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Fresh Cut

No 1 • 2010

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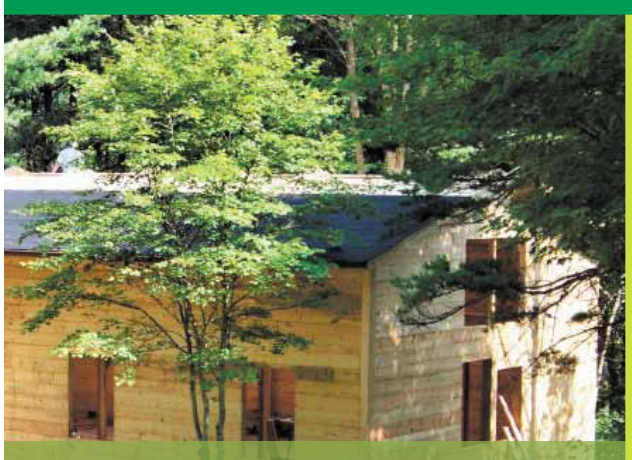

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Message from the President

Spring is in the air! I'm particularly excited about this spring as Logosol moves into a new decade of service in the US.

I'm happy to report that Logosol, Inc. increased sales during 2009. We are proud of this feat considering the economy in which we were operating last year. This is a testament to the quality and value of our products.

One thing holding the economy back was people spending money on items upon which they placed great value. To report an increase in sales in 2009 means our customers really saw an exceptional value on which to spend their hard-earned money. There is an old expression that says, "when it is windy scared sailors are aiming for the port and tough sailors are setting sail".

I like to think that Logosol and the people who use these high value products are the sailors that are setting sail in windy weather and are headed for new destinations.

This edition of FRESH CUT highlights some of the value of our products and the people who use them. You can read how our friend, Rusty, in Louisiana has taken milling to a new level in his area.

He is a full one-stop shop with the PH260 being at the heart of his operation. He had so many pictures of what he's done with the PH260, we couldn't print them all in this magazine. You'll also read about what one of our sawmill owners discovered recently. You never know what you'll get when you cut into a log and he's learned over the years that every log is different. It's always a joy to cut open a log to see the grain pattern inside.

Another story included inside this issue involves some M7 owners in Hawaii and where their milling took them. A love for tropical hardwoods took them into an operation that is making a difference in preserving hardwoods and helping the environment. And, be sure to read about Ecofence panels of Dallas, TX. Ian started a new business in 2008 and saw phenomenal growth in 2009 with a product he milled on the PH260.

These are just a few examples of some of our customers "sailing into windy weather. " One thing is for sure, you need to have good equipment to tackle jobs like this.

All in all, I know you'll enjoy looking at the amazing things Logosol customers continue to accomplish with their Logosol equipment. I hope you find inspiration to start your own projects this year. As for us at Logosol, we are looking for another great year in which to share in the success of our customers and help them achieve their dreams and goals.

Janne Engvall
President Logosol Inc.

Logosol Electronic Newsletter

Delivers More Than Just Product News

If you haven't joined the monthly Electronic Newsletter that is available from Logosol's website you are missing out!

Each month we have interesting articles that cover a lot more than just Logosol product news.

The newsletter provides the latest information about new Logosol products, notices about current and upcoming specials available on our website, and first alerts about pre-owned machinery for sale.

We also have articles about how our equipment is being used around the world.

Now we are able to provide even more information to our readers about working with wood. Logosol has recently formed an alliance with the WoodWorkers Guild of America(WWGOA) to provide our readers with expanded information via our electronic newsletter.

WWGOA is an innovative organization, dedicated to improving your woodworking knowledge. Logosol's recent collaboration with them resulted in a video clip that quickly became the #1 viewed clip on their website (WWGOA.com) and on their YouTube channel. The clip featured Logosol's Woodworkers Mill cutting lumber.

Along with Logosol's own articles about equipment use, we are including articles from this innovative organization in our upcoming electronic newsletters. This one-two punch of information is sure to help you get the most out of your sawmill and the lumber you produce with it.

Already in the works is an article about building nested tables from natural-edged planks, and an article about how to handle big pieces of wood in your shop. Look for this and more in upcoming issues of our electronic newsletter.

Join over 15,000 readers of this informative online publication. Just click on the "Newsletter" button at the top of our website home page (www.logosol.com).

Then look for new and informative articles, product news, and sales info every month from Logosol in your email in-box!

Fresh Cut
Woodworking Project

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THE BRAND OF LOGOSOL

Dependability • Joy • Fellowship • Profitability

Dependability

Logosol offers long-term reliability, no matter where in the world you live. Doing business with Logosol is safe. You get extensive warranties, the right price, unlimited support, and products that keep their high value.

Joy

You become proud and happy when creating by working with wood. Standing in the sun sawing or planing; feeling the scent of sawdust; processing a log into something lasting - building that sauna, terrace or house you have dreamt of – what an amazing feeling!

Fellowship

As a member of Team Logosol, you are part of a fellowship. We belong to a large group of people that share dreams of working with wood. You have access to experience, tips and ideas through our customer magazine Fresh Cut and our website, but also through personal contact with members round the world.

Profitability

You can for a small investment start to process your own timber. No matter whether you are processing timber for personal use or for running a business, this is a profitable occupation. You have the opportunity to make use of all kinds of wood, and create exactly what you have dreamt of.

A Breakthrough in Technology:

The LOGOSOL PH360

Logosol PH360 is a brand new planer/moulder from the ground up, designed with all the experience and knowledge we have received through years of manufacturing planers and moulders. The PH360 4-Head Planer/Moulder provides the ability to mould up to 5" X 14" material on all four sides.

This moulder also features a stationary bed, with built-in feeding tables to provide maximum stability and support for material passing through the planer. The in-feed table works as a jointer table and is easily adjustable to allow quick setup.

The top head moves up and down to provide for thickness adjustments. All moveable heads have digital readouts for quick and accurate positioning of these heads.

The PH360 offers a more integrated approach to 4-sided planing and moulding. The motors can all be controlled independently of each other on the conveniently located control panel at the in-feed end of the machine. The optional Chip Extractor system designed exclusively for the PH360 can also be controlled from this panel. The vacuum hoses are all strategically positioned to exit the planer at the rear of the machine, minimizing the possibility of these necessary hoses being in the way of the operator.

14 INCH, 4-SIDED MOULDING

The new moulder provides the ability to do four-sided planing and moulding in one pass and can be used in three-sided, two-sided, or single sided operations.

The feeding system on the PH360 features a new style feed roller and drive system, with increased horsepower and feed roller diameters over previous moulders in Logosol's moulder line.

This moulder goes beyond the widths and depths available on any moulder on the market today in its price range, and even of moulders in several price ranges over the price of the PH360.

"14 inch wide 4-sided moulding is a breakthrough in technology in this price range," says Janne Engvall, President of Logosol, Inc.

This unique, next generation, 4-Head Planer/Moulder will take 4-sided planing and moulding to a new level. The Logosol PH360 is in a new class of moulders, designed for increased capacities, ease of use, and affordability.

Flying sawmills in Alaska

Editor´s note: We asked Chris Wesolowski, of Anchorage, Alaska, who has helped us over the years get Logosol sawmills into the rugged and diverse state of Alaska, to tell us a little about his activities with the M7 sawmill. Chris is a bush pilot and his expertise in this area has come in handy in getting M7s to remote places. (Who says sawmills can't fly?) Here is his response:

"Hi, my name is Chris Wesolowski and I represent Logosol in the State of Alaska. Logosol normally does not have sales reps, so that they can keep the cost of their product line as low as possible, but as you will see, Alaska presents some interesting logistical problems that I am here to help with.

With Alaska being so far from the Lower 48 many customers also like the fact that they have someone local to get in touch with if they have any questions about the product they have purchased.

I really enjoy meeting and talking to new potential lumber cutters in Alaska. I bet many of you did not even think that there were trees this far North.

My wife Vickie and I live between Anchorage, a modern large city, and a homestead that is 70 air miles Northwest of Anchorage. It is about 45 miles from the nearest road and power line.

When we leave to go into Anchorage, we have an electric fence around the house to keep the black and grizzly bears from breaking into our home.

