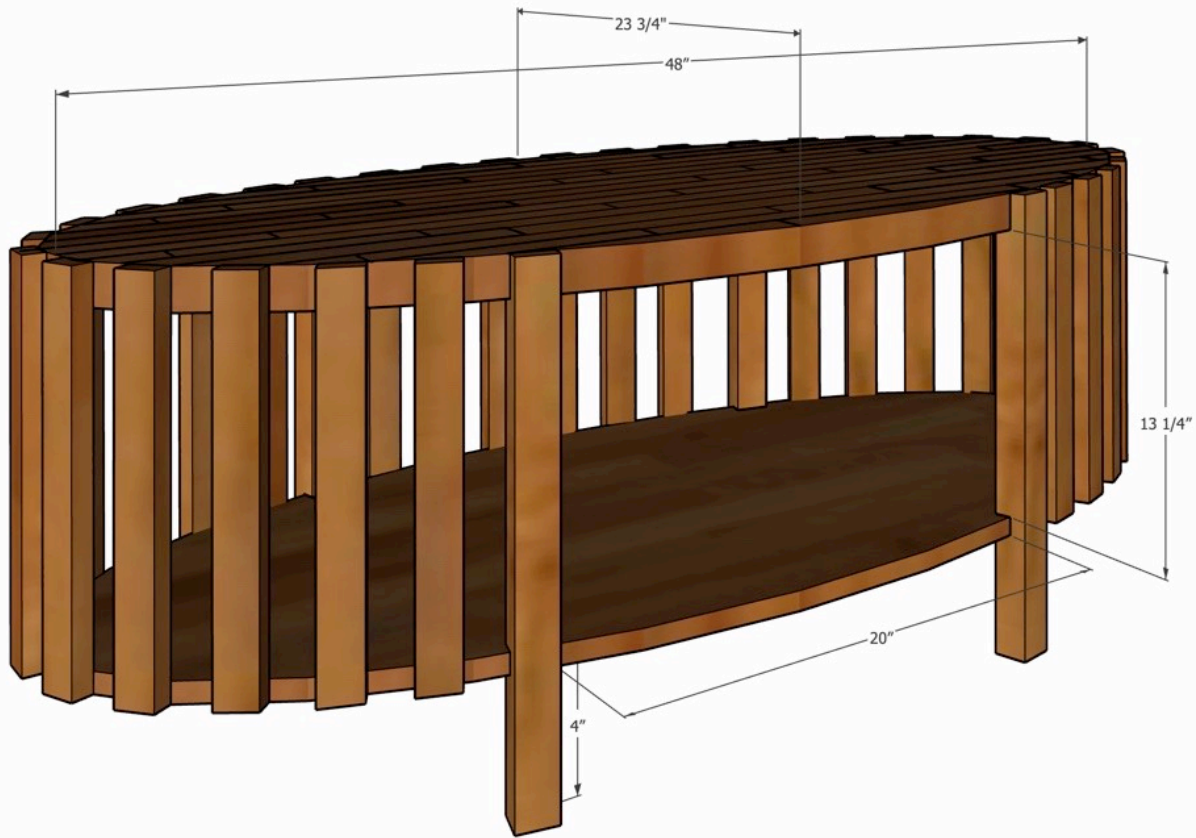


# MODERN COFFEE TABLE PLANS

## DIMENSIONS

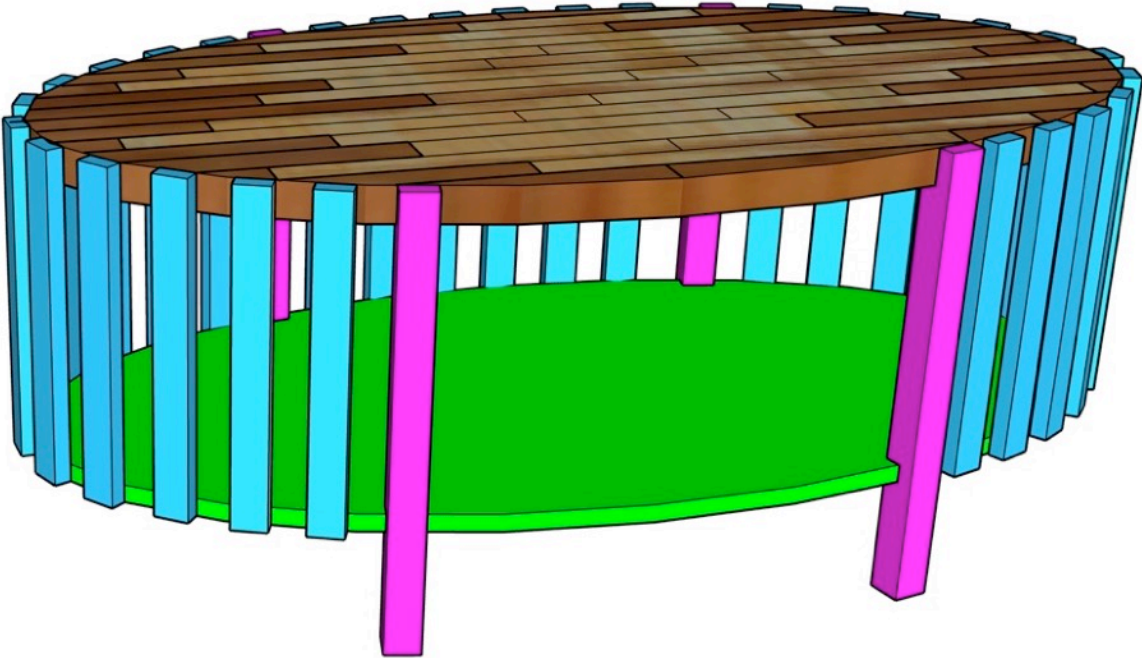


## SHOPPING LIST

QUANTITY	ITEM	NOTES
1	1/2" plywood sheet	Buy a sheet at least 24"x48"
13	1x2x8	
3	1x4x8	
1	2x2x8	

# CUT LIST

QUANTITY	ITEM	LENGTH	NOTES
45 (approx)	1x2x8	Multiple	This is approximate and will vary depending on how you put together the pieces. Use entire board.
1	1/2" Plywood	24"x48"	Base of table top
5	1x4x8	48"	Bottom shelf. Final width cut down to 24"
4	2x2x8	19"	Table legs
33	1x2x8	15"	Side planks



