

Understanding Timber Veneer and how to specify....

Timber veneer is a highly sought after, premium decorative product that adds prestige and style to furniture, joinery and panelling.

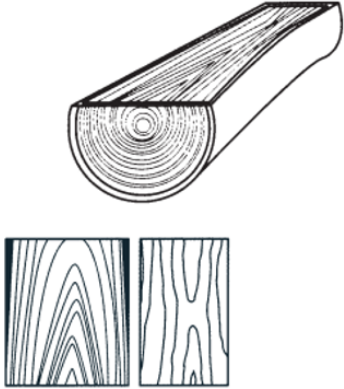
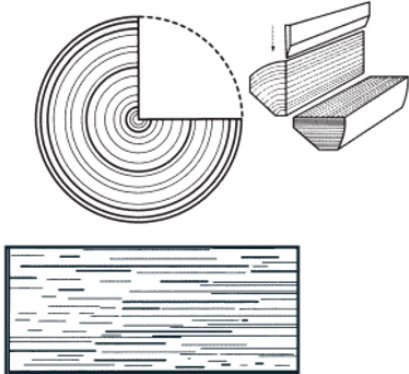
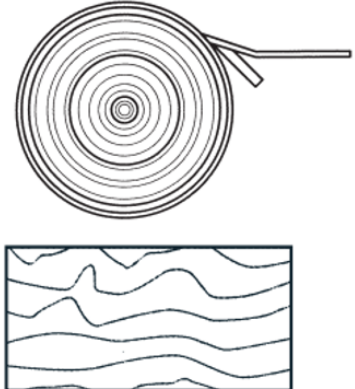
Specifying timber veneer involves adding more detail than you would normally need for other decorative boards. There are certain aspects that need to be carefully considered and included in your specification to ensure clarity for the joiner/ fabricator in achieving your design intent.

What is Timber Veneer?

Timber Veneer is made by cutting logs into thin "leaves" 0.6mm thick. After slicing, the veneer leaves are dried, joined into sheets (known as layons) then glued onto substrate (by specialist panel layers), fabricated into furniture, joinery or wall panels etc and finished with a clear coating.

What is a "cut" and how important is it when specifying?

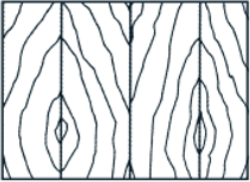
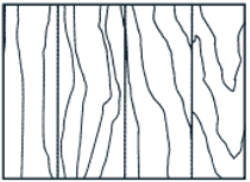
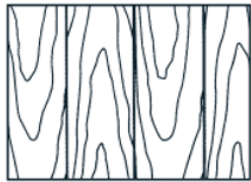
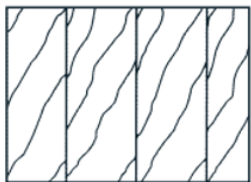
The timber logs are sliced in different ways depending on the log, the species and the look required. Different cuts can produce quite different looks. There are a number of different cuts, however, the most common are Crown-cut (CC) or Quarter-cut (QC). Some of the less common cuts are: Rotary-/Semi-rotary and Rift-cut.

		
<p>Crown Cut</p>	<p>Quarter Cut</p>	<p>Rotary Peeled</p>
<p>Known as 'Crowns' or 'Flowers' this veneer cut has some straight grain sections on either side of the crown. As the cut moves towards the centre of the log, the crown becomes narrower and <u>finer</u> and the straight grain section is wider apart.</p>	<p>This veneer cut from the quarter cut segment of the log produces a parallel straight grain.</p>	<p>As the log is peeled in a continuous slice, the veneer is given a bold, widely varying pattern.</p>

What is “matching” and how important is it when specifying?

