

# Solid Wood *vs.* Melamine

What it actually takes to build one 15" × 42" shelf — 3 to 5 steps versus more than 40.



MELAMINE PAPER OVER PARTICLE BOARD / MDF

## The Melamine Shelf

CUT & EDGE BAND. DONE.

### 3–5 STEPS

Start to finish

- Start with an **MDF or particle board panel** that already has a melamine paper face applied — a flat color or a printed imitation wood grain.
- Cut to length and width on a panel saw. (2–4 cuts)
- Edge-band the one exposed side of particle board with matching color or wood-grain tape.

#### That's it.

No milling. No glue-up. No curing. No finishing. The "wood" you see is a photograph printed on paper, or simply colored paper fused to the particle board.



SOLID MILLED WOOD WITH METAL END CHANNELS

## The Lundia Solid Wood Shelf

MILLED, GLUED, CURED, FINISHED

### 40+ STEPS

Start to finish

- Take **raw wood** and mill it to 1" thick.
- Rip into strips roughly 2"–3" wide. (7+ cuts)
- Cross-cut each strip to length, approx. 44". (7 cuts)
- Align strips for **wood grain match**, and reverse-grain them for glue strength.
- Glue the strips together. (7–8 pieces)
- Clamp the rough 17" × 44" panel and cure until the glue dries.
- Run through the surfacer at least 4 times — 2 per side — to a smooth **3/4" finished thickness**.
- Cut to width (just under 15").
- Cut to length (42").
- Notch each corner. (4 cuts)
- Special-cut a **3/16" horizontal groove** in each end to accept the end channels. (2 cuts)
- Cut metal end channels from 12' stock to your 15" shelf depth.
- Mill the ends of those channels so they become the supports that carry the shelf in the upright channels. (4 cuts)
- Light prep sanding, both sides. (2 passes)
- Apply initial stain with a **low-VOC water-based sealer coat**. (2 processes)
- Light sanding again, both sides.
- Apply the finish coat of low-VOC water-based lacquer.
- Cure under controlled temperature.
- Attach the metal end channels to both ends. (2 processes)

## MELAMINE SERVICE LIFE

### Delaminates in 2–5 years

The paper face lifts, the edge tape peels, and the particle board core swells. Once it goes, it can't be repaired — it gets thrown away.

## LUNDIA SERVICE LIFE

### A lifetime — and beyond

Solid wood can be sanded, refinished, and reconfigured. That's why there's an active resale market for used Lundia on eBay and elsewhere.

There is nothing better than solid wood. It is also genuinely difficult to work with —  
which is exactly why *we are the only US source*.