As you can imagine the cost of transporting anything is very costly. I figure that as a rule of thumb you can just about double the cost of lumber by the time you get it to our homestead. I needed to buy a saw mill, but did not want a band mill, as they were fairly expensive and the blades were hard to sharpen, especially in the bush. I saw a ad for Logosol and purchased one of the early mills Logosol USA was selling in the US. It was the M-5 and after flying it out to our home, tied under our small plane, I put it together

and cut the first board in my life. I was so impressed with the engineering and workmanship that I started talking to Logosol about letting me sell these mills up here in Alaska.

These sawmills are just the mill for taking out into the remote wilderness and cutting lots of inexpensive, beautiful lumber.

ONE PROJECT PAID THE MILL

As soon as the M-7 came out I sold my M-5 and upgraded and have used my mill every summer since. My neighbor on the homestead about 3 miles away (3 air miles of course) had a very nice circular saw mill he had been using for several years.

As soon as he cut a few logs on my mill he asked if I could get him an M-7 and his circular mill has not been used since. The last big project I did with my mill was to cut all the lumber, except OSB siding, for a two story 16x32 foot shop. I cut all structural lumber including rafters and 1 inch flooring for the entire building. I paid for my mill with just this one project as lumber is expensive and as I said the transportation even more so.

I have sold Logosol M-7's all over Alaska. There are about three of them above the Arctic Circle, and three of them south of Juneau on the Alaska Panhandle and many, many in between. Some of the owners above the Arctic Circle don't have trees growing near them so they pull large drift logs from the river in the summer time that wash down from a hundred miles away and cut these into lumber. One or two of the guys in Southeast Alaska take their mills out on trailers pulled by four wheelers at low tide and cut up large logs that had washed up on the ocean beach. I think that at times they may even get some exotic woods washed up by the Japanese Current.

A BEAVER TO PELICAN

Some of the mills that go to Alaskan Customers have a long road to get there. One of the mills that are in Southeast came from Logosol headquarters in Madison Miss. at the time and went to the west coast where it was loaded on a freighter from Tacoma to Anchorage. I picked it up and took it to a freight forwarder that trucked it thru a part of Canada to Haines Alaska. There it was put on the Alaska Marine Ferry and offloaded in Juneau Alaska. It was then put in a small airplane called a Beaver and flown into the small town of Pelican Alaska. Times have changed since and a more direct route is now possible.

A Logosol M-7 that went to a school on the Yukon river came to Anchorage, I picked it up and sent it by truck to a town called Nennana, Alaska which is on the Yukon river and the company held it for two months until the ice went out on the river and it was then loaded onto a river barge and boated to the town several hundred miles down-river from the highway.

I have also hauled several mills, besides my own, under my airplane into small remote runways for customers. Whatever it takes to get Logosol M-7 Sawmill to a remote village or a customer living in the bush!

The main trees that we have in Alaska are White Spruce, Cottonwood and Birch. All three can grow in South central Alaska up to 100 foot + and up to 30 inches in diameter, with the cottonwoods growing much bigger. Most lumber is cut out of White Spruce and air dried for a year or two. I have been cutting lots of small Cottonwood and using it for inside paneling as it has a very interesting, beautiful grain. Most people with Logosol Mills in Alaska are cutting lumber or logs for building homes and cabins, on the road system or in very remote areas, such as where we live.

I hope this has given you some insight as to how Logosol has helped us in the far north build that dream from the bottom up. I love this line and am going to steal it once more from Rob Bjorklund, "Let's cut lumber."

Many thanks Chris for telling us about M7s in Alaska! If you want to contact Chris you can reach him at 907-344-4673.

HOUSE CREATES
time for life and family

A family who cut their own wood and built a house with truly minimal energy requirements
It is possible to create a better life for oneself in a way that also cuts costs and creates more time for family.
Magnus Hjorth and Malin Wallinlind were successful at doing just this in Orust, north of Gothenburg, Sweden. The way there involved their own sawmill, salvage items, and dedicated effort.

Their journey began in 2001 when the organization Utsikten bought a 25 acre property called Lilla Krossekärr. The purpose was to build an ecovillage. Due to municipal and government issues, the project got off to a rocky start. "That is all history, and today we enjoy good relations with our neighbours," says Magnus.

For Malin and Magnus the house is a part of their philosophy on life. Their basic premise is living to be environmentally friendly; but even more important is the concept of having control over one's own life. It was a matter of getting out of the rat race and creating more time for their children.

"We have friends who bought houses for $600 000. To manage interest and amortization costs, they both have to work full time," says Malin.

TOP OF THE HILL

She and Magnus selected a lot that was at the top of a slope. The last part is pure slalom material. The advantage of this is a detached location with an incredible view over the valley and lake. The lot was a forest, and one of the first investments they made was therefore a sawmill, an electric Logosol M7.

Ecofriendly building now incorporates straw and clay. This was another method the couple selected, but not only for environmental reasons.

– It is the best method for those building their own homes, as it's relatively simple to learn and forgiving of mistakes, explains Magnus.

The frame of the house is made of thick wooden posts. In principle, double layers are built with straightedges and between these, compressed bales of straw are stapled in. The straw is covered with a mixture of clay and cow manure. At first Magnus and Malin were reluctant to get into using manure, and they initially tried working without it.

"We quickly realized the cow manure was completely necessary. It makes everything adhere better and easier to work with," says Magnus.

SAWMILL VIDEO A FAVORITE

He notes that the process of getting used to it is something like becoming a parent and changing diapers. Now that the house is done, you can't smell any trace of the manure. On the outside, the clay is covered with a wooden panel that provides protection from the wind. The inside is whitewashed.

The entire building took two years to make and their oldest son, Erik, was a ready and willing participant. When papa was sawing, he sat there digging in a pile of sawdust with ear protection on. He had his own carpenter's belt and his favorite film became Logosol's instructional video for the M7 sawmill. According to his parents, he must have watched it 50-60 times. The sawmill video still ranks higher than his other children's shows. He explains his interest in simple terms:

"I just want to learn."

Sibling number two, Olof, was not as interested in the film, but his favorite book is about a logger with a large forestry tractor known as a forwarder.

The family moved in a year and a half ago. Their second winter was the coldest in living memory, and the house lived up to the challenge outstandingly. The thick straw walls provide ample insulation, and the heat normally generated by human inhabitants, electrical appliances and solar collectors is enough to keep the house warm.

The heart of the heating system is an accumulator tank charged by the solar panels. During the summer months this proves sufficient to heat both water and house. During the winter, a secondary fire is kept burning in a wooden stove connected to the tank.

"When it was below twenty degrees, it was enough just to use one shopping bag of wood per day," says Malin.

The operating costs are extremely low. Water and waste are handled through a common purification system. Electrical consumption is around 3,000 kW a year. And the construction itself was record low. When Magnus last totaled up his receipts, the final cost was around $53 000. This for 1200 square feet of living space, plus secondary space and a workshop.

"Our bank did not believe in the project. Instead we had to find alternative means of financing, through a saving and borrowing program from JAK cooperative bank", says Magnus.

RE-USED MATERIAL

The interest-free JAK loan means that the house will be paid off in a few years. In combination with the inexpensive operations, this means that the family has avoided significant costs and can now budget in an entirely different way. They can work less and make themselves and their children a priority, without having to cut back.

"During construction I worked in home services and heard several people say they thought we had neither electricity nor running water. We have everything you'd find in an ordinary house", says Malin, pointing out the only new appliance in the house- a dishwasher.

Most of the building material and installations are recycled or we built them ourselves, or we bought them used, salvaged them, and so on. The result is a personalized home as far away from a standard cookie-cutter house as you can get.

Malin Wallenlind and Magnus Hjorth won more time for themselves and their children Olof and Erik, thanks to low living costs.

SAWING IS THERAPEUTIC

The goal is for both Magnus and Malin to be able to work part-time. Right now Magnus is working 80% of the time as a psychologist and Malin is continuing her studies. Thanks to the low costs, their budget works out anyway.

We have told stories of people who became healthy by sawing wood, and who brought themselves back from burn-out and exhaustion. What does a psychologist have to say about these claims?

