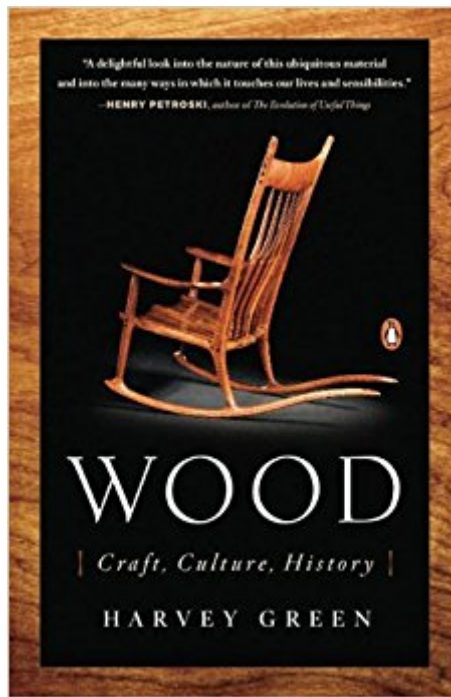


The book was found

Wood: Craft, Culture, History



Synopsis

A rich, authoritative look at a material that plays an essential role in human culture Wood has been a central part of human life throughout the world for thousands of years. In an intoxicating mix of science, history, and practical information, historian and woodworker Harvey Green considers this vital material's place on the planet. What makes one wood hard and one soft? How did we find it, tame it? Where does it fit into the histories of technology, architecture, and industrialization, of empire, exploration, and settlement? Spanning the surprising histories of the log cabin and Windsor chair, the deep truth about veneer, the role of wood in the American Revolution, the disappearance of the rain forests, the botany behind the baseball bat, and much more, Wood is a deep and satisfying look at one of our most treasured resources.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (9 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book addresses a huge topic, so huge it is difficult to review a book on it. FWIW a few notes: The easiest way to approach the topic is by organizing it around good illustrations: in this book the illustrations are limited to line-drawings and b&w photographs, printed on the same paper (not glossy) as the text. The illustrations do add to the book but not all that much. Some browsing proves to be rather hurtful: whenever the author touches on an aspect I know something about I am noticing mistakes. By this time I have come to accept that a book like this will muff the distinction between hard- and softwoods, but it also happens when the author discusses more mundane matters. All in all, I would recommend finding a copy of "The International Book of Wood" rather than

buying this.

My brother is into all sorts of wood working. This book will be a gift for him. It does not have lots of color pics, like I hoped it would. But, it's more of a novel-style book, rather than a how-to book. This version is hard backed with a dust cover. It's over 400 pages. I'm hoping he will like it.

While I'm only about 1/3 of the way through this book, when I saw the broad range of reviews, I wanted to share how hard this is to put down! I read a little before bed each night and find myself trying to get to bed earlier so that I have more time to read it. This book is a compelling overview of many aspects of wood, including but not limited to: scientific, historical, etc. Some parts that stand out include an explanation of how water gets from the soil into the leaves, how types of wood differ, and how it was used to build homes (and how some things haven't much changed over hundreds of years). I find the writing to flow smoothly and the chapters well-organized. Other reviewers mentioned long-windedness, but that description hasn't even crossed my mind, for I find the details and examples fascinating. I wouldn't call it academic (it's too interesting and accessible!) but it's written on a level that could certainly be used in a college-level class. This book will especially appeal to those with a curious intellect and those who love to read about a single topic from a variety of angles - which I think is what gives it a broad appeal. Highly recommended!

An interesting book which is difficult to pigeon-hole in any particular category. Not precisely a history book, yet it examines the history of wood, and its importance and symbolism to different times and cultures. I found it a little long winded, and yet there is much of interest here, such as the history of wood in sporting equipment, hunting and war weapons, housing, religion, furniture, musical instruments, etc. Chock a block full of quaint facts and sharp insight, I would recommend this book. One of those books which will make you appreciate much of the world around you normally taken for granted.

Sadly this book reads as though it were written by an academic with no flair for narrative. There is a sort of larding of the text with extraneous details that just slow down the narrative and make the text cumbersome. If one wants a more specific, less global book, "Oak: the Frame of Civilization" by Wm. Bryant Logan is altogether more enjoyable and delightfully informative.

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