

“TIGER TEMPERAMENT”

HALL TABLE

Oregon Black Walnut with American Black Walnut

Without exception, every woodworker's dream is to discover a wonderful pair of book-matched slabs of timber and fashion it into a work of art that features a beautiful, dramatic, curvaceous gap...

The basis for this piece of wood art began with the unexpected discovery of a magnificent pair of planks of highly figured, live edged Oregon black walnut (American black walnut [*Juglans nigra*] crossed with Claro walnut [*Juglans hindsii*]). Though very rough, the timber showed just a teasing hint of the special character that lay underneath the ragged exterior - a unique combination of wild and engaging grain; intense tigering (aka fiddle-back grain); a well-defined heartwood-to-sapwood transition; evidence of long-dead borers; and exceptional chatoyance (opalescence reminiscent of looking into a cat's eye) that retains much of the rustic features of the tree of origin. The mildly curved ends balance the overall shape and proportion of the piece as well as complement the character of the top. The lower shelf has also been fashioned from a smaller piece of Oregon black walnut.

The book-matched table legs and short spreaders have been fabricated from a single plank of figured American black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) specifically selected to compliment the strong grain patterns of the top. The hand-tapered legs exhibit a slight taper on the inner sides to compliment the fine lines of the table while giving the appearance that the piece is balancing on its toes. Adjustable felt feet have been added to allow for leveling of the table on any surface.

The success of the design depends upon precise hand-chiseled blind mortise-and-tenon joints (Japanese jigoku-kusabi joinery technique) for permanent attachment of all pieces to create a table that will last for generations. This specific joint has been utilized to maximize the strength and stiffness of the table frame. The hall table has been hand finished with a durable satin lacquer finish to highlight the natural color and protect the beautiful character of the timbers while giving the piece a warm feeling to the touch.

As with all of his wood art pieces the title of the piece, creation date and artist information has been permanently stamped on the underside of the piece. This piece has been entered in the artist's permanent registry.

Dimensions: 32-1/2 inches in width
11-3/8 to 13 inches in depth
31 inches in height

Artist: Gary A. Leake, Coupeville, Washington

Price: \$2100