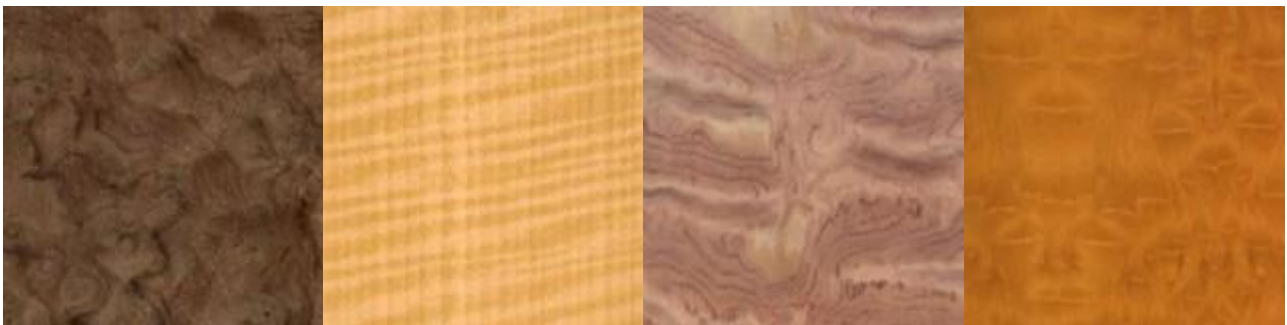
Once the veneer leaves cut and dried, they are stitched or glued together to create a layon. Various "matching" techniques are used to create quite different looks. When specifying, it is important to understand the different matching methods of creating a sheet (or layon) as it may affect the whole look of your project.

The most common "matching" techniques are book-matched, slip-matched, random-matched.

			
<i>Book Matched</i>	<i>Random Matched</i>	<i>Reverse Slip Matched</i>	<i>Slip Matched</i>
<i>Book Matched</i> are adjacent veneer leaves that open like a book so that each leaf is a mirror image of the one next to it.	<i>Random Matched</i> veneer leaves are laid in a random fashion to dissipate grain characteristics across/along the panel.	<i>Reverse Slip Matched</i> veneer leaves are turned end to end, resulting in crowns being balanced at each end of the panel.	<i>Slip Matched</i> veneer leaves are laid side by side facing the same way so that the result is the same grain pattern being repeated across the width of the panel.

Unique Species Characteristics

Birdseye, burls, burrs, pommele, quilted, figured, and flame are some of the unique characteristics that can occur in timber veneer. Take the time to appreciate these features before you incorporate them into your project to ensure the end result aligns with your design vision.



Walnut Burl

Anegre Figured

Bubinga Quilted

Makore Pommele

Book Matching is when consecutive veneer leaves are flipped over facing each other like pages in a book creating a mirror image of the previous leaf. The symmetrical pattern accentuates the grain, figure and decorative characteristics of the log. It is most commonly used for Crown-cut veneer and is the traditional way of matching veneer leaves. It works well for joinery, cabinetry and small areas of wall panelling.

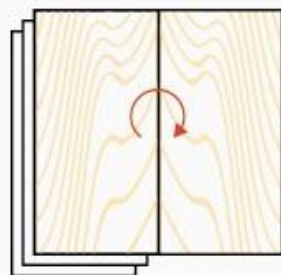


American White Oak (Crown-cut, Book-matched)

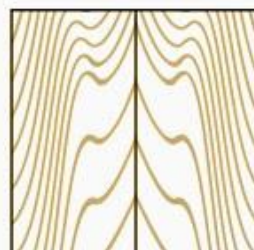
Project: Darling Point Apartment

Architect: Chen Chow Little

Photographer: Peter Bennets



Layout

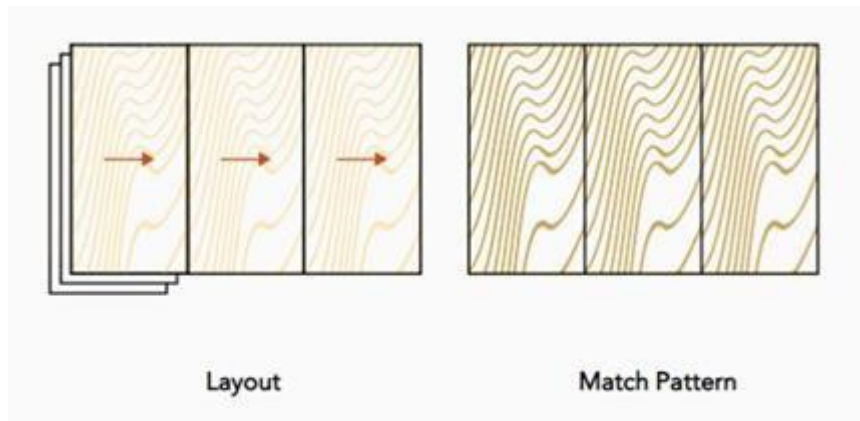


Match Pattern

Slip Matching is when successive veneer leaves are laid out and joined side by side, creating a repeating grain pattern across the panel. Slip-matching produces fairly uniform appearance because the leaves are similarly oriented resulting in a repeated grain. Slip-matching is a good matching method for Quarter-cut veneer used in joinery/cabinetry and small areas of wall panelling.



