Porringer Top Tea Table
2010 Project Series

Project Overview

This video series covers the construction of an 18th century style tea table with cabriole legs and a porringer style top. We start with some basic design concepts, and then we go from rough lumber right through to the final finish.

This is a great project for the intermediate woodworker to use to push their skills a little outside of their comfort zone and step outside the box of straight lines into the world of curves. Even if 18th century furniture is not your cup of tea, building this piece is a great way to learn all about working with compound curves.

Project Parts List

Part Description	Material	Qty	Thickness	Width	Length
Legs	12/4 Poplar	4	2 ⅝"	2 ⅝"	21 ¼"
Knee Blocks	12/4 Poplar	8	1 ¾"	1 ¾"	1 ¾"
Short Aprons	4/4 Poplar	2	¾"	3 ½"	9"
Long Aprons	4/4 Poplar	2	¾"	3 ½"	16 ½"
Top	4/4 Poplar	1	¾"	14"	21"

Note: Dimensions are as drawn in the plan for a table with finished dimensions of 21" H x 21" W x 14" D and are provided for lumber planning purposes only. Actual dimensions will be determined relatively during construction and will vary based upon the desired finished height of your table. Always rough mill parts oversized.

Suggested Hardware List

Item Description	Qty	Source
#8 × 1¼" Round Head Screw	8	Hardware Store

Note: Listed hardware and sources are suggestions only. Feel free to substitute as desired.

Bob Rozaieski
Fine Woodworking

Suggested Tools

Saws
Hand Saw, 20-28", 5-7 PPI, Rip
Hand Saw, 20-28", 8-12 PPI, Crosscut
Backsaw, 12-16", 10-14 PPI, Hybrid or Rip
Turning or Coping Saw

Chisels
Mortise Chisel, ¼" or ⅜"
Bench Chisels, ½" & 1"

Boring Tools
Bit Brace
Auger Bit, #4, #5, or #6
Hand Drill
Hand Drill Bit (sized for your screws)

Other Tools
Wooden Mallet
Glue Brush & Hide Glue (hot or liquid)
Card Scraper
Screwdriver

Hand Planes
Jack Plane, 14-18"
Jointer Plane, 22-24"

Layout Tools
Folding Rule, 2-3'
Try Square, 12"
Dividers
Marking & Mortising Gauge
Marking Knife
Winding Sticks
Pencil

Shaping Tools
Smooth Cut Cabinet Rasp
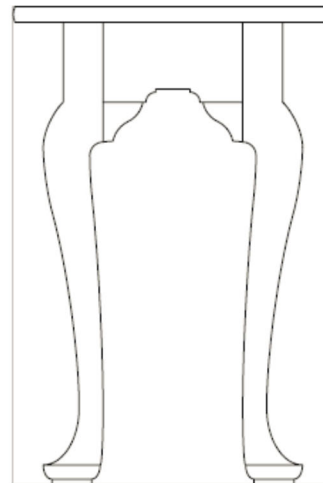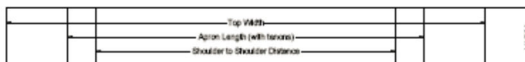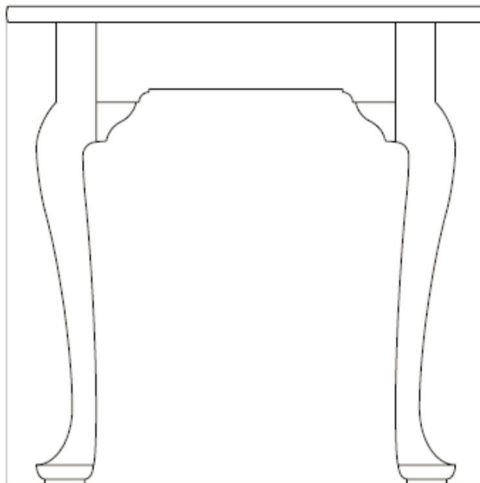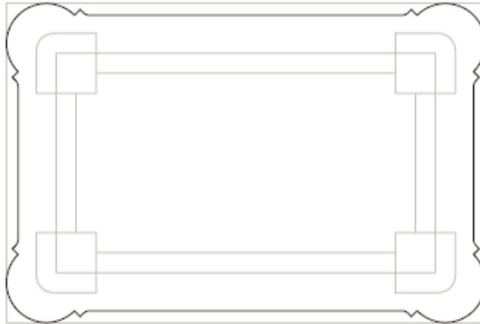Smooth Cut Cabinet File

Optional Tools
Backsaw, 12-16", 10-14 PPI, Crosscut
Spokeshave
In-cannel Gouge, ¾" or 1"
Smooth Plane, 7-9"
Skew Rabbet Plane
Carving Gouge (½", #5 or #6 sweep)

Note: Listed tools are suggestions only. Feel free to substitute as desired.

