Crossdating Cheat Sheet

When crossdating wood samples, dendrochronologists often follow conventions to mark wood samples before they skeleton plot or measure them. These conventions standardize and expedite the crossdating process. The tree core below illustrates many of the situations you may see when crossdating real wood samples. It is helpful to use these conventions to mark paper crossdating exercises as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>decade marks</th>
<th>irregular ring types (and what to do about them)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 10 years</td>
<td>false band (draw a line across entire ring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•• 50 years</td>
<td>• micro ring (2 opposite dots)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>••• 100 years</td>
<td>•• missing ring (2 offset dots)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•••• 1000 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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false ring
missing ring
false band
decade marks
micro ring
missing ring
micro ring followed by missing ring
micro ring followed by micro ring

pith end
bark end

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