



Cranium Furniture

ITASCA MEADOWS 1038 LINCOLN ELK GROVE VILLAGE, ILLINOIS P866.508.8899 F866.418.4159

QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICE SINCE 1946

DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WILSON ART

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Contract Collection



7040 - FIGURED MAHOGANY

Type: Mahogany

Color/Grain: traditional red. Large scale movement in grain from the exaggerated cathedrals and undulating straight grain.

This is a directional design.



7122 - EMPIRE MAHOGANY

Type: Mahogany

Grain/Color: A reddish-brown mahogany. The rich red coloration is accented by the pronounced black graining with traditional cathedrals.

This is a directional design.



7933 – CAFELLE

Type: A straight grain Oak

Grain/Color: dark chocolate

This is a directional design.



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7039 - WINDSOR MAHOGANY

Type: A traditional mahogany.

Color/Grain: Overall color is a medium red-brown with golden undertones and dark ticking.

This is a directional design with large cathedrals



7923 - VERSAILLES ANIGRE

Type: Anigre is an African Wood

Grain/Color: An ANIGRE with low contrast and subtle straight grain. Overall color is a red-brown.

This is a directional design.



7942 – COCOBALA

Type: An tropical wood

Grain/Color: red-brown tones with subtle graining. Overall graining is straight but with subtle planking and cathedrals.

This is a directional design.



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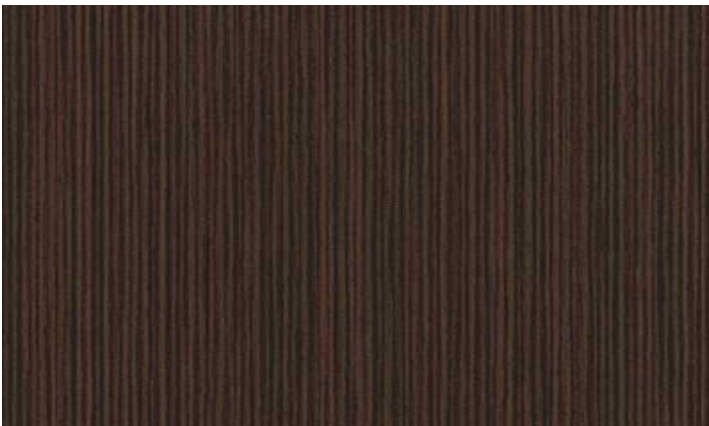


7944 – MADAGASCAR

Type: An African Zebrawood.

Grain/Color: Overall color is black with grey and taupe bands of straight graining.

This is a directional design.



7945 – XANADU

Type: A thinly striped impressionistic faux wood.

Grain/Color: Alternating bands of chocolate brown, dark red, black and metallic bronze come together to create this fantasy wood look.

This is a directional design.



7956 – HONDURAN MAHOGANY

Type: A flat-sawn Mahogany.

Grain/Color: Black graining: overall color in alternating tones of reddish-brown and bronze with pronounced cathedrals.

This is a directional design



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Contract Collection



7957 - ZANZIBAR

Type: An exotic black bean wood

Grain/Color: Overall color in alternating tones of gold and reddish brown. With slight Angier movement, planking and cathedrals:

This is a directional design

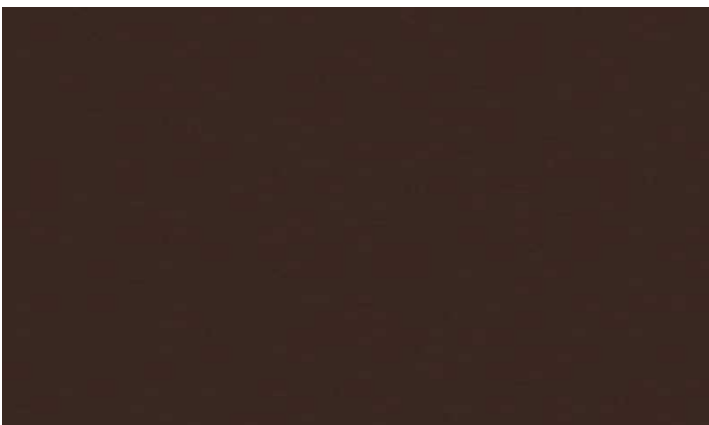


7958 - KENYA MAHOGANY

Type: A ribbon grain Mahogany

Grain/Color: traditional deep reds with black ticking .

This is a directional design



D495 -COFFEE BEAN

Color: A dark chocolate brown.

Grain: This is a directional design.



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Samples Available

Custom Finishes Options:



#07 Textured Gloss – Premium

A textured finish which reproduces the high sheen of waxed wood furniture. Recommended for horizontal and vertical application.

Available only on those designs for which it is the standard finish.

#07-finish features AEON technology and carries a premium upcharge.

Glossometer Reading: MD and CD 42 ± 4



#78 FineGrain – Premium

The FineGrain premium finish features the polish and luxe of a real wood veneer, with a subtle, narrow grain structure that runs the length of the sheet.

Recommended for horizontal and vertical application. #78-finish features AEON technology and carries a premium.

Glossometer Reading: MD and CD 38 ± 3



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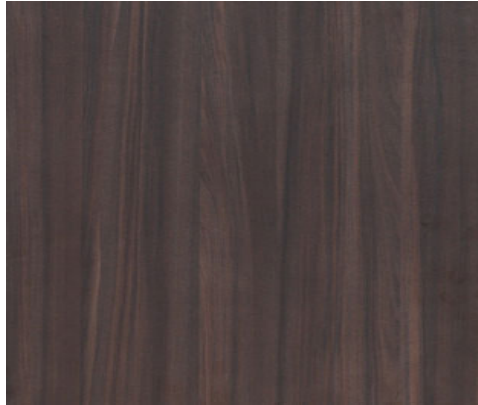
FORMICA

