Table of Contents:

1. Solid Log Dummies .................................. 2
   a. Woods Used .................................... 2
2. About the Dummies .................................. 4
   a. Measurements .................................. 4
   b. Weights ......................................... 4
   c. Arms, Leg, Slats ................................. 4
3. Drying Process ..................................... 5
   a. Why Cracking Occurs ......................... 5
4. Care Guide ......................................... 6
   a. Care Recommendations ...................... 6
   b. Neglect ......................................... 7
5. Terms, Conditions, and Warranties .... 7
6. Appendix A (Pictures) ............................. 8

Everything Wing Chun has found that the Buick Yip signature dummies have the most technical build and the fewest problems out of every other solid log dummy manufacturer to date, including Koo Sang’s original dummies. These are the absolute best solid log dummies available.

This document should be read before purchasing a Buick Yip dummy from www.EverythingWingChun.com. Upon purchase, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions in section 5. Take care of your dummy and it will last for generations.

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Solid Log Dummies

Currently there are two kinds of wooden dummies on the market: solid log dummies and laminated dummies. Solid log dummies are what Buick Yip specializes in. The trunk of the dummy is a solid piece of wood that comes directly from the trunk of a tree. The benefits of this type of dummy are in the natural beauty of the wood and the traditional make of the dummy. Laminated dummies are made from pieces of wood glued together. Both types of dummies require care to prevent cracking, but solid wood dummies require more care. They are beautiful works of craftsmanship, and should be treated with care and kept in a controlled environment.

Buick’s comments:

Each tree trunk has its own character, and it is not easy to classify what reaction a species of wood will have in a specific the climate as they are natural products and wood trunks cannot be 100% dried (else they will be charcoal not wood). Every trunk has the ability to form a natural protection layer to preserve the water contents inside the core for a future opportunity to re-grow as a tree, pretty much like the seeds of plants, they can be dried, but not dead. We can use the dummy, but not to disturb it, instead, we should provide care and protection to it.

About the Woods Used:

These dummies became famous, in part, because of the woods originally used for the trunks. These woods are not acquired through regular trade manner. We have to make lot of special trips to minor dealers just to find and acquire a couple pieces of appropriate material. There is no promise for the continuation of any of the woods described below. For example, marble wood was discontinued from 2006 to 2009 due to the fact that all the supply dried up. Luckily, trees grow and we can sometimes bring these dummies to the market once again.

Currently offered are the following woods:

**Dry Elm Wood Dummies** – This one species of material does not require drying - the wood comes from old castle/temple pillars and ancient constructions, not new trees. The wood is 50+ years old in every case. These are best suited for arid environments. We believe this wood is *Ulmus parvifolia*, commonly known as the Chinese or Lacebark Elm. It has been described as “one of the most splendid elms”. The wood can withstand colder temperatures very well. Many Chinese bonsai tress are elm. This wood has always made a great dummy!

**Marble Wood Dummies** - This wood comes from the cold mountains of northern Japan (it is not the South American species by the same name). The wood has a twisting nature which evolved to help it survive in severe climate conditions with abrupt change in temperature. This is what gives the wood the marbling effect. This wood is very dense "like marble". This wood requires the most care to prevent cracking, but can also be the most beautiful.

**Peach Wood Dummies** - This wood is as dense as the marble wood and almost never cracks, which is why it was chosen. The wood is a reddish color, has a very fine grain, and can be quite stunning at times. This wood is better for people that want a dense heavy dummy but are worried about the care required for marble wood. In Chinese culture peach wood is used to drive away evil spirits. Peaches originally come from China. The peach (*Prunus persica*) is a species of Prunus, native to China.
**Teak Wood Dummies** - Teak is one of the most expensive woods by far, and hard to obtain due to sanctions. Teak is naturally resinous making it the least prone to cracking. This unique character of teak gives it an oily feel to the hand. It is a "traditional" and highly sought after wood for dummies. Teak (*Tectona*), is a genus of tropical hardwood trees in the mint family, Lamiaceae. It is native to the south and southeast of Asia, and is commonly found as a component of monsoon forest vegetation. Certain species of teak trees are considered endangered.

