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### Mahogany from The Tree or figured mahogany

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**Author**

**Message**

**Matt Sarad**

Member

Posted: Sat Mar 04, 2006 12:48 pm   Post subject: Mahogany from The Tree or figured mahogany   [Reply with quote](#)

Joined: 19 Oct 2005

Posts: 57

Location: BAKERSFIELD

Does anyone own or have pictures of any guitars made from The Tree.?As I recall, it was the most wildly figured mahogany ever seen.

I am lusting for a Mahogany OM in the worst way, and I am searching for some really special wood. Steve Swan has some very interesting African that I like.

I have seen beeswing on a few guitars, quilted, flamed, tigerstriped as well.

Todd Stuart Phillips, a friend who is a UMGF regular is of the opinion that Cuban Mahogany is a true Mahogany, whatever that means.

Anyone care to enlighten me?

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**Matt Sarad**

Member

Posted: Sat Mar 04, 2006 3:03 pm   Post subject:   [Reply with quote](#)

Joined: 19 Oct 2005

Posts: 57

Location: BAKERSFIELD

I have done a bit of research, and Beeswing is another term for Bubinga.

Cuban Mahogany seems to be the only Mahogany with the latin root in the species name. Does this make it a true mahogany and Honduras Mahogany something else?

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**Steve Swan**

Member

Posted: Sat Mar 04, 2006 4:14 pm   Post subject: Quilted Honduras Mahogany vs. Quilted African Mahogany   [Reply with quote](#)

Joined: 04 Nov 2005

Posts: 65

Location: Millbrae

In the mid-1990s had Santa Cruz guitars made form about 6 sets of the wildest form of the quilted Honduras Mahogany made from "The Tree". They were all good. The Santa Cruz crew compained that the wood was fairly light in density compared to some of my flame figure Honduras Mahogany. The quilted African Mahogany sets that I got last year are more dense than the sets of quilted Honduras Mahogany.

I've tried to attach an image of the back, but it won't come up. I could use some tips.

Steve Swan

Custom Retailer for Santa Cruz Guitar Company since 1990

[www.steveswan guitars.com](http://www.steveswan guitars.com)

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**Brandt**  
Member

Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 179  
Location: SF Bay Area - California

Posted: Sat Mar 04, 2006 7:29 pm Post subject:

[Reply with quote](#)

Steve - email me the picture and I'll try to post it

[brandtw@pacbell.net](mailto:brandtw@pacbell.net)

-Brandt

Bach to Blues

[www.soundclick.com/therealplacebos](http://www.soundclick.com/therealplacebos)

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**Matt Sarad**  
Member

Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 57  
Location: BAKERSFIELD

Posted: Sun Mar 05, 2006 12:35 pm Post subject:

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<http://www.frets.com/FRETSPages/Gryphon/NewInstGallery/Guitar/SantaCruz/QuiltMahogVA/quiltmahogva.html>

I found this reference.

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**surferman**  
Member

Joined: 13 Feb 2006  
Posts: 25

Posted: Sun Mar 05, 2006 2:15 pm Post subject:

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To add to any potential GAS, this one is currently available. I have not played it or know anything about it other than it looks really good. Smile

<http://www.gryphonstrings.com/instpix/24721/24721.html>

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**Richard Hoover**  
SCGC Founding Luthier



Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 48  
Location: SantaCruz Ca.

Posted: Sun Mar 05, 2006 2:56 pm Post subject: The stuff!!

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Oh dang!

We try to keep this quiet as this stuff is really limited.

We do have a few sets of flamed mahogany, not "the tree" but perhaps never to be seen again figure. We also have some sets of real Cuban Mahogany. This was the most desirable mahogany in the way back days before embargoes. Dense, dark, and gorgeous. Ooh la la. Kind of a Mardi Gras fantasy Chica, si como no? This wood isn't figured but you can't find it except from reclaimed sources or contraband cigar crates. We also have access to African Mokori which is an insanely flamed Mahogany family wood. The figure in this wood is holographic.

It will serve us well to keep this within our forum.

All the best,

Richard

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**krbrooks**  
Member

Joined: 27 Dec 2005  
Posts: 24

Posted: Sun Mar 05, 2006 3:23 pm Post subject:

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Matt,

I have a copy of an article about the tree that ran in *Fine Woodworking* in 1985. It's the story of how it was felled and then finally brought out of the jungle. The copy is not too great but I scanned it and made a PDF anyway. If you want me to send you a copy let me know.

I've also collected some information on 'figured African' mahogany, if by this you mean the wood that is currently being sold thru places like LMI. (The species of the wood I'm referring to is sapele, so it may or may not be the same wood Steve Swan refers to as 'African mahogany' as there are other African species like Khaya). I have a D made of the figured sapele and it sure seems dense to me. PM me and I'll be happy to share this info too.

But you know, Richard mentioned Cuban, and I think I hear it calling my name...

-kb

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**Matt Sarad**  
Member

Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 57  
Location: BAKERSFIELD

Posted: Sun Mar 05, 2006 8:50 pm Post subject:

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Cuban Mahogany...

I had John Kinnaird bullid me an L-OO of Cuban Mahogany and Cedar. It was a fine sounding instrument, but the neck width was the result of poor communication between us. It was way too wide to be easy for me to play. I sold it a few years ago.

