Plywood Sheets (Birch and Poplar)

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Materials & Stock

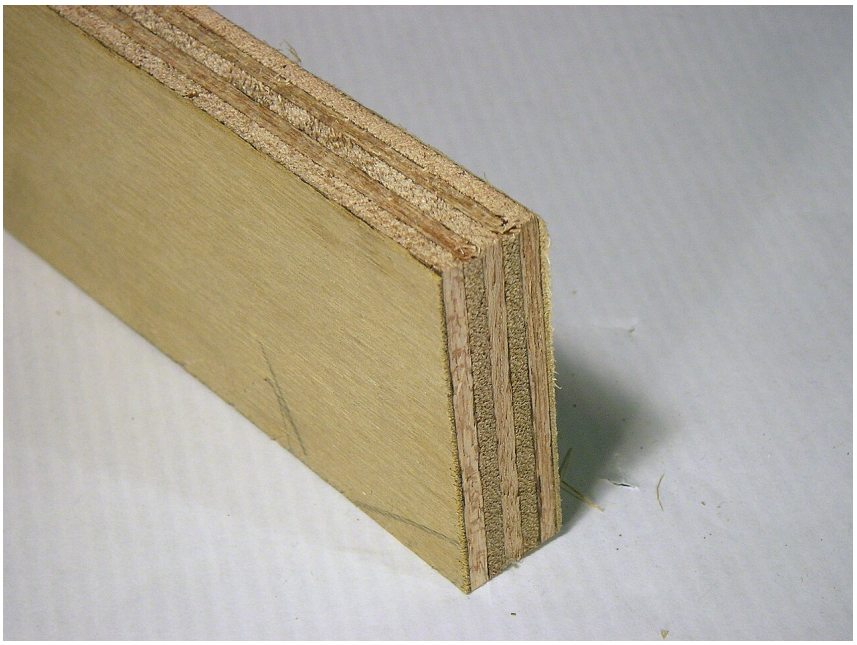

Photo: Rotor DB at English Wikipedia — CC BY-SA 3.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Plywood.jpg)

Plywood is engineered wood with cross-laminated veneers, strong and stable for laser cutting, CNC routing and general construction. Baltic birch has tight, void-free cores for fine work; poplar plywood is softer and cheaper for practice builds.

Key Features

- Baltic birch with void-free cores
- Poplar plywood lighter and cheaper
- Thicknesses 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 mm
- A-grade faces for visible surfaces
- Strong in both directions of grain

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Laser cut structural model parts
- CNC route boxes, jigs and furniture
- Build robot chassis and display stands
- Construct general workshop projects

Safe Operation

1. Choose the ply grade for the job's visibility
2. Cut with sharp blades or correct laser settings
3. Nest parts to save material
4. Sand edges after cutting
5. Seal or paint for outdoor use

SAFETY NOTES

- Watch for voids in cheaper ply during cutting
- Plywood dust is fine - use extraction
- Beware splinters on edges
- Do not cut ply with metal staples in it
- Store sheets flat to avoid warp

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep sheets dry and flat
- Store offcuts in a labelled rack
- Change blades when cuts tear the face
- Check laser settings for each thickness
- Donate small offcuts to model builds

Specification & Buying Notes

Baltic birch 3 and 6 mm is the laser and CNC standard; keep 12 and 18 mm for structural builds. Buy poplar ply for practice runs that will not be finished. Check face grade before ordering.