

COOPERAGE AND VAT MAKING

DEFINITION AND ROLE

Barrels and vats are timber containers made with circularly assembled wooden staves that are held together with hoops.

A barrel has two flat bottoms while a vat is open on its upper part.

Timber intended for the manufacture of vats and barrels is cut into shooks, the cut must be done in quarters.

Barrels are mainly intended for the ageing and the preservation of liquids such as wines and alcohols.

As for timber vats, they are mainly used by industry for the storage of chemicals and for recreational equipment and bathrooms.

STRESSES

Barrels and vats must withstand the pressure of the liquids they contain. Waterproofing and sturdiness must be ensured in all circumstances.

REQUIRED PROPERTIES

Timber used in cooperage is sought on the basis of the following main criteria:

- the content and quality of the tannins contained in the timber and the ability to restore them to the contained liquid;
- acid resistance in the case of industrial vats;
- a relatively neutral pH.

PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Barrels and vats are still handcrafted. The shooks are cut and shaped according to the desired profile. They are curved while hot in the form of wooden staves and then assembled and hooped.

USAGE CLASS

Depending on the moisture level of the storage place, the timber used falls under usage classes 3 or 4.



Photo: Small tub © Bhakpong



Photo: Barrels © Who is Danny