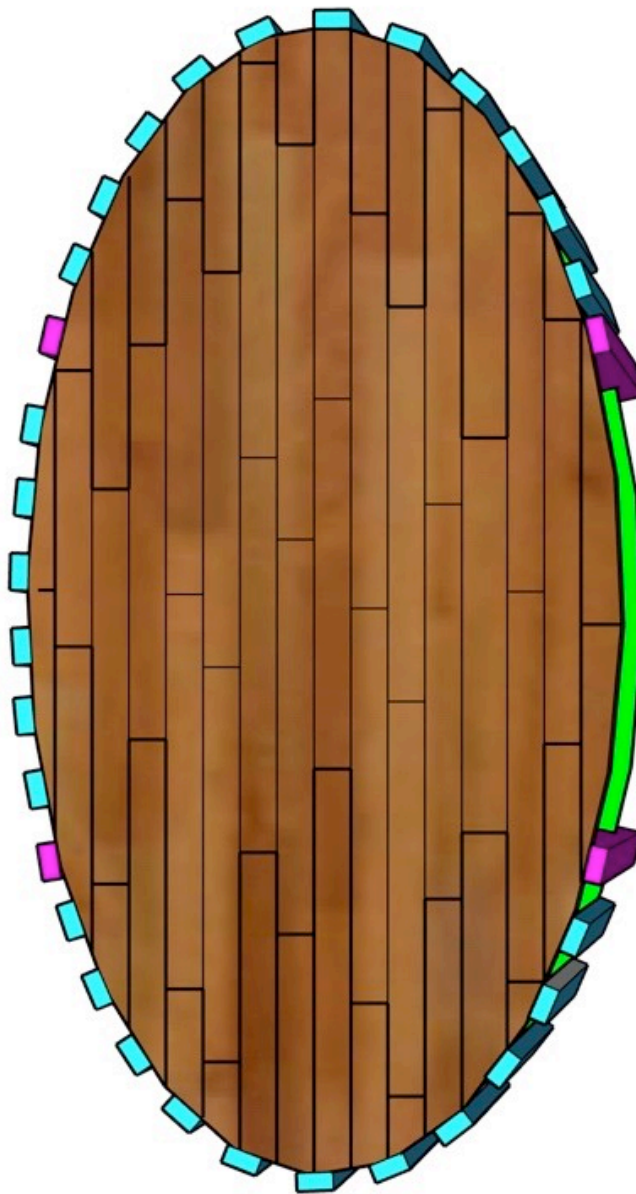


## TOOLS

ITEM
Tape Measure
Speed Square
Safety Glasses
Pencil
Ear Protection
Drill
Kreg Jig
2 1/2" Kreg Jig Screws
Miter Saw
Circular Saw
Jigsaw
Nail Gun & Finishing Nails
Sander
Router
Top Bearing Bit
L Brackets (if not using pocket holes)
Clamps

## STEP 1

Build the table top. You can do all sorts of things for the top of the table. Traditionally, I would build it just like the shelf, out of 1x4s Kreg-Jigged together. See step 2 if using this method. But I wanted something that would match the base of the table, so I created a top from plywood and 1x2s. Cut the plywood to size and cut 1x2s in different lengths. Place the 1x2s row by row, always alternating the boards, so there isn't a noticeable pattern. I used a ton of wood glue and finishing nails. I don't love the look of wood filled holes, so if you have the patience and a bunch of clamps, you can always just glue the boards down.



## STEP 2

Build the bottom shelf. I used 1x4s, but you can use any width board or a combination of widths to meet your shelf width. Cut the boards to length, then use a Kreg Jig to create pocket holes on the back of the boards, and screw them together. If the shelf is still too wide, use a circular saw to cut the last board to the correct width for the shelf.

## STEP 3

Cut an ellipse (oval shape) in both the shelf and the top. There are a variety of methods that can be used here. I think the best option is to build a jig and use a router to cut a perfect ellipse. Another method is to use a string and nails to draw the oval. Find the center of your shelf/top and draw the major and minor axis (the major axis being the length of the shelf and the minor axis being the width of the shelf). Place a nail at one end of the minor axis. Measure from the center point to one end of the major axis, then cut that measurement in half. Start at the nail in the end of your minor axis and measure down until that measurement hits the major axis. This is where you will place another nail. Do the same on the other end of the major axis. This should give you a triangle. Tie a string tightly around all three nails. Remove the string from the minor axis, insert a pencil, pull the string tight and draw the ellipse, keeping the string tight the entire time. Go around a couple of times to make sure the line is dark enough to follow. Once the ellipse is drawn on the shelf, use a jigsaw to cut along the lines.

You can repeat this method on the table top, or simply place the cut shelf on top of the table top and trace around the shelf to form the oval. Then cut it out with the jigsaw.

## STEP 4

Cut the four legs for the table. Use a clamp to hold all of the legs in place, then use a router to add a dado and rabbit in one side of each leg for the top and bottom shelf to rest. Measure the depth of your table top and shelf to double check the measurements. Use those measurements for your dado and rabbit. It will almost always vary.

I used a top bearing bit and made my own simple jig to create uniform dados across all of the legs. Make sure your clamps are tight to avoid the boards slipping. The bearing on top of the bit rolls across the jugged 1x4s, creating a smooth cut.



## STEP 5

Flip the top over and attach the legs using L brackets or pocket holes. Then gently pull the legs out to slide the shelf in and attach it with L brackets.

## STEP 6

Sand and stain table base. Normally, I would wait to stain the entire piece once it's completed, but due to the nature of this build, it's much easier to stain the base before all of the side pieces go on, then go back and sand and stain the side planks. I used Minwax Driftwood on this coffee table.

## STEP 7

Cut 1x2s to length and use a brad nailer to nail them to the top and bottom shelf. I used one of the 1x2s as a spacer, in between each plank. This eliminates the need to measure where each side plank will go. If you want less space in between each 1x2, you can always cut a piece down with a table saw to the desired width.

## STEP 8

Sand and stain 1x2s. I didn't wood fill these holes, as my stain had a lot of gray in it and the holes blended better than the wood filler. If you want to disguise the holes, I recommend the Minwax Blend-Oil Pencil in a color that coordinates with your stain choice.

Pictures of each step of this build is on my website, [www.thisrusticsoul.com](http://www.thisrusticsoul.com).