

Understanding Wood

Table of Contents

Preface.....	3
Foreword.....	4

PART ONE: THE NATURE OF WOOD AND ITS PROPERTIES

1 The Nature of Wood.....	6
Growth Rings.....	10
Grain.....	10
Sapwood and heartwood.....	11
Structural arrangement of growth rings and rays.....	12
Density and specific gravity....	14
Systematic classification.....	16
Cellular structure.....	17
Softwoods.....	18
Hardwoods.....	20
2 Figure in Wood.....	24
Knots.....	32
Abnormal wood.....	36
Fungi.....	40
Insect damage.....	44
3 Wood Identification.....	46
What to look for.....	50
Physical properties.....	52
Identification techniques.....	52
Macrophotographs.....	55
4 Strength of Wood.....	74
Compression parallel to the Grain.....	78
Compression perpendicular to the grain.....	80
Tension perpendicular to the grain.....	83
Tension parallel to the grain...	84
Shear perpendicular to the grain.....	85
Shear parallel to the grain.....	85
Bending theory.....	87

The carrying capacity and Stiffness of beams.....	90
Factors affecting strength properties.....	94
Compression failures and brashness.....	99
Structural grades.....	100

5 Other Properties of Wood.....	102
Thermal conductivity.....	103
Effect of temperature on wood.....	104
Burning of wood.....	104
Fluorescence.....	105
Psychological properties.....	107
6 Water and Wood.....	110
Free water and bound water...	112
Equilibrium moisture content.....	112
Green vs. air-dried vs. kiln-dried.....	114
Dimensional change in wood.	116
Estimating shrinkage and swelling.....	118
Uneven shrinkage and swelling.....	123

PART TWO: BASICS OF WOOD TECHNOLOGY

7 Coping with Dimensional Change in Wood.....	132
Preshrinking.....	133
Control of moisture sorption..	133
Mechanical restraint.....	134
Chemical stabilization.....	136
Design.....	139
Monitoring moisture.....	141
The moisture “widget”.....	145
8 Drying Wood.....	146
How wood dries.....	148
The dry kiln.....	149
Drying your own wood.....	151
Storing lumber.....	156

9 Machining and Bending Wood.....158	16 Engineered Wood.....240
Machining wood.....159	Finger-jointed lumber.....241
Bending solid wood.....177	Glulam.....242
10 Joining Wood.....180	Structural composite lumber..243
The elements of joints.....181	I-joists.....244
Basic types of joints.....183	17 Finding Wood.....246
Worked joints.....183	Trees.....247
Fastened joints.....188	Recycling used wood.....249
11 Adhesives and Gluing.....192	Local sawmills.....250
Adhesive joints.....193	Lumberyards.....251
Gluing fundamentals.....194	The woodworkers' retail
12 Finishing and Protecting Wood...198	outlets.....252
Surface condition.....199	Industrial arts teachers.....253
No treatment.....202	Magazines.....253
Coating treatments.....205	Specialty woods.....253
Penetrating finishes.....206	The Yellow Pages and other
Combinations and	listings.....253
compromise.....207	Internet.....253
Slowing moisture exchange...207	Lumbermen.....253
Evaluation of finished	Afterword: Forests past and future...254
surfaces.....209	Appendix 1: Commercial names for
Preservative treatment of	lumber.....257
wood.....209	Appendix 2: Finding the specific gravity
	of wood.....260
	Glossary.....262
	Bibliography.....272
	Index.....275
 PART THREE: THE WOODWORKERS RAW MATERIALS	
13 Lumber.....212	
Lumber measure.....216	
Lumber classification and	
grading.....218	
14 Veneer and Plywood.....224	
Plywood.....229	
Classes of plywood.....230	
15 Composite Panels.....234	
Particleboard.....235	
Wafer-and strand-based	
panels.....236	
Fiber-based panels.....236	