

**ACTUAL SIZE** The actual finished size of timber after dressing, as opposed to "nominal" or "rough sawn".

**ADHESIVE** Any substance that is used to bond two surfaces together. A commonly used wood glue is PVA (Polyvinyl Acetate).

**AIR DRIED** Timber that is dried or seasoned by exposure to air; not kiln dried.

**ARBOR** The shaft or spindle to which a disc or cutter is mounted, such as in a saw.

**ARCHITRAVE** The moulded section which covers the joints between window and door frames and the wall lining.

**ARRIS** The corner or edge formed at the intersection of two surfaces.

**ASH, ALPINE** A pale pink to yellowish-brown hardwood, used for furniture, flooring and general construction. Known commercially as "Tasmanian Oak".

**BACKSAWN** A timber cutting term designating a way of sawing timber so that on the end section, the growth rings are at an angle of **less** than 45 degrees to the broadest face.

**BALTIC PINE** Either Baltic Red (*Pinus sylvestris*) or Baltic White (*Picea abies*), European softwoods, which were imported into Australia in large quantities in past years. Now limited in availability.

**BATTEN** Any timber length between 19 and 38mm thick and 25 to 75mm wide.

**BEARER** A component of floor framing, spanning stumps or piers, and supporting the joists.

**BEVEL** Any angled edge of a board or tool; or the angle which is formed between two plane surfaces meeting at any angle other than 90 degrees.

**BIRD'S MOUTH** The notch cut out of roof rafters to ensure a firm bearing on the top plates; the joint that results from this notch cut.

**BLACKWOOD** A dark to golden-brown hardwood, prized as a cabinet timber. (*Acacia melanoxylon*).

**BLEMISH** A cosmetic blemish on the surface of the timber which mars the appearance, but is not classified as a structural defect.

**BOARD** Any timber that is between 10 and 38mm thick, and over 75mm wide.

**BOTTOM PLATE** The horizontal timber framing member that forms the bottom of wall framing.

**BOW** A timber defect which is shown as a deformation of the timber at right angles to its face.

**BULLET HEAD** Round headed wire nails.

**BULLNOSE** The fully rounded edge of a moulding or edging.

**BUTT JOIN** The simplest of joints, where two square cut surfaces are joined by gluing, nailing or screwing. Butt joints can be end section to face, or edge to edge.

**CEDAR, WESTERN RED** A pale to dark brown softwood, noted for its durability and resistance to decay. Not sufficiently strong to be useful as

a structural timber, but ideal for cladding, external joinery, outdoor furniture.

**CEILING JOIST** A structural member in timber framing which ties the walls and roof framing together. The mass of ceiling sheeting is attached to it.

**CHAMFER** (1) An angled corner of a piece of wood.  
 (2) Also defined as removing the arris of a piece of timber at an angle of 45°.

**CHECK** A separation of wood fibres running along the grain, but not continuous through the whole board.

**CHIPBOARD** A man-made panel manufactured by the bonding of wood chips and glue under pressure. (Also called **PARTICLE BOARD**). Different densities are available.

**CLADDING** The external covering applied to the walls of a framed construction; weatherboards are the usual form of timber cladding.

**COMPOUND BEVEL** Describes a cut in timber where the plane of the cut is not square to either face or edge.

**CORNER BLOCK** A small piece of timber used to strengthen a joint, in particular butt joints. Also called a glue block.

**COUNTERSINK** The tapered recess cut around a screw hole to receive the head of the screw.

**CROSS GRAIN** Anywhere the wood fibres deviate from parallel.

**CUP** A timber defect describing the distortion of wide boards which become concave across the grain; commonly seen on poorly seasoned backsawn timber.

**DADO** The American term for a groove or trench cut across the grain.

**DAR** An abbreviation of the term "dressed-all-round", which means that all four faces of the timber have been planed and squared.

**DATUM** In framing construction: the horizontal plane of pre-determined height which acts as a reference for the elevation of subsequent points; otherwise a point or line of reference.

**DECAY** Decomposition of wood by the action of fungi.

**DECIDUOUS** Trees which annually shed leaves.

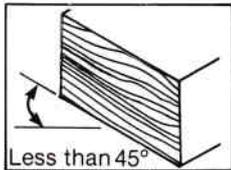
**DECKING** Timber which is intended to be used for external floor covering. Must be a durable timber and is often ridged on the upper face for grip when wet.

