

Saturday Program Meeting

Wood-Mizer Demonstration by
Bill Chambers and Steve Brady

Steve Brady hired Bill Chambers to cut up some pine trees to make the lumber he built his barn/shop with. So, when he cut down some hardwood trees, he hired Bill to cut them into lumber for woodworking projects. Bill hooks his LT40-HD Wood-Mizer to the back of his truck and takes it to the customer's site. In this case, Steve brought the logs to his barn and Bill cut them there.

Wood-Mizer is the brand name of a portable band saw mill used to cut trees into lumber. Since it's a band saw mill, there's very little waste and it yields smoother 'in the rough' lumber than most 'circle saw' mills. The mill uses hydraulic power to handle the logs and an electric motor to move the cutter head up and down as well as forward and back. The



model LT40-HD can handle logs up to 21' long and 36" in diameter. It can cut boards as wide as 28" in one pass. Bill's

Wood-Mizer has a 24 HP gasoline engine that powers the blade, the hydraulic system and a generator for the battery. A series of electric



motors move the cutting head up and down, the cutting carriage forward and backward on the track and adjust the blade

tension. With all of the mill's hydraulic and electrical power assistance, Bill says that the hardest part of the job is removing the freshly cut boards. Bill cuts the logs to the customer's specifications and charges by the board foot - normally around \$200 per thousand board feet.

To start the process, the log is moved over the



hydraulically powered lifting arms. The arms lift the log and position it on the frame. You'll notice that the Wood-Mizer only

needs one track for its cantilevered cutting



head. This allows easier access to position the log, remove the cut lumber and insures a straight cut -

even on uneven ground.

Once the first truing cut is made, the log is



hydraulically rotated 180 degrees. Then you start cutting lumber, one board at a time. The log is rotated 90

degrees at a time to obtain the highest lumber yield from the log. The machine can cut as close



as 1" to the bottom of the log platform. It really keeps waste to a minimum. The waste consists of a little bit of

sawdust and small trimmings of wood with the bark attached.

There are several ways to measure the board feet in a log. One way is to use a specially calibrated measuring 'stick'. To use the stick,



you measure the diameter of the log and reference it to the length of the log and it gives you the 'total board feet yield'

in the log. The 'stick' was designed by a company that buys logs to be milled into lumber. As you might guess, the 'stick' always measures a lower yield – sometimes as much as 25% lower. It takes longer to measure the individual boards after they're cut, but it's much more accurate.

After a lot of work cutting down the trees, hauling them to his house and cutting them into



lumber, Steve ended up with a lot of really nice boards. He will 'sticker' them to allow them to air dry and if he gets in a hurry for

some wood, he'll take some of them to a friend that has a dry kiln.

Thanks Bill and Steve for a very unusual and informative meeting. As a result of this meeting, Bill has decided to join our club. If you have some trees or logs that you need cut into lumber, contact:

Bill Chambers
Rt. 2 Box 182-0
Kirbyville, TX 75956
Phone: (409) 423-3512

Bill also has some lumber for sale. It's mostly oak, walnut and pine, but he does have smaller quantities of other species like cypress and ash.