

Characteristics of *Shina* from Hokkaido and *Shirakaba*

Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd

Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Introduction of Company

Name: Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.
Address: 1000 Nokanan-cho, Ashibetsu-shi, Hokkando, JAPAN
Represented by: Kazuhisa Takizawa
Founded on: August 10th, 1936
Capital: Japanese Yen 45mil.
Contact: Phone 0124-27-3111, Fax 0124-27-3113
URL <http://www.takizawaveneer.co.jp>
E-mail info@takizawaveneer.co.jp
Business: - Manufacturing hard-wood veneer and plywood
- Marketing interior products
- Reforestation

Basswood Plywood

The Japanese basswood is commonly called *Shina tree* in Japan.

In the US, basswood is mainly used as a material for window blinds, whereas in Japan, it has traditionally been used to make *Kyogi* (wood shaving for wrapping), woodcut, cutting die and furniture.

Compared to American basswood, *Shina* has higher specific gravity and therefore is much solidier. The specific gravity of American bass wood measures 0.38, while *Shina*, 0.48.

At present, there are 5 basswood/ *Shina* plywood mills in Japan, out of which only our company applies Japanese *Shina* and the others use Russian and Chinese basswood.

We also import basswood from the US for the use of the Japanese traditional window blind named *Sudare*.

The term *Shina* was originally used by indigenous people in Hokkaido area, which means “tie, connect”, as they utilized bark of *Shina* for ropes. Currently, *Shina* is also used to mean schools and community centers where people are getting together and connected each other.





Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Examples of Application

Storage lockers in the Japanese elementary school.

It is designed to beautifully show cutting face of plywood.

The plywood uses a non-hazardous adhesive that is free from 14 VOCs including formaldehyde.



ECO *Shira* Plywood

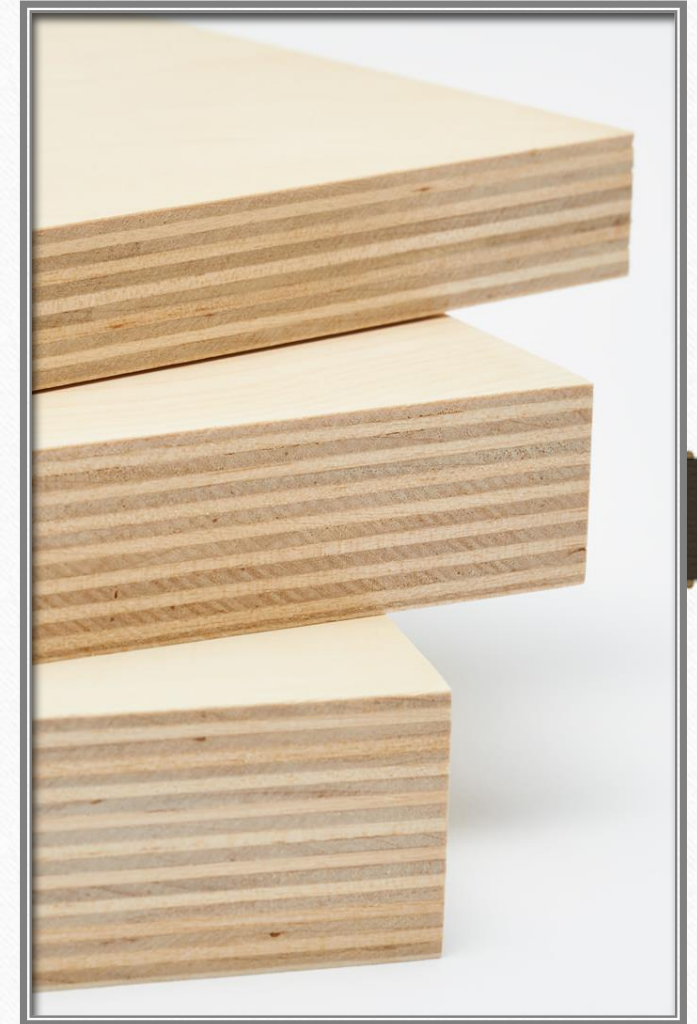
The Japanese white birch is commonly called *Shirakaba* in Japan. It is characterized by its white bark and is used for various purposes in the US.

