

Shina and Basswood Comparison

	Smooth Surface	Carve both sides	Easy to carve (soft)	Grain Pattern
Shina 3/8"	yes	yes	yes	no
Shina 1/4"	yes	yes (not too deep if using a press)	yes	no
Basswood 3/8"	no	yes	yes	no (mill texture)

Japanese Shina Plywood

Tilia japonica, a member of the Linden family

This fine-grained plywood from Hokkaido, the northern-most island of Japan, is a favorite among Japanese printmakers. Shina is harvested selectively and sustainably. The plywood is very high quality, free of voids, knots or blemishes on both sides. It is already sanded smooth to an even thickness, ready for immediate carving.

Shina feels virtually grainless as you carve it and it is soft enough to carve easily. It is also dense enough to hold sharp edges and details through multiple printings.

The glue holding the plies together is so thin that it is barely perceptible as you are carving, making this a truly exceptional plywood.

Shina Plywood can be carved on both sides. Be aware of how deep you are carving especially with 1/4" blocks. If you are printing on an etching press or using heavy pressure and you have carved out large areas of the block, you may see inconsistencies in the image areas of your print. It all depends on how much wood is carved away and how much pressure is applied.

To prevent warping store horizontally in a dry place. Keep away from excessive heat.

American Basswood Plywood

Tilia Americana, a member of the Linden Family

A fine-grained plywood from the U.S., American Basswood grows quickly, abundantly and there is a sustainable supply.

The veneer on Basswood Plywood has not been sanded smooth so the wood has a textured surface. This is not grain pattern.

It is the texture left behind when plywood is planed but not sanded. This texture can be incorporated into your print. If you prefer smooth ink coverage, the blocks can be sanded smooth with either an orbital sander or by hand.

Instructions for doing this can be found at our online Learning Center.

Basswood Plywood is easy to carve. You can carve in any direction without it chipping or tearing.

Basswood Plywood can be carved on both sides. The veneer on one side of Basswood Plywood is better quality compared to the other in terms of being more uniform and defect free. Look your block over carefully before deciding which side or area to use for your print.

To prevent warping store horizontally in a dry place. Keep away from excessive heat.



McCLAIN'S
PRINTMAKING SUPPLIES

PO Box 230759

Tigard, OR 97281-0759 USA

www.imclains.com

503-641-3555 (phone) 800-832-4264 (orders) 503-641-3591 (fax)