

MILLS ON WHEELS

Mobile sawmills come in many shapes and sizes. They offer the opportunity to mill 'in any place, at any time'. Here Carolyne Locher takes a look at some of the options available.

Alaskan Mill

Granberg's Alaskan Mills are one of the best known brands of chainsaw mills and Robert Dyer has been distributing and selling them to customers throughout the UK for almost a year. He says feedback is always positive – the mills allow his chainsaw-owning clients to turn a home grown log into straight, usable timber rather than leaving it for firewood. One of his customers used a mill to manufacture a mast for an old sailing ship.

The Alaskan Mark III comes in five sizes: 24, 30, 36, 48 and 56 inches long, although larger sizes are available should the need arise. It can cut boards as thin as half an inch and as thick as 13 inches.

Depending on the size of the tree and the width of the board to be cut, it is recommended that the mill is used with a large displacement saw and ripping chain which can increase the cutting efficiency and speed by 30%. The recommended optimum configuration is using a mill that is the same length as the chainsaw bar. Smaller saws will work, but very small saws may be too narrow to mount on the mill's clamping brackets.

Generally speaking any chainsaw that runs will cut with the Alaskan Mark III. The rule of thumb is, the more power the saw engine has,

the faster the cutting speed will be.

Granberg also manufacture the Mini Mill. It can take bars up to 25 inches long and will cut the log vertically. This enables the sides of the log to be squared off without having to move it.

*Alaskan Mill UK 0800 019 7551
www.alaskanmill.co.uk*

Arbor Eater

Arbor Eater is the sole UK agent for the extensive range of Italian-made Pezzolato mills and has now added a mobile sawmill range. The entry level Timber Queen S5 can handle logs up to 800mm in diameter. The head is manually pushed (although hydraulic operation can be requested) and can run on either an electric motor or diesel engine.

The solidly made Timber Queen HD6, HD7 or HD8 are the cheapest hydraulic short-blade sawmills of the Pezzolato line. They can handle a maximum log diameter of 900 mm and cut up to 6.1 metres in length. They can be powered by a 2-cylinder petrol or 4-cylinder diesel engine. All the machines are equipped with a two-armed loader. Trailers for towing up to 50 mph can be provided.

The hydraulic Mini Profi 800, 900 and 1000 series come with a horizontal cutting head, sawing a maximum log diameter of 1 metre with a



Perhaps better known for their chippers, Italian manufacturer Pezzolato also offer a range of sawmills.

cutting length of 6.10 metres. They come with a hydraulic flywheel brake, blade tensioning and blade protection and two-chain head forwarding system. Powered by either an electric or diesel motor, accessories range from a computerised pre-cutting device to a plank removal arm and hydraulic log loader.

*Arbor Eater 01273 493 180
www.arboreaters.co.uk*

Fuelwood (Warwick) Limited

Fuelwood offer two ranges of mobile sawmills. The popular Lucas Mill is easy for one person to set up around the timber on most terrains, without any additional tools. It comes with independently adjustable end-frames for parallel-to-grain cutting in tapered logs. The 6-inch model, the '6-18', cuts up to 160 x 160 mm (6¼ x 6¼ inches) in any combination or double cuts up to 160 x 320 mm (6¼ x 12½ inches) to a standard length of 6.1 metres. It is powered by an 18hp electric start V/twin petrol engine.

The 8 inch model, the '8-30' cuts any combination up to 215 x 215

mm (8½ x 8½ inches) or double cuts up to 215 x 430 mm (8½ x 17 inches), again up to 6.1 metres as standard. It is powered by a 30hp electric start V/twin petrol engine. The power heads on both models have removable wheels for easy shifting. Optional extras include a bevel siding attachment for cutting weatherboards, and a slabber.

Fuelwood also supply the hydraulically controlled Laimet circular sawmill. Both the static and mobile models are good for sawing hardwood and softwood logs. Available in three models, the Laimet 100 can saw up to 1100 mm in diameter and is suitable for situations where it is not necessary to move the saw frequently.

The larger Laimet 120 is the most popular model and is equipped with most of the same features as the Laimet 130 model, which can cut up to 1300 mm and to a standard length of 9 metres. It comes with a wealth of hydraulically controlled features that make it a complete small-size sawmill that can work effectively in conjunction



(Left) You can't get more portable: the Alaskan chainsaw mill from Granberg, cutting lime. (Above) Fuelwood Harvesting's Australian made Lucas Mill.



The 100 is the smallest in the Laimet range, though all models are mobile.

with edgers and resaws or as the second saw connected to a band mill or a frame saw for converting large diameter logs. It is driven by tractor hydraulics or an electric motor. Optional extras include a digital measurement unit and a topsaw upper blade unit driven by hydraulic motor capable of cutting up to 800 mm diameter logs.