**Lychee Wood Dummies** – This wood is, by some, considered the best wood for dummies. It is extremely heavy and rare. The dummy trunk can weigh upwards of 150 lbs. The wood is very dense and has a reddish color. The legs of all the dummies are made from this wood. Lychee is the sole member of the genus *Litchi* in the soapberry family. It is a fruit tree grown in tropical and sub-tropical Asia.

**Loong-An Wood Dummies** – Known as “Dragon Eye” is another fruit tree similar to Lychee, but not quite as red in color. Weight, density, and quality is approximate to that of Lychee. Loong fruit is sometimes the “sweet” in “sweet and sour” mix used on Chinese food.

Other quality material under consideration: Camphor, Purple Sandlewood.

Buick has found that sweet fruits trees tend to have very high density wood filaments and very tight bonding. They don't crack at all compared to other species of woods. This is strictly his own personal opinion with no back up theories except experience from observations.

**Dummy Coating:**

Through the process of finishing, several layers of coatings are applied to each trunk from light to heavy at different intervals to give time for penetration. The quality of such coatings are equivalent to those applied on yachts, while the openings (there are 6 pairs of holes on each dummy trunk) were deliberately left untouched leaving a reasonable "breathing" channel deep into the very center of the trunk. In some carefully observed cases, even if the trunk intends to reduce its water contents further, instead of cracking the diameter reduces a few millimeters - shrinking. The coating method is of extreme help to maintain the quality of the dummy.
About these Dummies

If you care about having the absolute best Wing Chun dummy available on the market today, bar none, then you must have a Buick Yip Wing Chun Wooden Dummy. There is no question about it, for those that care about their Wing Chun and proper training; this is the ONLY dummy to buy. No other even comes close. These are the dummies of Sifus, collectors, and the discerning Wing Chun practitioner.

Dummy Measurements:

The measurements of all the dummies are based on Wong Shun Leung’s dummy made by Koo Sang. Yip Man gave Koo Sang these measurements, and you won’t be able to tell the difference between your dummy and the original! These dummies are made with the most accurate measurements of any dummy on the market today. All dummies are handmade in China. Over a thousand dummies have been made and exported since 2002 and they all follow the same specification with no exceptions.

The dummy has many measurements, but the basic ones are:

1. Diameter - 21 cm (varies slightly due to natural log size).
2. Length - 1.4 meters (varies slightly due to natural log size).
3. Arm length - 29.5 cm
4. Distance between two top arms (from middle of arms tip) - 21 cm when open, 19 cm when close.
5. From top of dummy to top of 1st opening - 25 cm
6. From top of dummy to top of middle arm opening - 55.5 cm
7. Dimension of arm holes - 4 cm
8. Arms tip - 3.5 cm
9. Arms base - 5.5 cm
10. Top of the dummy leg from end to center of knee is 30 cm.
11. From center of knee to bottom is 42 cm.
12. Cross section of the leg is 7cm x 8 cm (approx.), and part at the knee is slightly bigger.

Average Weights: (Weight varies based on density of the wood).

60-75 lbs for Dry Elm Wood Dummies
80-100 lbs for Teak and Peach Wood Dummies
85-150 lbs for Marble, Lychee, and Loong-An (Dragon Eye) Dummies

Arms, Legs, Slats:

The dummy arms are 30 cm length, and are made from marble wood (on all dummies except teak). Marble wood arms were chosen for their density. They do not break. The shafts of the arms were made to tightly fit into the holes of the trunk. If you prefer a cracking sound during practice, you can reduce the size of the inserts by filing them down to create more space between the insert and the holes.

All dummy legs are made of a solid marble wood or lychee nut tree branch. The wood has a natural twist so the legs are in one piece and can stand kicking in practice without breaking. The manufacturer promises life time guarantee of the dummy legs. With photo report of breakage one replacement will be compensated. All dummies include two 1.5 meter horizontal slats for mounting.
Drying Process

The wood used for a dummy needs to be dried out as much as possible to help prevent cracking during and after the construction of the dummy. Much attention is given here to drying process and crack prevention as this is the number one concern of all dummy makers. Even the famous Koo Sang had many issues with this. After reviewing many top dummy manufacturers, Everythi ng Wing Chun has found that the Buick Yip dummies have the fewest problems out of every other solid log dummy manufacturer to date. These are the absolute best solid log dummies available.