"Many problems result from trying to fulfill the expectations of the environment to the extent that one ends up repressing oneself. Therapy is based on helping people rediscover the person they once were. For a person interested in working with their hands and creating things, sawing and building constitute a way back to that," replies Magnus Hjorth.

In other words, sawing is not a miracle medicine for everyone. But if it is the answer to a repressed interest, then it is true that you can saw your way to health.

Rusty with his PH260 Model 3. Notice the setup tools attached to the front of the planer on a magnetic strip. The kiln Rusty built is behind him.

A PH 260 Hard at Work In the Heart of Louisiana

Rusty Savant is a hardworking sawmiller in south Louisiana who has recently expanded into value-added-milling. He purchased a used PH260 a few years back, and has since upgraded to the new Model 3 PH260. He has put this new PH260 to the test, running thousands and thousands of linear feet of flooring, siding, paneling, and casing mouldings in this rugged 4-head planer/moulder by Logosol.

Rusty has done some unique projects with the PH260.

"I have supplied all the lumber for siding for the outside of several of my customers' houses. And in some cases the interior material too. I take a project from the stump to the finished product. I do the felling, the logging, the sawing, the drying, and finishing of the lumber," he explained.

"Sometimes I use reclaimed material that really makes some beautiful boards."

He's also done the inside of houses with reclaimed lumber.

"This stuff was reclaimed fir, something you don't normally see around here." he said. "But once we milled it, it turned into some beautiful paneling."

DOES THINGS LIKE NO OTHER

Another unique project Rusty has done is numbered paneling.

"This is where you number each board as it comes off the tree," he explained. "Then you have to keep up with it when you plane it. The carpenters then put the paneling up according to the order in which it was cut. The result is a wall where you can see the pattern of the tree spread out before you. When you take care of the entire processing of the tree from the stump to the finished boards, you can do things like this that other specialized milling companies can't do."

A PLYWOOD MAKING MACHINE

Rusty has good things to say about Logosol and the PH260.

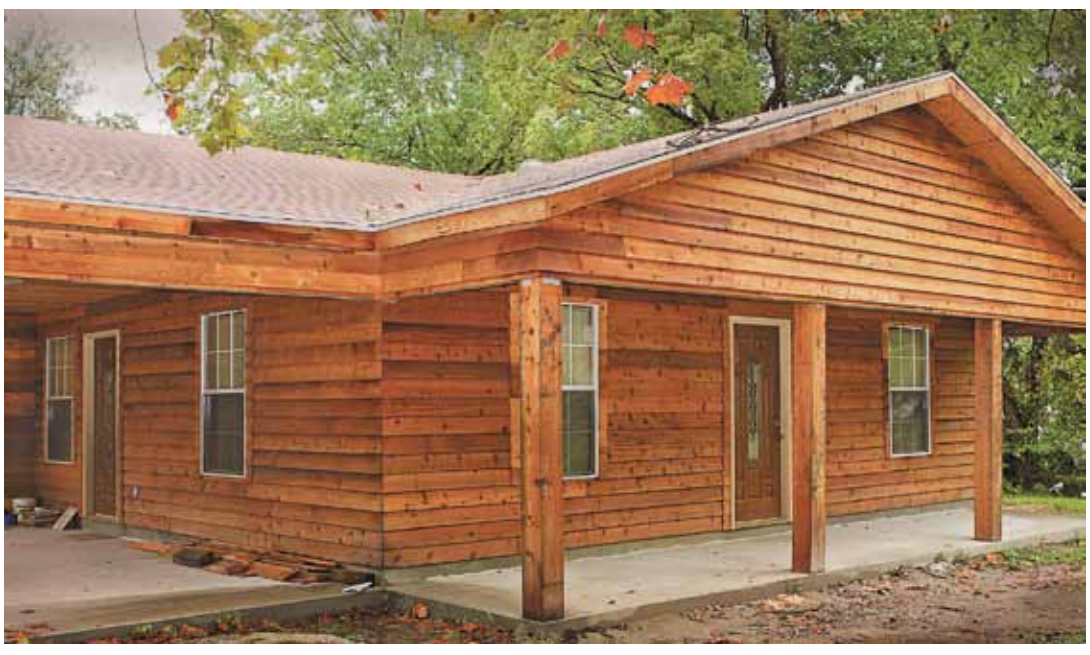
"These guys know their machinery and stand behind it," he stated emphatically. "I've used this machine to produce a lot of material over the past few years, and it hasn't let me down yet! I do everything right here - structural lumber, siding, paneling, v-groove ceiling, crown mouldings, flooring, casings, S4S for cabinets."

Sometimes customers get a little confused about his abilities, since he can supply everything for their projects.

He told us a humorous story about one customer who came back to ask him a question after Rusty had just supplied him with a price for everything for his new barn.

"Can I get a price on your plywood?" the customer asked. Without missing a beat, Rusty said, "Well, shucks, my plywood making machine just broke a tooth, and I can't produce any right now!" The customer explained, "I just thought since you had everything else, I would just ask about plywood too."

Of course, Rusty didn't actually have a plywood making machine, but, who knows? Give him time and he just might put one in. He recently built his own kiln, which is now drying around 4000 ft. of oak for another flooring project.



Rusty produced all the wood for this house from reclaimed fir. The siding was run on the Logosol PH260, as well as the interior paneling, mouldings, and wainscoating.

Rusty kept up with these boards from the log to the finished project so a patterned emerged on the wall. The ceiling is T&G V-match.

Logosol Låks frame sawmill in the French Alps

- This sawmill allows me to do a job that normally takes two people to do, says Marc Petitroulet, who had a band sawmill previously before investing in a Logosol Låks 500 frame saw to increase capacity

Three years ago, Marc Petitroulet invested in a Logosol Låks frame sawmill, the largest 500 Industrial model. The investment replaced an employee.
"I want to be able to do as much as possible on my own," says Marc.

He lives and works in the French Alps, outside the village of Lescheraines, in a chain of mountains more known for its ski resorts, such as Grenoble, Albertville, Chamonix and Europe's highest mountain, Mont Blanc, at 4,810 meters high.

In this landscape, which is rolling to say the very least, it is not possible to run a large-scale forestry operation, partly because the machines can't handle it, and partly because the forests are largely comprised of national parks and natural conservation areas.

"We have to have permission from the authorities to clear certain trees" Marc stated.

In other words, it is a land of small-scale operations, with small sawmills spread throughout, focused primarily working on contract cutting for private forest owners.

THE DESIRE TO WORK FOR ONESELF

In 2001 Marc bought a portable band sawmill, one of the larger models from the German manufacturer Serra, and became an independent. Demand grew so much that he had to employ an assistant. However being an employer was not Marc's calling, so he searched for alternative ways to produce the same amount with just himself.

"When I visited a forestry tradeshow in Sweden, I discovered the Låks frame saw. It was exactly what I had been looking for," he said.

From his point of view, the Låks saw is an accessory. While the frame runs up to 20 blades at a time to cut through two blocks at once, Marc can prepare new logs for sawing or cut thicker broad-leaf trees on the bandsaw. The result is that Marc is single-handedly able to saw as much as he could previously handle with an employee.

NO NEED TO SUPERVISE

In the course of a typical year, Marc saws 2,000 cubic meters. That is a lot for one person, but this can be explained by the frame saw's high capacity, up to 1,200 linear meters, or 4 cubic meters, per hour.

After three years of owning his frame sawmill, Marc knows what he can do with it. In his view it is a reliable machine with a very high capacity, but the major advantages are on another level.

"I don't need to supervise the cutting- I can spend my time working on something else. "The surfaces are good and the measurements are perfect, says Petitroulet, who is always on the hunt for self –operating equipment that increases production for his single handed operation."

"I don't need to supervise the cutting. I can spend my time working on something else. The surfaces are good and the measurements are perfect," says Marc Petitroulet.

