



Advantages of American hardwoods, from the perspective of a specialised material preparation operator

By Y.L. Chen



Lin family of Qingdao CX JOY Hardwoods

Qingdao CX JOY Hardwoods is a specialised producer of edge-glued panels in the solid wood furniture industry. It has been in operation for 20 years, employs over 100 workers in production lines, and processes tens of thousands of cubic metres of American sawn lumbers. As one of the leading suppliers in the industry, CX JOY Hardwoods inherits Taiwan's carpentry spirit, known as a "world-class enterprise of solid edge-glued panels", and utilises the advantages of American hardwoods from the perspective of specialised material preparation.

Solid wood is favoured by many people because of its natural texture, as well as its fine and smooth feeling. Every month thousands of cubic meters of kiln-dried hardwood lumbers are transported from America to the Qingdao factory of CX JOY Hardwoods. By cutting, classification and arranging, the lumbers are transformed into edge-glued panels in varying sizes for various furniture requirements. They are then transported

to European solid wood furniture factories and made into high-end furniture, and lastly, sold all over the world.

Devoted to specialised material preparation of American hardwoods

On a daily basis, CX JOY Hardwoods produces one container of edge-glued panels which, by rough estimate, require two to three containers of lumber. One container of edge-glued panels can be used to manufacture 10 containers of furniture.

Considering that such large quantities of lumber are processed, how does the company ensure top quality finished products? Mr. Lin Henyi, general manager of CX JOY Hardwoods (also as known as Leimholzplatten Daiichi in Germany), talked about the reason why they use sustainable North American hardwoods. He said: "To be an industry leader, it is insufficient to rely solely on our own power. That's why we choose first-class raw materials and first-class supply partners to supply to first-class customers. We provide specialised material preparation services to top solid-wood furniture factories. Wood is of course the most important part."

Mr. Lin revealed that they had initially tried many other timber sources and had undergone a variety of issues on purchase and production. "Every tree is born to balance with the surrounding environment. Over a period of 10 years, I visited numerous

hardwood saw mills to learn of the different growth regions, production methods and characteristics of different species. Every detail, including soil, climate, forest form, logging process, wet-plate conservation, selection, drying, grading, etc., affect the final quality. Based on this understanding, we choose the best hardwood lumber suppliers."

CX JOY Hardwoods produces a variety of edge-glued panels for different furniture sizes. After sufficient drying and surface sanding, lumber would be graded and then delivered to CX JOY Hardwoods' warehouse for proper storage. In case of any issues discovered by automatic scanning and sawing, the batch number could be identified to trace the source. By discussing with the supply partner, a solution can be found to avoid similar issues in the future. In addition, the suppliers provide different special grades of lumber to meet the different requirements of finished products, such as Custom Jacket Board, Cabinet and Standard Frame. "We select materials to match the different orders that are intended for living room, dining room, bedroom, door, stairs, etc. By reasonable use of different grades of hardwood, we, together with our partners, maximise timber utilisation."

Various advantages

"There are many aspects which make American hardwoods our preferred choice of wood," Mr. Lin said. He was particularly in



Red Alder



White Oak



Walnut



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Leimholzplatten Daiichi
is a major supplier of quality
hardwood dimension and panels –
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Just-In-Time (JIT) Delivery

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Solid edge-glued panel



Finger-joint
edge-glued panel



Solid lamellas



Finger-joint panel with
one or two solid lamellas



Cut stocks

TOP PRODUCER



Wood from well-
managed forests
源自管理良好
森林的木材

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fine fettle when mentioning about the timber utilisation rate and management. “In terms of yield that most people are most concerned about, many would purchase Chinese timbers or African logs that are popular in recent years, only to find their expectations cannot be met. American hardwoods are subject to the classification and inspection guide established by the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), which has been functioning for over a century. The guide, which still undergoes continuous amendments, serves as a basic marketing standard. In addition

to excellent administration, a common executable standard guarantees the benefits of both the seller and the buyer. Moreover, in terms of supply quantity and reasonable price, American hardwood resources are abundant, with price subject to general supply conditions, or to the influence of climate or lumbering process at most. Species rarely go out of stock and significant price fluctuation is uncommon. Of course, speculation is an exception.”

“When it comes to environmental protection, I agree with the vision and proactive management that apply to American hardwoods.” American hardwoods are from forests under sustainable development management. By complete execution mode and proactive supervision, the long-term development of the forest and the timber industry could be guaranteed. The timber product supply is ensured, and the ecology and biodiversity of plants and animals in the forest is also balanced. More than that, the carbon storage of the forest land is maximised.” CX JOY Hardwoods attaches great importance to advancing forest management. In addition to the originally owned certificates for ISO9001 Quality / ISO14001 Environmental / OHSAS18001 Occupation Health & Safety Management System, the company has also acquired the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certificate and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Certificate in 2012, taking action to support legal lumbering and reasonable development of forest and becoming a part of the global Chain of Custody (CoC) of forest products.”

Challenges and opportunities in an emerging market

China has become the largest importer of American hardwood products. Mr. Lin believes there is still a lot of room for China's solid wood market to grown and learn about American hardwoods. “Some furniture factories which don't have sufficient knowledge about the production flows of suppliers would, upon hearing the story of Red Oak being vulnerable to internal cracks, set the drying kiln or adopt unscientific methods based on previous experiences with working on Chinese timber.” According to Mr. Lin, the knowledge on American hardwoods is mostly spread through word of mouth. “This emerging market needs



American Walnut furniture by China Beking.



American Red Oak furniture by China Beking.

to be cultivated and educated. The abundant information from AHEC and NHLA such as species guide, lumber grading standards, market research, training courses and so on, help in educating the Chinese market. A furniture manufacturer or other solid wood producer who intends to purchase American hardwoods can benefit from the readily available information.”

Compared to solid wood furniture manufacturers that have to prepare materials themselves, those who outsource don't have to deal with the various risks related to wood purchase. “We guarantee stability, quality and reliable delivery. With our professional service and customised product supply, furniture factories could focus on the market demand in a more flexible manner.”

In solid wood preparation processing, material utilisation rate and output stability are the most important factors. CX JOY Hardwoods, as a company devoted to American Hardwoods, supplies suitable lumber grades to match the different needs of customers and maximise material utilisation. Through automatic scanning and sorting machine, the natural defects of wood are detected and optimal cutting is ensured. The whole production process can be controlled by data management.

Mr. Lin couldn't hold back his delight when talking about the advantages of using American hardwoods for over a decade: “American hardwoods lead in supply stability, reasonable price, grading standards, legality, sustainability and environmental protection. Looking at the orderly plant of CX JOY Hardwoods, we believe that American hardwoods will see a greater development in this emerging market.” ■