**DEFECT** Any fault or irregularity in timber that reduces its strength, durability, appearance or its utility.

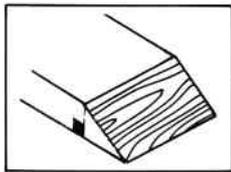
**DENSITY** The weight of timber, usually expressed in kilograms per cubic metre ( $\text{Kg/m}^3$ ).

**DISCOLOURATION** A change in the colour of wood which mars its appearance, can be a result of weathering or fungal attack.

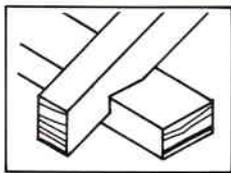
**DOVETAIL HOUSING** A bevel sided trench in the shape of a dovetail. Useful in drawer construction.



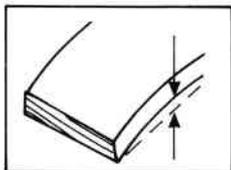
BACKSAWN



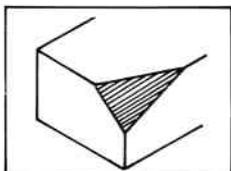
BEVEL



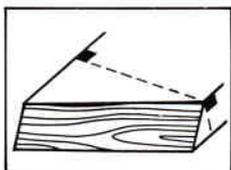
BIRDSMOUTH JOINT



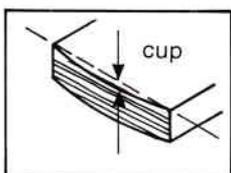
BOW



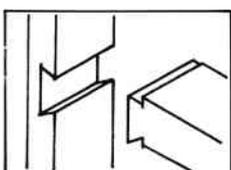
CHAMFER



COMPOUND BEVEL

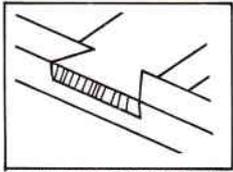


CUP

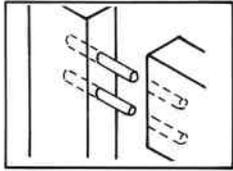


DOVETAIL HOUSING

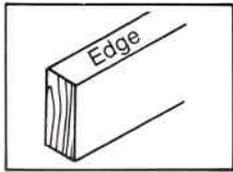
# Glossary



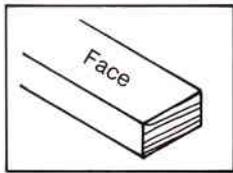
HALVED DOVETAIL



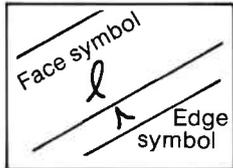
DOWEL JOIN



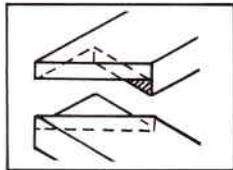
EDGE



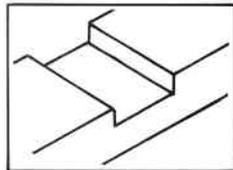
FACE



FACE SIDE AND EDGE



HALF-LAP MITRE



HOUSING

**DOVETAIL JOINT** A strong joint for joining timbers at right angles

**DOWEL JOINTS** Any joints which are strengthened by the insertion of round dowels in the joining parts. Dowels should be grooved to allow glue to escape past the ends of the dowels.

**DRESSED TIMBER** Any timber that has been passed through a planing machine to produce smooth, uniform surfaces.

**EDGE** The narrower dimension of the timber, as opposed to the face.

**EQUILIBRIUM MOISTURE CONTENT** When the amount of moisture in the timber is approximately equal to that of the surrounding air.

**EUCALYPTS** The botanical name given to a family of tree species, which include gums, boxes, iron-barks, stringybarks and ashes.

**FACE** The wide surface of square sawn or dressed timber or veneer.

**FACE SIDE AND EDGE** Pencil marks are applied to the face and edge of the timber to denote the best two adjoining surfaces of the timber. The face side is traditionally marked with a loop, the edge with an inverted 'V'.

**FASCIA** The horizontal boards attached to the bottom end of roof rafters.

**FIGURE** The marking which is seen on the dressed surface of a timber, and which is characteristic of the wood species and method of cutting.

**FINISHED SIZE** The exact size of timber after machining, also termed the actual size.

**FIR, DOUGLAS** Commonly named Oregon, this yellow to reddish-brown softwood is relatively easy to work and has reasonable durability. It is used for structural framing, joinery, boat-building and furniture.