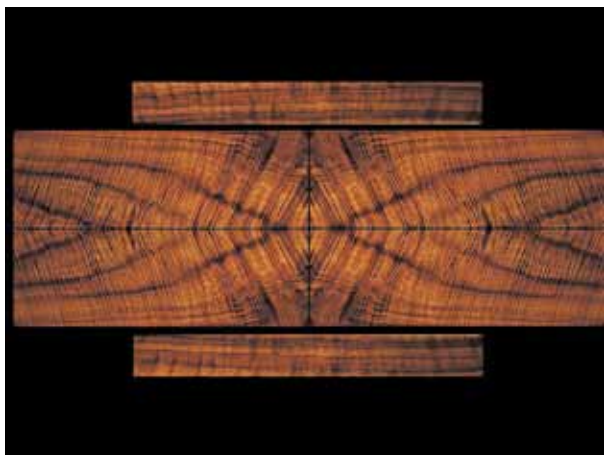
M7 in Hawaii leads to

Global Project

Darrell Fox bought an M7 with an electric power head a few years back. At the time he was "locked into a job on Oahu," and milling lumber was a good way to get back to what he really wanted to do in his off time – working with tropical hardwoods. He mainly milled urban timber in his area, such as Mango, Milo, and Kamani. Most of his lumber went into projects he made for local craft fairs. Some of the beautiful lumber he cut on the M7 sawmill he sold to other woodworkers in his area.
In 2009, things changed dramatically for Darrell. His M7 became a part of a bigger organization, as did he. He writes us:

Koa logs.

Koa boards stacked for drying.



Double book-match cut of Koa lumber.

"I started talking to my partner about the forestry idea and the more we talked the more it made sense as a business idea whose time had come… We had just struck a deal on the first 1000 acres of land suitable for growing koa.

Our forestry and nursery teams were in place and we had enough money in escrow to plant the first 50 acres– with more coming in every week. We were getting interest from every quarter. People liked the investment aspect, some were looking at the potential for carbon credits, some were interested in securing a lumber supply for their manufacturing businesses a few decades out, and some were just interested in going green.

In fact we are negotiating with a regional airline that wants to buy trees to offset their carbon footprint."

Darrell's partner, Jeff Dunster expands on what the company that Jeff and Darrell have started is doing. He says the M7 is now located at the project site and is still a part of the operation. "We use it to mill dead and fallen old growth trees on our property."

However, Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods, is about much more than milling lumber. This company is master planning a 2700 acre sustainable forestry project on Hawaii Island, growing rare tropical koa hardwood trees for investors all over the world. Reducing global warming through carbon sequestration and providing their investors the opportunity for substantial profits from lumber as well as the potential profit from the developing carbon credit market.

"In Hawaii, over 90% of the native forests have been lost to development and agriculture. This pattern has been repeated all over the world. Last year the International Tropical Timber Organization predicted that at our current rate of clearing, we have less than 14 years of prized tropical hardwoods left to cut on the planet. At that point, the resource will either be completely depleted or in protected areas," he stated.

"We all know what happens to the price of something when it becomes scarce. In the past ten years alone, we have seen the scarcity of Hawaiian koa lead to a price rise of more than 1000% and the situation is only getting worse. There is an ancient Chinese proverb which states the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago— the second best time is now. Twenty years from now, there will be a lot of folks wishing it was 2010 again."

HLH is making it where anyone can participate in this important work they are doing. A visit to their website will show how critical it is to start this process of turning around tropical hardwood production.

"We are making it profitable for anyone to participate in growing tropical hardwoods here in Hawaii, no matter where they are located," Jeff emphasized.

The company will work with individuals, corporations, IRAs and trusts to help them become owners of tropical hardwoods that HLH will manage for them in their expanding tropical hardwood forestry operations.

"We believe a portfolio shouldn't just be a vehicle for personal wealth, it's should be a tangible expression of what an investor values most."

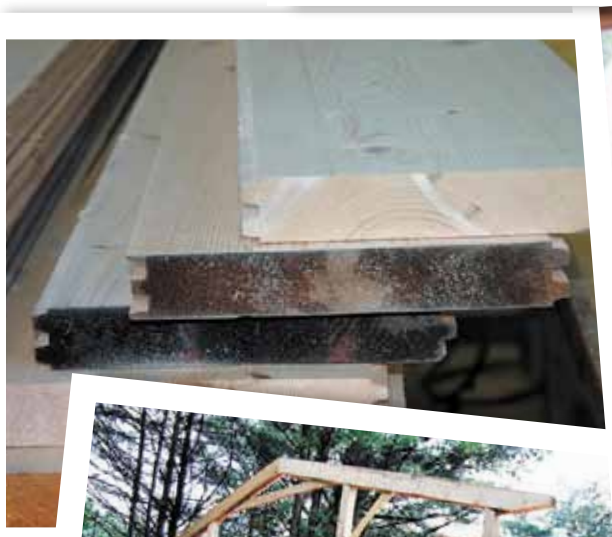
The Logosol M7 will continue to be a part of the Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods operation. But the future of Hawaiian hardwoods in this area is looking brighter thanks to the owners of this sawmill.

You can help them with this project. Contact them via their website at www.hawaianlegacyhardwoods.com.

Eight week old koa seedling. "We outplant at 10 weeks."

Darrell with M7 and electric powerhead cutting Koa log.

Orren Whiddon, his team and their work



Mail from a customer:

The 410 is a wonderfully versatile machine

Hi! I'm Orren Whiddon and I am the Executive Officer, ten thumbed carpenter and Chief Bottle Washer for a small nature-based retreat center in far south central Pennsylvania.
As our camp has grown, the need for some kind of seasonal sleeping accommodation for our attendees has grown as well.

We have looked at many different kinds of prefab and kit-built campground cabins, but have never been able to justify their cost based on our non-profit financials (and when we say non-profit, trust me, there is none!). I was a mechanical design engineer in a previous life, and I peppered that experience with timber framing and log cabin construction.

What I needed was a new way to erect a building that could use volunteer unskilled labor, was very cost efficient with raw materials, would ideally use the rough-sawn lumber that is abundant in these mountains, and finally, produce a good looking, long lived natural structure.

With my timber framing background I was familiar with the rigidity of trussed, barn bent construction; but the challenge there is how to provide for the "skin" of the building.

Conventionally that skin is made up of stud framing with separate membranes for exterior and interior surfaces. Hanging a stud framed skin on barn bents really does defeat the point of the exercise. I was also aware of a building technique used in this area 100 years ago where vertical 5/4 boards are joined by horizontal girts to create a structure, the vertical boards actually carrying the buildings compressive load. In Ohio I have seen very large multi story dwellings built with this technique, using 5/4 Oak boards up to 24 inches in width and 20 feet long. How to seal such a structure is a challenge and I am sure they burnt a pile of firewood to keep them warm through the winters.

The technique that seemed most promising for our purposes would be to combine trussed barn bents with 2 inch tongue and groove planking laid up horizontally. The tongue and groove would provide the seal while also creating what is essentially a "stressed skin" of the assembled wall, contributing greatly towards flexural rigidity. Racking would be controlled by the bents.

That's all well and good, but what about materials cost? In our area rough-sawn sells at $.50 a bft, so one square foot of wall or roof, excluding the bents, would be a little above a dollar. Stud wall framing can't touch that. Our need is for a nine month of the year, occasional use, seasonal structure; so insulation is not a requirement.

But good looking is very much a requirement. And now for the machine. Where would we find the equipment that can mill thousands of lineal feet of tongue and groove in 2 inch stock?

That could be operated by volunteers and would digest everything from fine seasoned stock for mouldings to the dirtiest, most crooked rough sawn the mill could drag out of the woods. Enter the Logosol PH 410!

We researched Logosol, asked lots of questions and finally made the purchase, along with the Tormek sharpening system. The machine arrived and we eagerly made test runs with the double tongue and groove knives. Excellent results.

By now it was the winter of 2008-09 and we began to make buying decisions for the material. While our original plan was to use partially seasoned rough-sawn stock; we were surprised to learn that we could purchase #2 SPF by the flat for about $60 a bft. So we changed plans to use the #2 common instead of rough-sawn – more on that later. Spring came and as soon as the weather broke we began laying in the foundation and deck for our 26 by 48 foot, one and one-half storey building.

While building the conventionally constructed deck we also designed on CAD and cut out in our shop all of the parts and bracing that would go into the barn bents, so that we were ready to assemble the bents as soon as the deck was on.

