

# SANFOOT®

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## NATURAL WOOD VENEER WALLCOVERING

### FIGURE TYPES & NAMES USED ON WOOD WALLCOVERING

September 2009

*There are a large number of terms describing Figure Types - Terms for denoting different types of Figure, in and of themselves, cannot adequately describe the intricacies of the various Figure Types found in wood.*

#### **FIGURE**

The patterns produced in a wood surface by annual growth rings, rays, knots, deviations from natural grain such as interlocked and wavy grain, and irregular coloration.

#### **BIRDSEYE**

Rare figure due to small conical depressions in the outer annual rings, which appear to follow the same contour in subsequent growth rings probably for many years.

#### **BLISTER**

A figure resembling an uneven collection of rounded, or blister-like bulges caused by indented annual growth rings. Occurs mostly in West African reddish wood species such as Mahogany, Sapele, and Makore.

#### **BURL**

A figure created by abnormal growth, or response to injury, that forms an interwoven, contorted, or gnarly mass of dense woody tissue on the trunk or branch of the tree. Burls are usually small and characterized by eye-like markings surrounded by swirls and clusters of distorted tissues. Burl is also used to describe a characteristic in the grain of the wood.

#### **CLUSTER BURL**

The Cluster figure results from cutting half-round veneer from the trunk of certain trees in which it is characteristic. It is some variation of scattered clusters of burl figure, intermingled with plainer grain or what is commonly called muscle figure surrounding the clusters of burls and intermingled between the clusters. Most common species are, Myrtle, West Coast Maple, Claro Walnut and European Ash.

#### **CURLY**

Figure which occurs when the fibers are distorted producing a wavy or curly effect in the veneer. Primarily found in Maple or Birch. (Also see Wavy)

#### **FIDDLEBACK**

A line, strong, even, ripple figure as frequently seen on the backs of violins or fiddles. The figure is found principally in Mahogany, Maple, Makore, Hawaii Koa, and English Sycamore, but occurs sometimes in other woods species, but not in all wood species.

## **FLAKE**

Flake figure is developed only in those species (Oaks mostly, Red & White & Queenlands Oak; Lacewood), which have very heavy medullar ray growth. When the saw or knife cut is directly on or near the radial, it is close to parallel with the medullar ray and therefore passes in and out of the uneven growth to develop the flake effect.

## **FLAT-CUT**

A grain figure resulting from slicing or sawing across a half of a log. This results in the oval or loop grain effect in the center of the sheet, or flitch, of veneer with straighter grain along the edge.

## **GHOST FIGURE**

Term generally applied to any cross figure which is not at all prominent, but is noticeable from certain angles and may show up to some extent under finish only.

## **HERRINGBONE**

In description of Fiddleback Figure, reference is made to Herringbone. Herringbone comes to play in most cases when Fiddleback Figure veneer is Book-Matched, producing a degree of up and down effect, therefore Herringbone description evolves. (also called Roll Figure)

## **KARELIAN BURL**

This is an individual characteristic (not really a burl growth) of Birch growing in some areas of Karelian, Finland.

## **MOTTLE**

Broken wavy patches across the face of wood that give the impression of an uneven although smooth surface, caused by a twisted interwoven grain with irregular cross figure, which is the mottle. The effect is due to reflected light on the uneven arrangement of the fibers. Most common species of Mottle is Makore.

## **POMMELE**

A trade term for a "blister" or "quilt" figure most common in Bubinga, Mahogany, Makore, and Sapele.

## **QUARTERED**

The slice cut of a log as near to true radial as possible, which results in the strip effect of one type or another.

## **RIFT**

This description of figure or grain character is most commonly applied to veneer or lumber cut from those species having a heavy medullar ray growth. The effect in veneer is straight grain and no flake, most common species Red Oak, White Oak, and Queenlands Oak (Lacewood).

## **ROTARY**

A method of cutting in which the log is placed on a large lathe and turned into the knife, so that continuous cut is made round and round the log, more or less parallel at all times to the growth ring. Result is a wild, variegated, grain effect. Rotary cutting is used largely in commercial veneer production except in certain figured logs for fine face veneer. Birch, Maple and Bubinga (Kawasinza).

## **STRIPE**

1) tripe figure is a ribbon grain.

### **Plain Stripe**

Alternating darker and lighter stripes running continuously along the length of a piece, due to cutting wood with definite growth rings on the quarter.

### **Broken Stripe**

A modification of ribbon stripe. The figure markings taper in and out, due to twisted or interlocked grain, so that the ribbon stripe is not continuous as it runs more or less the full length of the flitch.

### **Ribbon Stripe**

In some woods with interwoven grain, such as Mahogany, wide unbroken stripes can be produced by cutting on the quarter.

### **WAVY**

Curly grain with large undulations. Sometimes referred to as "Finger Roll" when the waves are about the width of a finger. Also see Curly.

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FIGURES