

Getting wood for turning can be tough if your by your self. Below are some ideas to just get the stuff in the truck.

Here are some examples of one rig that uses a Harbor Freight crane and some trailer “bull dogs”





Here is a great low tech idea:

The Log Lift

Andrew Hilton

Woodturning and working with wood in general can be very heavy. Many of us turners like to turn big, wet logs and these things can be really large and heavy. It's also often true that not all of the wood that we want to work with is sitting right next to our shops. We have to go out and gather it. That means falling, cutting, loading, transporting and storing it. The Log Lift that this article discusses deals with the loading aspect of it.

This great homemade / shopmade tool is an ancient one. It's been used over the eons to help people lift loads larger than they could easily do on their own. As you can see in the pictures below, the Log Lift is basically just 2 - 2" x 6" x 8' long pieces of wood that is held together with some short pieces of wood. There's a "shelf" made so that the log doesn't slide down the Lift when you pick it up. The shelf needs to be made so that, when the Lift is standing upright, it's just a little higher than what you're wanting to load the logs onto. In this case, it's the tailgate of a truck. To use the Log Lift, you simply (actually, this is the hardest part!) place the log onto the Lift above and touching the shelf. Then stand at the end of the Lift and pick it up. That's it! You can make the Log Lift longer in

order to get more mechanical advantage but it can become impractical and difficult to transport out into the field if it's too long.

As you can see in the pictures below, I have a very wet half-log loaded onto the Log Lift. I estimated it to weigh about 200 lbs. I tried several times to lift it up onto the tailgate of the truck myself but just couldn't manage it. So, I got out the Log Lift and, well, you can see the results. Quick, easy and inexpensive! Really, it was a LOT easier to lift those logs this way. It's not like it's as easy as a hydraulic lift or something but at least it was so much easier than trying to do it without any help. Try making one yourself and give it a try.

* Here it is! The [Easy-Lift Sawbuck](#) modification for processing those logs / blanks out in the field!