It should be mentioned that the bents are made up of 2x6 #2 stock, three layers of stock laminated together in such a way that the braces and horizontals are captured inside the outer layers. We literally stacked the parts on the deck and nailed them together, creating an incredibly rigid truss. And good looking too.

The bents went up easily and we were ready to begin milling our siding and roofing. We had previously machined a ten foot long extension to the fence for the input side of the Logosol to help in straightening the edge of the material, and this long fence did help considerably.

After a day or two of fan-dangling, learning, messing up and getting it right; we fell into milling up a serious pile of siding. After two pickup truck loads were prepared, we took them to the building site and proceeded to lay up the walls. Lay up went well that first day. We glued the joints as they went up and began to learn all of the little tricks that one learns on such a job.

On our first day we laid up six courses of siding, taking us up to the bottom of our window openings. A three man crew could lay up about 5 feet of wall a day.

But we were also learning that we had a problem with our material. We were using 2x10 inch, #2 SPF common stock delivered as full, bound flats; and this Canadian supplied material is terrible stuff. It is a fact that spoiled, rotten, soft, barky material was buried inside the bound flats. We had a high wastage rate.

We had purchased 12', 14' and 16 foot lengths and found that the 16 foot lengths could have bows approaching one inch along their lengths, much worse than the 12's and 14's.

While our extended fence could remove up to a 1/4 inch bow, we were stuck with material we could not use. Lesson learned, all future buys were for 12 and 14 foot stock. And future buildings will be made from #1 Select American Pine.

Back at the shop our two man milling crew was really getting into the rhythm of things and had worked out the fine points of moving a mountain of material through the Logosol. We machined our siding in two passes, running 40 planks with one set of knives, then changing the knives to run the opposite side of the planks. Knife change overs took just 2 or 3 minutes.

After a few days practice the crew could run and transport to the building site up to 1,000 lineal feet of plank a day. That's a good thing, as we used over 6,000 lineal feet of 2x10 stock to side and roof the building!

The 410 held up very well and grunted its way through the job. We ran with feed rates at the bottom end of the range simply because our blower could not keep up with the chips.

One trick we can pass along is to set the output end of the fence .030 narrower than the input, which creates a slight side force from the feed rollers pressing the stock against the fence, giving a very straight edge.

We sharpened our knives just twice for the entire run. I cannot imagine owning the 410 and not owning the Tormek. It is simply a wonderful sharpening system, which now is used for every other edged tool in our shop.

To sum up, the approach of using barn bent trusses and horizontal tongue and groove siding has certainly proved itself as a very economical system for seasonal recreational cabin construction that would work very well for storage buildings and the like.

The building shell as pictured has about $8,000 of material in it, including foundation and deck. The tongue and groove planks, when mated, will easily span the 12 feet roof beams with minimal deflection.

The finished result is quite frankly stunning, the comments we have from visitors are very positive. As in everything regarding wood, the quality of the wood is paramount, so next time we will use seasoned rough-sawn or #1 Select. No Canadian SPF!

The 410 is a wonderfully versatile machine, and with the addition of custom fencing it will straighten bowed planks, eliminating the need for a separate machine. We have since used it to run 1,000's of feet of 5/4 Oak, Poplar mouldings, flooring and the like. It never disappoints.

While we did consider the purchase of Logosol's four spindle machine, aside from cost, we felt it would be more difficult to run the wide variation in sizes and quality of stock that we use.

We also knew that we would need custom fencing arrangements, and the 410 lends itself to these kinds of modifications. For an end user, rather than a reseller, we think the 410 is a perfect choice.

Drying for carpentry with their own kiln

It was not just the house that attracted Jonas and Eva Nordlöf to buy the property on the island of Färingsö in Sweden's Mälaren Lake. It was the totally overgrown lot, with trees ready for cutting in which to build their dream house. "I thought of having someone else do the cutting, but then I realized this would cost the same as buying an M7 sawmill, and that way I got a really good chainsaw as part of the deal," says Jonas.

Jonas Nordlöf has the perfect place for his wood kiln and saw mill: an asphalted tennis course. The rest of the lot was wooded with trees that he is now cutting, with plans to plane the wood for furniture making.

Jonas Nordlöf is a furniture maker, trained at the Carl Malmsten workshop school. He currently works as an instructor in the furniture and interiors program at St. Martin's secondary school in Sundbyberg.

Woodworking is more than a profession. For Jonas and his wife, Eva, it is a passion.

"Eva is really good at working. She didn't even hesitate to run the jackhammer when we were breaking up the cement floor in the basement," says Jonas.

The house was built in the 1940s. It had really good bones, but the rest was not so much to get excited about.

SAVING THE SOUL OF THE HOUSE

Jonas and Eva essentially gutted the house, taking pains to preserve what was in good condition. Then, they built an additional floor. Instead of ripping the house down completely, they wanted to preserve the soul of the house.

"There are people who put a lot of sweat and blood into this house, and we couldn't just tear it down," says Jonas.

The project has been underway for two years and they estimate the finished to be sometime in 2010. But, of course, this is the type of undertaking that will never be completely finished. Future projects are already on the horizon, including building out the detached garage to twice its existing size in order to make room for a true furniture workshop.

WOOD FROM THE LOT

There was almost nothing but trees on the 6,000 square meter lot. Spruce, pine and birch. It was straight old growth. The perfect raw materials for furniture making. So far, 23 of the trees have been felled and cut in the M7 sawmill.

Another 30 trees will also be cut down and turned into wood for furniture.

Commercial lumber has been used for actual construction in the home. They are keeping wood from their own trees for baseboards, mouldings and other trim pieces.

These are going to be made on a Logosol SH230 planer/moulder. However, the most critical aspect is drying the wood.

Air drying is fine for house framing lumber, but when it comes to fine woodworking, Jonas wants a greater degree of control. He was one of the first to order a Sauno wood kiln from Logosol last spring and is one of the first to have set up and used the wood kiln.

READY IN ONE DAY

"The drying assembly, plans and fasteners are all included. The actual cabinet is built out of cellular plastic that was available at the local hardware supplier," he says.

It may sound a little elaborate, but according to Jonas it only took one day. He cut the panels with a manual circular saw. During the summer he dried 1.5 cubic meters of wood, sawn into pieces one inch thick and 5 meters long. Once he had the kiln filled and started, he and Eva went on a victory vacation.

"When we came back after two weeks, the wood was dry enough to be worked", says Jonas. "The moisture content was 11 %."

He has a few detail-related viewpoints on the construction, but overall it works just as anticipated, and delivers dry wood in a reasonable amount of time, regardless of weather or wind. The biggest problem he has is of an entirely different character:

"I just need more time to cut wood," he says.

Despite the fact that the trees on the lot are limited in number, he does not see future supply of cut pieces as any problem. He notes that the neighborhood is full of trees, and neighbors are always looking to get rid of one tree or another.

Jean gives customers what they are looking for

Anyone who spends time reading the advertisements from construction warehouse stores know that they are always talking the lowest price on an ever smaller assortment. This opens up a growing market for small-scale and flexible-minded woodworkers.

Jean Raynaud, PH260 owner in France, is one of those making a living on the shortcomings of the building warehouse stores. He has been running a small-scale sawmill for a good 20 years.

Increased demand for milled products led him to expand his workshop with a Logosol PH260 four-sided planer/moulder.

REAL TONGUE AND GROOVE

Jean Raynaud was not happy just milling panels and mouldings to customer request. He is about creating his own product, a tongue and groove cut of wood milled on four sides, thick enough to be used as floor boards. The major difference here is the tongue and groove design. The protrusion, or indentation, if you like, is a whole 16 millimeters. The tongue is 7.5 mm high, while the groove is 8 millimeters.

"Otherwise it wouldn't work with such deep grooves," says Jean, explaining the height difference.

Customers have come to appreciate Jean's style of tongue and groove. Production is around 3,000 cubic meters a year.

SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED TOOLS

Anyone who has read Logosol's tool catalogue knows that at present there are no tools available for side cutting tongue and groove of this dimension.

Jean had an Italian tool maker specially produce a tool that is fixed, but still able to be repositioned.

"The cutters cost a fourth of what the complete planer cost," tells Jean, not looking the slightest bit regretful about it. "The investment has paid for itself several times over."