**FITTED FLOOR** Flooring which is fitted between interior wall frames.

**GABLE** The vertical, triangular area formed at the ends of roofs between top plates and two sloping roof surfaces.

**GABLE ROOF** The roof shape which consists of two sloping surfaces.

**GAUGE** Marking or mortise gauges are used to mark lines parallel to a face or edge.

**GLUE LINE** In a glued joint describes the adhesive and the parts of the wood in contact with it.

**GRAIN** The direction of the growth of wood displayed by the arrangement of wood fibres.

**GREEN TIMBER** Unseasoned wood which is full of moisture.

**GROWTH RINGS** The rings on a cross-section of a tree trunk or branch which mark the successive years of growth.

**GROOVE** A channel or trench cut in the direction of the grain.

**GUM VEINS, GUM POCKETS** A common feature of eucalypt hardwoods, generally thought to be unattractive if prominent on the appearance face of timber.

**HAIRLINE** A fine, just perceptible line.

**HALF-LAP MITRE** A mitred form of the half-lap joint. The increased gluing area increases the strength of the joint.

**HALF-LAPPED JOINT** The joint where the two joining pieces are halved in thickness and are then joined by lapping. Can take various forms.

**HARDWOOD** Refers to the botanical origin of the wood, not its hardness or density. Comes from broad leaved trees, either evergreen or deciduous.

**HEAD TRIMMER** In timber framing, the beam which supports loads over window and door openings.

**HEARTWOOD** The mature core timber beneath the sapwood forming the stiff backbone of the tree. Heartwood is more durable than sapwood.

**HOUSING** Also called a "dado". A groove or trench cut across the grain. Also refers to the timber joint where a recess is cut across the face of a piece of timber to take the end of another piece.

**HUMIDITY, RELATIVE** Defines the amount of water (moisture) in the air as a percentage of the amount that is contained in fully saturated air at the same temperature.

**IMPERIAL MEASUREMENT** The Imperial measures of feet and inches still persist in woodwork. A conversion table is supplied in the latest edition of the Triton Operating Manual.

**IMPREGNATION** A method of treating timber by the introduction of a preservative solution under pressure. Perma pine (Copper-Chrome-Arsenic treated Radiata Pine) is the most common example in Australia.

**INTERLOCKED GRAIN** Occurs when the direction of grain reverses through the wood.

**IN THE WHITE** Natural, unpainted wood, usually used to describe the wood after sanding but before application of a finish coat.

**JAMB** Joinery term, describing timber milled for door and window openings.

**JARRAH** A dark red hardwood which comes from the south-west corner of Western Australia. The timber is durable and despite its density, is relatively easy to work. In W.A. used in general construction, elsewhere for furniture.

**JIGSAW** Portable power jigsaws have a short, stiff blade which cuts with a reciprocating action.

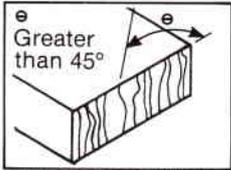
**JOINERY** Generally means the wooden fixtures of buildings such as the doors, windows and built-in cabinets.

**JOIST** In timber framing, the component of floor framing which spans bearers and supports the flooring.

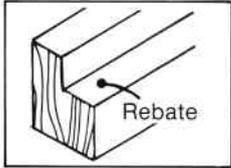
**KD** Abbreviation for "Kiln Dried". Refers to timber which has been dried or seasoned in heated kilns and brought down to a moisture content of 12% or less.

**KD** Also an abbreviation for "Knock Down" and refers to cabinet fittings which enable dismantling of furniture into component parts.

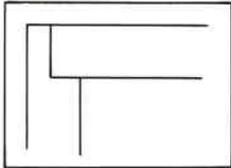
# Glossary



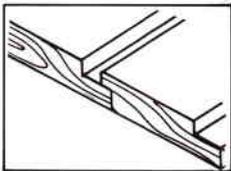
QUARTER SAWN



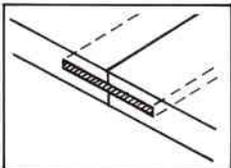
REBATE/RABBET



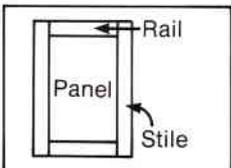
REBATE BUTT JOIN



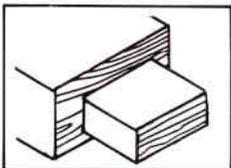
SHIPLAP



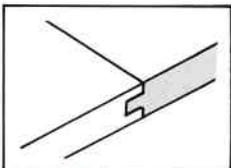
SPLINE JOIN



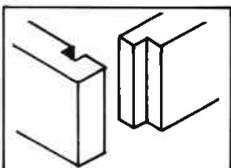
TENON



TENON



TONGUE AND GROOVE



TONGUE AND TRENCH

**QUAD** Moulding that has the profile of a quadrant of a circle.

**QUARTER SAWN** A method of sawing timber so that on the section the growth rings form an angle **greater** than 45 degrees to the broadest face.

