

# WOOD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

## European Beech

**PARAMOUNT**

Crafting Exquisite Woodwork Since 1984

**Common Name(s):**

European/Common Beech

**Scientific Name:**

*Fagus Sylvatica*

**Tree Size:**

100-130 ft (30-40 m) Tall  
3-5 ft Trunk Diameter

**Janka Hardness:**

1,450 lb<sub>f</sub> (6,460 N)

**Modulus of Rupture:**

15,970 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (110.1 MPa)

**Elastic Modulus:**

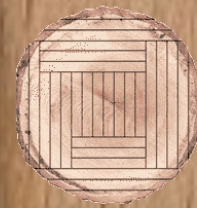
2,075,000 lb<sub>f</sub>/in<sup>2</sup> (14.31 GPa)

**Distribution Area:**

Europe



Plain Sawn



Quarter Sawn



Raw



Sealed



**Color/Appearance:** European Beech is a pale straw color, sometimes with a pink or brown hue. Veneer tends to be slightly darker colored, as slicing the veneer usually requires the wood to be prepared with steam, which gives the wood a more golden tone. Plain sawn surfaces tend to be somewhat plain, while quarter sawn surfaces exhibit a minute ray fleck pattern.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain runs straight; fine to medium uniform texture and moderate natural luster.

**Workability:** Overall good workability; it machines well, and glues, finishes, and turns well. Beech also responds superbly to steam-bending. However, it does have a large amount of movement in service, so movement and wood stability must be taken into account.

European Beech is an important and widely-used hardwood in Europe. Its hardness, wear-resistance, strength, and excellent bending capabilities—coupled with its low price—make this hardwood a mainstay for many woodworkers. Because of its very wide rays that produce ray flex patterns, beech can sometimes be confused with other woods with large rays, such as maple.