Over eight years of experience in dealing with over a thousand 21cm trunks has enabled the maker to carefully treat the dummies before leaving for unknown destinations. Each trunk, other than the “Dry Elm Wood”, is seasoned anywhere from six months up to a couple of years, depending on the trunk and situation.

Kiln drying is not used for these dummies as the logs are too thick and kilns tend to crack the logs. Kilns are more typically used for furniture woods, boards and the like that are relatively thin. Kiln drying does not always dry a trunk more than air drying; it simply tries to achieve the effect faster.

Buick’s Comments:

All wood trunks have the tendency to reduce water content which will in turn will cause it to crack, especially when the dummy trunks is over 20cm diameter. These issues are delicately dealt with at the stage of water reduction. These careful methods are applied to minimize cracking and preserve a sizeable trunk with the least amount of flaw possible to ensure the finished product will have an attractive appearance to its potential owner. So far this has been proven very helpful.

Once the wood has cracked, it will not repeat the process again so they are "immune" from further cracking. During the process of drying at the spot of any possible cracks other procedures will be applied at once to stop the cracks from getting any larger. In the manufacturing process excess care and attention is given to each dummy. They are observed on a daily basis to leave no chance of cracking.

It should also be noted that “Dry Elm Wood” dummies come from old castle pillars that are 50+ years old. This wood is already very dry. Many of the logs all have hairline slits running through them (see pictures of logs in the Appendix). These natural hairlines are not considered “cracks” and the logs are lathed down to remove as many of these as possible.

All of the dummies are dried very well, however, wood material, like any other natural product, will not be completely dried, otherwise it will become too light and brittle to use as a dummy. There is water content inside the dummy no matter how long, or by what manner, it has been dried - the water content within keeps the material alive. Through time, this water vapor will evaporate in a very slow and insignificant manner, the thicker the diameter, the longer it takes.

Why Cracking Occurs

Wood cracking occurs when the moisture in the wood leaves faster than the wood can compensate for. Some parts of the wood will reduce water faster than others which causes the wood to be pulled apart. This can occur at any stage of the wood’s life, especially if it is exposed to, and reabsorbs, moisture. Since these dummy trunks were well seasoned for this purpose, there is little chance of cracking at the time of sale.
**Care Guide**

These are the absolute best solid log dummies available. However, care still needs to be taken with all solid wood products. This short guide should help.

**Care Instructions**

The best ways to take care of your new dummy are:

1. Open the package. If you do not intend to set it up for a while, leave the grease on the dummy, but allow it to breath. Do not leave it boxed up, unattended in a locker, garage, or direct sunlight.
2. Once you set it up, you should polish it with furniture wax, oil, or a similar medium that gives it a lubricating coating. This helps prevent moisture from leaving the wood too quickly. Teak, and other naturally oily wood, tends to crack less. You want to duplicate this. Over time the oil from human hands will coat the dummy and give it this extra layer of protection.
3. Use the dummy. While you practice with it, after the first year or first drought season, the dummy will slowly settle down and regulate its breathing to the new environment. In the years to come it will be well adjusted. Remember, the dummy has a life.

**Tip:** Use a Humidifier to help stabilize a dry or arid environment.

The humidity around the dummy should be kept at a moderate level. Even after a wood has been dried to a low moisture content care should be taken until the wood adjusts to your environment. If you live in an arid environment extra care will have to be taken until the wood adjusts. This is your responsibility (through the use of a humidifier and/or grease/oils) to slow the drying out process. In addition:

- Take special care of your dummy in the winter! The moisture in the air is usually gone (frozen or in liquid form), and people tend to run the heat (the warm, dry air dries out the wood). Most cracking occurs in the winter due to these factors.
- If you live in a dry place where people get sore throats, nose bleeds, or etc from the dry air, there is a good chance your dummy will need extra care to prevent it from cracking. (If skin in the noise or throat is cracking, a good chance wood will crack as well).

