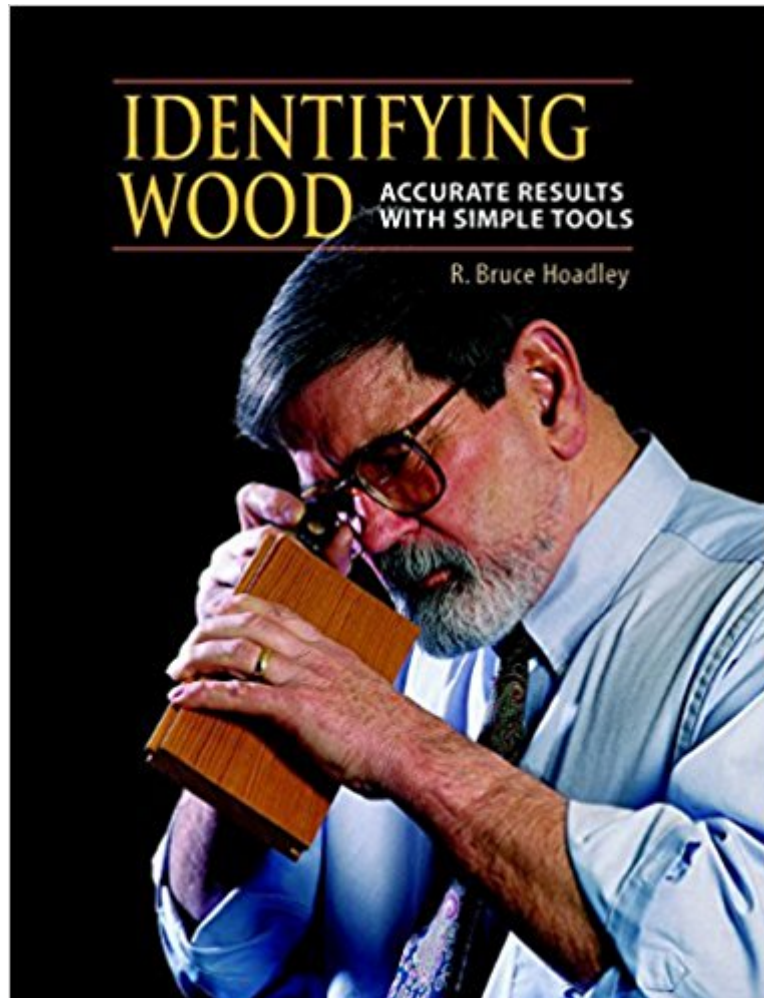




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Identifying Wood: Accurate Results With Simple Tools



Synopsis

With just the naked eye and a hand lens or elementary microscopy, you will be able to identify over 180 domestic and tropical hardwoods and softwoods by following the straightforward techniques in this book. Bruce Hoadley, a professor of wood science and technology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, provides: an overview of the wood identification process a look at the basic anatomy of woody plants hundreds of easy-to-use charts and crystal-clear photographs and microphotographs sources of information and materials, and a glossary of all technical terms used in the book

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Customer Reviews

R. Bruce Hoadley has a degree in forestry from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate in wood technology from Yale. He is a former professor of wood science and technology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He frequently consults for museums and acts as an expert witness at trials. He is also the author of *Understanding Wood* (The Taunton Press, 1980, 2000) and *Identifying Wood* (The Taunton Press, 1990).

Wow, what a book. It is the authoritative text on identifying wood. It has excellent sections describing the composition of wood and how to examine it. I give it four stars because it is too complex. (Others might give it 5 because it is so detailed). I love wood and was looking for a book that would teach me more about it and help identify it. This book does all that but it was too

complicated and difficult to understand. I found myself staring at his pictures trying to see what he was explaining and not being able to translate the words to the pictures. I think if you are taking a college course in wood identification this would be perfect but for a casual reader who wants an easy way of identifying wood - stay away. I have found other books that explain it more simply and had I read those first this book might have been better but as it stands- you really need more than casual knowledge to get the most from this book. I found it hard to read and I skimmed sections. This is a difficult subject and he is the world authority. I wish he had explained in layman terms how to identify wood. I also wish he had created a simple decision tree that we could follow to get to the final results. I don't expect to be able to identify rare and obscure woods but I thought I would do better on simple woods. You do need to also purchase a 10X loupe to get any use out of this book.

Impressive very technical but good layman's terms and explanations also . Not much on images beyond black and white line drawings . It mostly goes into the minute details of the woods inner structures . Scientific methods of detection that just about anyone could use with a magnifier or loupe . So if you're looking for a bunch of colored images of the woods surface this is not the book you want . It does have references to other wood identification kits that do have that sort of identification . This book is mostly line drawings of internal structures or end grain identification techniques . But very thorough . Perfect tool for the technically inclined woodworker .

I only wished he had a glossary of thumbnail illustrations of all the wood types so a person could look through the glossary and find a similar grain pattern to what they have. That way one could at least have an idea of what they are working with and know which chapter to look for more specific information.

I've had this book for almost 2 years and it is the best I've seen. It is very well written and very thorough. It begins with an explanation of the structure of wood at the cellular level, in some cases, in rather great depth. There are chapters on techniques for obtaining and preparing wood samples as well as a description of some of the necessary instruments (hand lens, microscope etc). The sections on identification are divided up into softwoods, hardwoods and tropical woods. I will agree that the section on tropical woods is not as deep as the other two sections, but I would say its in proportion to the chances of you happening up on a piece of rare tropical wood and having to identify it. I have successfully identified dozens of woods using this book. Be advised that a microscope is definitely needed when using this book, in my humble opinion. It doesn't have to be a

megabuck model, but 100-250x would be very helpful. I would highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to go beyond the "if its brown, its walnut, if its white its maple" level, and get deeper into wood identification. ID-ing a chunk of wood is very satisfying and this book makes it possible!

This guide is great for pinpointing what common wood species the reader is struggling to identify. The title claims " Accurate Results with Simple Tools". This does not mean easy results processed in a hi-tech laboratory. The approach to identification that Hoadley takes is scientific which may mean some brow-sweat in terms of understanding wood anatomy before any accurate identification can be made. If you are looking for a pretty picture book, try elsewhere and also gamble on the accuracy of the results. If you are serious about learning how to accurately identify wood species, this is the place to start. You may also want to add a lighted jewelers loupe/hand lens to your order.

This book was bought as a gift and had to be returned due to damages in shipping. However, I located another one in time for the gift and it was received quite well. It is very technical and precise description on how to ID woods. If just a hobbyist, may be too deep... But, for the dedicated woodworker... great library addition!!!

I love it because it helps identify wood using characteristics of the Genus with examples of species. It shows magnification 10 x pictures of the endgrain which are necessary for identification. Other valuable information is illustrated and easy to read. The book is small, but very concise and the best book on wood identification anyone can get. I recommend it as the best book to buy.

This book is easy to read and gives good information on the science of wood identification. I am a professional woodworker and have used this information several times in identification.

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