

Exotic Woods

List of Options
(Subject to availability)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Chechen | 11. Katalox |
| 2. Canarywood | 12. Granadillo |
| 3. Jatoba | 13. Redheart |
| 4. Purpleheart | 14. Mahogany, Afrcan |
| 5. Leopardwood | 15. Sapele |
| 6. Afrormosia
(African Teak) | 16. Bloodwood |
| 7. Wenge | 17. Avodire |
| 8. Padauk | |
| 9. Ovangkol (Shedua) | |
| 10. Mahogany,
Honduran | |

Chechen



- **Distribution:** Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Guatemala, Belize, and southeastern Mexico
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood color is highly varied, with red, orange, and brown contrasted with darker stripes of blackish brown. Color tends to shift to a darker reddish brown with age. Well defined sapwood is a pale yellow
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually straight but may be wild or interlocked. With a uniform medium to fine texture and good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, furniture, cabinetry, flooring, turned objects, and small specialty wood items.

Canarywood



- **Distribution:** South America (from Panama down to southern Brazil)
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood color can vary a fair amount, from a pale yellow-orange to a darker reddish brown, usually with darker streaks throughout. Pale yellow sapwood is sharply demarcated from heartwood.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is typically straight but can be irregular or wild on some pieces. Uniform fine to medium texture with good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Construction lumber, railroad crossties, flooring, veneers, boatbuilding, furniture, cabinetry, and turned items.

Jatoba



- **Distribution:** Central America, southern Mexico, northern South America, and the West Indies
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood varies from a light orangish brown to a darker reddish brown, sometimes with contrasting darker grayish brown streaks. Color tends to darken upon exposure to light. Sapwood is a light grayish yellow, clearly demarcated from the heartwood.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is typically interlocked, with a medium to coarse texture. Good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Flooring, furniture, cabinetry, tool handles, shipbuilding, railroad ties, turned objects, and other small specialty items.

Purpleheart



- **Distribution:** Central and South America (from Mexico down to southern Brazil)
- **Color/Appearance:** When freshly cut the heartwood of Purpleheart is a dull grayish/purplish brown. Upon exposure the wood becomes a deeper eggplant purple. With further age and exposure to UV light, the wood becomes a dark brown with a hint of purple. This color-shift can be slowed and minimized by using a UV inhibiting finish on the wood.
- **Grain/Texture:** The grain is usually straight but can also be wavy or irregular. Has a medium texture with good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Inlays/accent pieces, flooring, furniture, boatbuilding, heavy construction, and a variety of specialty wood items.

Leopardwood



- **Distribution:** Central and South America
- **Color/Appearance:** Has a very conspicuous flecking that gives this wood its namesake. The wood itself is a medium to dark reddish brown with grey or light brown rays, which resemble the spots of a leopard.
- **Grain/Texture:** Has a fairly coarse texture and straight grain.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, cabinetry, fine furniture, musical instruments (guitars), and turned objects.

Afrormosia (African Teak)



- **Distribution:** West Africa
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood is typically a yellowish brown, occasion will have an either reddish or olive hue. Color tends to darken with age. Narrow sapwood is pale yellow and is clearly differentiated from the heartwood.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually straight, though it can also be interlocked. With a fine uniform texture and good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Boatbuilding, veneer, flooring, and furniture.

Wenge



- **Distribution:** Central Africa
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood is medium brown, sometimes with a reddish or yellowish hue, with nearly black streaks. Upon application of a wood finish (particularly an oil finish) the wood can become nearly black.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight, with a very coarse texture. Low natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, paneling, furniture, turned objects, and musical instruments.

Padauk



- **Distribution:** Myanmar (formerly Burma), and Thailand
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood color can vary, ranging from a pale golden yellow to a deeper reddish brown. Color tends to darken to a golden brown over time. Yellow sapwood is well demarcated from heartwood. Overall, Burma Padauk's color tends to be less red and more subdued than African Padauk.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually interlocked, with a coarse texture and fairly large and open pores.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, flooring, turned objects, musical instruments, furniture, tool handles, and other small specialty wood objects.