Bob Rozaieski
Fine Woodworking

HEIGHT

Top of Table
Top of Apron

Bottom of Apron

Peak of Knee

Inflection Point

Height of Ankle

Top of Foot
Top of Pad

Top Width
Apron Length (with tenons)
Shoulder to Shoulder Distance

Top Depth
Apron Length (with tenons)
Shoulder to Shoulder Distance

- Front proportions are 1:1
- Side proportions are 2:3
- Top proportions are 3:2

Bob Rozaieski
Fine Woodworking

1/6 (1/5 H)

1/5 H

1/6 H   1/6 (1/6 H)

3/4 (1/6 (1/6 H))

1/16 H

H

4/5 H
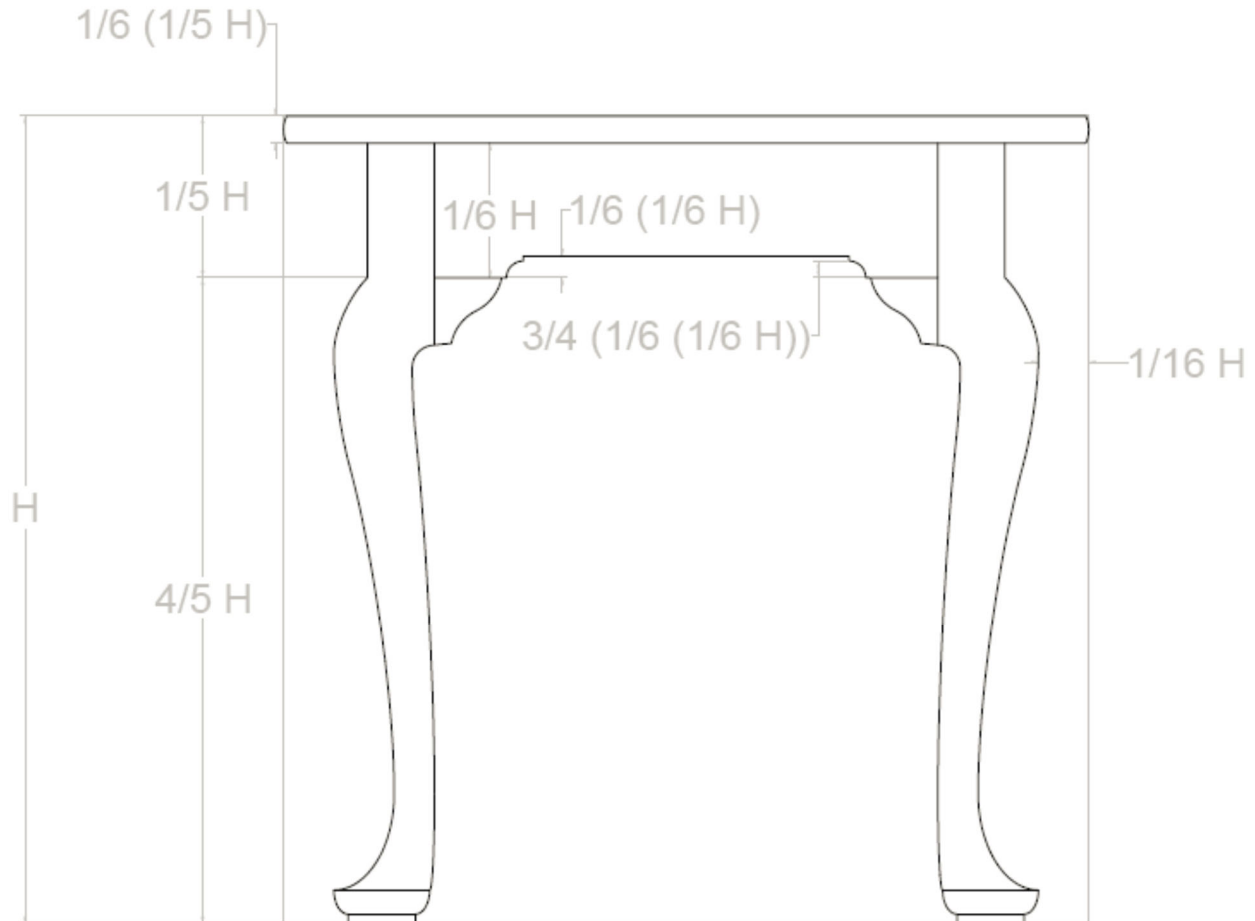
- Bottom of apron is located 4/5 of total height from the floor.
- Top thickness is 1/6 of the space above the bottom of the apron [i.e. 1/30 H].
- Height of the apron is 5/6 of the space above the bottom of the apron [i.e. 1/6 H].
- Height of the cove & fillet on the apron is 1/6 of the apron height [i.e. 1/36 H].
