

## More on *Kotatsu Tables*

from **EAST -WEST TEAHOUSE** – 805.646.7355 – [www.EastWestTeaHouse.net](http://www.EastWestTeaHouse.net)

Adding a *Kotatsu Table* is one of the easiest and most effective ways to make your **East-West TeaHouse** even more useful, versatile and responsive.



2 x 2 *Kotatus* ...



3 x 2 *Kotatus* ...



4 x 2 *Kotatus* ...



## Appearance, Design & Ease of Use

*Kotatsu Tables* are made with the actual floor boards of the **TeaHouse**.

In its "down" position, a *Kotatsu* forms an integrated part of the larger deck. In its "up" position, the *Kotatsu* panel rests on four pop-up legs to create an intimate table surface. The transition between the two takes only a few seconds and doesn't require any tools – that way, the level deck and the versatile *Kotatsu Table* are both always there when you need them.



A *Kotatsu Table* in its "down" position, as an integrated part of the larger deck ...



The same *Kotatsu Table* in its "up" position, as an intimate table surface.

## How to Use a *Kotatsu Table*

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The most common way to enjoy a *Kotatsu Table* is to sit on the surface of the main deck with your feet in the "well" created by the raised panel.



Top view of a 3 x 2 *Kotatsu* ....



End view of a 4 x 2 *Kotatsu* ...



Oblique view of a 2 x 2 *Kotatsu* ...

The main deck of a **TeaHouse** rests 16" to 18" above the ground, and the *Kotatsu Table* rises up another 12". Together, these combine to provide a natural sitting height and comfortable table surface.

Many people choose to add cushions or mats to their **TeaHouse** to make the experience of sitting at *Kotatsu Table* even more inviting.



## Other Ways to Enjoy a *Kotatsu Table*

In addition to creating an intimate a place to take a meal or providing a convenient work surface, *Kotatsu Tables* can also enhance your **TeaHouse** in other ways – as a coffee table, an altar, even as a pure design element.



*Kotatsu Table* as a coffee table ...



As a design element ...



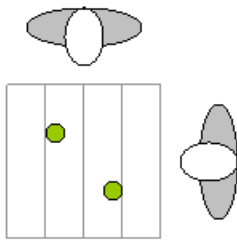
As an altar.

# On Choosing the Best Size for Your *Kotatsu Table*

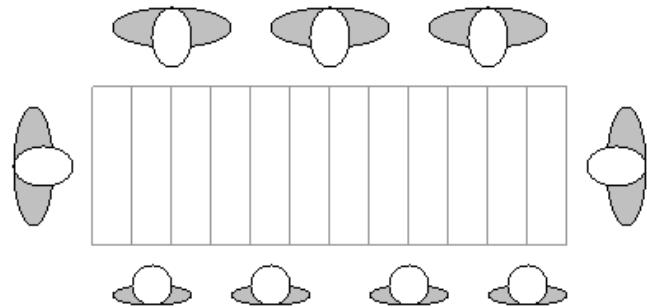
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In deciding on the best size for your *Kotatsu Table*, it can be helpful to consider how you might be using the table in its "up" position.

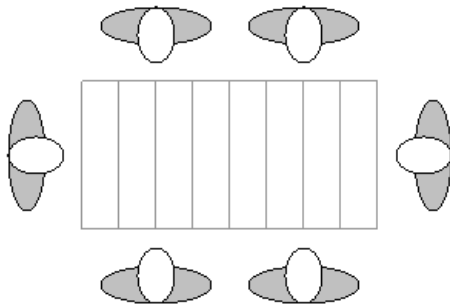
If you anticipate just one or two people taking tea or a sharing a light meal, then a smaller 2' x 2' *Kotatsu* can be a good choice. For several people, a small family, or just to give yourself some extra space, a mid-sized 3' x 2' or 4' x 2' *Kotatsu* will offer more room and flexibility. And for larger families and big gatherings sitting together, a more generous 5' or 6' long *Kotatsu* may be the best option.



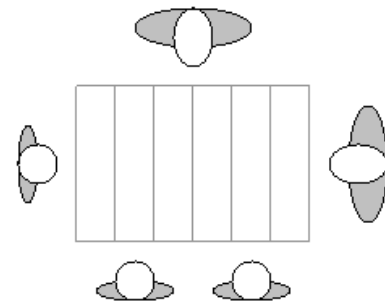
A couple sharing tea at a 2 x 2 *Kotatsu* ...



A larger family gathering at a 6 x 2 *Kotatsu* ...



Six adults sitting at a 4 x 2 *Kotatsu* ...



A smaller family sharing a 3 x 2 *Kotatsu* ...



This large, 6 foot long *Kotatsu Table* at the five-star **Ojai Valley Inn & Spa** creates an elegant dining pavilion in their herb garden, offering generous "picnic table" seating for a number of guests.

