HOW TO: Refurbished Window Coffee Table

Supplies:

An old window
2 x 4’s
Old paneling*
Table Legs
Hinges
Stain or paint (optional)
Sander and sand paper
Electric drill
Bolts
Washers
Nail gun*
Wood glue
Thin scrap wood
Painter’s tape
Tack cloth
Chop saw
Tape measure
Framing clamps
Latex gloves (multiple pairs)
Polyurethane
Socket wrench

*We used old paneling for this tutorial, you can also use any piece of wood cut to size.
*A nail gun was used in this tutorial, if you do not mind the exposure, an electric drill with screws can be used alternatively.

Step 1: Tape the glass with painter’s tape to protect it from sanding.

Step 2: Sand old finish, paint, and stain using sandpaper. (We used 100 grit on an electric sander.)

Step 3: Dump the majority of sawdust off of the window. Use tack cloth to pick up small pieces of sawdust.
**Step 4:** Decide if you want your coffee table to have a lip for opening and closing, or if you want to add a drawer pull, and make the window flush with the table frame (leave about 1” if you do not want a drawer pull). For this tutorial, no drawer pull is used.

**Step 5:** Measure the length of your window. Measuring your 2 x 4, make a rough mark of where you will want to cut to the correct length. **TIP:** Always cut a little longer than you think you’ll need—it’s easier to cut more than to start over.

**Step 6:** Cut a 45° angle on each end of the 2 x 4 with a chop saw. Lay against your window to see if it lines up; if needed, shave a small amount off the 2 x 4 until you get the right length.

**Step 7:** Measure your second 2 x 4 to the same length as the first one, and repeat step 5.

**Step 8:** Now, measure the width of your window. Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the short 2 x 4’s.

**Step 9:** (This is where it can get tricky) Window face down, make a frame of your 2 x 4’s. If they don’t fit as a frame, or flush with the window, keep trimming a little at a time until they fit to your liking.

**Step 10:** Once the 2 x 4’s are the correct length, glue one width side to one length side with wood glue. Put a framing clamp on this corner. Take the nail gun and punch three nails in each side. **TIP:** Depending on the size of your staples (we used 2.5”) make sure to not punch nails in the same place in opposite directions as this can cause your wood to split. Wipe away extra glue that was pushed out during this step.

**Step 11:** Repeat step 10, one side of the frame at a time. The final side will be the most difficult to fit, so stay patient.
**Step 12:** Once your frame is made, you are ready to stain or paint! Use tack cloth to pick up small sawdust pieces. Stain/paint the wood of your window, and the frame. The staining technique we used to achieve the correct color is painting the stain on thick, then wiping excess away with paper towels. Let dry completely.

![Image 1](image1.jpg)

![Image 2](image2.jpg)

![Image 3](image3.jpg)

**Step 13:** Paint a layer of polyurethane on the wood (excluding the bottom part of your frame) and let dry completely. Repeat until desired look is achieved.

![Image 4](image4.jpg)

**Step 14:** Laying your frame upside down, position your table legs, and mark the center of the attachment hole. Drill pilot holes with a drill where your bolts will go.

![Image 5](image5.jpg)

![Image 6](image6.jpg)

**Step 15:** 2 x 4’s can have faults in them, making one area of your frame uneven—use a washer to make the leg flush with the frame. Using the bolts, washers and socket wrench, attach the table legs one at a time.
Step 16: Set your table upright and admire what you’ve accomplished so far! Measure the length of the inside of your frame. Cut a piece of thin scrap wood to this length. This creates a crutch for wood paneling to attach across the bottom of the frame. Attach crutches to both length sides of the frame using a nail gun.

Step 17: Cut wood paneling to size for the inside of the frame. Although it may look like it, the frame will not be 100% square, making the inside lengths different by a few eighths of an inch from one end to the other. Cut pieces that are slightly different from one another and move them across the bottom of your frame until you find where the piece fits snug.

Step 18: If you get the measurements accurate enough, you will not need to attach all of the wood paneling pieces. If they fit together well, you can just nail down the outside pieces of paneling for more secure fit. The wood will expand and contract through the seasons; try to not fasten down all wood paneling pieces for this reason.

Step 19: Using a drill, attach the hinges to the edge of your window first, then attach the window to the frame. We put the hinges 6” in on each side.
Step 20 (optional): Attach a drawer pull for a handle to open.

Step 21: Remove painter’s tape, and clean window with glass cleaner. Fill with your favorite trinkets, display in your living room and enjoy the compliments your new table will bring!