Fuelwood (Warwick) 01926 484673
www.fuelwood.co.uk

Loglogic

Loglogic offers a range of mobile milling systems, the Autotrek, the Trekkasaw and the Peterson. Customers include green oak framers, milling contractors, tree surgeons and forestry workers looking to add value to their timber.

The Autotrek mobile band sawmill is a British designed and built heavy-duty contractor's mill. Its 101mm (4 inch) wide blade (with optional stellite tips which remain sharper in abrasive timbers including greenheart) allows timbers to be cut accurately and efficiently up to 1 metre wide. The Autotrek can be set up in less than ten minutes and handles logs up to 6.5 metres in length and 1.3 metres diameter weighing up to 4500kg. It is powered by a Lombardini 67hp water-cooled 4-cylinder turbo diesel engine, and comes complete with digital meas-

uring, full hydraulic log handling, heavy-duty adjustable log decks, LR wheels and tyres, full road lighting and optional log rollers.

The Trekkasaw is a portable sawmill system allowing timber to be sawn where mobile mills cannot gain access. Using the same saw-head and blade technology as the Autotrek, it is capable of sawing logs up to 1 metre wide from logs 1.3 metres in diameter and 7.5 metres in length. Customers can choose from various hydraulic power-pack options, from self-contained 40 to 60 hp diesel skid units, to tractor-powered PTO or customised units for fitting to Land Rovers or Unimogs.

The Winch Production Mill from Peterson is a lightweight sawmill set up in less than ten minutes even in difficult environments. It is available in 8 and 10 inch options and has the ability to saw logs up to 1.8 metres in diameter and 6 metres in length with standard tracks. The solid carbide tungsten tipped circular saw blade can easily 'double cut' (without turning the mill or the log) up to 8 x 16 inches or 10 x 20 inches depending on the model. A Honda 20hp or 24hp 4-stroke power engine comes as standard as well as basic tools and spares. Options include: weather-board attachments, extra track, clip

on slabbers and gas conversion. Full training is included on purchase.

Loglogic 01884 839999

Logosol UK

The sturdy all-manual Logosol M7 Sawmill is made of anodised aluminium; durable and resistant to corrosion. Weighing just 52 kg (without the chainsaw) it is easy for one person to transport, assemble and use. The cutting device is a petrol chainsaw bolted onto a sled assembly unit that slides cleanly along a guide rail. The saw can cut at 5 metres per minute on a 6 inch thick beam. If a Logosol bandsaw is used, up to 16 metres per minute can be achieved. The standard length cut is 5.5 metres and recommended log diameter is up to 60 cm. The cut is accurate and the surface remarkably smooth. Logosol estimate that one sharp chain will saw approximately five normal sized logs before it needs resharpening.

The table height is 55 cm and the logs are easily lifted up to saw height by the turn of hand crank in ¼ inch increments. The saw boards lie at waist height and are easily lifted off.

With a range of optional extras and a one-year warranty, customers have found that a single operator can produce between two and three cubic metres of sawn timber in one working day.

Tim Giles owns a small amenity woodland in Surrey. He has owned an M7 for the last three years, which he uses to cut oak posts for housing and chestnut tree stakes and fencing posts. He says, "It is a light weight mill, it doesn't corrode, its simple to use and accurate to within an eighth of an inch. The downside is the self assembly, the instructions are good, but it took me a whole day."

Logosol UK 01362 840 251
www.logosol.co.uk

Marshall Agricultural Engineering
Serra manufactured the first German-made mobile sawmill in 1990, and Marshall Agricultural Engineering has been importing Serra's range of sawmills for the last four years.

Each mill has individually designed hydraulic components for ease of operation and a two year warranty on all parts.

The robust Bavaria SL 110i and 130i series cut 110 x 110 cm and 130 x 130 cm diameter logs respectively, up to 9 metres in length and comes with variable band length settings with the potential to cut up to 14,000 board feet in 8 hours. All Bavaria SL mills use 100 mm width bands. One Bavaria SL 130 owner commented, "We bought this mill because it gives us the high quality we need to complement our existing operation." An optional extra is joystick control. This system won Serra a silver KWF innovation award.

As well as the smaller Filius mobile mill, Marshall Agricultural Engineering offer the Montana MD 90 and ME 90. This is Serra's latest innovative idea, a professional mill for a special price. Their powder coated hot-dipped galvanised frame is well protected against corrosion by rain, snow, and dirty or salty conditions.

