

Basswood Sheets and Strips

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

Basswood is a fine-grained, pale hardwood that cuts and carves cleanly, with sheets and strips used for architectural models, carving blanks, frames and quality model work. It is sturdier than balsa and takes detail without tearing.

Key Features

- Fine even grain
- Sheets 0.8-6 mm, strips to 12 mm
- Suitable for laser cutting
- Carves and machines cleanly
- Paints and stains well

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Build architectural and display models
- Carve relief and small sculptures
- Frame models and jigs
- Laser cut fine detail parts

Safe Operation

1. Select the sheet thickness for the part
2. Cut with a sharp blade, saw or laser
3. Sand with fine paper for smooth edges
4. Glue with PVA or CA
5. Finish with paint, stain or oil

SAFETY NOTES

- Use blades on a cutting mat
- Mask when sanding - Basswood dust is fine
- Keep tools sharp to avoid tear-out
- Keep stock flat and dry
- Store away from heat

Maintenance & Consumables

- Store sheets flat under light weight
- Keep strips sorted by size
- Check for warp and cupping
- Keep an offcut bin for practice
- Restock the popular sizes

Specification & Buying Notes

Basswood sheets in 1.5-3 mm and strips in the common widths cover model work. Choose clear fine-grain stock; knots ruin small parts. It laser cuts beautifully.