

Rosewood



Rosewood ▪ *Pterocarpus indicus*

Recommended Uses (Major/specific)



Flooring; strip and parquet, staircase materials.



Exterior joinery; including screening, gazebos, pergolas.



Furniture; high quality furniture and cabinet work.



Boat building; including structural and internal fit-outs.



Speciality; including musical instruments, gun stocks, rifle butts, knife handles, turnery, sliced veneer.

Rosewood is a major commercial species of the Solomon Islands. Small to medium sized trees found throughout the lowland forests of the South West Pacific region, it attains large commercial proportions in the Solomon Islands and has been heavily exploited in the past.

- One of the finest furniture and cabinet woods on world markets due to its excellent working and finishing properties as well as its low shrinkage and stability in-service.
- Many trees are of poor form, having fluted, twisted or crooked boles. This affects sawn recovery and selling price. The wood, when left lying in water, turns the water an iridescent blue. The wood can vary in density and hardness. The darker coloured (reddish) woods are much denser and stronger than the paler coloured yellowish-brown woods.
- Produces a beautifully figured wood enhanced by the presence of 'ripple-marks' and its ring-porous wood structure. The timber varies in colour from yellowish-brown to golden-brown through to red-brown or sometimes a blood red colour. The grain is usually interlocked but not severely so; sometimes wavy. Produces a ribbon or banded figure on quarter-sawn faces and a cathedral-like figure on back-sawn faces. It has a pleasant, persistent, fragrant odour.
- The timber seasons readily and well. It is a remarkably stable timber with very low shrinkage and very little movement when in-service.
- Suitable for high quality furniture and cabinet work. Also suitable for flooring, finely turned articles, gun stocks, rifle butts and decorative sliced veneer. It is prized for carving local artefacts and in making ceremonial hand drums. It has good acoustic and tonal qualities, making it suitable for musical instruments.

Other names:

Local Name: **liki**

Rosewood · *Pterocarpus indicus*



PROPERTIES

Density	525-625 kg/m ³ @ 12% m.c
Colour	Golden-brown, yellow-brown, red-brown to blood red.
Texture	Moderately coarse and uneven.
Grain	Usually interlocked; sometimes wavy.
Figure	Highly decorative.
Durability	Highly durable.
Permeability	Resistant to pressure impregnation.
Lyctid susceptibility	Susceptible.

WORKABILITY

General	Excellent all round characteristics.
Sawing	Readily sawn.
Planing	Excellent; some care required where grain irregularities occur.
Blunting	Low.
Boring	Excellent characteristics.
Turning	Excellent characteristics.
Nailing	Nails well.
Gluing	Glues well with all adhesives.
Finishing	Excellent; sands to a very fine finish and produces a high polish with golden lustre.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Strength	SD4 (denser/redder timbers). SD5 (lighter, pale coloured timbers).
Structural Grade	F22 (denser/redder timbers). F17 (lighter, pale coloured timbers).
Toughness (Izod)	10J (seasoned), 13J (unseasoned).
Hardness (Janka)	4.7kN (seasoned), 4.2kN (unseasoned).
Max. Crushing Strength	58MPa (seasoned), 38MPa (unseasoned).
Modulus of Elasticity	12GPa (seasoned), 10GPa (unseasoned).
Modulus of Rupture	95MPa (seasoned), 74MPa (unseasoned).

SEASONING

General	Excellent drying properties. The denser (redder) timbers take longer to dry than the pale-coloured yellowish timbers.
Movement	Very low.
Shrinkage	Very low.

KILN DRYING SCHEDULE

'T' (mm)	'S.P'	M.C CHANGE POINTS	DBT (°C)	WBD (°C)	K.D TIME TO 12%	
					FROM GREEN (days)	FROM 25% (days)
25	M	Green	55	8		
		40	60	10		
		30	65	20		
		20 - final	70	20	10	4