Peterson ATS Track Raising System vs Swingblade Competitor

- The Peterson All Terrain Sawmill (ATS) has both vertical sizing winches conveniently located at the operator's end, using an improved, patented system whereby tracks are raised or lowered in parallel.
- The nearest competitor's swingblade mill has it's 2nd winch at other end of the tracks, so tracks are lowered an-end-at-a-time. Assuming both mills cut through timber at the same speed, the Peterson's closer winch positioning reduces walking time substantially for a single operator.
- Due to the different winch positions, there is also an accuracy advantage on the Peterson ATS when the operator makes a mistake, as boards are not tapered lengthwise. Assuming both mills are just as accurate, there is a notable savings in boards when the operator makes just a single sizing error per day.

"I saw by myself, and when I upgraded from the [competitor's mill] to the ATS, I saved half a minute for every time I had to lower the mill on the log." - Jim Whitaker, Australia.

"Without a helper, I got around 100 b/ft per hour when I had the ATS, graded and stacked by myself." – Dave Klish, USA

"When I ran the [competitor's mill] on level terrain doing an 8" vertical drop I had to go to one end to drop 4" then back to drop 4", then back down again for the next 4" and back again. I'm dizzy. I also agree the ATS is more accurate by about 2%, and it's a lot easier to double-check your drops on the ATS if you are a forgetful miller, as the winches are right there." – Nathan Waterfield, USA.

 Nearest competitor's swingblade mill – winches at opposite end	Sole Owner cuts 2 3/4 logs p/day x 287b/ft = 789 b/ft. Makes 7 cutting + 4 loading adjustments per log = 11 x 2.75 logs	Daily 30 sizing actions x 45 seconds per size x 4 days x 40 weeks = 60 hours per year doing vertical sizing	60 hours x $50 p/hr = **$3,000** time spent vertical sizing	**WITH A PETERSON:** **Save a whole week per year or $2,000 in personal time** **PLUS** **Save $835 in accuracy per year**
	Operator error; lowers one winch +2mm and the other -1mm	Every board in that layer is tapered lengthwise by 3mm – reject all 6 boards x 4 days x 40 weeks (6/90 boards=7%)	Reject 960 boards x 8.7 b/ft each = 8352 b/ft per year x 30c = **$2,505** in lost timber	
 Equivalent **Peterson ATS** mill – both winches at operators end 	Sole Owner cuts 2 3/4 logs p/day x 287b/ft = 789 b/ft. Makes 7 cutting + 4 loading adjustments per log = 11 x 2.75 logs	***Save 30 seconds/drop*** Daily 30 sizing actions x 15 seconds per size x 4 days x 40 weeks = 20 hours per year doing vertical sizing	20 hours x $50 p/hr = only **$1,000** time spent sizing	
	Operator error; lowers one winch +2mm and the other -1mm	1-2 boards on each side may be out, but middle 2 boards are within spec - reject only 4 boards x 4 days x 40 weeks (4/90 boards=5%)	Reject 640 boards x 8.7 b/ft each = 5568 b/ft per year x 30c = only **$1,670** in rejects	

"If you bought a Peterson, your reasoning is sound and your judgment intelligent."
Robert Revnell, USA.

Assumptions;
Workings are based on actual owner feedback
Logs are 2' diameter, 14' long, easy cutting
Sawing 2x4s for rough-sawn framing
Operator works 8 - 5pm, 1 hour lunch, for an 8-hour day
Using 60% recovery, there are 33 boards or 287 b/ft from each log
Sole Operators work 4 days p/week, 40 weeks p/year
Owners' personal time is valued at $50 per hour
Two-person Teams work 5 days p/week, 45 weeks p/year
Contract sawing rate OR est profit on buying/sawing/selling is 30c b/ft

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