunk on top of the cutter and retracts the bucket's hydraulic cylinder.

"I can put in a 12 to 16-in. block of wood and it splits into 4 really nice pieces when I roll the bucket in," says Forester. "I've got



A 4-way cutter mounts inside backhoe bucket and a block of I-beam mounts on boom. To split wood, Forester places a chunk on top of cutter and retracts bucket's hydraulic cylinder.

hydraulic controls alongside the boom arm so I don't have to be in the cab to split the wood. The bucket can be moved to the most comfortable height."

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"I can quickly cut up smaller logs and branches with the saw and run bigger logs through the splitter," says Harold Schenk about his home-built splitter-saw.