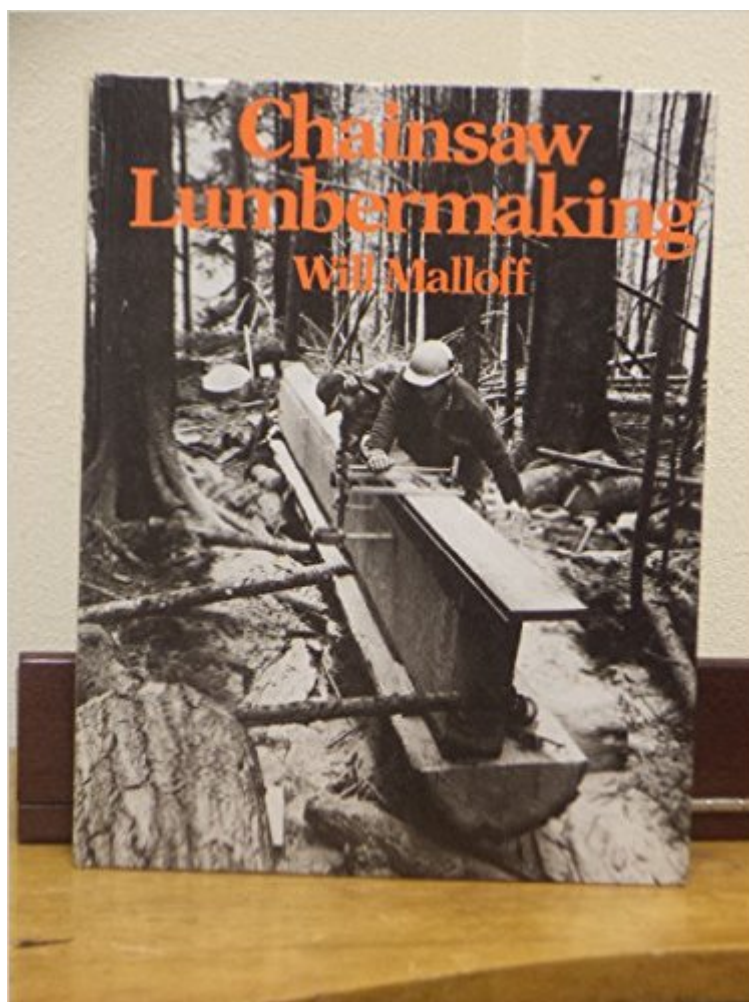


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# Chainsaw Lumbermaking



## Synopsis

Once you're familiar with Will Malloff's method of chainsaw lumbermaking, you'll be simply and economically turning trees into lumber on your own! Learn how to select the tree you want, fell it safely, and saw it into a fine pile of building or cabinet lumber. With detailed instructions and over 400 photographs, Will Malloff tells you everything you need to know to turn a chainsaw into a lumbermill, including how to: Modify the chainsaw and make numerous accessories for milling Use the equipment in the woods Grind a smooth-cutting ripping chain Build your own mill from a 2 x 4 and scraps of plywood Cut burls, shape ovals and mill natural knees for boatbuilding Malloff's method is the fruit of over 30 years' experience of felling trees and making lumber. He's logged everything from giant redwoods to desert mesquite and fulfilled his youthful ambition to fell timber in every major forest of North America. Drawing on this experience, he has invented several chainsaw mills, and perfected the easy, efficient method of chainsaw lumbermaking that he describes in this book. If you've ever had trouble finding the lumber you need, or wanted to build something with your own trees, Chainsaw Lumbermaking is the book you've been waiting for. Will Malloff has built a variety of mills and is the designer of what many consider the most effective chainsaw lumbermaking system available. Malloff has spent nearly half a century researching and developing tools and wood technology that minimize ecological impact. In an endeavor to build his own blacksmith shop on a Canadian Pacific island, he invented a state-of-the-art ripping chain, which made chainsaw lumbermaking more feasible and economical than ever before. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