Named as “nurse in forests” or “mother tree”, white birch has traditionally been highly valued as this tree quickly puts forth its leaves even after large disasters such as mountain fires and hurricanes, which facilitates regeneration of the damaged forest. In Europe, it has historically been used for plywood.

Japan used to import white birch from Europe as Japanese *Shirakaba* was regarded as worthless and only be used for pulp material.

Shirakaba is slightly softer than the US and European white birch and has many brown lines called *Kasuri*. However it is solidier than *Shina*, thus suitable for shelf boards that require a certain level of strength. Specific gravity of *Shirakaba* in Hokkaido measures 0.6 whereas that for American white birch, 0.65.

We focused on these features of *Shirakaba* and have been using it for plywood for 10 years now..





Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Example of Application ①

A chair made from *Shirakaba* plywood.

It may look similar to *Shina* plywood but the cutting face is much smoother than *Shina's* as *Shirakaba* is solidier than *Shina*.

This plywood also uses a non-hazardous adhesive that is free from 14 VOCs including formaldehyde



Example of Application ②

Interior of a nursery school.

Shirakaba plywood is used for top boards and rabbit-shaped legs of the tables, and edges of the green cabinet doors.

Shirakaba is very popular for the use in nursery schools because of the beautiful image of the tree and the product's safety using non-VOC adhesive. Currently, 80% of the *Shirakaba* plywood shipment is for nursery schools and kindergartens.



Example of Application ③

A speaker made of *Shirakaba* plywood.

Unfortunately, the cutting face is not visible as it is totally painted with black.

Shirakaba plywood was adopted for this speaker as the sound made by this material is much better than the one they used before.

It is said that with speakers made of overseas white birch, higher sound is better, whereas with Japanese *Shirakaba* speakers, lower sound is better.



Paper-Wood

New type of plywood in which colored recycled papers are sandwiched by veneer of *Shina* or *Shirakaba* from Hokkaido.

The most attracting feature is the colorful cutting face. It can create various patterns and expressions depending on methods of processing.