If ever a small hair size slit is seen, immediately seal it with a wood putty (of similar coloring to the wood), this will prevent the “wound” from getting any worse. If no care is taken the slit will tend to become a bigger crack within days, especially within the winter months. This could create a very unpleasant appearance on the trunk (the truck will still be useable; it is a cosmetic effect only).

**Buick’s comments:**

*These wooden dummies are intended for lifetimes of use. You should only ever have to buy one, and it can be passed down through the generations. Caring and cherishing them will make them a very good practicing partner. The human grease that builds up on the trunk surface through years of touching and practicing will create a very valuable coating on the dummy, thus an old dummy in good condition has very high resale value.*
If the dummy is fully set up (mounted), being greased (waxed) occasionally, and being practiced with, giving it life and care, in most cases they will be as cooperative as you would want. The wooden dummy is your practicing partner and a position teacher, not an enemy to beat up on.

Neglect

Dummy neglect voids any warranty/guarantee. Any cracking on a dummy must be reported immediately.

The following actions are considered neglect and almost always result in a cracked dummy:

1. If you leave the dummy wrapped up. (ex. You get the dummy and simply put it in a closet for 6 months and it cracks, this is considered neglect).
2. If you put a de-humidifier and/or heater in the room with the dummy (and the air dries out and causes the dummy to crack, this is considered neglect).
3. If you leave the dummy outside or expose it to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, rain, snow, dew dry wind, or etc.

With both ends (Buick and you) caring for the dummy it should be a very reliable piece of training equipment and should not crack unnecessarily.

Terms, Conditions, and Warranties

By purchasing a Buick Yip dummy from Everything Wing Chun you agree to take proper care of the dummy and you agree to the terms below.

1. All Dummy sales are final. There will be no returns or exchanges

2. You understand that Everything Wing Chun (EWC) acts as a broker for the dummies and cannot exchange, warrant, of refund any portion of the dummy or money paid for the dummy. All of these issues are handled by the manufacturer. You agree not to hold Everything Wing Chun liable for any damages, or take any action against EWC, for any injury or loss resulting from the use or care of the dummy. We can help with the communications and movement of monies between parties, but cannot take any action without the manufacturer’s prior approval.

3. You understand that these are solid wood products, and thus must be treated with care. It is your responsibility to research the weather conditions in your climate and determine if solid-wood log products have issues with cracking. You are responsible for the care of your dummy and taking the preventative measures necessary to keep it in top shape.
Appendix A: Pictures

Dry Wood Trunks (old castle pillars, temple pillars, old constructions):

Note the natural slits running through these ancient pillars. The dummies are extracted from these cores. The supply of these pillars is very limited. Each one weighs 300-500 lbs. The best logs are hand-picked for you.

Peach Wood Trunk

This hard, dense wood makes an excellent dummy (& keeps away evil spirits to boot)! Finished Dummy on p10.
Marble Wood Trunks

Buick taking a rest on new marble wood trunks.

Marble wood trunks in 1st stage of drying out.

Marble Wood dummies made from those trunks.

Marble dummies in the final stages of drying out.

Dummy Legs (Lychee wood pictured).

The knee position of the finished dummy leg comes from the angle of the branch. It is the most stubborn part of the wood which is why these dummy legs will last lifetimes even under severe training kicks.
Samples of Finished Dummies:

This is sample of each wood type from the last set of dummies made (Nov/Dec 2009). Wood grain varies greatly on each dummy, especially marble wood and peach. (See next page for a few samples of wood grain).

*Note that the marble wood has a rare natural hollow under the middle arm. These type hollows are quite rare, but preserved when possible. Buick's comment:

Trees are not grown deliberately for be turned into wooden dummies. Some trunks have natural "defects", like concave hollows, which were part of the original tree. We usually elect to preserve these natural unique features on the dummies as we see fit, they have no seconds.
Endless Variety – Every Dummy is unique!

Every Buick Yip dummy is unique, no matter what. (Top Row: Marble. Bottom Row: Peach, Lychee, Marble):