"Customers want planed wood, and you have to be able to live up to customer demands," says Jean Raynaud, who bought a Logosol PH260 to meet increased demand.

The height of the tongue and groove can be set using spacer rings. This is a construction that can be used for tools on large industrial planers, but with the help of a neighboring country, Jean was able to realize the same function in a Logosol PH 260!

"Customers want planed wood, and you have to be able to live up to customer demands," says Jean Raynaud, who bought a Logosol PH260 to meet increased demand.

PH260 at the Heart of a "Green" Company

Innovative fence panel system fully assembled. That is EcoFence Panels, made with a Logosol PH260

"We are looking at a licensing/partnering model for other markets. This could be a good opportunity for energetic and quality individuals," says Ian Hill. Director of EcoFence Panels.

A business opportunity for other PH260 owners

EcoFence of Dallas, TX produces high quality fence panels for homes in the Dallas area using materials that would otherwise end up at a chipper mill. These fences, made primarily from post industrial materials, are being called "furniture quality" because of the way they fit together and the look that they bring to a neighborhood. The company is dedicated to being "green" in their product offering and in all aspects of their business. At the heart of this "green" business model is the Logosol PH260.

Ian Hill, Director of EcoFence Panels says he was "really happy of the quality of service" that he received from Logosol when he bought the planer in the fall of 2008. "We were able to get up to speed on the PH260 quickly and efficiently because of Logosol. It's a very big thing for a new business, " he emphasized, " to have competent people on the other end of the line."

Ian also stated he was pleased with the quality of service of the PH260.

"We run it over 8 hours per day for over half of the year, so it is definitely suited for constant duty. We actually found this somewhat surprising."

550,000 LINEAR FEET

This quality of service has allowed EcoFence Panels to expand their business, since it is able to handle a heavy non-stop workload. EcoFence Panels can just add a second shift when their business volume increases. Ian estimates that they have put over 550,000 linear feet through the PH260 in the past year.

Business is looking good according to Ian.

"We were sold out of inventory 100% of 2009!" he stated.

The company is looking for more expansion in 2010, as they are expanding sales outside of Dallas, having secured positions in two new markets – Ohio and Austin, Texas.

"We have in our budget another PH260 to be added in 2010," said Ian. "We are working on the timing of that new addition now."

EcoFence Panels has also upgraded their panels, now making them rackable. This means that the panels can pivot up to 20" over 8' in any direction. This is critical for markets where the terrain is uneven. These are the first wood panels to have this capability. EcoFence Panels are installed using hardware from a sister company, OZ-Post, making this a one stop shop for fence installers.

CALL IAN TO BECOME A PARTNER

Indeed, EcoFence Panels is looking even beyond these two markets in their long range plans. Being at the core, a "green" company, they are looking to replicate their factory in key markets across the United States, perhaps even partnering with key people that are familiar with the equipment they are using in their production.

That is good news for PH260 owners, as EcoFence Panels is looking to keep their production "local" to the area in which the fences are being sold, thereby reducing fuel for transit and keeping the materials used local.

"We are looking at a licensing/partnering model for other markets. This could be a good opportunity for energetic and quality individuals."

Ian encourages our readers who have a PH260 to call him about this possibility, as they are beginning to make plans on how to take this business model he has developed to the rest of the US market.

www.ecofencepanels.com

State-Of-The-Art Logosol Warehouse

Logosol now has a "state-of-the-art" National Distribution Warehouse in Buffalo, NY.

"Our new facility in Buffalo, NY is fully stocked with all Logosol products, ready for immediate shipment," says Janne Engvall, Logosol, Inc. President. "We have upgraded our shipping department and now have more ways to ship than ever before."

The facility is located close to the Buffalo, NY airport in an industrial warehouse district.

"This is a major shipping area for the Northeast USA," Steve Farinacci, a Logosol employee, said.

"Within 500 miles of Buffalo, NY, is over 55% of the population of the U.S! With this kind of access to shipping facilities, we can utilize the most economical and most efficient shipping methods for our customers."

As we toured the new facility, our attention was drawn toward rows and rows of new moulding knives hanging on the walls in the shipping area of the warehouse – the Logosol knife catalog has over 500 patterns of moulding knives available in it. Along with shelves upon shelves of spare parts and accessories, Janne explained what we were seeing.

"Our in-house knife selection and our spare parts stock, has never been greater. We try to have all items ready for same-day shipping."

Logosol can now offer demonstrations of their equipment at this new facility as well.

"This spacious warehouse gives us room to display and demonstrate our machines. In addition, we now offer in-house demonstrations in Ethelsville, Alabama," Janne told us.

Logosol's in-house knife selection has never been greater.

"We want customers to be able to experience the machine they are interested in purchasing. We always welcome anyone to come for a visit to test out our equipment. Bring some of your material for a test run through the planer! We love seeing beautiful moulded material coming out of our machines! We always have a log on hand for milling on the M7 with the electric powerhead, as well."

Helps Logger to Produce New Products

For Tim Hemphill, working with trees and lumber is in his blood. Tim started logging in Pennsylvania at age 18 – three days after graduating high school.

His father was in the forestry industry so it was natural for him to start logging himself. He logged in various capacities for 20 years and at some point during that time he bought a portable sawmilll and started doing custom milling jobs for people.

After gaining experience with that sawmill, he bought a Logosol PH260 and began to add value to the lumber he produced on his mill. In the process he built 2 dry kilns and now has 3 employees working for him.

PEOPLE LOVE THE LOOK

Tim is doing custom orders for people in his area. His main products are tongue and groove flooring, siding and paneling. But, Tim also is building cabins for campgrounds located near him.

Just about all the materials for these unique cabins are milled with the PH260, and they have been a big success.

"People love the look and feel of these cabins!" he told us. "These wouldn't be possible for me to produce without the PH260," he added. "I recommend this planer to anyone who asks. The only real problem with it, I had at the beginning and Logosol was very quick to help me out with that. It's been running steady ever since!"

Tim is now looking to expand his business further and is considering the new Laks Frame saw as a possible candidate for helping him expand.

Local or large-scale, gasoline or electric-powered

What's best for the environment?

The environment is a complex issue. Many things make this clear, not least last fall's climate conference in Copenhagen. World leaders, including U. S. President Barack Obama, could not agree on how we must all work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As a user of Logosol products, you generate carbon dioxide either directly or indirectly. This may well be harmless to you and your immediate surroundings, a minute amount, but it still contributes to a global problem.

What makes the climate issue so complex is that only the total amount of carbon dioxide is counted, the emissions over the entire lifecycle of a product. To clarify the total impact on the environment, lifecycle analyses are carried out. These are comprehensive calculations in which a large individual source of emissions can in the long run reduce total emissions.

Let's take a board, a standard 1 x 4, as an example. The raw material is a spruce growing in the forest deep in the Swedish counties of Småland or Norrland. In a large-scale forestry operation the following will happen up until the point at which you, or a carpenter, nail the board down:

First the tree is felled by a harvester. The machine is diesel-powered, as is the forwarder which transports it to the highway. A logging truck meets it there and takes it to the sawmill by the coast, possibly after being reloaded at a terminal. After sawing and drying, further transport to a central warehouse or direct to a builder's merchant or DIY store awaits. You, or the carpenter, drive there in your car to collect wood.

Let's say that the alternative is you sawing your wood yourself from trees in the vicinity. You fell a tree with a chainsaw, transport the logs with a diesel-powered tractor and use a gasoline-powered M7 sawmill. You are using fossil fuels and dispersing carbon dioxide. It might not be much, but it's still having an impact on the climate.

LOCAL PRODUCTION IS BETTER

The relevant issue here is not how much carbon dioxide you are releasing through your sawing activity. It is actually the size of the emissions in comparison with the alternative way of procuring the wood, namely driving into town and buying it. The strength of the comparison depends on how far you have to drive.

In the environmental analyses that the industry is carrying out for all types of products, it is the delivery transports that in most cases do the most damage to the environment.

If you simply look at the impact on climate, local production almost always comes out on top over the large-scale alternatives which require long-distance transports of both raw materials and finished products, nationwide and worldwide, in order to achieve sufficiently high volumes.

