

BLACK PALM TECHNICAL GUIDANCE SHEET

Botanical name: *Iriartea Deltoidea*

Family: *Palmea*

Black Palm can be found in central America across the West of Southern America to the middle of Bolivia. It mainly grows in damp meadows, in which it can reach a height of 30 metres and a diameter of 25 to 30cm.

To produce Black Palm Veneer, material from the outer and intermediate parts of the palm trunk is used with the thick-walled cells and strong wood fibres giving a dense and stiff product. The raw material is cut into rectangular slats and then dried. The slats are then pressed and glued into blocks using a water-based glue which are then suitable for use as solid panels or as a blank for veneer production.

Black Palm has a high density of 910 to 1020kg/m³ (12% moisture), hardness of >7kN (Janka) and its structure is very fibrous.

Degree of Impregnation: Good

CUTTING:

Best option for longitudinal cutting is by saw using a high cutting speed and slow feed. If by guillotine cut no more than 12 sheets of 1mm at a time. Place an extra layer of softer sacrificial veneer under and over the Palm to avoid breakout. Best option for cross cutting is by saw or router not with a guillotine.

JOINTING:

Edge Glue or taped. Not ZigZag.

BACKING/BALANCER:

As with all veneering a suitable same thickness backing veneer should be used.

GLUEING:

Use Standard Veneer glues.

SANDING:

Initial sanding with 120 Grit. Final sanding 220/240 Grit.

FINISHING:

A minimum of 2 layers normal lacquer or hard wax oil should be used. De-nib between layers. When drying avoid excessive temperatures which could lead to surface checking.

The above is guidance only. We recommend that the joinery workshop experiment to ensure the desired outcome. We supply free A4 Samples for this purpose.

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