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## Customer Reviews

I knew Will very briefly 40 odd years ago in Mendocino, his book is no BS. He was making good money at that time by cutting huge specialty timbers for custom homes, hauling them in balanced on a tiny trailer pulled by a Willy's scout. As good with a chain saw as anyone I ever saw. If you want to read more about Will and Beth Erickson and their interesting friends, get a copy of "Inside Passage: Living With Killer Whales, Bald Eagles, and Kwakiutl Indians": it's a good read. The last 15 years my wife and I have been milling big Doug Firs on our place, when they fall or have to be taken down. We use a Husky 3120 with a two ended bar and a Granberg mill, and have invented our own winch setup. Have made everything from 1" planks to 24' 6x12, doing everything by hand, no heavy equipment, not even a tractor. It is possible, but very very hard. If we had known about this book sooner, it would not have been quite so hard. Would have cut better lumber, damaged less equipment, saved a lot of money. The only things I would add that have changed since 1982: 1. You can now buy online good ripping chain, made in the US, very close to the specs Will recommends. And they make it up in loops to your order for the same price as reels of chain. No longer necessary to grind your own. (Shop for price, they vary a lot.) 2. We use a cheap 12V truck winch, refitted with soft nylon 1/4" rope, in about the same way that Will uses his hand winch. Use a small car battery to drive it. Get the cheapest, lightest, slowest winch you can find, and then use a couple little blocks on the rope to slow it down further. Drive it with the remote control. 3. I can't afford \$400 for a good Oregon chain grinder, don't trust the cheap Chinese knockoffs. So I handfile with a Granberg File&Joint, the new model, not the old one. The new ones are really better. I think I can file as fast as a fancy grinder, 3-4 cutters per minute. 4. Be realistic about how big the trees are you are going to cut. There would be something to be said for starting small, with a powerful mid-sized saw (a Husky 385/395 for instance), a two-foot roller tipped bar, and a three foot mill. Get your feet wet so to speak, learn a lot on small trees, and save a lot of money. And it's always better to run the shortest bar you can; big bars and long chains are a load on the saw, and boy do they cost a lot, especially the two-enders. Then make an informed decision about whether you really want/need/can lift a really big saw. This is something you only want to get into if you love wood, how it smells and looks fresh cut, are very patient and careful, and have some valuable trees that can't be milled any other way. Why doesn't somebody reprint this book, it's now over \$60 on used market? Most useful book on chainsaws and milling that I've ever seen. And as for the Chunky Monkey guy, he's right, he should never touch a chain saw, a mill, or probably even go near a tree. Since this book is out of print and too expensive used, try [gigle.ws](http://gigle.ws), or your favorite book download site -- there is a good pdf floating around on the web. And if you get it, and use it, contact

Will at his site on LinkedIn, and ask him for an address where you can send him a \$20 bill. He paid \$22K to have book printed in 1982, got a total of \$16K total back, cost him thousands just to publish the book, and now he doesn't own the rights.

I don't need a 1,000 words to describe this book. The author is a man who has worked with the problems in the field, which this author knew little about except for the troubles involved. We never had really top-class equipment. This book is worth the price charged now for just his insight on chain design and sharpening alone. With the notes in this book one can save his saw, his equipment and get the job done much more quickly than if you do not have his notes and observations. I find the points of the author well arranged and most useful for our purposes. Thank you, Mr. Will Malloff! If you are out there we would like to hear from you!

With the publication of this book, Malloff has done a great service for anyone in need of an accessible, comprehensive single volume summary of the mechanical and technical means for converting trees and logs into beautiful, figured, seasoned, edged, strong and stable, furniture grade, dimensional lumber. Beginning with a fresh re-examination of the tools and techniques employed in felling, limbing, bucking, slabbing, edging, end-grain treating, stickering, drying and milling, the author presents all the tricks and techniques currently employed by forestry professionals in the pursuit of beautiful lumber. The Bible of micro-milling. Quite rare and worth its weight in gold. A delicious read!!!

I have owned my copy of this book for almost twenty years, having bought one shortly after it was published. The quality of the collaboration between Malloff and Erickson is excellent. Only two years ago, did I finally invest in the equipment to pursue actual milling. Going by the examples and drawings, the first job was to build the accessories which are described, namely the guide plank, the winch and yoke system, etc. Yes, I did go for the big boy on the saw : the Stihl 090. Except for some modern adaptation in the area of rechargeable drills/drivers and #10 ga. Philips screws as supplement to lag bolts or nails, you can't go wrong, using Malloff's methods. As he says, take a look, then add your own methods to the evolving craft. Manufacturers have helped since Malloff's day. Some of the directions for their new products on the market, which are currently sold for chainsaw milling, will also give you added insight. One word of wisdom : Cut the unusual or the unusually large. If you do so, this hobby can actually be profitable. Hundreds of tons of oversize trees are burned, or hauled off to rot, all across the United States, daily. You can get them for "little

or nothing", right in your area, and save some of the most beautiful wood God ever grew! The work and the beauty will get your heart to pumpin'!

This is the usual good book from the folks at Fine Woodworking. ...This is a basic book that tells all you need to know of chainsaw milling. It goes one step further with the author's contraption for moving the mill with a boat winch. I have never tried it, but if I milled on a regular basis I would. Chainsaw mills are perhaps the only @ \$1000 woodworking tool with a one day payback period. The only thing that has changed since this book was written is the prominence of bandsaw mills, some that are even hand carried and pushed. I would have to check one of those out before getting into another chainsaw mill. Sure there are a few money shots of milled wood used in various projects, but at the time, there weren't 20-100 magazines, and 1000 books celebrating woodworking, wooden architecture, and so forth. A little inspiration is a good thing.

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Chainsaw Lumbermaking Homeowner's Complete Guide to the Chainsaw: A Chainsaw Pro Shows You How to Safely and Confidently Handle Everything from Trimming Branches and Felling Trees to Splitting and Stacking Wood

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