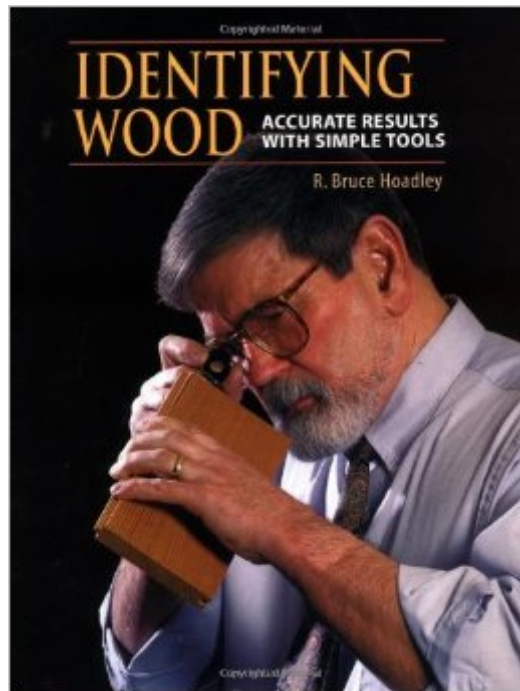


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# Identifying Wood: Accurate Results With Simple Tools



## 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

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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!

For those interested in identifying wood this book is a steal! This is not the only introductory text on the topic, but it sure is the most readable and the most accessible. The color pictures of the end grain are unparalleled in any other book. The text is crystal clear and well paced. If this book has a flaw it is the focus on North American woods, at the cost of tropical woods, but you cannot have everything. Actually I began with an understatement: this book would be a steal at twice the price!

If you're interested in trees and identifying wood this is the book for you. The book starts with tree structure and moves on to characteristics of various woods and divides them into subcategories. You'll need at least a 10x magnifier, at most a microscope with 250x capability. A must for woodturners and antique lovers.

I have worked with wood all my life but I had never looked at it through a magnifier and never really understood how the grain worked. I believe that, as I spend more time with the book, it will be a great help with identifying different woods but it was worth the cost for helping me understand wood and wood grain better. I am very glad I bought this book.

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.

A must have book for any forestry student that is taking a wood science or wood tech class. Without this book as a supplement to the regular textbook for the class, I don't know if I would have passed! The opening chapters are an easy to understand read and the pictures/descriptions of the different types of wood are excellent.

The book provides the info needed. It does not provide the jeweler's loupe or microscope, judgment or practice needed. Judgment comes with practice. The sample prep technique is very important. When I started trying out the technique outlined by the book, my first impression was wow, this is harder than you would think - then I started to see what the author was talking about, and started identifying mystery wood with certainty. Very satisfying to do. It takes more time to learn the method than you would think, but I cannot think of a better way to go about identifying wood. A very good book, if identifying wood is your goal.

This book is nicely formatted and illustrated. The information has been very helpful, but lacking in coverage of many trees. Contacted author for information and never received reply or acknowledgement. The quality of the books construction is very poor. After only a few weeks of normal use, pages began to separate from the binding.

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