Victorian Ash (Quarter-cut, Slip-matched)
Project: Thornbury House, Vic



Random Matching – the leaves are deliberately unmatched and placed in a random order and orientation, giving an appearance of solid timber. This method is good for large areas of walls and ceilings, because it gives a consistency across hundreds of panels, something which isn't possible with book-matching or slip-matching.

If leaves with a lot of contrast in colour are placed together, this is called **Random-matched/Mis-matched**. For many species, leaves with best possible matching colours can be chosen, called **Random-matched / Colour-blending**.



Spotted Gum - (Quarter-cut, Random-matched/Colour-blended)

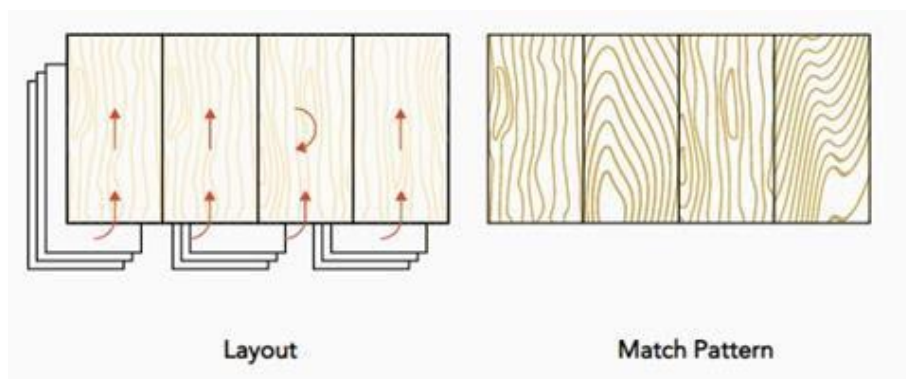
Project: International Convention Centre, Sydney

Architects: Populous & Hassell

Joiner: Euroline & GDK Group

Panel Layer: Consolidated Panels and Veneers

Photography: Tyrone Branigan





Veneer Samples – Important Disclaimer

VJS can provide you with veneer samples when required. These may include, a single A5 raw veneer leaf, a VJS Veneer folder or the “Veneers by VJS” sample box. The “Veneers by VJS” box includes double sided veneer samples pressed on MDF. One side is clear polished with a 30% gloss level and the other side is raw. All veneer samples provided from the VJS Veneer range or selected suppliers like Briggs, Ventech & Matilda are **indicative** only.

Understanding The Veneer’s Natural Characteristics

Timber veneer is a natural product that varies from log to log. We suggest discussing your requirements with VJS to become fully aware of variations in colour, natural figure, and the natural characteristics that occur. Veneer is a natural product and hence may vary from the samples provided in terms of colour and grain.

Veneer samples in the above format have **not** been reserved for your job; hence any veneer supplied for actual orders may not correspond to your sample. Also, a small sample does not properly represent the appearance of a full-size polished panel.

Our recommendation is; if you have a project which needs to be matched to a sample which your client or designer etc has seen and is expecting, you will need to provide that specific sample to VJS so we can send to production for veneer matching prior to production. We will always do our best to match veneer as close as possible, but timber veneer is a natural product and Failure to provide such a sample will result in no liability to VJS once veneer has been pressed.

Veneer can also be hand selected at our production site in Campbellfield or at one of our veneer merchants’ facilities for more specific projects. This selected veneer will then be reserved for that particular project.

The type of clear coating/lacquer, incident light, high humidity/water/alcohol and age/time may affect the appearance of the lacquered panel. Please avoid continuous exposure to bright light and seek expert advice with regards to lacquers/clear coatings.

For information on finishes please visit <https://timberveneer.asn.au/finishes-guide/> for more information.

For further information on Timber Veneer, please refer to the Timber Veneer Association Manual on the VJS website at vicjs.com.au.

Above images and information are contributed also by Briggs Veneer. More information is also available from their website at briggs.com.au.