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



7008 Acajou Mahogany

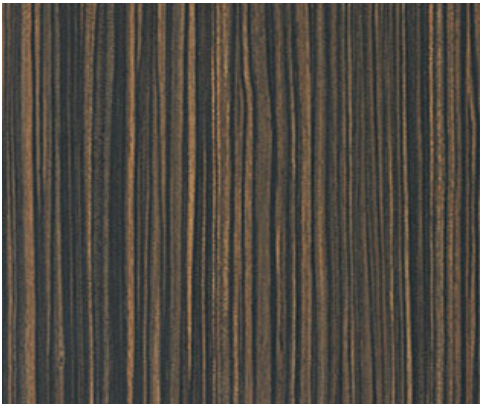


5489 Espresso Pear

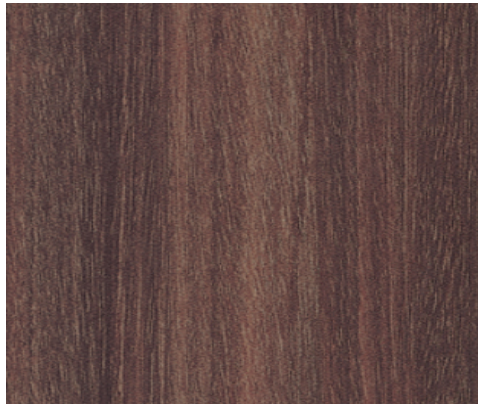


863 Myriad Ribbonwood

NEW

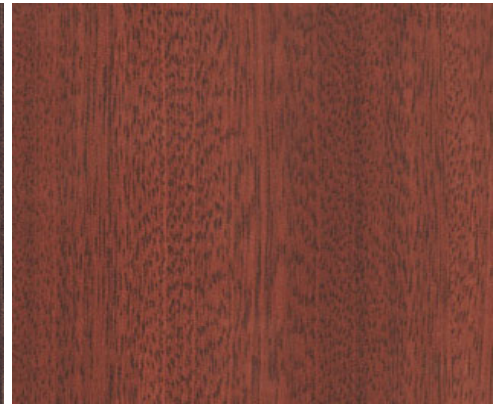


9012 Ebony

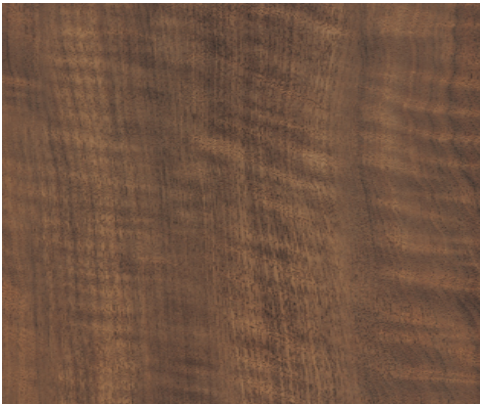


8847 Jarrah Legno

NEW



7583 Victorian Mahogany



3485 Black Walnut

NEW



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OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



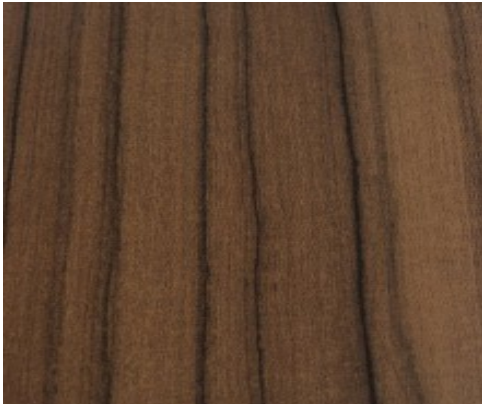
MATCH 160 48X96"



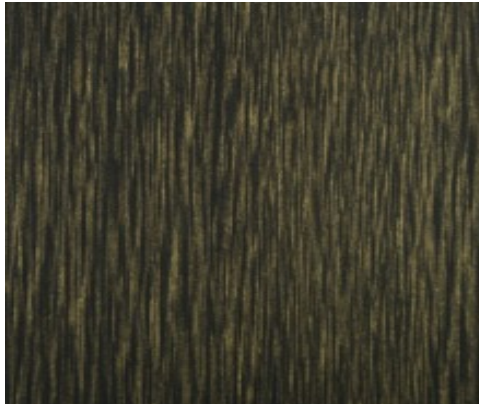
163 WOODLANDER



164 CELTIC EBONY

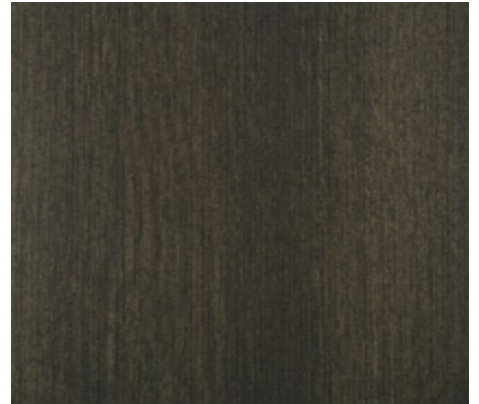


184 TULIP TOBACCO



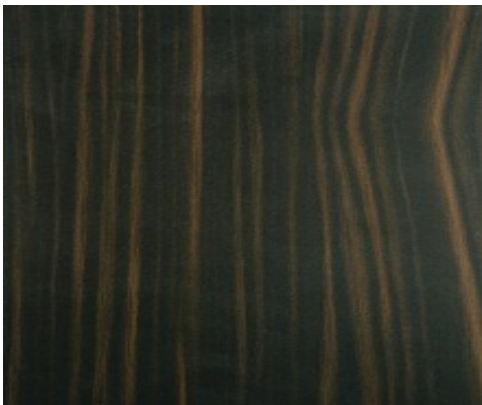
202 BEACH BLOND GLOSS

203 BEACH BLOND MATT



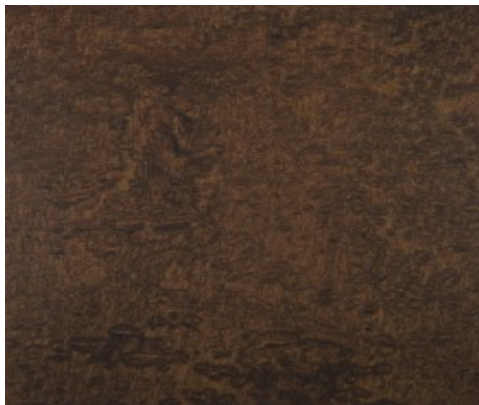
226 ARABIAN RECON GLOSS

227 ARABIAN RECON NATURAL

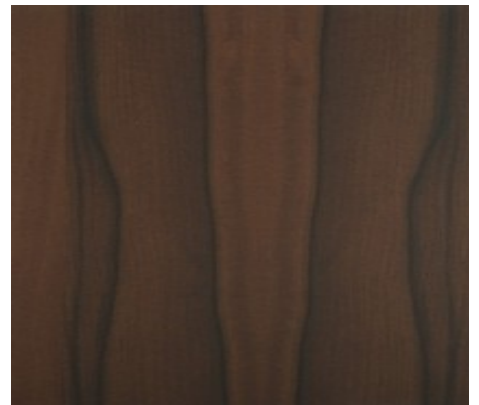


228 DARK ZEBRAWOOD SUEDE GLOSS

229 DARK ZEBRAWOOD SUEDE



230 MAHOGANY POMOLLI SUEDE



232 INDIAN APPLE SUEDE



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OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



