

In North Carolina, trees are used to manufacture a product that I personally use every day. That product is the piano which is made up of several different types of wood. Although this product is considered to be simply a musical instrument by many, I appreciate the work that goes into their design, and it has had a significant impact on my own life.

The trees used in the production of pianos include birch, maple, fir, oak, mahogany, ebony, and spruce. To make pianos, the wood has to be dried for at least six months. One of the most important features of the piano is the soundboard which has to create high quality sound through elasticity and reverberance. The best wood for this is spruce, which is curved and then bound together by ribs and bridges that are made out of maple. Maple is also used for the pinblock, and the strength of this wood is required to keep tuning stability.

Keys of piano have to be both resilient and tough to account for regular use. The best wood for keys is fir, and to produce keys from the wood, it is cut from a single block and seasoned to allow for moisture release and prevent warping. The black keys are unique and are made from ebony. There are different types of wood used for the outside of the piano. The case is made out of solid plywood, the rim is made out of mahogany/maple, and the back posts are made out spruce. To get the smooth veneer for the piano's appearance, woods such as walnut, mahogany, maple, cherry, oak, and rosewood can be used.

In North Carolina, pianos were originally imported from Europe, but now have places of production in areas such as Morganton and Granite Falls. Although North Carolina isn't necessarily known for its piano makers, there are quite a few high quality instruments that are constructed in the area. The piano I personally own was made in Kernersville, and it was given to me by a fellow music aficionado.

I have recently discovered an aptitude for playing the piano over the last few years, and it has now become an essential part of my existence. Pianos provide me with a sense of escape from all the struggles and issues of life, and a way to lose myself in music. Although I play the saxophone, the piano is a far superior instrument because of its many capabilities and distinctive sound. The sound can most likely be attributed to the many types of wood that are expertly used to garner the best quality from the instrument. The combined beauty and cultural appeal of pianos make them a very important item, of which trees are a prerequisite.