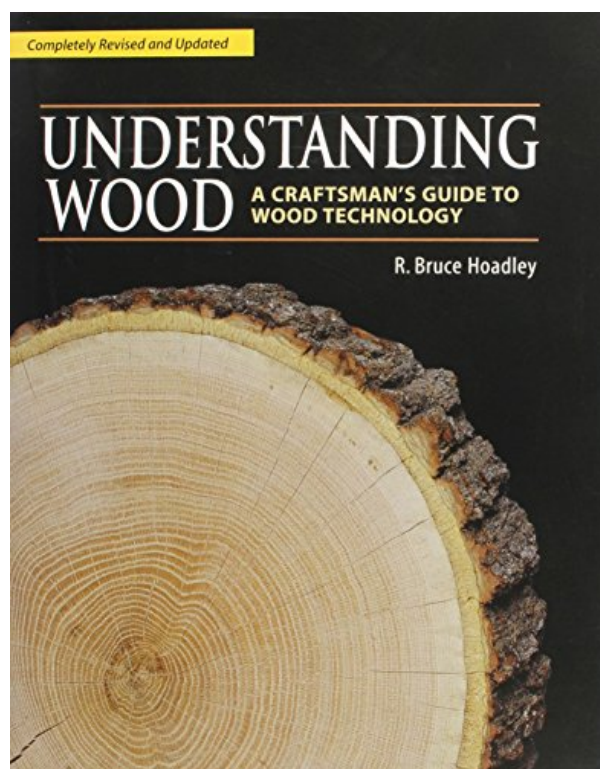


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UNDERSTANDING WOOD

A CRAFTSMAN'S GUIDE TO
WOOD TECHNOLOGY

R. Bruce Hoadley



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From Library Journal

Wood is a complex, dynamic material that can only be used successfully if the craftsperson understands it. It reacts to changes in humidity, and the various species have widely different working and structural properties (in addition to their many colors and textures). Both Hoadley and Peters do a good job of helping readers understand the factors that must be considered when using wood and products such as plywood. A frequent writer on home improvement topics, Peters offers a colorful book geared toward hobbyist woodworkers. He covers the process of making lumber from start to finish, including how trees grow, their structure, common ways of milling and drying lumber, grading, and possible defects found in wood. One section shows wood samples (both finished and plain) and describes their basic working characteristics. This particularly attractive book is filled with colorful photographs and illustrations and includes both a glossary and an excellent appendix showing the hazards posed by the sawdust of specific wood species. Hoadley, a professor of wood science and technology, has revised his classic title for its 20th anniversary. While the original is still great, the new title incorporates the latest technologies in adhesives, finishes, and wood products. Color photographs are a welcome addition as the original edition's photos were drab and unappealing. Hoadley covers much of the material that Peters does but in far greater depth. While this complexity may intimidate beginners, it is just what advanced users and professionals need. For example, Hoadley's wood identification section consists of macrophotographs of wood samples magnified ten times so that the correct species can be determined from the pattern of wood cells. This title also includes an in-depth glossary, bibliography, and index. Hoadley's work is an improvement of a classic while Peters's is good enough that it will likely stand the test of time as well. The difference is in complexity, not quality. General public library collections will get more use from Peters's title, while in-depth public and academic libraries will want Hoadley. Jonathan Hershey, Akron-Summit Cty. P.L., OH
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About the Author

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

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UNDERSTANDING WOOD: A CRAFTSMAN'S GUIDE TO WOOD TECHNOLOGY BY R. BRUCE HOADLEY PDF

The first edition of *Understanding Wood* was published in 1980 and has since sold more than 130,000 copies. It is widely held as a definitive reference work and the cornerstone of every woodworker's library. Now, Bruce Hoadley's comprehensive guide to wood technology has been revised and updated in this 20th-anniversary edition of a classic.

New information on composite materials, adhesives, and finishes brings this book into the 21st century, while more than 300 photographs bring important visual information to life. This edition covers the nature of wood and its properties, the basics of wood technology, and the woodworker's raw materials. *Understanding Wood* was written for woodworkers by a scientist with a love of woodworking. It will be sought after by craftsmen and collectors alike.

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great book on wood and wood structure

By newbie

I have both volumes of this series and find them to be superior to any other books on wood structure I have seen. I have recommended this book to a number of wood working friend and have received very positive "thank yous" from each of them. This book does what many others do not, and that is discuss the structure of wood from an anatomical point of view (pictures of wood cross sections are excellent) and an understanding of the botanical aspects of tree growth. It was a pleasure to sit down and read through both volumes like a novel and come away with a real appreciation for the (mostly) unseen world of wood structure - flaws and all. Highly recommend this if you are interested as a scientist or an amateur. This book can change the way you see trees and that is a good thing.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

"Like a textbook for wood"

By Andrea A

My husband is an intermediate craftsman and I bought him this book for Christmas. I thought it would be like an encyclopedia of the types of wood, which is what I wanted to get him, but turns out it is more like a wood textbook (as he says.) He is absolutely thrilled with it, it gives really detailed explanations about everything and anything one would want to know about wood. There is even a section on the psychological characteristics of wood. Terribly interesting, this is a great book. However, the wood identification section is not really large, so I will be purchasing him a wood encyclopedia also. This is not necessarily a flaw, it wasn't advertised to be such, just a misconception I had. Definitely a must have for a woodworker, very interesting and useful information!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Best Book on the Market for Understanding Wood

By Larry Schuh

This book is used in one of the Fine Woodworking courses at my college. I've found this to be the most comprehensive book on how wood reacts and interacts with its environment. The information is extremely useful to anyone who needs to know the properties of wood and how to use it in the many different applications a fine woodworker may encounter. Tons of good information!

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