

# Basic Pine Coffee Table Plans

Beginner-friendly solid pine coffee table plan - finished size 42 in L x 22 in W x 17 3/4 in H

**Project summary:** This is a straightforward pine coffee table built with a four-board glued tabletop, simple 2x2 legs, and a 1x4 apron frame. It is designed for common home-center lumber, basic tools, and a rustic farmhouse style that still looks clean enough for a living room.

**Finished size:** 42 in long x 22 in wide x about 17 3/4 in tall. **Skill level:** Beginner to intermediate. **Estimated build time:** One weekend, including glue-up and finishing.

## Recommended Materials

Qty	Material	Use	Notes
3	1x6 x 8 ft pine boards	Tabletop	Cut four pieces at 42 in; buy a third board for selecting the straightest pieces and allowing defects.
1	2x2 x 8 ft pine board	Legs	Cut four legs at 17 in.
2	1x4 x 8 ft pine boards	Aprons	Cut two long aprons and two short aprons.
1	1x2 x 8 ft pine board	Optional underside cleats	Useful for tabletop alignment and added stiffness.
1 box	1 1/4 in wood screws or pocket-hole screws	Fastening top/cleats	Use with glue; pre-drill to avoid splitting pine.
1 box	1 1/2 in to 2 in pocket-hole screws	Apron-to-leg joinery	Or use dowels, biscuits, or countersunk screws.
-	Wood glue, sandpaper, stain/paint/topcoat	Assembly and finish	Pine accepts conditioner before stain better than raw stain alone.

## Cut Sheet

Part	Qty	Actual Thickness	Cut Size	Board Source	Notes
Tabletop boards	4	3/4 in	1x6 x 42 in	1x6 pine	Final top width is about 22 in using four actual 5 1/2 in boards.
Legs	4	1 1/2 in	2x2 x 17 in	2x2 pine	Cut all legs together or use a stop block for equal length.
Long aprons	2	3/4 in	1x4 x 39 in	1x4 pine	Fits between legs on the 42 in length.
Short aprons	2	3/4 in	1x4 x 19 in	1x4 pine	Fits between legs on the 22 in width.
Optional cleats	3	3/4 in	1x2 x 19 in	1x2 pine	Install under top between long aprons.

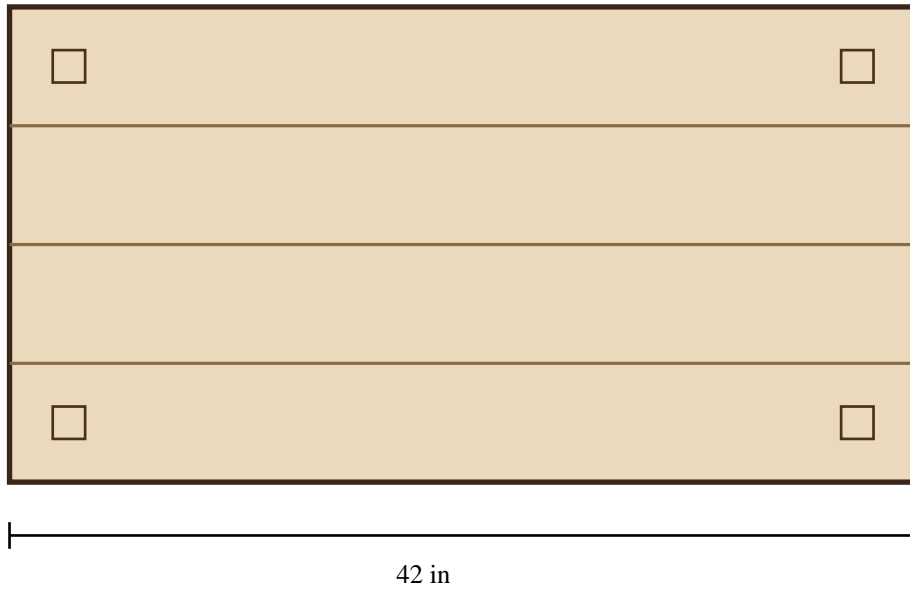
## Cutting Notes

Check every board for twist, cup, and bow before cutting. Cut the tabletop boards slightly long if you want to square the finished glue-up afterward. For beginner builds, pre-sand the inside faces of the aprons and legs before assembly because those areas are harder to reach later.



