

FACT SHEET – Obeche

Issue 9

Triplochiton scleroxylon is a tropical tree of Africa. This timber is also known as Abachi, under the Nigerian name Obeche, the Ghana name Wawa, the Cameroon name Ayous and Ivory Coast name Samba.



Description

The tree grows to over 50m high and 1.5m in diameter at the base of the trunk. Obeche is a light weight wood with a pleasant appearance of pale yellow colour, with a natural lustre that gives a silky finish. Obeche can be dried quickly undergoing little degradation and once dry, is very stable. Brittleheart is present in large logs. The grain is usually interlocked, giving a faint stripe on quarter surfaces but otherwise featureless.

Properties

The bending, crushing strengths, stiffness and resistance to shock loads are very low. Steam bending classification is moderate to poor. This is due to slight wrinkling at the edges of bends, even with a supporting strap. Very easy to work with hand or machine tools, with only a slight blunting effect on cutters. The density is in the region of 390 kg per cubic metre.

Uses

Extensively used where durability and strength are unimportant, such as interior rails, draw sides and linings, cabinet framing, interior joinery. A specialised use of Obeche is the construction of sauna interior parts that touch skin, where the wood is prized for its lack of splinters or resin, and most importantly its low heat retention. The English guitar manufacturer Shergold/Hayman used Obeche as body wood in some of their models. Mike Rutherford of the group Genesis used a number of more conventional Shergolds through much of the late 70's and early 80's, but is probably best known for using this huge double-neck version. This particular model was a one-off built for Mike and could be 'broken' into two parts to make two conventional guitars or clipped together in a number of combinations as a double neck.

STOCKS AVAILABLE:-	1"	1 ¼"	1 ½"	2"	2 ½"	3"
(ROUGH SAWN)	Widths - 4" & Wider					
	Also 4" ONLY in 1" & 1 ¼" Stock					
	Lengths - 7fts & Longer					