Subject: Reasons not to birch ply instead of MDF
Posted by Phorize on Tue, 28 Jul 2020 17:30:11 GMT
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I have a feeling that I already know the answer to this. Beyond my own arbitrary prejudices related to 'real wood' vs composite products, is there a single objective reason to prefer birch ply over mdf on a pi 4 build?

All the best,

Kristian

Subject: Re: Reasons not to birch ply instead of MDF
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 28 Jul 2020 18:19:35 GMT
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Birch plywood has one benefit, which that it is more durable, especially in the presence of water. Not that you would put your cabinets in water, but even high humidity can cause MDF to swell. Sometimes you can actually see the edge of an MDF panel under veneer, if butt joints are used on a speaker in an environment where humidity is high. The slight swelling shows the edge. And if the cabinet stands in water for a while, the MDF on the bottom will become mush.

But to tell the truth, I still prefer MDF over Baltic birch where possible. If the speaker will always be indoors, MDF is my wood of choice. It's a little more self-damped than plywood, so the panel resonance is lower. Rap your knuckles on a panel of MDF and then on a similarly sized panel of Baltic birch and you can hear what I mean. Both are good, but the MDF panel is a little more "dead."