# Schematics

**Top view:** four 1x6 pine boards edge-glued into a 42 in x 22 in tabletop.

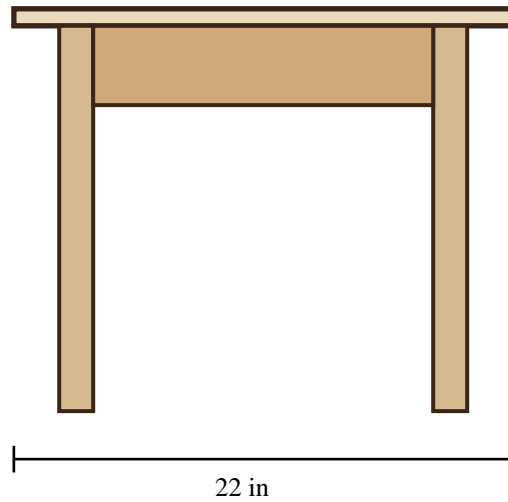


**Front view:** 1x4 apron set flush near the top between 2x2 legs.

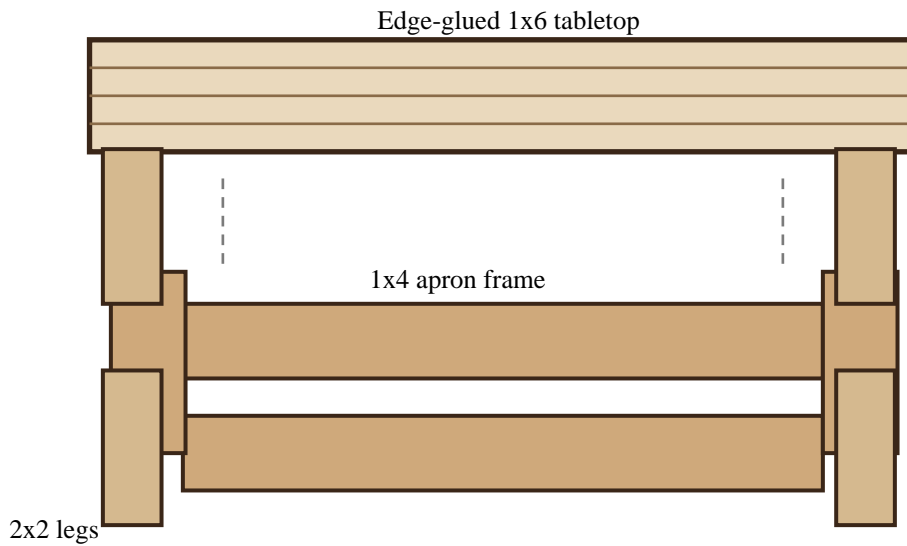


# Side and Exploded Views

**Side view:** short 1x4 apron between front and back legs.



**Exploded concept:** build the leg/apron base first, then center and fasten the tabletop.



## Assembly Steps

### 1. Select and mill the top boards

Choose the straightest 1x6 boards for the tabletop. Joint or lightly plane the mating edges if you have the tools. If not, clamp the boards together and look for gaps before glue-up.

### 2. Glue up the tabletop

Lay the four 42 in boards edge to edge. Apply wood glue to the edges, clamp evenly, and keep the faces as flush as possible. Wipe away squeeze-out after the glue gets rubbery.



### 3. Build the apron frame

Drill pocket holes in the ends of each apron. Attach the two 39 in long aprons and two 19 in short aprons between the 2x2 legs. Keep the apron tops flush with the top of the legs, or set them down about 1/8 in if you want the tabletop to sit proud.

### 4. Square the base

Measure diagonally from corner to corner. If the measurements match, the base is square. Clamp it until the glue sets.

### 5. Add optional cleats

Install three 1x2 cleats across the width between the long aprons. These help support the top and provide screw points. Elongate screw holes slightly across the grain so the tabletop can move seasonally.

### 6. Attach the tabletop

Center the tabletop on the base with an even overhang. A 42 in x 22 in top over this base gives roughly 1 in of overhang around the apron/legs. Fasten from below using screws through cleats or tabletop fasteners.

### 7. Sand and break the edges

Sand to 120, then 180 grit. Ease the tabletop edges and leg corners slightly so the table feels finished and safer in a living room.

### 8. Finish

For stain, use a pre-stain conditioner on pine to reduce blotching. For a durable family-room finish, apply two to three coats of water-based polyurethane, sanding lightly between coats.

## Joinery Options

**Easiest:** Pocket holes from aprons into legs, then screws from below into the tabletop. **Cleaner:** Dowels or loose tenons for apron-to-leg joinery. **Most traditional:** Mortise-and-tenon aprons, which is stronger but less beginner-friendly.

## Shopping Cut Layout

Board	Cuts	Remaining Approx.
1x6 x 8 ft #1	42 in + 42 in	12 in
1x6 x 8 ft #2	42 in + 42 in	12 in
1x6 x 8 ft #3	Backup/top selection board or future project	Varies
2x2 x 8 ft	17 in + 17 in + 17 in + 17 in	28 in
1x4 x 8 ft #1	39 in + 39 in	18 in
1x4 x 8 ft #2	19 in + 19 in + extra test pieces	58 in
1x2 x 8 ft	19 in + 19 in + 19 in optional cleats	39 in

## Safety and Accuracy Checklist

- Wear eye and hearing protection when cutting and sanding.
- Pre-drill screws in pine, especially near board ends.



- Use a stop block for repeat cuts so all legs match.
- Do not over-tighten tabletop screws; allow a little seasonal movement.
- Check for square before the glue cures.

## Blog Publishing Note

This printable plan can be offered as a downloadable companion to a Black Hut Woodworking blog post. A good article title would be: Basic Pine Coffee Table Plans: A Simple Weekend Woodworking Project.

