

# VENEER MATCHING

Veneer matching is a fine craft that, with skill, vision and experience, truly can be a form of art. It allows people to express what they imagine. The possibilities of patterns that can be created are virtually endless. Matching may be broken down into three categories, each containing several sub-categories.

## 1. Matching Between Adjacent Veneer Leaves.

Deciding between book-match, slip-match, random-match, pleasing, and end- (or butt-) match.

## 2. Matching Within Individual Panel Faces.

Deciding between running-match, balance-match, center balance-match, and special matches.

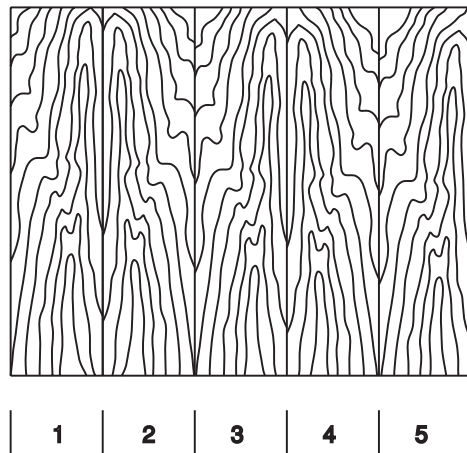
## 3. Matching Between Panels (Matching Architectural Panels).

Deciding if adjacent panels are to match, and if so, to what degree.

### I. Matching Between Adjacent Veneer Leaves

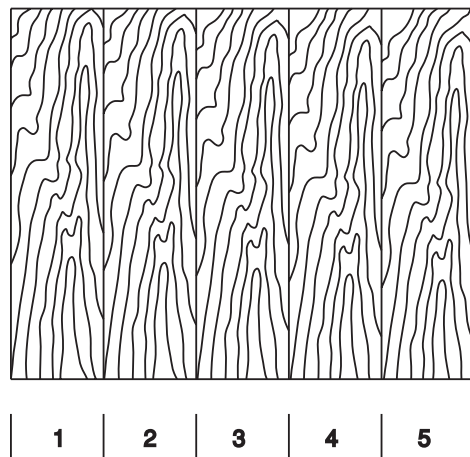
#### Book Matching

In book matching, every other piece of veneer from a flitch is turned over so that adjacent leaves are “opened,” like the pages of a book. Book matching is the most commonly used matching technique and may be used with plain-, quarter-, or rift-sliced veneers.



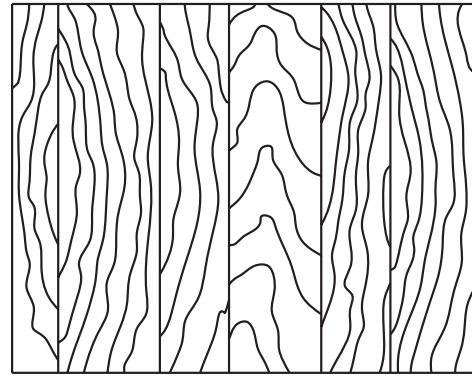
#### Slip-Matching

Adjoining leaves are placed (slipped out) in sequence without turning, resulting in all the same face sides being exposed. The joint may not be noticeable if grain is straight. Slip-matching is often used with quarter-sliced and rift-sliced veneers.



### Random (or Mismatch)

Veneer leaves are placed next to each other in a random order and orientation, producing a “board-by-board” effect in many species. Degrees of contrast and variations may change from panel to panel.

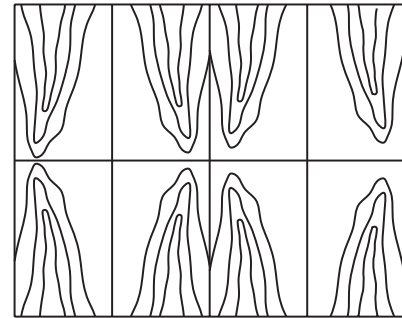


### Pleasant Match

Veneer leaves are matched by color similarity, not necessarily grain characteristics.

### End- or Butt-Matching

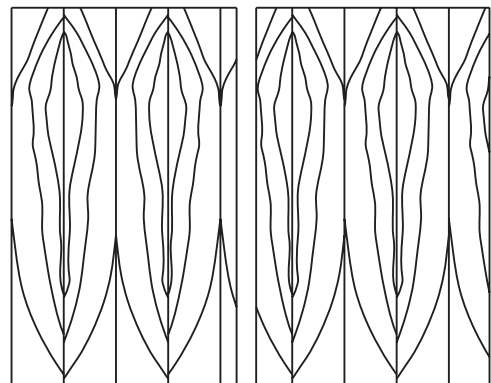
This matching style is often used to extend the apparent length of available veneers for wall panels and long conference tables. Leaves are individually book- or slip-matched, first end-to-end and then side-to-side, alternating end and side.



## 2. Matching Within Individual Panel Faces

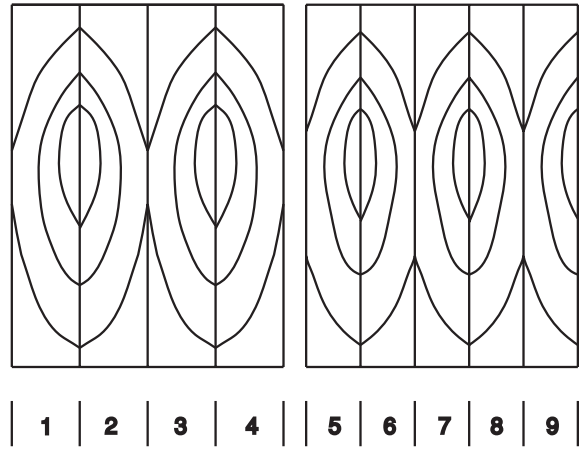
### Running Match

Each panel face is assembled from as many leaves as necessary. Any portion left over from the last leaf may be used as the start of the next panel. Running matches are seldom “sequenced and numbered” for use as adjacent panels. Horizontal grain “match” or sequence cannot be expected.



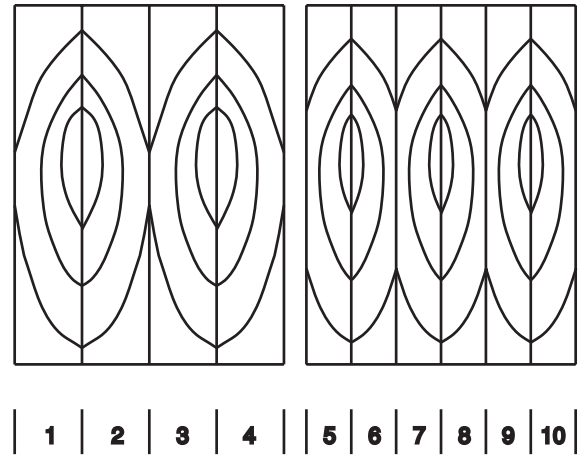
### Balance Match

Each panel face is assembled from veneer leaves of uniform width. (When edge-trimmed the end leaves may be slightly smaller.) Panels may contain an even or odd number of leaves and distribution may change from panel to panel within a sequenced set.



### Center-Balance Match

Each panel face is assembled of an even number of veneer leaves of uniform width. Thus, there is a veneer joint in the center of the panel, producing horizontal symmetry.



### Special Matches

Special matches can include names such as box, diamond, basket weave, sunburst and reverse diamond, reverse box and checkerboard match. Because there are no standardized names for these matches, it is strongly recommended that the design professional include both names and drawings for the match to be sure the desired match is achieved.

