

HARDWOOD PLYWOOD

Grading Guide

2015 EDITION

A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING POPULAR HARDWOOD PLYWOOD FACE VENEER GRADES



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From the tree to works of art: A guide to understanding the hardwood plywood standard

An introduction from Ang Schramm

Trees are amazing. They provide us with shelter, warm our hearths, and shade us from the heat of the summer sun. But they also give us far more as they offer up their inner distinctiveness to serve us as one of the most functional and attractive of all materials for quality kitchen and bath cabinetry, fine furniture, architectural millwork, store fixtures, and wall furnishings, to name just a few.

Wood is a unique material for decorative applications in that by its very nature no two pieces can ever be exactly alike. Its appearance may be consistent for a given species within a broad and generalized range, but even wood from the same tree can

vary in aesthetics and physical properties. Growth conditions such as geography and climate, availability of water and nutrients, adverse weather, genetics, pestilence, injury, competition for space, bacterial or viral infection, the presence of extraneous compounds contributing to the color of heartwood, the lighter color of sapwood, and the presence of limbs and their relationship to figure and knots, are but a few of the factors contributing to this phenomenon.

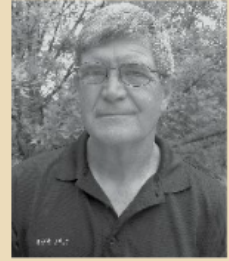
It is the purpose of this publication to help us give some order to this assortment of characteristics in a practical manner with an overview of the industry standard

grading tables and other content, including veneer production, core options, and plywood manufacture. With a sound understanding of the inherent individuality of trees, we have the rare opportunity to make every project or job a signature work of art!

Our goal is to provide this information in a way that is easy to understand and that will give us a valuable tool to help enhance communication and ensure that all your expectations are met when you choose Columbia Forest Products' PureBond® Hardwood Plywood.



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A Complete Guide to Hardwood Plywood and Face Veneer

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MAHOGANY, AFRICAN (*Khaya Ivorensis*)

Common names: African Mahogany, Khaya

Sources: Central Africa East to West

Characteristics: Only one of two species considered to be genuine mahogany, this species has light to dark red to reddish brown heartwood, medium coarse texture, and interlocked grain which appears as striped (frequently generically called Ribbon stripe). Where interlocked grain is absent, surface is relatively uneventful other than well defined cathedrals in crown cut veneer.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced, Rotary cut

Uses: Architectural millwork, molding, judges panels, flat wall panels, some cabinetry, fine furniture, inlay, and accent trim.

Availability: Reasonable. Often used in place of Honduras Mahogany which is restricted by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

Price: \$\$-\$\$\$ depending on specifications



**Mahogany / Khaya
Plain Sliced A**



**Mahogany / Khaya
Plain Sliced B**



**Mahogany / Khaya
Quarter Sawn A**

Natural Characteristics	AA Grade	A Grade	B Grade
Small Conspicuous Burls & Pin Knots — Comb. Avg. Number	6 per 4 x 8' panel	10 per 4 x 8' panel	16 per 4 x 8' panel
Conspicuous Burls — Max. Size	1/4"	3/8"	1/2"
Conspicuous Pin Knots Average Number Max. Size: Dark Part Max. Size: Total	No	1 per 8 sq ft 4 per 4 x 8' panel 1/8" 1/4"	1 per 4 sq ft 8 per 4 x 8' panel 1/8" 1/4"
Scattered Sound and Repaired Knots Comb. Average Number Max. Size — Sound Max. Size — Repaired Avg. Number — Repaired	No	No	1 per 8 sq ft 4 per 4 x 8' panel 3/8" 1/8" 1 per 8 sq ft
Mineral Streaks	No	Slight	Occasional
Bark Pockets	No	No	Few to 1/8" x 1"
Worm Tracks	No	No	Slight
Vine Marks	Slight	Slight	Yes
Cross Bars	Occasional	Occasional	Yes

Important Disclaimer

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