Here's a link to it:

[http://www.kinnairdguitars.com/l00\\_cedar.htm](http://www.kinnairdguitars.com/l00_cedar.htm)

Considering the flame in the wood, is it Cuban or some flamed Mahogany from somewhere else?

I have seen a Walker Cuban OM that is rather dark, more like what Richard describes

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**pickitluther**  
Member

Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 80  
Location: Southern Calif

Posted: Sun Mar 05, 2006 10:19 pm Post subject:

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Richard I'm familiar with Honduran and African mahoganies, I install doors and caseings made of each wood. Is this Cuban mahogany that you speak of the same species as the Honduran or also refered to as American mahogany? I'm not that crazy about quilted mahogany but would love a guitar made of some Honduran with flame.

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**poveryly**  
Member

Joined: 21 Oct 2005  
Posts: 21

Posted: Tue Mar 07, 2006 10:40 am Post subject: THE TREE...guitars made from...

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not an om, but Gryphon has my VA on consignment (mint and astounding sounding) which comprises Gryphon's wildest set from THE TREE. the pics on their website do not do it justice. i have better pics of the instrument which really show the spectacular figure. i certainly woudn't call it merely wavy:)  
peter

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**Artisan**  
Member

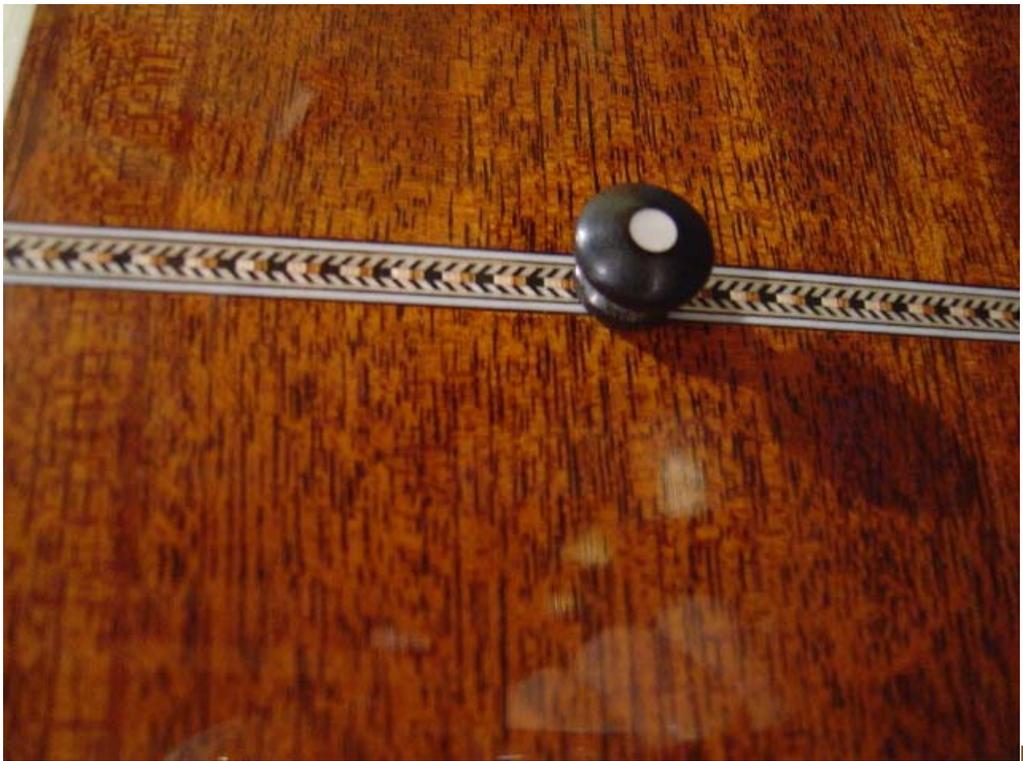
Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 285  
Location: Franklin  
Tennessee, burbs of Nashville

Posted: Tue Mar 14, 2006 9:57 pm Post subject:

[Reply with quote](#)

This is also some exquisite Mahogany from the famed Santa Cruz stash, a custom H-13 Mahogany top:





[/url]

Bill Warmoth

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[www.artisanguitars.com](http://www.artisanguitars.com)

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**Matt Sarad**  
Member

Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 57  
Location: BAKERSFIELD

Posted: Wed Mar 15, 2006 11:52 am Post subject:

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Wow. It hurts my eyes just to look at it.

I may have to rethink OM and go for a OOO.

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**Scott**  
Member

Joined: 25 Oct 2005  
Posts: 28  
Location: West Virginia

Posted: Wed Mar 15, 2006 12:36 pm Post subject:

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Beautiful guitar Bill. I believe I own one that may be related to yours. Nothing to my eyes or ears is more pleasing than Mahogany.



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**Artisan**  
Member

Posted: Wed Mar 15, 2006 6:48 pm Post subject:

[Reply with quote](#)

Joined: 19 Oct 2005  
Posts: 285  
Location: Franklin  
Tennessee, burbs of Nashville

That's gorgeous, Scott. What's the binding? I gotta guess that's an FS?

Bill Warmoth

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[www.artisanguitars.com](http://www.artisanguitars.com)

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