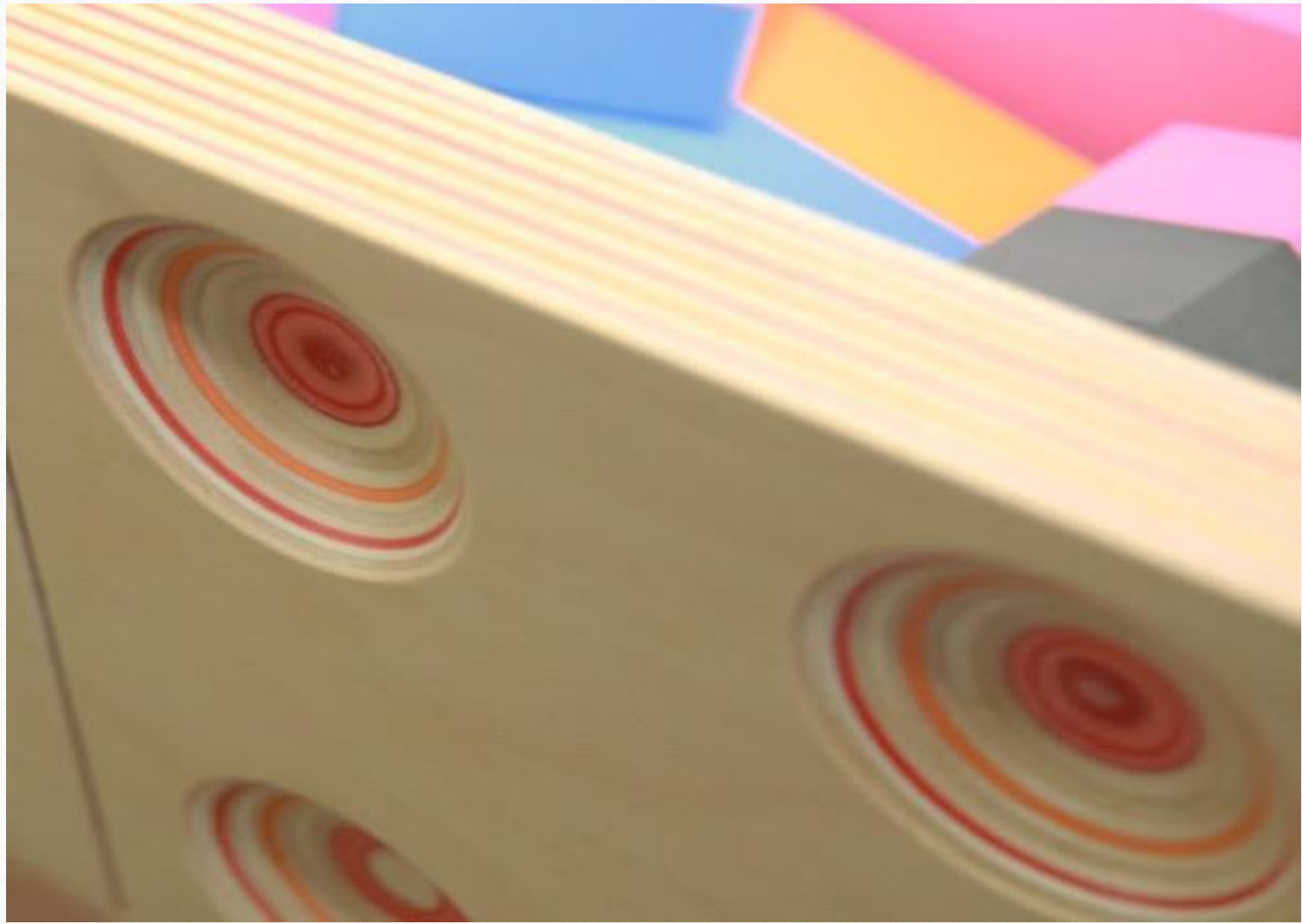


Examples of Application

Showcase of various processing patterns, such as diagonal cutting, hollowing out, rounding cut faces, etc.

As you see, you will find colored surface wherever you cut. Therefore, various patterns of presentation are available depending on where to cut and how to process.





Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Core layer of Paper-Wood (Removal of nuts)



Structure of Paper-Wood

(Lamination of 1mm veneer and 0.5-0.8mm recycled paper)



At the Working Site (Final finishing stage)



Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Example of Products ①

Paper-wood was developed in 2010 and received Good Design Award in the same year.

The photo shows a stool which received Red Dot Design Award of Germany in 2013.



Example of Products ②

A restaurant of Shiseido Co. Ltd., the Japanese top cosmetic brand manufacturer. Paper-wood is used for tables and partitions.

It is also used for counters in the kitchen, although it is not shown in the photo.



Example of Products ③

A custom-made kitchen for a house.

Paper-wood is used for the counter and drawers.

Although this plywood contains paper, it is usable in wet spaces as it is protected by urethan painting and melamine covering.

There is a possibility of de-lamination when it is soaked in water. Otherwise, there is no problem in using it in a normal situation.



PLYWOOD Laboratory

PLYWOOD Laboratory is a factory brand of plywood products that are manufactured using Paper-Wood as a main material.

These products are manufactured by superior wooden processing technique in Asahikawa city, one of the notable production spots of furniture in Japan.



Approach to Overseas

We have exhibited many international shows, such as:

- Maison et Object 2016 (France)
- Maison et Object 2017 (France)
- Maison et Object 2018 (France)
- New York Now 2018 (USA)
- Shoppe object NY 2019 (USA)



Products of PLYWOOD Laboratory



Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Products of PLYWOOD Laboratory



Products of PLYWOOD Laboratory



Takizawa Veneer Co., Ltd.

Custom-order Products

These are some examples of custom-order products. If you send a drawing to us, we will manufacture the product according to the drawing and send it to you.

We would like to expand our business of custom-order products, such as mementos given to your customers, employees and guests of events such as weddings. We also would like to develop new products in cooperation with other business associates.