233 WENGE KASAI SUEDE GLOSS

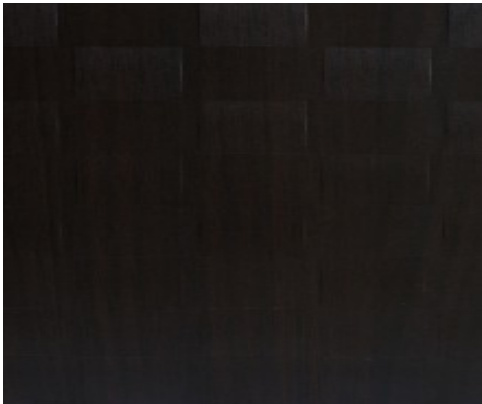
234 WENGE KASAI SUEDE



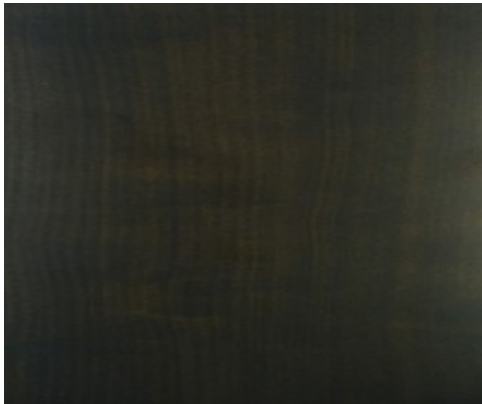
290 MOLDAU ACACIA



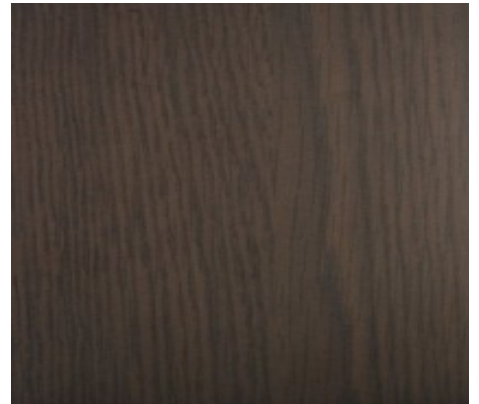
291 LINEN



295 SISAM WOOD CHECKER

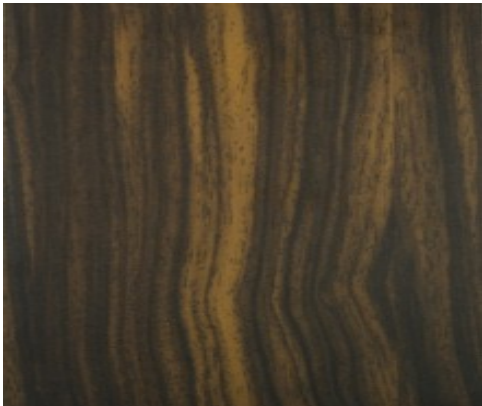


462 CHOCOLATE WALNUT



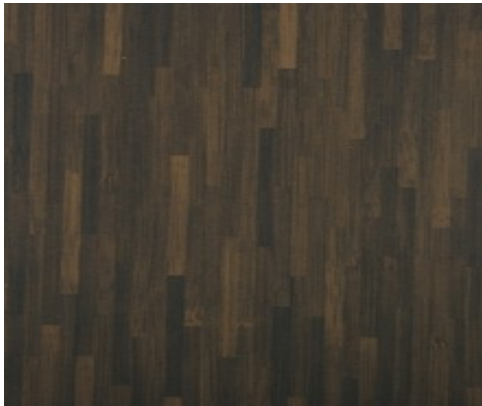
532 COCOA OAK MATT

532 COCOA OAK Gloss



534 MOKA ZEBRA MATT

534 MOKA ZEBRA GLOSS



593 DARK BAMBOO BUTCHER



932



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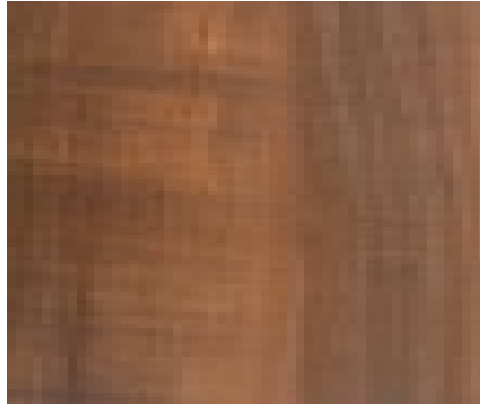
OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



258 PERIGORD WALNUT



962 COLUMBIAN WALNUT

DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

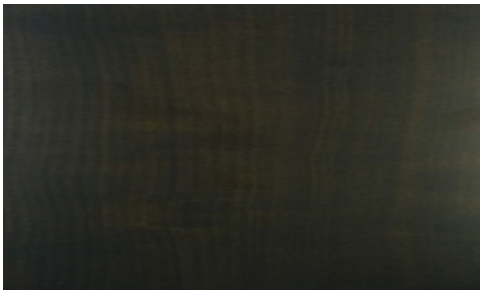
Samples Available

Examples of Octolam Finishes on Furniture:

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291 Linen



426 CHOCOLATE WALNUT





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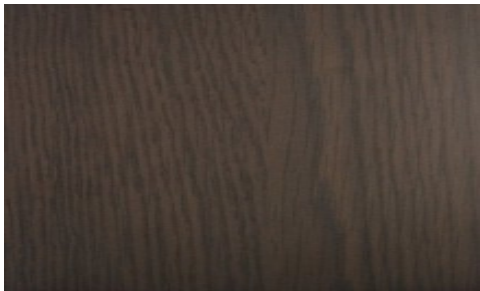
OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

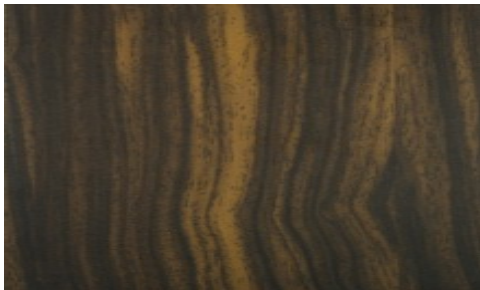
Samples Available

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COCOA OAK MATT



MOKA ZEBRA





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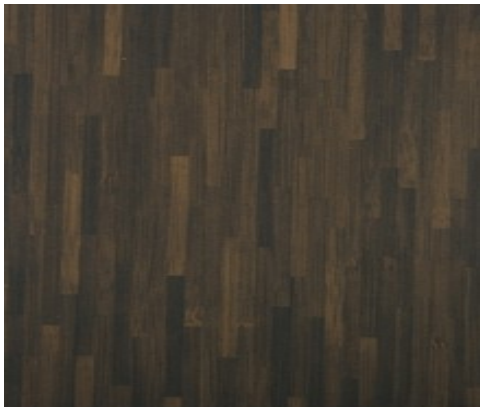
OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

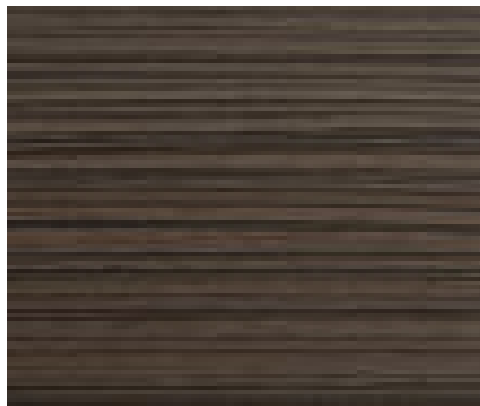
Samples Available

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DARK BAMBOO BUTCHER



932





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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

