

Peterson Swingblade vs Bandsaw Mill Field Results



One of the biggest differences between a Peterson swingblade mill and any bandsaw mill, is the way you cut a log. Bandsaw mills require turning every log several times as you slice boards off, then either re-loading the slabs to edge them, or using a separate edger machine. With a Peterson swingblade mill, you don't have to turn the log at all, *and* you don't have to re-saw or edge. You just cut each fully-edged dimensional board as the log stays completely still.

Bandsaw mill prices range from quite a bit cheaper than Petersons, to much more expensive than Petersons. Yet Petersons' production far exceeds most manual bandsaw mills, and can match or even out-saw some of the more expensive, hydraulic ones.

"My bandmill cuts 60-80 b/ft an hour. My Peterson is at least twice as fast as my bandmill, cutting by myself. When considering sharpening, my Peterson is probably 3 times as fast." - Mark Duginske, USA.

Comparing Manual Bandsaw Mill to Manual Peterson Swingblade (sole owner)



14hp Manual Bandsaw Mill
Cost \$10,448

70b/ft p/hr x 8 hrs x 4
days x 40 weeks

= 89,600 b/ft per annum

86,600 x 30c contract rate

= \$26,880 income

WITH A PETERSON:
Pay \$17,659 more initially

BUT

**Make an EXTRA \$34,560
per year**



22hp 8" Peterson WPF
Cost \$28,107

160b/ft p/hr x 8 hrs x 4
days x 40 weeks

= 204,800 b/ft per annum

204,800 x 30c contract rate

= \$61,440 income

"I get about 160-200 b/ft per hour on my WPF graded and stacked while sawing solo. When I do have a helper, I get about 400-500 b/ft p/hr, loading logs with an excavator." – Dave Klish, USA

Comparing Hydraulic Bandsaw Mill to Manual Peterson Swingblade*



36hp Hydraulic Bandsaw Mill
Cost \$34,000

Official Results
891 b/ft per machine hour on
2" boards

2-men, 5 machine hours
p/day, 5 days p/week, 45
weeks p/year

= 1,002,375 b/ft sawn per annum
x 30c contract rate
= \$300,712

WITH A PETERSON:
Save \$11,906 on outlay

AND

**Make an EXTRA \$4,725
per year**



27hp manual 8" Peterson WPF
Cost \$22,094

Official Results
905 b/ft per machine hour on
2" boards

2-men, 5 machine hours
p/day, 5 days p/week, 45
weeks p/year

= 1,018,125 b/ft sawn per annum
x 30c contract rate
= \$305,437

*Stats taken from Sawmill and Woodlot Magazine 2003 Shootout Results, which was the only year competitors were allowed to cut 2" stock. All shootout rules since, have reverted to cutting 1" stock to better suit the bandsaws.

"I enjoy sawing on the Peterson as it's so much fun! I'm getting really good at salvaging every little piece of edge grain out of our logs - it's like hunting for gold lol! The bandsaw is more stressful because I never know when a blade might break or take a deep dive – this is a real problem in winter on frozen logs with the bandsaw". – Tyler Hart, Canada

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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