Ovangkol (Shedua)



- **Distribution:** Tropical west Africa
- **Color/Appearance:** Varying shades of yellowish to reddish brown with darker brown, gray, or black stripes. Moderately wide sapwood is a pale yellow, clearly demarcated from heartwood. Sometimes seen with a curly or mottled grain pattern.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight to slightly interlocked. Medium to coarse texture, with moderate natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, furniture, cabinetry, turned objects, musical instruments, and flooring.

Mahogany, Honduran



- **Distribution:** From Southern Mexico to central South America; also commonly grown on plantations
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood color can vary a fair amount with Honduran Mahogany, from a pale pinkish brown, to a darker reddish brown. Color tends to darken with age.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain can be straight, interlocked, irregular or wavy. Texture is medium and uniform, with moderate natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Furniture, cabinetry, turned objects, veneers, musical instruments, boatbuilding, and carving.

Katalox



- **Distribution:** Southern Mexico, Central America, and northern South America
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood is dark reddish brown to nearly black, sometimes with a strong purple hue. Sapwood is sharply demarcated and is pale yellowish white. Pieces with curly or wavy grain are not uncommon.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually straight but can also be irregular or interlocked. With a fine even texture and good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Inlays, fine furniture and cabinetry, parquet flooring, guitars, turnings, and other small specialty items.

Granadillo



- **Distribution:** Central America
- **Color/Appearance:** Reddish to purplish brown with rather distinct stripes. The sapwood is clearly distinct from the heartwood and is almost white in color. It is hard and superior to Teak and probably Mahogany. The wood is exceptionally heavy. It weighs much more than Hard maple or Teak in the green or seasoned condition. The density of the wood is very high.
- **Grain/Texture:** Straight with some interlocking.
- **Common Uses:** Furniture, cabinetry, veneer, musical instruments, turned objects, and small specialty wood items.

Redheart



- **Distribution:** Southern Mexico to southern Brazil and Paraguay
- **Color/Appearance:** Aptly named, in some instances freshly surfaced Redheart can be a very bright, watermelon red—though color can vary in intensity and hue from board to board: anywhere from a light orange/pink, to a darker brownish red. In some cases, it can look quite similar to Bloodwood, though usually with a more visible and figured grain pattern.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually straight or irregular, with a fine, even texture. Low to medium natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Turned objects, inlays, veneer, fine furniture, and small specialty wood items.

Mahogany, African



- **Distribution:** West tropical Africa
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood color is variable, ranging from a very pale pink to a deeper reddish brown, sometimes with streaks of medium to dark reddish brown. Color tends to darken with age. Quartersawn surfaces can also exhibit a ribbon-stripe appearance.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight to interlocked, with a medium to coarse texture. Good natural luster with a light-refracting optical phenomenon known as chatoyancy.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, plywood, turned items, furniture, boatbuilding, and interior trim.

Sapele



- **Distribution:** Tropical Africa
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood is a golden to dark reddish brown. Color tends to darken with age. Besides the common ribbon pattern seen on quartersawn boards, Sapele is also known for a wide variety of other figured grain patterns, such as: pommele, quilted, mottled, wavy, beeswing, and fiddleback.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is interlocked, and sometimes wavy. Fine uniform texture and good natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, plywood, furniture, cabinetry, flooring, boatbuilding, musical instruments, turned objects, and other small wooden specialty items.

Bloodwood



- **Distribution:** Tropical South America
- **Color/Appearance:** Heartwood is a bright, vivid red. Color can darken to a darker brownish red over time with exposure to light. Applying a thick protective finish and keeping the wood out of direct sunlight can help slow this color shift. Well defined sapwood is a pale yellowish color, though given the typically large trunk diameters, it's seldom seen or included in imported lumber.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually straight or slightly interlocked. Has a fine texture with good natural luster and is also somewhat chatoyant.
- **Common Uses:** Carvings, trim, inlays, furniture, guitars, knife handles, and turned objects.

Avodire



- **Distribution:** Western and central regions of Africa, near lakes and streams
- **Color/Appearance:** Pale yellow or cream, darkening with age to golden yellow. Heartwood and sapwood usually look the same.
- **Grain/Texture:** Grain can be straight, wavy, or irregular and interlocked. Texture is fine, with a high natural luster.
- **Common Uses:** Veneer, cabinetry, furniture, millwork, and plywood.