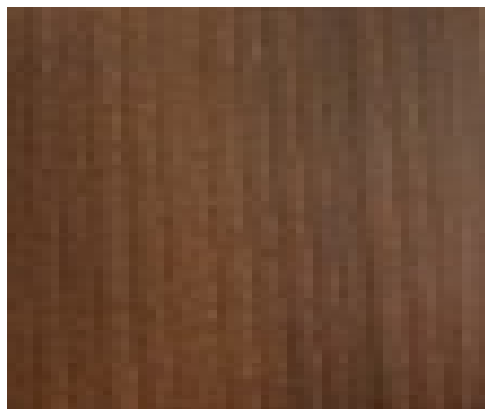
OCTOLAM

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

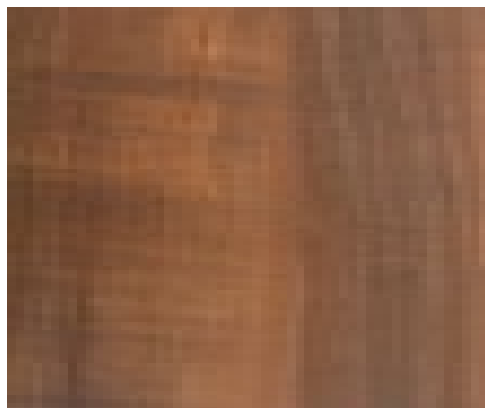
Samples Available

Examples of Octolam Finishes on Furniture:

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PERIGORD WALNUT



COLUMBIAN WALNUT





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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

NUVACOR

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



TG-4836
Marguerite Cherry



TG-4649B
Mid-Century Zebra Wood

Furniture Example in Mid-Century Zebra Wood:





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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

PIONITE

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Suggested Colors:



Town Square
WF101



Crosswalk
WF151



Sequoia
AT411



Sipping Seattle Java
PFA48



Seems Likatre
WP125



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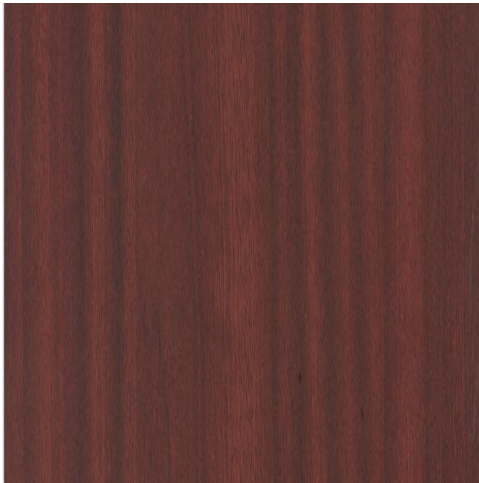
DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

ARBORITE

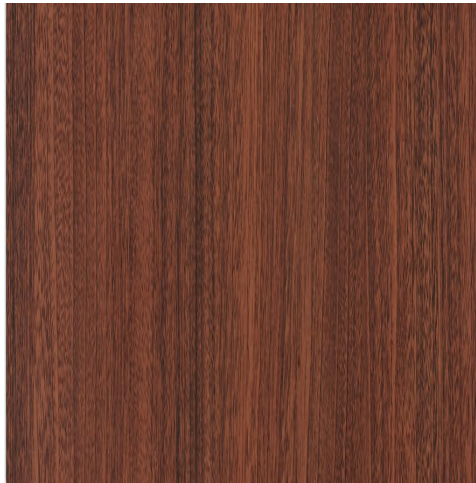
MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Suggested Colors:



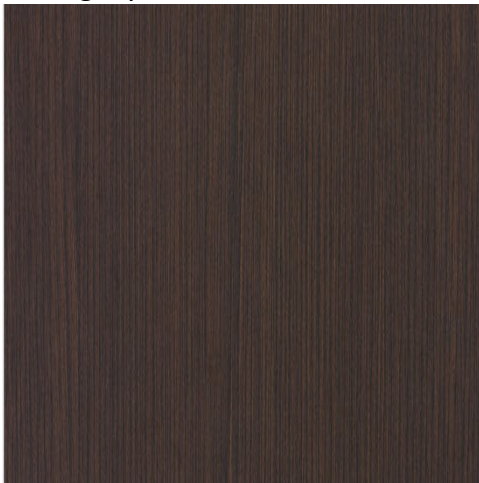
1541
Mahogany Vision



W-372
Mahogany



W-411
Copper Wood



W-412
Wenge



W-415
Chocolate Hazelnut Wood



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

ARBORITE

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Custom Finish Options:



CA - Cashmere

A fine, matte texture finish for laminate with a slight sheen.



DI - Diamond

A fine beaded texture, perfect for minimizing smudges and finger marks on laminate surfaces.



EV - Evergrain

A fine woodgrain texture with slight sheen.



FP - French Polish

A rich gloss and deep sheen that replicates the effects of the finest wood finish.



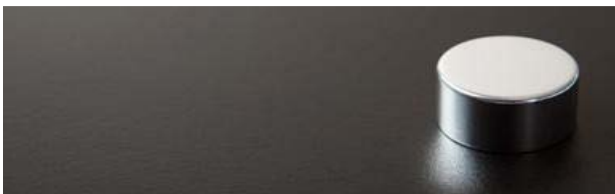
GL - Gloss

A flat texture with a high sheen, for an appealing, contemporary laminate look.



LQ - Laqwood

A slightly embossed wood-grain texture on the laminate surface.



VL - Velvutex

A smooth furniture finish texture.

A fine, matte texture finish for laminate with a slight sheen.



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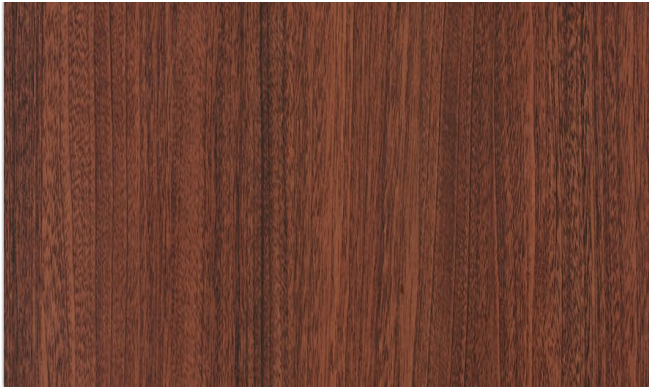
ARBORITE

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

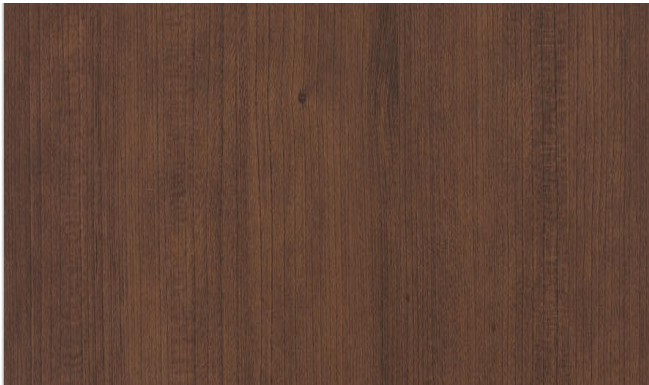
Samples Available

Examples of Arborite Finishes on Furniture:

