DIY Wooden Coasters

Master Construction Plans V1.0 | Wood Project Lab | Project #23

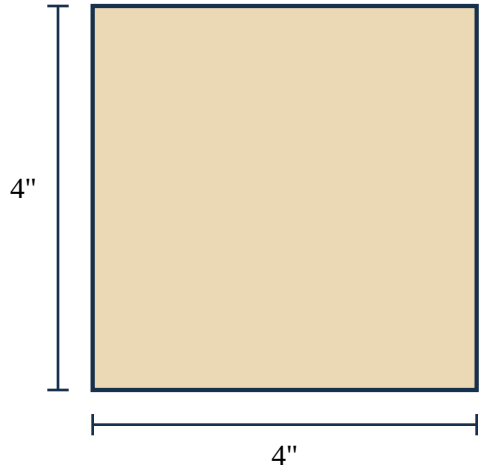
Four simple square plywood coasters. All dimensions are nominal inches. Plans are dimensionally specified but have not been physically prototyped or tested.

Finished dimensions and material

Component	Quantity	Finished dimensions	Material
Coaster blank	4	4" × 4" × ¼"	¼" birch plywood

Use flat, dry ¼" plywood without delamination. For four coasters, a 5" × 20" or larger panel is a convenient starting blank, allowing room for three saw kerfs and trimming. Do not assume four 4" pieces fit into exactly 16" of stock when cutting with a saw.

Dimensioned plan view



PLAN: 4" × 4" square

Thickness: ¼" nominal

Quantity: 4 identical pieces

Edges: eased by sanding

No drilled holes or fasteners

Tools and supplies

Ruler or tape measure, square, pencil, fine-tooth saw with a suitable workholding setup, sanding block and sandpaper (120, 180, 220 grit), dust protection, and a brush or applicator for the selected finish. Optional: four sets of self-adhesive cork or felt pads.

Cutting and finishing sequence

1. Inspect material — Check that plywood is flat, sound, and free of splinters or delamination.

2. Mark four blanks — Use a square to mark four 4" × 4" finished squares, allowing for blade kerf between adjacent pieces.

3. Cut safely — Secure the panel and cut outside each line, leaving a small margin for final trimming. Follow the saw manufacturer’s safety guidance.

4. Verify dimensions — Trim or sand each blank to a finished 4" × 4" square; check corners with a square.

5. Smooth edges — Sand faces and edges with 120, then 180 and 220 grit as appropriate. Ease sharp edges lightly without intentionally rounding the square profile.

6. Clean — Remove all sanding dust before finishing.

7. Seal all surfaces — Apply a clear finish labeled suitable for wooden coasters or incidental moisture exposure, following the product label. Seal faces, edges, and undersides; use the stated coats, ventilation and curing time.

8. Optional protective pads — After the finish has fully cured, add small cork or felt pads near the underside corners, set inward from the edges.

Important practical notes

Wood and wood finishes are not waterproof by default. Wipe up spills promptly; do not soak or put coasters in a dishwasher. Hot cookware may damage a finish. Follow the selected finish manufacturer’s curing and heat-resistance guidance. No load, temperature, water-resistance, price, or build-time claims have been tested.

Quality-control checklist

Four pieces measure 4" × 4"; corners are square; no splinters or delamination; all exposed edges sealed; finish fully cured before use; pads (if used) do not rock.