

THE **2014** GREAT
FIREWOOD SHOOT-OUT™

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MACHINES!

The Photos
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Cord King CS20-40

Manufacturer
Cord King of Canada
2014 Rogers Rd.
Perth, Ontario K7H 1P9
Canada
ph: 888/219-9663
cordking@cord-master.com
www.cord-master.com

Machine Operator
Bob Hanson

Assistant
Dave Kravacek

Time
13 min. 42 sec.

Cords Processed
1.75 Cords

Cords/Hour
7.66 Cords

Bob Hanson's strategy was to simply "go as fast as the machine would go." Unlike the previous day—in the rain in the open operator's station of the Cord King CS18-30—Bob was quite comfortable thanks to the CS20-40's enclosed cab.

Typically seated behind a desk instead of at the controls of one of the company's firewood processors, Bob credited the ease of use of the CS20-40 with things running so smoothly. The automated systems were a big part of that. Like the clamping on the CS18-30 that he operated the previous day, the clamping on the CS20-40 is automatic, and has a constant pressure clamping system. "The automatic clamping system has a log stop on it that can be adjusted to the desired firewood length," Bob said. He also explained that the automatic log stop can be hydraulically set from 8 to 26 inches in length, and that the firewood coming out of the machine will be within

a quarter-inch of the desired length. "It's just the way it's engineered; it's very simple, but built very strong." He also noted that the speed of the operations on the machine is fast, with a splitter cycle time of just over 2 seconds, and a saw-to-saw time of 3 seconds. "It's faster than the operator is!"

When asked if he had any logs hang up in the machine, Bob explained, "It was more operator error. There was only one log that hung up for just a few seconds." Despite the fact that the logs were larger and more crooked than on the previous day, he felt the machine handled them without issue because it's designed to be fed low-grade firewood logs. Bob said that processing crooked logs can challenge every processor on the market. The key is keeping the cutting angle as perpendicular to the log as possible and the Cord King does this extremely well. Because of that, the blocks can occasionally ride up in the splitter and not go through the wedge.

Bob said he had to grab the pickaroon and straighten blocks two or three times during the event, but that didn't really slow him down. Despite the crooked wood, Bob still insisted that "the wood was better than the average firewood logs. Cord King has a grapple option that is available to handle the most crooked of firewood logs".

Unlike the CS18-30, the CS20-40 is a standard machine without any custom options. "It's a production processor, a standard machine that comes out of the plant, very heavy duty, very fast, and very powerful," he said. Bob went on to say that other than the splitter cylinder, everything on the CS20-40 is composed of common, off-the-shelf components. The only special component is the splitter cylinder, and they make those themselves. "It's a cushion splitting ram cylinder that basically reduces pressure spikes and eliminates premature seal failure." Not only does Bob believe it's the best cylinder option to have inside the splitter, he believes it's the most durable as well. He mentioned that, as a testament to the durability of their custom-made cylinder, they offer the best warranty in the industry. "We like to give a lifetime warranty on the heart of the machine that takes a pounding," he said.

Overall, Bob was happy with the performance of the CS20-40. The Cord King CS20-40 is advertised as producing up to 10 cords per hour. Because Cord King had one of the larger machines entered in the Shoot-Out, they were given 17 logs totaling just less than 2 cords. It took the CS20-40 a little less than 14 minutes to process their bundle, giving them a rate of over 8 cords per hour. ●

MACHINE SPECS

Model.....	CS20-40
Engine	99-hp turbo diesel John Deere
Cutter.....	Circle/48 in./ inserted tooth
Max log length	40 ft.
Max log diameter	20 in.
Max firewood length	24 in.
Adjustable wedge	Yes
Splitting cycle time (ram)	2.5 sec.
Splitting force	35 tons
Log loading.....	4-leg live deck with hydraulic folding
Towing pkg.....	Electric brakes, lights, breakaway
Options used	
at Shoot-Out.....	Operators cab, heat & AC, 32 ft. radial stacking off-loading conveyer w/ Grizzly debris separator, 6-way hyd. splitting wedge
Price of unit used at Shoot-Out.....	\$99,900