- Height of the cove on the apron is ¾ the height of the combined cove & fillet [i.e. 1/48 H].
- Total top projection (overhang past knee on both sides) is 1/8 of total table height [i.e. 1/16 H on each side].
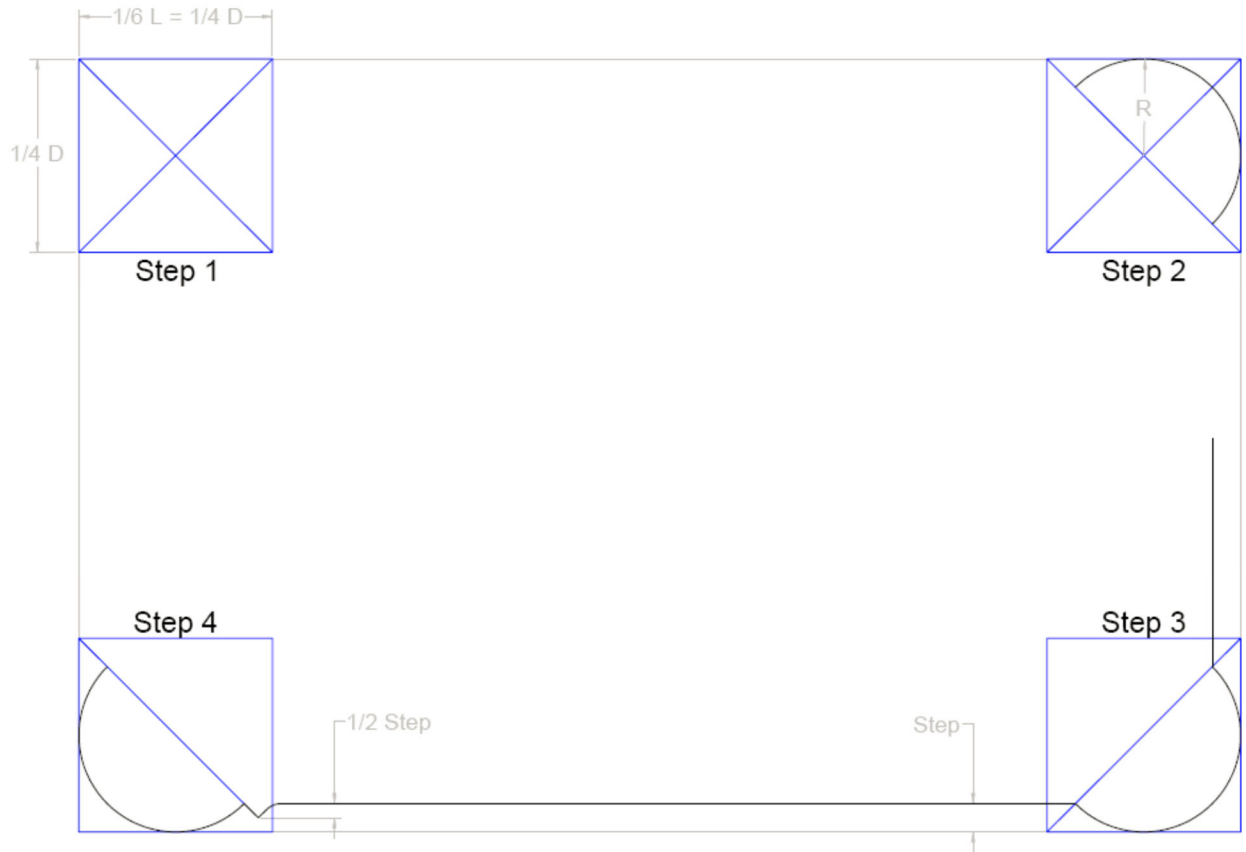
- Porringer corners are defined by a square 1/4 of the top depth by 1/6 of the top width [Step 1].
- Semi-circular corners have a radius tangent to the sides of the square [Step 2].
- Amount of step back defined by the intersection of the semi-circle with the diagonal of the square [Step 3].
- "Points" defined by the intersection of a line 1/2 step distance from the step back and the diagonal of the square [Step 4].
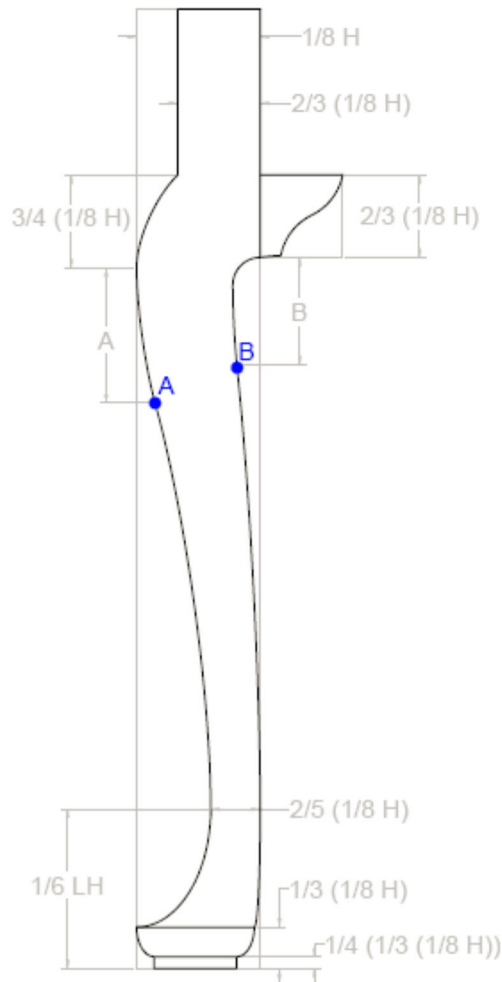
- Width of leg stock (knee thickness and foot diameter) is 1/8 total table height.
- Width of leg block is 2/3 the thickness of leg stock.
