



FREEMAN ATTWOOD

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We specialise in English Oak boards which, like good wine, have to be laid down over many years. These are eventually finished in kiln for highest quality floors. The colour variance and durability make our native British Oak a higher quality choice than European Oak. We mill our Oak on the quarter (Quarter Sawn) which increases stability and shows the fine figuring.







Wide random Oak boards in barn room for private client, Buckinghamshire.

Boards in library and gallery room for private client, London.





Oak boards for medieval house,
North Wales..





THERE ARE THREE GOLDEN RULES ABOUT TIMBER:

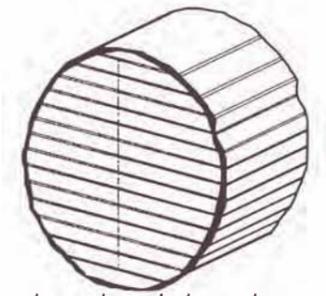
1. it expands and contracts due to fluctuations in moisture content
2. it expands and contracts in its width, not its length
3. it tends, when drying, to cup away from the heart.

There are a number of ways to cut a log to control this movement, the best known being 'through and through', 'quartered' and 'modern quartered'.

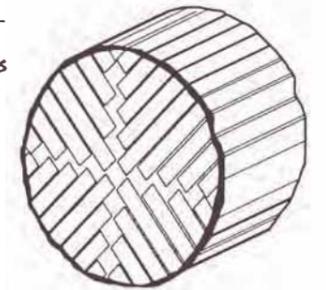
A 'quartered' log produces boards where the growth rings are perpendicular to the face, offering optimum stability and minimal distortion - while they will always continue to expand and contract the tendency to warp is hugely reduced although there is considerable wastage and narrower boards are the result. A 'modern quartered' log will however optimise the usage of timber from any particular tree. Boards taken from close to the perimeter of the logs from a 'through and through' cut, will tend to cup away from the tree's original heart as they dry out.

'Through and through' and 'quartered' boards also produce distinct grain patterns - a tapering 'crown' effect (which can be wild), rather than straighter, more neutral figuring.

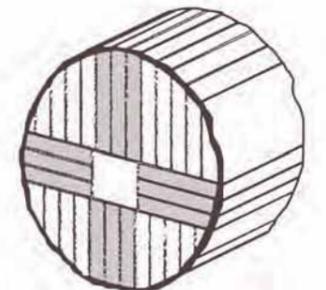
But Oak, and especially English Oak, has its own particular magical pattern, the revelation of what are known as 'medullary rays' in the timber - little flame-like ribbons that run across the surface, bringing the timber to life. This is the much-prized quality of English Oak that real connoisseurs seek - it is this attention to detail in selection, cutting and drying that Freeman-Attwood seeks to provide.



Through and through



Quartered



Modern quartered

