

“Window” Splitter Mounts On Skid Steer

Matt Trelstad likes to see what he’s doing, so when he built a log splitter for his skid steer, he built it with a “window”. The design not only lets him see what he’s doing, it is stronger and more rugged than an I-beam. The design worked so well that he began making and selling them.

Trelstad says the design lets him split wood faster than other designs. Mounted on the front of his skid steer, the splitter serves double duty. With fingertip control, he can grab a log or branch and carry it to a pile and drop it. He can even use it to hold the log off the ground while cutting to avoid an accidental dip in the dirt with the chainsaw.

The working end is a two-stage design with a 12-in. splitter face. The narrower first stage sinks 6 in. into the wood before the wings hit. They spread the log a full 8-in.

“The 12-in. face makes the wedge more aggressive to begin with,” says Trelstad. “Pushing the log onto the wedge makes the splitting action even faster and more aggressive.”

While the Pro Series is designed for heavy use and fast splitting, Trelstad also offers smaller and less aggressive splitters. “They can also handle large pieces, but are specially designed to be really fast at making smaller pieces,” says Trelstad. “You have the option of using four-way splitting wings with small logs. If you take the wings off, you can use it on large pieces as well. It just



Log splitter is built from two pieces of channel iron mounted back to back, with an 8 by 24-in. “window” in between. The window design lets Trelstad see what he’s doing and is also stronger than a single I-beam.

isn’t as aggressive as our Pro Series.”

Trelstad makes six splitter models. They start at \$1,695 and range up to \$3,795.

The three Pro Series models have 24, 30 and 36-in. strokes. The 24-in. stroke has a 4-in. cylinder and weighs 800 lbs. The 30-in. stroke has a 5-in. cylinder and weighs 900 lbs. The 36-in. stroke also has a 5-in. cylinder, but weighs 1,000 lbs.

The TM Heavy Duty has a more traditional I-beam design, without the window,

with a 5-in. cylinder and a 30-in. stroke.

The two Warrior Series splitters are for lighter use. Equipped with a removable 4-way splitting wedge, one model has a 4 1/2 in. cylinder with a 24-in. stroke and the other a 4-in. cylinder with a 30-in. stroke.

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Pto-Powered Pelletizer Built To Last

After years of selling imported pelletizers, Make Your Own Pellets, LLC is now building its own pto-powered pelletizer with a heavier-duty gearbox that’ll stand up to increased pellet-making torque.

“The weakest part of imported mills is the gearbox,” says Brian Dingman. “We went to a 5:1 gearbox versus the more common 3:1 design. It will make a world of difference in the amount of power applied, and the quality of the pellet produced.”

Dingman explains that the slower the die turns, the longer the material stays in the press and the more compacted it becomes. With his 5:1 worm gearbox, it has the power and torque needed to produce wood pellets from pure sawdust as well as from grass and other sources, even waste paper.

The 445 lb., 9-in. model produces 350 lbs./hr. of pellets from sawdust or up to 900 lbs./hr. of pellets from soft biomass sources. A binder additive is recommended and available from the company.

According to tests by an independent lab, Juniper tree pellets reached a density of 44.8 lbs. per cu. ft. versus a standard

density of 40 lbs./cu. ft., which is what the Pellet Fuels Institute rates as “premium” pellets. At 540 rpm’s, the company produced 64 lbs. of dense Juniper pellets in less than 15 min. A 1,000 rpm pto would increase production.

The company now offers 20 or 30 hp, 3-phase electric motor configurations.

The powder-coated mill carries a one-year defective parts warranty. It’s priced at \$5,795. Dingman notes that because it’s made in North America, there is no tax on it for Canadians as there is for imported mills.

The company offers a detailed publication called “Guide To Making Pellets” that explains how to make wood pellets using pellet mills. You can download it online at www.makeyourownpellets.com/guidebook.html or order a hard copy by mail. Sells for \$31.95.

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Pto-powered pelletizer has a heavier-duty gearbox that’ll stand up to increased pellet-making torque, says the company.

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