The conclusion is that you can use a gasoline-powered M7 sawmill with a clear environmental conscience. But this doesn't mean that you have no further part to play in stemming the greenhouse effect. You can be even better, even greener.

HOW CLEAN IS ELECTRICITY?

Electric versions are available for almost all Logosol machines. Most of the M7 sawmills sold in Europe are electric. Not simply because they are kinder on the environment, but because they are more powerful, last longer and have significantly lower running costs.

Electric motors are far more reliable than the corresponding gasoline motors. They have fewer moving parts, in other words fewer sources of failure, and can deliver higher output. To take one example, the largest electric saw unit for the M7 E8000 has a rated output of 8 kW, which is the equivalent of 11 horsepower.

But there is a difference between rated output and power. For short periods an E8000 can achieve almost 20 hp. No chainsaw with as much power as this exists. In other words, you are not sacrificing performance in order to protect the environment.

The greatest benefit to the environment from electric operation is found on a different and closer plane. With an electric saw you avoid exhaust fumes and reduce the running cost to a fraction of that incurred with gasoline.

You must also take into account how your electricity is produced. Electricity is a way of transporting energy, not a type of energy. If it originates from a brown coal power station, then the benefit to the environment is limited.

If it originates from water or wind power, then the picture is completely different.

As we can see, it is impossible to say with absolute certainty what is best for the environment in any specific case. It depends on many different factors. But two things are certain: Local production has less of an impact on the environment, and growing forest binds the carbon dioxide that you create by sawing and nailing the boards to the wall, thus preventing it from returning to the atmosphere.

Janne Näsström

Not milling is like leaving a sack of money out to rot

Recently we heard from one M7 owner who had collected a bunch of logs in anticipation of doing a lot of milling, only not to have time to mill up the logs until 2 years later. Rainer Kern called to tell us what he found when he cut into some hardwoods that had lain in place for several years. We discussed the value of spalted wood, and we sent him some reference material on this kind of wood to help him realize what he had found in these old logs. Here is his story:

"Thanks for the reply. The spalted wood article was interesting. Thinking of what I have discovered makes me remember how I first got started with using the M7 mill in the first place.

Three years ago, I purchased some land and immediately had about ten acres of it cleared. What was bulldozed was a mixture of pines and hardwoods. The standard practice here is to push all the debris into a pile, throw diesel on the pile and burn it. They make no judgment whether they bulldoze a hard wood, a pine or the size of the tree, big or small.

It made me ill to see these fully grown pines and hardwoods being done in this way. It cost me more money, but I had the dozer operator stack both the pines and hardwoods that were over a certain size to keep them from getting burned. Mind you, at the time, I knew nothing about milling. If fact I didn't even own a chainsaw. Being an outsider here in this part of the country, it didn't take long for word to get around about the extra steps I was taking to save these tress from the ashes.

THE ALTERNATIVE WAS FIREWOOD

When the locals heard that I was doing something different from what they have always been use to, curiosity brought them out to see what my plans were with these stacks of wood.

When asked what I was going to do with the wood, I shrugged my shoulders, unsure myself. I tried to sell the logs to a logging firm, but times were very good for them at the time, so they did not want to invest in the effort to load the logs onto a logging truck. It is no wonder the locals thought I was a little nuts to invest time and money to make a stack of wood, only to leave it out to rot.

I invested in your mill about two years ago, because I didn't like the alternative of having the logs used for firewood. Two years that have gone by, and I have had the time to only mill the pine. It is now that I am finally milling the hardwoods. Before I had started milling the hardwoods, I felt disappointed with myself for having left these logs turn to rot. In a way, it didn't feel any different than leaving a sack of money out to rot. After all, the whole idea of milling the lumber was to save the cost of having to buy it from a lumber yard.

The next thought was to run these logs through a chipper to make mulch. But because some of these logs are too big to run through a chipper, I used the mill to cut them down into manageable pieces. As I cut my first piece, the wood wouldn't even let me take out my frustration by throwing it away. The wood was so rotten that the wood broke in ten pieces, like shattered glass, before I even had a chance to give it a rebellious throw of disgust.

DISCOVERED SPALTED WOOD

The antipathy I felt of having let the maggots and rain eat through what would have been thousands of dollars saved from having to buy it from a mill was sickening. As I cut further down into the wood, I got some satisfaction of cutting the maggots and beetles in half that had made this wood their home over the last couple of years.

It wasn't until my third cut, that I discovered what you call spalted wood. In fact, I thought it was just a fluke in the wood until I noticed the same uniqueness in the other logs. Imagine the relief I felt of knowing this wood being spared from the chipper just to become mulch. It is extremely rewarding to see the time spent two years ago being paid off, more than I could have even imagined.

By all means use my pictures. I wonder how many people have given up on a log for waste because it had mushrooms growing out of it, not even knowing the treasure they were giving up. The word should get out so more people can learn about this marvel.

Thanks for all the info and for the Logosol hat. I think your equipment and support is great".

Rainer later writes:

"The curse of having such beautiful wood is deciding how to use it. Typically when doing a wood project, you make a best guess of the amount of wood you need. If you guess wrong, it is just the inconvenience of having to buy more. True, the color tone may vary between stock piles, but nothing so far off that a different shade of stain can't fix.

With this spalted wood, if you run out, that's it. There's no lumber mill that that carries wood like this. Best bet is to cut a tree down, bury it and restart the project in another year. So it has been very difficult to decide for which projects to use spalted wood. For example, I milled my own ¾" solid floor for a 1500 sf room last summer. I have enough spackled wood to cover that, and the floor would have looked awesome. But in the end I choose to save the spalted wood to make cabinet doors. It was just too hard to let all the wood go in just one project. And that's the curse. When you've got a good thing, it's hard to let it go."

So, don't discard those old hardwood logs just because they look rotten. They can produce some of the best wood you've ever seen! That's one of the joys of milling – discovering what grains and patterns you will find within a log.

Rainer Kern and his M7 sawmill.

Cuts of spalted material from Rainer's old logs.


Gigantic trees and two small sawmills

Create Hope in Congo

**Three years ago Frank-Anders Thoresen's phone rang at home in Minnesund, north of the Norwegian capital Oslo.
It was his childhood friend Willy Itomo.
This conversation led to Frank-Anders starting up a sawmill in Congo.**

Frank-Anders grew up in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. His parents Lasse and Else-Marit were missionaries in Bondo in the northern part of the country. The province of Bas-Uele is the forgotten part of Congo, far away from the unrest in the east of Congo, which is virtually the only thing that is reported in Europe.

"Bondo is almost 2,000 kilometers away from the troubles in Sud-Kivu," explains Lasse.

CONTACT VIA MOBILE PHONE

Bondo is also forgotten when it comes to communications and other infrastructure. The area can only be reached quickly by hiring a private jet. The alternative is to walk, cycle or travel by motorcycle the 535 kilometers from Kisangani through the jungle.

But two modern inventions have found their way to Bondo: The mobile phone and the internet. When Willy Itomo got access to a mobile phone he called his childhood friend in Norway.

"Willy is a trained agriculturist and worked on a forest project in Bondo. One of the things they did was saw wood by hand," says Frank-Anders.

The conversation resulted in Frank-Anders promising to join the project and provide some modern equipment. He considered different methods and decided that the only sensible thing to do was to saw the trees in the jungle.

"There aren't any proper roads. Transporting the logs by truck to a stationary sawmill would cost too much and destroy the land," explains Frank-Anders.

He decided that the best alternative was Logosol's Big Mill LSG sawmill. He ordered two of these plus some other equipment that is impossible to buy in Congo. The chainsaws, which are a large model not found in Scandinavia, were bought in Congo.

SPARE PARTS ARE THE PROBLEM

Frank-Anders flew to Congo with 76 kg of baggage. That meant he was carrying an extra 26 kg over the weight limit. From the capital Kinshasa he flew onto Kisangani where Willy and some friends were waiting with motorcycles.

"We drove for 49 hours over three days to get to Bondo, with 70 kg of baggage on my motorcycle," says Frank-Anders, showing photographs from the dangerous journey that featured broken-down motorcycles needing extensive repairs in the middle of the jungle.