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MAHOGANY



CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT WOOD





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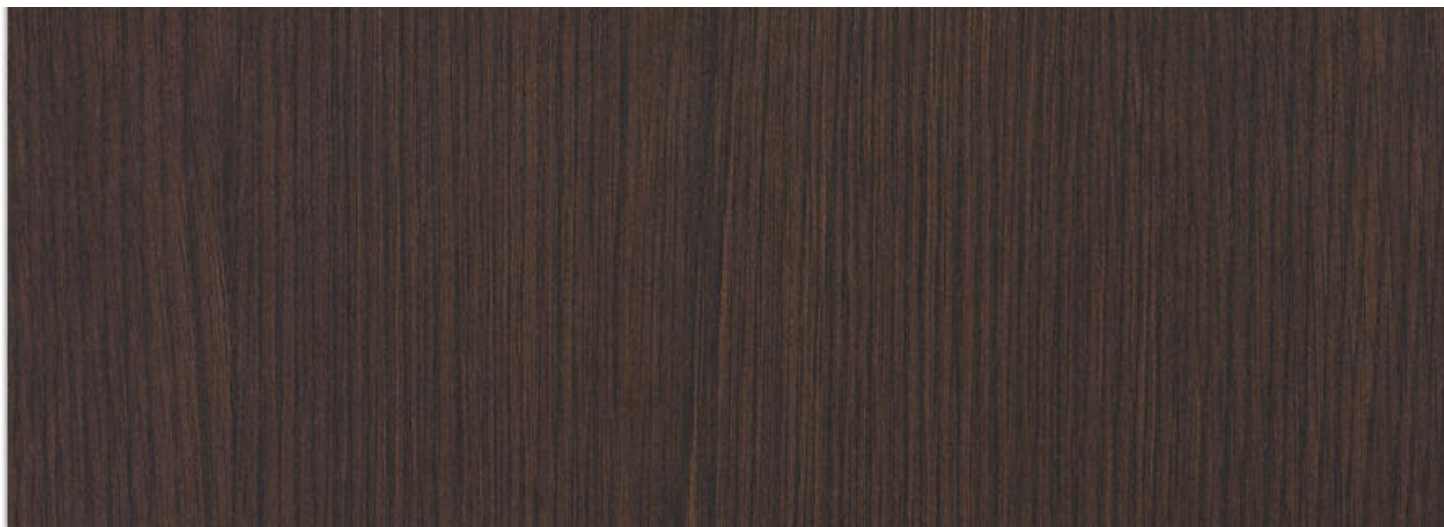
ARBORITE

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

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WENGE



Matte Wenge



Gloss Wenge



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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: 10225 – Kewazinga

Kewazinga: is an African hardwood that is dense, relatively easy to work with and strong. It has a moderately coarse texture and a slightly porous interlocking grain. Kewazinga veneer is known to get slightly darker with age. **Kewazinga veneer**, also known as waterfall bubbling wood veneer or Kewazinga pommel veneer

Color: is typically a rich pinkish medium red brown color with darker crimson to deeper dark brown veining that defines the swirled blister like figure..

Grain: It is usually rotary cut to accentuate the figure and can be a one piece face or when spliced it is book matched with the grain running along the 8' dimension.

Finish: Kewazinga wood veneer will accept stains and finishes well but is most often finished with a clear coat that preserves the warmth and accentuates the color and beauty of the wood's natural grain.



Conference Room Photo (to the left):

Client asked to create a “water like/flowing feel” with the fish tank/monolithic wall. The conference table pallet was ‘a given’ had the requirement of ‘matching’ the pallet. The “fluid character” was achieved with a rare log of Kewazinga. The veneer was book matched creating a “wave like” pattern.





DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10240 - #10824 -Mahogany, African - Flat cut

Af. Mahogany: Is an African hardwood of medium density that is often used as a substitute for South American mahogany. It is easy to work with and strong, with a moderately coarse texture, slightly porous grain and consistent color.

African mahogany Flat cut veneer: also known as plain sliced African mahogany wood veneer or crown cut Af. Mahogany veneer.

Color: is typically a pinkish-red brown to a deep darker red brown color.

Grain: It is usually book matched with the grain running along the 8' dimension.

-Has well defined cathedrals and lustrous grain.

-Standard A grade flat cut African mahogany wood veneer commonly allows for some small defects such as occasional pin knots and small grain deflections.

Finish: Flat cut African mahogany wood veneer will accept stains and finishes well which accentuate the grain's natural luster.





DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10247 - #10831 - Mahogany, African Quarter Cut

Af. Mahogany: Is an African hardwood of medium density that is often used as a substitute for South American mahogany. It is easy to work with and strong, with a satiny texture, tight uniform grain and consistent color. Ribbon stripe African mahogany wood veneer will accept stains and finishes well which accentuate the ribbon stripe figure.

Af. Mahogany veneer: Is an African mahogany veneer is known for its prominent and lustrous ribbon stripe figure which is produced when the logs are quartered. Standard A grade African ribbon mahogany wood veneer commonly allows for some small defects such as occasional pin knots and small grain deflections.

Quartered African mahogany veneer: also known as rift cut African mahogany wood veneer or plain quarter cut African mahogany veneer.



Color: is typically a pinkish-red brown to a deep darker red brown color.

Grain:

- It is usually book matched with the grain running along the 8' dimension.
- Quarter cut African mahogany veneer is rather plain in appearance with only slight or occasional roe or broken ribbon stripe figure.
- Standard A grade quarter cut African mahogany wood veneer commonly allows for some small defects such as occasional pin knots and small grain deflections. hardwood of medium density that is often used as a substitute for South American mahogany.
- It is easy to work with and strong, with a moderately coarse texture, slightly porous but lustrous grain and consistent color.

Finish: Quarter cut African mahogany wood veneer will accept stains and finishes well which accentuate the grain's natural luster.



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10254 - Mahogany, Ribbon Striped

Af. Mahogany: Is an African hardwood of medium density that is often used as a substitute for South American mahogany. It is easy to work with and strong, with a satiny texture, tight uniform grain and consistent color.

Ribbon striped African mahogany veneer: Also known as ribbon African mahogany wood veneer or ribbon quarter cut mahogany veneer

Color: is typically a pinkish-red brown to a deep darker red brown color.

Finish:

-It is usually book matched with the grain running along the 8' dimension.

-Ribbon stripe African mahogany wood veneer will accept stains and finishes well which accentuate the ribbon stripe figure.



Grain: known for its prominent and lustrous ribbon stripe figure which is produced when the logs are quartered. Standard A grade African ribbon mahogany wood veneer commonly allows for some small defects such as occasional pin knots and small grain deflections.



Refer to the next page for several applications with this finish!