The first cut is at 87 cm in height, with a maximum log diameter of 90 cm. There is 42 cm clearance above the saw, and customers can choose between an electric or diesel engine. The Montana cuts with an 80 mm width band, which increases the quality and accuracy of the cut. Its diesel tank is large and easy to reach taking up to 30 litres of fuel at a time. The engine sits in a fixed position, which stops vibration and increases the accuracy of cutting while the hydraulic power supply operates the same ascending/descending sawhead system



Complementary models from Loglogic: the British made Autotrek (above) and the Peterson swivel saw from New Zealand.





Pilous, who have the manufacturing rights to the Forestor range, appointed Saws (UK) as their agent in 2004. (Right) German quality from Serra.



used in the SL series. Because of its modular frame the mill components can be placed wherever the customer wants them.

Marshall Agricultural Engineering
01892 770788
www.marshalllogging.co.uk

M Large Tree Services

Lumbermate and Lumberlite 24 sawmills manufactured in Canada by Norwood Industries have been distributed throughout the UK and Ireland by M Large Tree Services Ltd since July last year.

The Lumbermate 2000 is already well proven in the UK where it has gained a reputation for simplicity, reliability, accuracy and ease of use. It takes a maximum log diameter of 31 inches and the maximum board width is 24 inches. It has a bed length of 16 feet enabling a 13 foot log to be sawn, and the bed can be lengthened by adding 4 foot extensions. Either a 13 or 20hp Honda engine provides power.

Options available include toe boards, lapside / shingle attachments, fast-tow trailer package, log loader, saw blade, sharpeners and setters. Cobaltised blades (for longer blade life when sawing dirty timber such as used railway sleepers) are also available.

Lumbermate 2000 prices start at £3500 plus VAT.

The Lumberlite 24 is a smaller low-cost sawmill. It comes with a standard bed length of 16 feet and is able to saw a log up to 24 inches in diameter. Maximum board width is 17 inches. Engine options range from 6.5 to 13hp and prices start at just £2375 plus VAT.

M Large 02890 342 838
www.largetreeservices.co.uk

Saws UK

Saws UK Ltd supply the sturdy mobile Forestor CTR 650 range, which includes the 650M, 650S and 650 GX.

The floor mounted 650 range can cut a maximum diameter of 640 mm and any length required. A range of features are controlled electronically and displayed digitally from the waist-high ergonomically designed control panel attached to the bandsaw head (including the pre-cutting control, board thickness settings, the feed movement and the ability to change speeds during cutting). On the 650M the forward and reverse feeds are manual. The 650S has the central control panel fixed to the machine's frame and can be operated from a fixed position.

The 650 GX utilises a Honda 390 KI 20 horsepower petrol engine with electronic ignition. The board thickness setting is controlled man-

ually by a hand crank, as is the forward and return feed. Optional extras include tracks and a range of blades.

Saws UK Ltd: 0800 521 292
www.sawsgroup.co.uk

Wood-Mizer

Wood-Mizer invented the narrow band portable sawmill in 1982 and now there are over 40,000 Wood-Mizer mills operated worldwide.

The compact yet versatile LT15 is an entry level mill chosen by customers cutting small volumes of wood for local markets. The LT15 can accommodate logs 70 cm in diameter with a length of 5.4 metres as standard, cutting around 125 board feet per hour. It is powered by 10hp diesel or 15hp petrol engines (or 7.5hp electric). The LT15 recently added powered up/down, 'Setworks' and a bigger engine with electric start. The LT15 is small enough to be loaded into the back of a truck and optional extras include loading ramps, a trailer package and bed extensions.

The penultimate top of the range LT70 meets the needs of a modern log processing plant. Existing Wood-Mizer owners upgrade to this model when their production level demands it. The LT70 can accommodate logs 95 cm in diameter and up to 8.4 metres in length.

These can be cut at approximately 800 board feet per hour. Hydraulics come as standard. Board thickness and blade speed are set from the centralised control panel. Power options take the form of electric, petrol or diesel engine and there is a range of optional extras such as a remote operator station, debarker and a trailer package.

Finally, Wood-Mizer has just revealed its LT10, a new, small band sawmill at the bottom of its range. It can cut up to 70 cm diameter logs with unlimited length by attaching extension bed segments. It features a 5.5kW electric motor and to save space, the LT10 stores easily inside a garage in three sections – bed, mast and head.

'Setworks' are deemed unnecessary but the LT10 has the same blade running gear as the LT15. It also maintains the cut and hand crank, up/down, push/pull feed.

LT10s will be generally used by farmers, estate owners, park managers, large garden centres and anyone with relatively modest timber sawing needs.

A variety of zinc coated bed frame sections to suit differing customer requirements are also available. The LT10 is priced at £3,500.

Wood-Mizer 01622 813 201
www.woodmizer.co.uk



(Left) The lengths some people go to with a Lumbermate! (Right) Wood-Mizer's new entry level mill, the LT10.