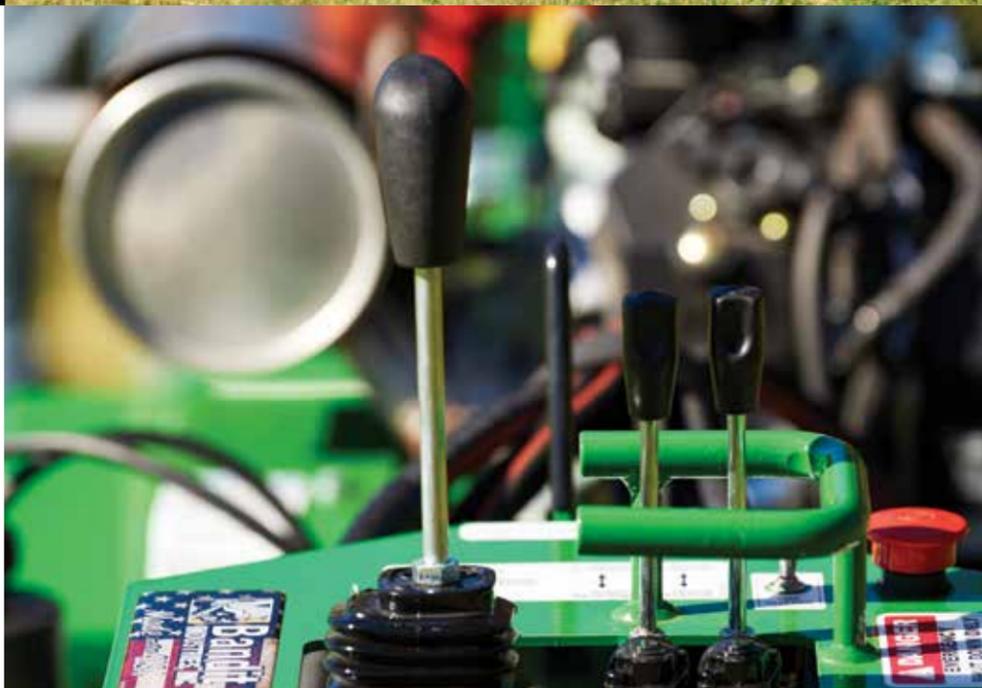


# BANDIT ZT1844 STUMP GRINDER

This month AA and Shane Duck get to put to its pace a new piece of equipment on the market, the Bandit ZT1844 stump grinder. Grinding has never been easier.



The immediate thing that stuck out to me with this Bandit ZT1844 stump grinder is that it's a tracked machine but with a very low centre of gravity. I know this is an important feature of this machine. Having worked at a few of the larger tree companies in Sydney over the years that have owned grinders from other manufacturers with similar track systems, I have seen a few get rolled over slipping off gutters etc. Clearly, an operator error but if you own a grinder and employees are using it, low centre of gravity is a tick in my book.

I got a quick rundown on the controls before we fired it up. The control console swings either way so you can operate it from both sides to help with visibility. The

machine is powered by a whopping 38hp EFI Kohler petrol engine.

From what I could gather this is one of smaller machines at 644kg – that's 70kg or so lighter than the 4WD Bandit 2250XP and it boasts an extra 11hp over the 2250XP. It also weighs in a lot lighter than its main competitors that run tracks with similar horsepower and almost half the weight of one of those competitors' grinder. The compact design doesn't mean Bandit have cut corners in making the machine – it looks really robust.

The controls are full hydraulic with a joystick type control for the cutter head operation. It will take five or ten minutes to get used to as you can be seriously abrupt

if you are not careful, due to the extra horsepower. I imagine you could smash out a palm stump at lightning speed with this grinder.

Once I got the hang of being gentle, we put it to action on a Pinus Radiata stump which usually I would have lined up a bigger grinder for, but that was not needed. I think it was about 20 minutes by the time I had it completed. The machine did it easy.

The cutter head has a diameter of 44cm and only eight 900 series Greenteeth are fitted. The 2250XP has 18 teeth while three other brands of track machines I looked at that are similar in horsepower all had between 16 and 20 teeth. Bandit say the less teeth actually make it cut faster. The

eight teeth will cost less to maintain.

Another advantage I see in having less cutter teeth being those times you are hitting concrete, sandstone or steel that you just don't know is in the stump until you grind it. Would you rather sharpen a big saw or a small one? I know what I'd rather.

This grinder is fast across the turf for a track grinder and the rep told me they go for around \$38,000 incl GST give or take.

At the end of the day I liked this grinder and look forward to testing some of the others.

**For more information visit [banditchippers.com.au](http://banditchippers.com.au) or call 1800 681 733.**