**RAIL** The horizontal component in framework, particularly applies to doors, gates and the horizontal frames in carcass construction.

**REBATE - Also spelled RABBET** A groove, notch, or rectangular recess cut into the edge or face of a board.

**REBATE BUTT JOIN** Rebates are usually cut to receive the edge or tongue of another piece.

**REDWOOD** One of the largest trees in the world. It is a slow growing softwood of a pale to dark reddish-brown colour. The timber is durable and so is suitable for outdoor furniture and joinery.

**ROUGH SAWN** Describes the surface of the timber as it comes off the saw at a sawmill.

**SAPWOOD** The part of the tree immediately below the bark, high in starch, and generally lighter in colour than the heartwood.

**SASH CRAMP** A gluing clamp, usually consisting of a T-Bar, an adjustable end that can be pinned to the bar, the other end with a screw adjustment.

**SCARF JOINT** A joint used to extend timber in length.

**SEASONED TIMBER** Timber that has been dried, either by air or kiln.

**SET** The term used to describe the bending of alternate teeth in opposite directions on a saw blade; these provide clearance for the blade in the cut.

**SHEET** A single ply, or a piece of veneer.

**SHIPLAP** A type of weatherboard, or wall cladding, with a rebated edge joint.

**SHRINKAGE** Timber shrinks in dimensions when its moisture content is reduced; shrinkage is uneven across its three dimensions, shrinking little in length, significantly in width and/or thickness.

**SILL TRIMMER** In timber framing, the horizontal component supporting the window frame in stud wall framing.

**SKEW NAIL** Nails driven at an angle instead of square.

**SKILLION** A roof shape which consists of a single sloping surface.

**SLAT** A long and narrow strip of wood.

**SLIDING BEVEL** Similar in use to a try square, but with an adjustable blade which can be set at any angle.

**SOFTWOOD** The product of conifers (cone-bearing trees).

**SOLE PLATE** In timber framing, the durable timber piece placed in stump holes for the stumps to bear on.

**SPLINE JOIN** Use of plywood or similar strip material as a tongue which is inserted to strengthen an edge joint.

**SPRUCE, SITKA** A softwood from the west coast of America, with a relatively high strength-to-density ratio. Favoured for boat building.

**STILE** The vertical component of framework, particularly in door or carcass construction.

**STRAIGHT EDGE** An accurately finished length of wood or metal which is straight with parallel edges and can be used for levelling or checking a workpiece for straightness.

**STRAIGHT GRAIN** Evidenced when the alignment of the principal wood cells are parallel to the length of the timber piece.

**STUD** The vertical member in stud wall framing.

**SURFACES** The two faces and the two edges of a piece of timber.

**TALLOWOOD** A hardwood species common in New South Wales and Southern Queensland, yellowish-brown in colour. Used in construction and for flooring.

**TASMANIAN MYRTLE (MYRTLE BEECH)** A beautiful pink to reddish-brown hardwood, with a fine and even texture. The timber works well and is prized as a cabinet timber.

**TENON** The shape cut at the end of a rail so as to fit into a mortise.

**TONGUE AND GROOVE** A joint used commonly for edge joining of material, especially flooring.

**TONGUE AND TRENCH** A joint useful in drawer construction.

**TUNGSTEN TIPPED** Cutting elements of tungsten carbide are brazed to carbon steel saw discs or other cutting tools to provide harder cutting edges which usually retain their sharpness much longer than would be possible with conventional steels.

**TWIST** A timber defect, displayed as a twist in the plane of the timber along its length.

**VENEER** A thin sheet of wood, which is produced by either rotary cutting or vertical slicing of the log. Veneer is often applied to the surface of particle board or plywood.

**WIND BRACE** In timber framing, the diagonal members bracing the ridge and securing the rafters from being pushed sideways by wind.