- Peak of the knee is a distance equal to 3/4 the knee thickness from the bottom of the apron.
- The ankle is a distance equal to 1/6 of the leg height from the floor.
- The ankle thickness is 2/5 of the knee thickness.
- The height of the foot is 1/3 of the foot diameter.
- The height of the pad is 1/4 of the height of the foot.
- The outside inflection point (A) is 1/4 of the distance from the peak of the knee to the ankle.
- The inside inflection point (B) is 1/5 of the distance from the bottom of the knee block to the ankle.
- The knee block height and width are the same as the leg block width.
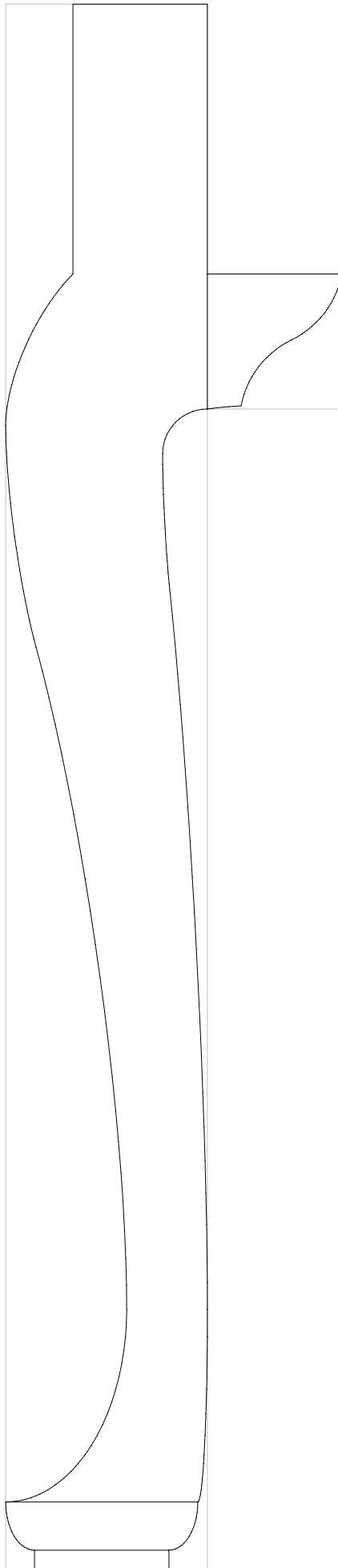
Leg template is 1/2 scale for a table with dimensions of 21" H x 21" W x 14" D

Porringer corner and knee block templates are full scale for a table with dimensions of 21" H x 21" W x 14" D