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10254 - Mahogany, Ribbon Striped

Reception Desk:

The client has a "passion for art. Requesting a wood veneer that would be considered art. Presented a pallet which was considered as "woody red," the only "artistic" wood use would be on the front of the reception and secretaries. The balance of the wood used was a typical (and cost effective) Mahogany. The wood selected is Makore - Pommele figured. However, the veneer provided alone did not present enough movement, it took the craft of the wood worker and a fancy match pattern of book and end matching very wide veneer leaves to achieve the desired artistic picture pattern.



Wall Cabinets:

This client had a strong desire to present "the most interesting file cabinets in the building." The layout of the doors and drawers was "a given". The woodworker did not want a mosaic pattern once the panels were cut and the hardware was in place. Project provided a quartered Makore with a heavy mottle figure. The craft of the woodworker created a homogeneous yet stunning "wall" of filing cabinets. The book matching veneer leaves creates the striking pattern.



Lobby:

This spacious building lobby needed a design in wood that could "WOW" a person as they entered the space. The creative design of a "fancy veneer match" known as the diamond match was used to accomplish BOTH the "wow effect of wood" as well as "stretching" the veneer length to meet the 18' tall wall. (by turning the veneer at an angle) This quarter cut, figured Makore veneer made the design of this space really work!





DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10261 Makore, Quarter Cut

Makore: is an African hardwood of medium density that has occasional light silica inclusions. Generally standard grade Makore wood veneer has a fine to medium texture with tight pores and lustrous grain.

Makore veneer, also known as :quartered Makore wood veneer or quarter cut plain.

Quarter cut, Makore: is sometimes referred to as “rift cut Makore”.

Color: is typically a deep pinkish-brown to a darker red-brown color.

Grain: It is usually book matched with the grain running along the 8’ dimension. Is uniform and rather plain in appearance with very slight wavy or mottled figure not uncommon.

Finish: Makore wood veneer will accept stains and finishes well but is usually finished with a clear coat that preserves the warm luminescent beauty of the wood’s natural color.





DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10268 Makore Block Mottled Veneer

Makore: is an African hardwood of medium density that has occasional light silica inclusions. Generally standard grade block mottle Makore wood veneer has a fine to medium texture with tight pores and interlocked grain.

Makore Block Mottled veneer: also known as mottle figure

Color: Makore wood veneer or high figure Makore is typically a deep pinkish-brown to a darker red-brown color.

Grain: It is usually book matched with the grain running along the 8' dimension.

- Is lustrous and rather striking in appearance with a high figure that is accentuated when the log is quarter cut.

Finish: will accept stains and finishes well but is usually finished with a clear coat that preserves the warm luminescent beauty of the wood's natural color and accentuates the block mottled figure.





Cranium Furniture

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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #10677 - #11041 Wenge, Quarter Cut

Wenge: is a West African hardwood that is very dense, hard and heavy with a coarse texture and a porous grain. Generally,

Wenge veneer: also known as quartered Wenge wood veneer or rift cut Wenge veneer.

Color: is typically a dark chocolate brown, almost black color with thin evenly spaced tan to caramel colored lines or veins.

Grain: It is usually book matched with the grain running along the 8' dimension. Is uniform and due to its dark coloration, very bold in appearance. Standard grade quarter cut Wenge veneer is relatively straight grained with occasional grain deflections and small pin knots.

Finish: Wenge wood veneer will accept finishes well but care should be taken to remove all sanding dust from the pores. It is almost never stained





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WISEWOOD

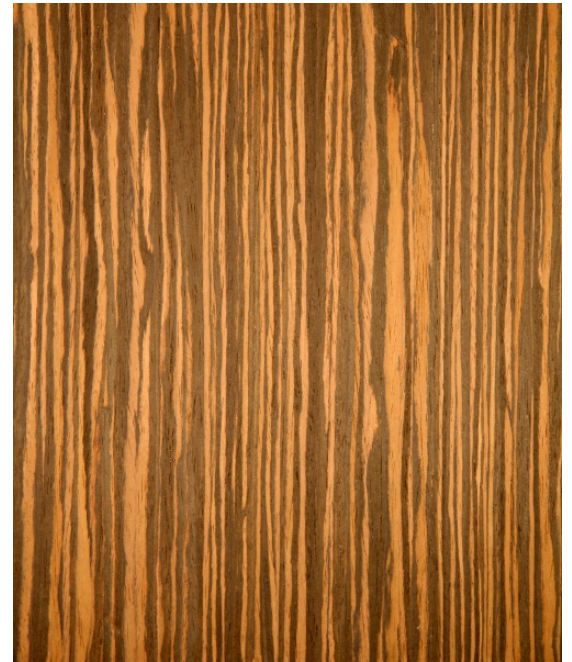
MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #90428 - *Reconstituted Ebony, Macassar Quarter Cut*

Reconstituted quarter cut Macassar ebony veneer: Also known as *engineered quartered ebony wood veneer or manmade quarter cut ebony veneer*

Color: typically a dark chocolate brown with alternating irregular caramel brown color striations.





DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WISEWOOD

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Color: #90378 - #90471 - *Reconstituted Wenge 2, Quarter Cut*

Reconstituted Wenge 2, Quarter Cut: Also known as engineered quartered Wenge 2 wood veneer or manmade rift cut Wenge 2 veneer.

Color: Is typically a deep dark chocolate brown with caramel colored irregular striations.

Manufacturing:

- **Reconstituted Wenge 2 wood veneer:** Made from dyed and laminated layers of a fast growing secondary species of wood, with the grain running along the 8' dimension.
- **Grade:** Normally is not graded because it is manmade and has no defects.
- **Grain:** boasts a straight uniformly colored grain pattern with a smooth texture.
- **Finish:** Manmade Wenge 2 wood veneer accepts finishes well.





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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

