

About Our Woods

NOTE: some of the woods we use are in danger of being extinct, therefore we DO NOT buy from mills or lumber yards. We only buy these woods from people who sell or have scraps or reclaimed woods from homes or other projects. Also for every piece of endangered species you buy from us, we plant a tree in the US or Canada through a partnership with America's Forests.

Cocobolo is a hardwood from Central America yielded by two to four closely related species of the genus Dalbergia. The best known and probably the species contributing most of the wood in the trade is Dalbergia retusa, a fair-sized tree, reported to reach 20-25 m in height. Because of its **great beauty and high value**, this species has been heavily exploited and the tree is now in danger of extinction outside of national parks, reserves and plantations.

Cocobolo is a very beautiful wood, known to change color after being cut. It usually is orange in hue, with a figuring of darker irregular traces weaving through the wood. It is fine textured and oily in look and feel, and stands up well to repeated handling and exposure to water. A prime use is in knife handles. Cocobolo is also extraordinarily dense, and even a large block of the cut wood will produce a clear musical tone if struck.

Only relatively small amounts of **this prized wood reach the world market and it is expensive**. Cocobolo is highly favored for fine inlay work, brush backs, knife handles, musical instruments (especially guitars), decorative and figured veneers, bowls, jewelry boxes, and other expensive specialty items.

Granadillo is the closest replacement to Cocobolo and Rosewood. Similar in appearance to Cocobolo and equal in aroma to Rosewood. Its wood is considered precious and very expensive, it is used mainly for very high priced furniture and exotic artifacts. It can be found in Central and South America, especially in Panama (Quira) and Venezuela (Roble).

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Its color is reddish brown and slight yellowish-orange with dark stripes. The tree heights up to 80 feet. Boles are straight and clear up to 60 feet. Trunks can be as large as 42" in diameter and buttressed. The wood, hard and heavy, works and turns well, finishes very smoothly. Oils in the wood produces a natural polish. Typical Uses: Musical instruments, turning, handles, inlay, accessories.

PLEASE: help us keep Central and South America's forest alive. Only buy exotic wood items that are made from reclaimed woods or scraps.