The sawmills they took with them were put into production immediately. To start off with, both were used in parallel, but then one of them had to be taken out of use to provide spare parts for the chainsaw.

But even at only half-capacity, this is still much better than the previous method of pit sawing, which means that the log is placed over a pit and a standard hand saw is used, with someone standing underneath the log in the pit. It used to take four weeks to saw up a log, now it is all done in just one day.

"The Logosol LSG works perfectly. It's small enough that it can be transported to the work site by motorcycle and big enough to cope with thick trees," says Frank-Anders.

The biggest problem is getting hold of spare parts and fuel for the chainsaw, and for the tractor that the small company owns to transport the sawn wood. As far as the fuel is concerned, there is a method of transportation in use. Bicycle from Kisangani. People pedal through the jungle with 120 liters of fuel balanced on every bicycle. Spare parts on the other hand are virtually impossible to get hold of. More often than not, whatever does finally arrive is the wrong thing.

LOCAL NEED FOR WOOD

Today the sawmill provides employment for four people. They produce up to 3 cubic meters of timber per day, mainly from the iroko and sapeli trees, the latter is also called mahogany. The timber is supplied exclusively to the local market.

Customers are a Catholic mission, two hospitals, schools, a home for disabled people, and the population of Bondo.

It's not even worth thinking about exports. Partly because it would be too costly to do so and partly, according to Frank-Anders and Willy, because Congo's raw materials should first and foremost benefit the country.

"There is an enormous need for wood. By only operating on the local and regional market and using small-scale technology, we can fell trees in a responsible way that doesn't damage the environment," says Frank-Anders.

The town of Bondo has a population of about 20,000 while around 200,000 people live in the area as a whole.

The project was originally financed by Frank-Anders and his parents. Sponsors are needed during the start-up phase to build up production operations that function well. The objective is for the sawmill to be self-financing and make a profit that can then be reinvested in Bondo. Frank-Anders is planning on working six months of the year in Congo.


The gasoline for the chainsaws is transported on bicycles ridden through the jungle.


The sawmills are transported to the jungle on motorcycles.


Frank-Anders Thoresen and his childhood friend Willy Itomo.

A Laks frame saw in the Northeast Kingdom

Mark Goodridge has nothing but good things to say about the Logosol Laks frame saw he has been using for the past 6 years in Northern Vermont.

Goodridge Lumber Company, located in Albany, Vermont, in the heart of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, cuts approximately 1.2 million board feet of white cedar annually, specializing in white cedar log homes, log siding, decking and rough and finished lumber.

Goodridge says the LAKS frame saw has become an essential part of their production.

The Goodridge Lumber Company is a family owned business and is known in its region for quality White Cedar Products. The LAKS is being utilized for the dimensional side of the business

WE LOVE IT!

When asked recently about what he thinks about the LAKS, he immediately said, "We love it! We run it 9 hours per day, 5 days a week." Mark went on to explain that the LAKS is used to break down cants that don't make the grade for their log home logs.

"We mostly send 6X6 cants through it, 2 at a time. We made some modifications to the feeding system to work with the way we process these cants. "

The LAKS takes two 6"X6" cedar cants through at a time, producing 10 one inch boards in 2.5 minutes. The quality of the material coming off the LAKS is "very accurate, very good," according to Mark. Goodridge mostly works with 6, 8, 10, and 12 foot long logs.

Six years ago Goodridge researched a lot of options for processing these low grade logs and settled on the LAKS. He was able to add this machine to his operation and not have to add a man along with it.

10 HP IS ENOUGH

He also didn't have to add much in the way of total horsepower to his operation. The LAKS he is using only has a 10 HP electric motor powering it. Mark said, "We added a fence in the center to allow us to process two 6 inch by 6 inch cants at a time. Sometimes these cants are smaller, but this is the maximum size cant we put through it. We also elevated the LAKS to help keep the sawdust out of the machine." Mark says that the men tailing for his primary sawmill can keep the frame saw loaded with cants and the resulting lumber stacked.

Maintenance for the frame saw happens on Saturday mornings, and consists of mainly keeping the sawdust cleaned out of the machine and sharpening the blades. The LAKS uses Stellite teeth on its blades and these teeth are proving to give Goodridge Lumber Company a lot of use.

"We sharpen once a week and use around 30 blades per year. We get about 6 months out of a set of blades," Mark stated.

EVERYONE IS ASTOUNDED

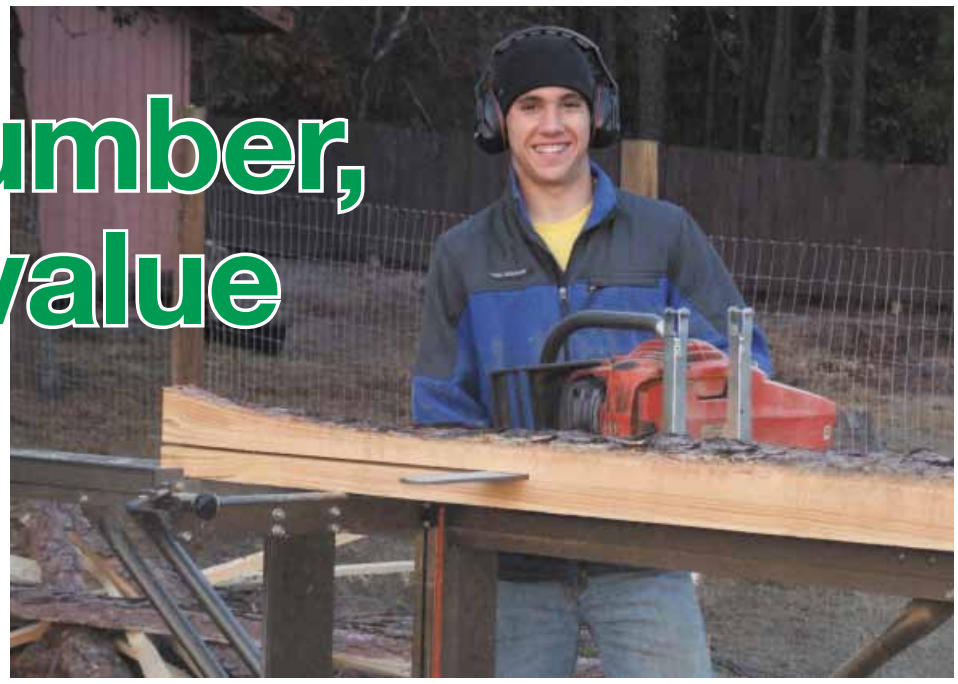
Goodridge Lumber Company continues to produce quality White Cedar products yearly, with a good portion of that production going through the LAKS sawmill.

Mark says they are "very pleased" with the service the LAKS has given and the production they are achieving with this frame saw.

"When we have visitors to the sawmill, everyone is astounded by the LAKS," Mark adds.

www.goodridgelumber.com

Making better lumber, teaching basic value



Pee Dee Woodbutchers began with the dream of building a small cabin on Lake Norris in Tennessee. Hoping to build it from the trees available on the property, my two sons and I needed to learn how to mill trees into lumber.

We started with an Alaskan saw mill. After bartering for some local pine trees, we taught ourselves how to mill rough timbers.

Because I always think I can come up with a better way to do things, I experimented and tinkered to build jigs to cut lumber faster. After many hours and tinkerings, I concluded that the best way to speed up production would be the buy a real mill. Well, real mills aren't cheap, so it needed to make money. Pee Dee Woodbutchers was born.

Here's how it works. Allan is 14 and Hixon is 12. Society continues to give them a one-sided education. Like so many of their contemporaries, they clearly understand consumption. What they do not understand is production. How to make something? How to earn something? The "village" around them patronizes them by underestimating their value and employing them with menial tasks. Babysitting, yard cutting, mail gathering serve only to put spending money in their pockets. In turn, this fuels their consumption, with no other benefit.

Pee Dee Woodbutchers exists to teach them the production side.

THE BASIC VALUES IN PRODUCTION ARE:

- Make a good product.
- Meet a need.
- Plan your work.
- Work hard.
- Don't goof off.
- Work smart.
- Maintain integrity.
- Earn a profit.

Website:
sites.google.com/site/pdwoodbutchers