

TIMBER SPECIES

Balau – Shorea

Wood Appearance

Colour – Yellowish-brown heartwood, sapwood distinctly paler.

Grain – Grain varies from straight to interlocked. Interlocking grain produces striped figure on quarter-sawn material. Texture moderately coarse but even.

Wood Properties

Density – 900 kg/m³

Durability – Class 2 – Highly resistant to decay when fully exposed to the weather, clear of the ground and well drained with free air circulation. Only moderately decay resistant in the ground.

Hardness – Hard (rated 2 on a 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools.

Identification Features

Sapwood – Well defined and paler than the heartwood

Heartwood – Yellow brown, brown, reddish-brown.

Texture – Moderately coarse, even, grain interlocked, hard to cut across end grain; end cut generally shiny; both species show a degree of lustre on a dressed surface.

Wood Structure

Vessels – Mostly solitary with a few radial or oblique groups, medium size, even and diffuse distribution. Tyloses numerous. Vessel lines present.

Parenchyma – Apotracheal – consisting of mainly irregular spaced bands and occasional short tangential lines or diffuse strands. Paratracheal – often as incomplete vasicentric strands around the vessels, barely visible by hand lens, scant to well define aliform.

Rays – Fine, generally inconspicuous on the radial surface

Other Features

Burning Splinter Test – A Match size splinter burns to an ash

Intercellular Canals - Generally fitted with white resin, smaller than the vessels, arranged in concentric formation.

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