

## How to Select Trees for Tonewood

As already mentioned, it is only a legend that Jakobus Stainer strolled through the forests with a big hammer in his hands to find out by banging on trees whether they resonated and were suitable for building instruments.

In reality, Stainer used spruce that had been floated down the river Inn.

Trees for tonewood should not grow on hills - it is much too likely that the wood facing towards the valley will have compression wood.

How can it be determined whether maple-wood is curly or figured, when looking at the still-standing tree?

A small 'window' must be cut into the bark and lifted up so that it can get closed after inspection to keep rain etc. off and avoid later injury. The sapwood shows the figuring and whether the tree is suitable for the expected purpose.



Trees for tone-wood should grow on a flat area within a grove of trees to prevent spiral grain.

The trunk should be round and should not show branches or wounds of dead branches.

No damage must be visible on the outside of the bark. To examine the inside, the "Shigometer" can be used - this is a device that uses electrical resistance to examine the wood of standing trees for defects. (see *Shigo & Roy*)

Extremely valuable is the traditional knowledge which cannot be put in words.

In our days it is almost impossible for an individual to mark and cut the tree after selection.

In the State Forests only the forest workers are permitted to cut trees (for security reasons), and they do not work during the winter, when tonewood should be cut.