## Thinking About Space with a *Kotatsu Table*

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When using your *Kotatsu Table* in its "up" position, it's good to keep in mind that the surrounding deck is still available, giving you plenty of room to spread out.

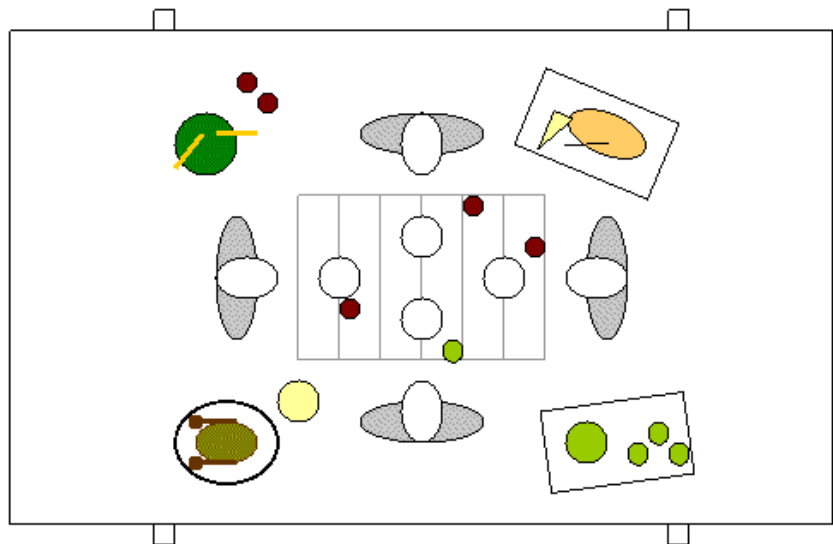
For example, unlike a traditional free-standing table with chairs, in a **TeaHouse** with a *Kotatsu Table*, the many serving dishes for a larger meal can easily stay nearby on the main deck – close at hand, but off to the side – freeing the diners to share and enjoy the intimacy of the food, the company, and the conversation.

This kind of synergy, elegance and design is intentional, a way of "doing more with less." Since the raised *Kotatsu Table* works in harmony with the more generous area of the surrounding deck, you may find that a smaller *Kotatsu* panel will fit your needs even better than a larger one can – with the *Kotatsu* and deck combining to "do the work" of a much larger traditional free-standing table.

Four adults share a meal at a 3' x 2' *Kotatsu Table* ...

Individual plates and glasses rest on the intimate table surface, while the serving trays and larger dishes rest nearby, within easy reach, on the main deck.

Outline: **Original TeaHouse** with a 6' x 10' deck.



Another way to blend the utility and convenience of the main deck and *Kotatsu* is to offset the location of the *Kotatsu Table* rather than placing it in the center of the **TeaHouse** structure.



Placing the *Kotatsu* in an offset position creates a different approach to blending its raised table top with the main deck.

In this example, an offset 2 x 2 *Kotatsu Table* in an **Original TeaHouse** still leaves plenty of room for a yoga mat, without the need to raise and lower the panel.

# Dimensions of a *Kotatsu* Table

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## Calculating Length and Width

*Kotatsu Tables* are typically two feet (24") wide. That way, when they are in their "down" position, they can be fully supported by the floor joists of the **TeaHouse** as they blend in with the main deck.

The length of a *Kotatsu Table* is always approximate – as determined by the number and width of the floor boards used to create it. In order to center the *Kotatsu* on the structure, a panel is most often made with an even number of floor boards.



This 3 x 2 *Kotatsu* panel is made from six floor boards, and measures ~ 33" x 24"

<u>Relative Size</u>	<u>Actual Dimensions</u>
2 x 2	~ 22" x 24"
3 x 2	~ 33" x 24"
4 x 2	~ 44" x 24"
5 x 2	~ 55" x 24"
6 x 2	~ 66" x 24"

## Lifting the *Kotatsu* Panel

All *Kotatsu Tables* feature convenient "pull holes," so it's easy to catch a hold of the panel and lift it up from its "down" position.

Most people can readily manage a smaller *Kotatsu* by themselves, but sometimes it's easier to have another person's help when lifting and lowering a larger sized panel. If you're by yourself, or if you anticipate a frequent shift between the level deck and the raised *Kotatsu Table*, you might consider these factors when choosing a size that will work best for your situation.

<u>Size of <i>Kotatsu</i></u>	<u>Approximate Weight of Panel – in pounds</u>	
	<i>- made with 1x6 floor boards - (Original &amp; Micro TeaHouses)</i>	<i>- made with 2x6 floor boards - (Wide TeaHouses &amp; Tea Rooms)</i>
2 x 2	7	18
3 x 2	10	27
4 x 2	14	36
5 x 2	17	45
6 x 2	20	54