LAMIN ART

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



921 Spanish Mahogany





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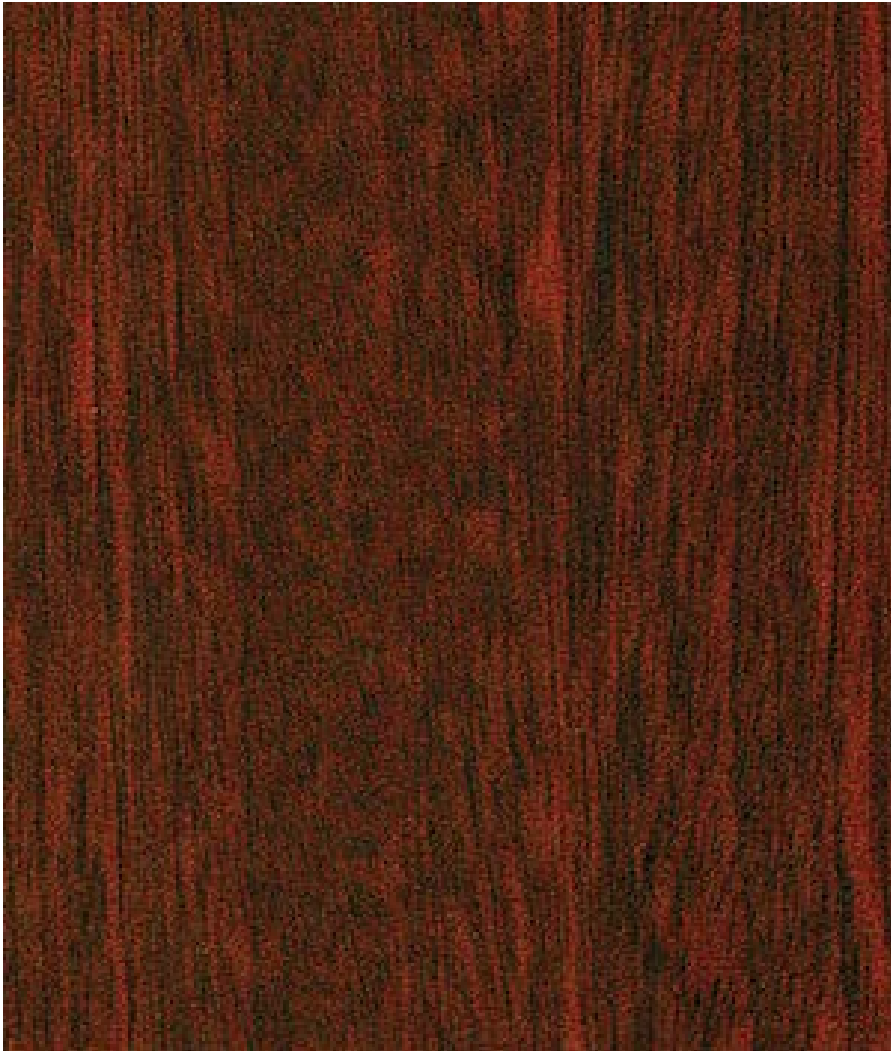
QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICE SINCE 1946

DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

LAMIN ART

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



Manufactured: With genuine, not reconstituted, wood veneers that are impregnated with a protective melamine resin and fused with phenolic resin-impregnated Kraft sheets. Combining the natural beauty of real wood with the superior durability of high-pressure decorative laminate. Imported from Europe.

Finish: highly-durable finish, maintenance-free, scratch-resistant surface that preserves the character and texture of the wood. As a real wood product, Veneer-Art is subject to variations in color and grain from one sheet to another. A natural maturing and mellowing of the color may also occur with age

Edge Banding: Matching edge banding is available for all Veneer-Art® items in the same Tru-Grain™ finish.

Cleaning: With a damp cloth and ordinary soap or household cleaner. Stubborn stains may require organic solvents such as alcohol, acetone, lacquer thinner or paint solvents. Note: These solvents will not harm the Veneer-Art surface, but are flammable and will attack the contact adhesive at the glue line edges.

920 Executive Mahogany



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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

LAMIN ART

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available



2613 Bronze Ribbon Mahogany



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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

LAMIN ART

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

2614 Gold Ribbon Mahogany

Collection: Premium Wood Prints

Series: Pearlescence® hPI

Pearlescence® FINISHES

Pearlescence® high-pressure decorative laminates offer a series of solid color, abstract, metallic patterns, and wood grain prints which feature inks with pearlescent particles to create a dramatic visual effect when exposed to light.

Textured (T) a non-directional matte finish with moderate reflective qualities (Irv 10.0). May be specified with oyster shield high-wear protection™ for horizontal and/or high-wear applications.

Velva-Tex (VT) a soft finish similar To hand-rubbed oiled hardwood (Irv 16.0)

Chrysalis® (a) a gently-etched pattern which creates a brilliance and texture similar To that of brushed metal (Irv 10.0). Recommended for vertical / low-wear applications only.

Additional Optional: For Textured or Velva-Tex finish with **Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™**. This exclusive surface enhancement provides these products with the same abrasion resistance properties as our general purpose high-pressure decorative laminates for specification on horizontal applications and high-wear surfaces.





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DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

EDGE BAND

MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

Samples Available

Woodgrain designs with color-through graining that eliminates “picture framing” effect when trimmed. Choose from a wide selection of woodgrain edge banding to coordinate with your final finish selection.

Suggested Uses

Cabinets, Cabinet Doors, Drawers, Shelves, Tables, Furniture. Use edge band for impact-resistant edges..



Example of Metal Edge Band Used on Round Bed:





DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

TERMS

Acacia

Acacia is a distinctive tree widely distributed in south eastern Australia & Tasmania, and has been more valued for horticultural uses than for its timber in the past. Acacia wood is fairly tough and when planed and dressed it produces a very smooth surface for furniture and polishes well, and these tones mean it is in increasing demand for furniture designers and manufacturers.

Color:

Ranges from very pale pink/yellow through to a light honey colour, and light silver bands sometimes appear in the grain, darkening to a red/honey colour when finished. Depending on the cut of the lumber these bands can provide an attractive and marked feature.

Grain:

is usually straight but sometimes-interlocked, with an even texture.

Book Match

The most commonly used method of matching veneers where every other leaf of veneer is turned over or opened like the pages of a book. In making veneer faces many of these pairs will be joined together to create the face.

Flat Cut:

Slicing method where the veneer is sliced parallel to the center of a log and tangent across the growth rings. This method of slicing will produce a "cathedral grain" and is also referred to as "Plain sliced".

Pin Knot:

Sound knots that are less than ¼" in diameter.

Quarter Cut:

A veneer slicing method where the knife slices through the annual growth rings at approximately a right angle producing a series of parallel stripes. In Red and White Oak this will produce a characteristic Flake pattern.

**DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION**

TERMS

Reconstituted wood veneer :

Actual wood fiber and is made from fast growing trees in managed forests. This type of flexible veneer is a readily renewable product which makes it an environmentally friendly alternative to some of the more rare and expensive exotic wood species. Even though reconstituted veneer is fabricated from manmade flitch and is virtually defect free it is a lot different from plastic laminate. It is more flexible and more natural in texture and appearance. Although a manmade flitch veneer product tends to be more stable than traditional flitch wood veneer sheets, the wood fibers and cells are still susceptible to moisture and have to be sealed with a finish. This helps to accentuate the color and figure of the veneer. Often referred to as Engineered or Composite veneer, it is a great option for those projects where veneer color and consistency is critical from start to finish.

Rift Cut

A veneer slicing method where the knife slices through the annual rings just a few degrees off an exact right angle to produce a grain similar to quarter cut without the apparent flake. This cut is most common in Red and White Oak to reduce the ray "fleck".

Ribbon Stripe

The stripe effect you get when some woods are quarter cut to expose a straight wide ribbon grain with high shimmer or "chatoyance", a desirable light reflective characteristic. This is mostly seen in Mahogany, Sapele, Afrormosia and some other woods.

Sisam or Shisham:

Is a common tree often planted along roadsides. According to reference literatures, both Shisham and Rose wood rank amongst the finest of India's cabinet and furniture woods. Its wood is also used for bent-wood articles, skis, calico printing blocks, musical instruments etc.



