BLACK LIMBA

Terminalia superba

Black Limba is a visually dramatic exotic hardwood from the tropical rainforests of Western and Central Africa. It has a creamy pale-yellow heartwood with irregular dark gray or jet-black streaks. Popular among woodworkers for it's easy workability, it is widely used for furniture making, turned objects, and millwork applications like interior paneling. Black Limba's phenomenal acoustic properties make it favorable among guitar makers as well.

Harvested In:

Western tropical Africa

Family:

COMBRETACEAE (angiosperm)



Surfaced



Surfaced and clear coat

WOOD DESCRIPTION

Color:	*Light yellow with black streaks*
Sapwood:	*Not Demarcated*
Texture:	*Medium*
Grain:	*Straight to Interlocked*

CHARACTERISTICS

- Easy to work
- Non durable
- Susceptible to termites

COMMON USES

- Cabinetwork
- Moulding
- Sliced veneer
- Paneling (interior)
- Veneer for back or face of plywood
- Interior joinery
- Musical instruments
- Furniture and furniture components

AVAILABILITY

- Select & Better
- Mixed Grain
- 4/4 & 8/4 Thicknesses

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PHYSICAL / MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Average Dried Weight	*2.9 lbs/bf*
Specific Gravity:	*0.54*
Janka Hardness (lbs):	*670*
Volumetric Shrinkage:	10.8%
Total Tangential Shrinkage (TS):	*6.1%*
Total Radial Shrinkage (RS):	*4.3%*
TS/RS Ratio:	*1.4*

Fiber Saturation Point:	*28%*
Crushing Strength:	*6,816 lbf/in²*
Static Bending Strength:	*11,603 lbf/in²*
Modulus of Elasticity:	*1,704,193 lbf/in²*
Stability:	*Moderate*

** Based on 12% Moisture Content*

WORKING / FINISHING PROPERTIES

Blunting Effect:	*Normal*
Sawteeth Recommended:	*Ordinary / alloy steel*
Cutting Tools:	*Ordinary*
Peeling:	*Good*

Slicing:	*Good*
Nailing / screwing:	*Good*
Gluing:	*Good*

Note: Sawdust may cause allergic reactions during machining.



Credit: Melton, LLC, Ropesville, TX



Credit: James Worley, Lufkin, TX