



## Why do we use balsa wood for lug cores?

We initially made our lugs out of polyurethane foam because it was easy to shape, easy to source consistently and very cheap. We tested a number of alternatives, including balsa wood, but were not able to afford it at that time.

We can now afford balsa, and we use balsa wood cores for five reasons:

- It is safe to work with
- It is a fast growing, sustainably-harvested material
- It is light and strong
- It shapes well
- It is porous enough to absorb a bit of resin and bond to the composite lug
- It is an economically viable alternative

The last point, which is critical, didn't become a reality until this latest spike in energy prices. Many companies changed their pricing structure in January 2011 to reflect the increase in oil, but balsa wood suppliers are less sensitive than the chemical companies that make foam; so balsa became a competitive option.