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

TERMS

Wenge

Wenge is indigenous to Zaire also known as the Democratic Republic of Congo (whose borders, by the way, stretch from the South Atlantic Ocean on the west to Tanzania and Uganda on the east – not quite a small country). Is also found in several Central African Countries ranging from Cameroon through Central African Republic, Peoples Republic of Congo, and Gabon.

Color: The word Wenge, (pronounced ‘whenj’) when referring to color means a rich brown color with copper undertones. The furniture industry has identified the color as nearly black, in other words, ‘espresso’. So, now you need to know your coffee colors in order to describe the object of your desire. Remember it is the color of *espresso*, not latte, not cappuccino.

Wenge is known for its beautiful striations of tight wavy grain in its heartwood, while the sapwood tends to be lighter in color and has wide swathes of grainy pattern. The wood is quite dark dense and very heavy. When kiln dried, the surface is extremely smooth with tight pores and very little variations in the grain.

Wood Veneer

Yes, this is real wood! Each is made from the finest wood veneer for outstanding character and figure. Premium wood veneers are permanently bonded to a resin saturated backing which allows maximum flexibility. From architectural woodwork for office and residential furniture to store fixtures, kitchen cabinets, automotive dashboards, Hi-Fi stereo speakers, and more, no other veneer has such a wide range of uses. Nothing compares to the natural elegance of our premium paper-backed veneer.

Staining & Finishing

Since this paper-backed veneer is a real wood product, it can be stained/dyed easily and requires no special top-coats or finishes. Aniline dyes, oil and water based stains, Tran-stains, polyurethane, lacquer; conversion varnish, shellac, and Tung oil are all compatible with our paper-backed veneers.



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

TERMS

Natural Veneers

Veneer is a thin layer of wood of uniform thickness produced by peeling, slicing, or sawing logs, bolts, or flitches. Certain species, selected for strength rather than beauty, are generally used for inner layers of hardwood plywood. They are often rotary cut. The veneer is peeled off the log in continuous sheets as wide as the length of the log.

For the production of face veneer, logs are selected according to size, figure, color, and natural character. As the first step in the production process, the bark is removed by a special machine called a debarker. Then the log is cut into halves or quarters, lengthwise. The resulting sections are called flitches. The flitches must be cooked in vats for periods varying from one to eight days before they are cut into veneer.

Cutting, the central operation in a veneer factory, takes place on a vertical slicer or a half round rotary depending on the species. After cutting and curing to obtain the desired color, the veneers are dried, sampled and packaged for storage or shipment..

Face veneers are manufactured in many thicknesses. They are normally available from 0.25mm to 1.6mm



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WOOD VENEER FURNITURE

There is a common belief that furniture made with veneer is something to avoid, and that solid wood is always better. Veneer means a thin layer of wood glued down to other wooden boards. Cabinet makers will say that factors of thickness, workmanship and condition determine whether veneering is good or bad.



Veneer is not a modern invention. Thousands of years ago, fabulous veneer work in ebony and ivory was put into King Tut's tomb in Egypt. Veneer techniques in the Renaissance became very sophisticated, using tiny pieces of exotic woods and burl grain to create intricate designs or lavish scenes, called marquetry or intarsia work. Much of the finest royal furniture for hundreds of years employed lavish veneer construction, using the finest species of wood and tiny pieces of burl or exotic grain.

Another reason for veneer is "matching," or making the right and left grain mirror images of each other, like pages of a book. There is also quarter matching and pie-shaped or sunburst matching for dazzling special effects in wood.

Cabinetmakers have always sought boards with especially beautiful grain, like the fork of a mahogany tree for "flame" grain, or the curly "burl" found near the knots of walnut trees. Wide planks of especially beautiful wood are gorgeous, but tend to warp and curl over time. The technique of veneering allows this beautifully grained wood to be glued to more stable wood with less attractive grain for results that are beautiful and durable. Attractive appearance on curved surfaces is another use of veneer, for example, the curved case of a grand piano is always veneered.



Beginning in the 1800's, veneer was employed to make valuable woods like mahogany or walnut go farther by gluing them to less prized species, like maple or birch. Around 1900, highly prized quarter-sawn or tiger oak was often veneered over regular cut solid oak.

Many examples of veneer work have endured for hundreds of years. Veneer repair requires a skilled woodworker, but can be done. Old veneer was long-lasting, and could be retouched or sanded and refinished over and over again.

Starting about 1970, industrial furniture manufacturers developed the technique of gradually making veneer thinner, and today, hardwood veneers are as thin as 1/64 of an inch! This modern veneer looks like typing paper, it is almost transparent, and can never be sanded, refinished or significantly touched up if damaged. On most modern furniture and kitchen cupboards, veneer is not glued to natural hardwood, instead it is attached



DARK WOOD MAHOGANY LIKE FINISHES COLLECTION

WOOD VENEER FURNITURE

to particle board, which is a mixture of sawdust and glue which is pressed into large sheets. Often the edges are finished with real wood, so the veneer and particle board construction is not visible. On better furniture and cabinets, real wood is used where it shows – legs, raised panels, edges, etc.

Most new furniture is built in this manner, and often advertised as “solid hardwood and veneers,” although it is certainly not what most consumers would mean by “wood.” This construction has some advantages: 1) particle board doesn’t warp like real wood unless it gets wet, 2) it conserves valuable hardwood, and 3) it recycles sawdust, which would otherwise be in a landfill. Most mainstream furniture has been constructed in this manner for some years. New furniture is like a new toaster or TV, it is temporary, never to be repaired or restored, and definitely not an heirloom for the next generation.



There has always been good and bad workmanship in veneered furniture, just as there has been in solid wood furniture. Old veneer that has bubbles, loose edges, missing pieces and so on is difficult to repair. Old veneer that is in great condition will probably stay in great condition, and can be refinished or restored when it becomes necessary, perhaps far in the future. Modern veneer is another matter entirely. Ultra-thin veneer has its place in new furniture that is intended to be used and then discarded when worn, rather than restored for future generations.

How bad is wood veneer on furniture? As Oscar Wilde said, “The truth is rarely pure and never simple.” The history of veneer on furniture is a long and honorable tradition, and the answer depends on workmanship, condition and thickness of the veneer itself.

Author Ken Melchert has taught Art History for many years.

Since 1985, Ken and his wife Rebecca have operated the Harp Gallery Antiques in Appleton, WI.



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SAMPLES AND FINISH COLORS

Since all computing devices show colors differently, we recommend that all of our customers request samples before ordering or purchasing anything to ensure you are satisfied with the color, feel and suitability of the fabric for your application.

We offer a finish sample program designed to help you select the correct finish for your application every time. By offering finish samples our customers know exactly what they are getting before they place an order, or spend any money. This helps keep our customers satisfied with their non-returnable, non-exchangeable, nonrefundable by avoiding disappointments as a result of placing an order without first seeing and touching the finish. There is a small fee + S/H/P per swatch sample due to our incurred cost from our finish vendors. Fee is determined by the finish house and finish type, etc. Our interest is your ultimate satisfaction.