



# Laser Cut and Engraved Wood

## Cutting

Laser cutting wood generally leaves a brown edge on the product. The edge color varies depending on the thickness and type of wood, though it is always a shade of brown. In most cases, the edge color enhances the appearance of the finished product and is desirable. Edges can be sanded or sandblasted to remove the brown edge if desired.

Plywood has proven to be an excellent material to cut with a laser. The plywood must be free of defects and voids so Crafters Plywood, Apple Plywood, etc. are required.

Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) cuts well and is used for patterns or templates for router cut outs or for painted and overlaid products. Laminate works well for patterns too.

Tempered Masonite or hardboard cuts well with the BC Laser Works laser. The laser makes veneer cutting incredibly easy. Inlay, fretwork, and intarsia can be done with the assistance of a laser too.

BC Laser Works can score wood for assembly lines, artwork or with text.

## Engraving

Shallow engraving on woods allows for far greater detail though it is often difficult to see. As a result, BC Laser Works will finish the wood first and then wipe color into the engraved area.

For most logos or engraved images other than photos, we cut about 1/32" to 1/16" deep depending on the detail and the type of wood. To go deeper is possible we just have to slow the machine down or go over it twice.

## Recommendations

*BC Laser Works recommends cutting wood no more than 1/2" in thickness -- preferably less.*

*Consider using a laser instead of a scroll saw. The laser can do a better job because there is no tooling touching the wood. The laser can get more intricate, more accurate, and has infinite repeatability.*