This invention relates to a process of bending wood and to articles made thereby.

When a piece of wood of considerable thickness is to be bent the ordinary method is to steam it and then make the bend in a bending machine. This naturally results in a very considerable strain of the material and the thicker the piece to be bent the greater is the maximum strain.

According to the present invention the wood is split or slotted longitudinally into separate layers with free ends and interleaved with other strips more or less perpendicularly to the plane of the bend, so that the layers slide over one another during bending, and the layers are then secured in the new relationship preferably by gluing so that they retain the desired form when the glue is dry.

The invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 shows a piece of straight wood at the area to be bent after cuts have been made in the end but before bending, and

Figure 2 shows the same bent in accordance with the invention.

The drawing illustrates the production of an approximately right angled bend suitable, for example, for the top of a furniture leg for securing under a seat, table top or the like. In producing such a bend the wood 1 is placed in a bending device and longitudinal saw cuts 2 are made extending in from the end. The cuts preferably extend different distances, one or more possibly to beyond the further end of the area where the bend is to be made and others not quite so far. Pieces 3 of thin material, preferably wood (for instance strips of veneer) are fitted and glued in the resulting slots; while the glue 4 is still wet the whole is bent to the required form as indicated at Figure 2 and when the glue is dry the wood retains its bent form.

Alternatively, two pieces of wood might be slotted and after cutting the resultant layers required to form the bend to their bent lengths when interleaved with the layers of the other piece the gluing and bending process can be carried out similarly.

Numerous other forms can be made in which a portion of the solid wood is cut into separate layers and interleaved with other strips over the area of a bend prior to bending, and the laminations secured in their resulting relationship, but the above example should suffice for an understanding of the nature of the invention.

I claim:

A process of forming bent articles of wood, consisting in slotting a portion of a piece of solid wood longitudinally from an end to form separate layers, interleaving said layers with thin strips, placing adhesive between said strips and said layers, bending the composite structure thus formed in a plane approximately perpendicular to the planes of said layers and holding it until said adhesive has set sufficiently to maintain the bend.