

Beam Layout & Spacing Worksheet

Plan, space, and build lightweight hollow ceiling beams.

Calculate your perfect beam spacing and create stunning faux wood beams. Use this worksheet to plan a safe, seamless installation.

● Key Measurements

36-60 in

Standard spacing apart for balance

2x4

Ceiling cleat size

3-inch

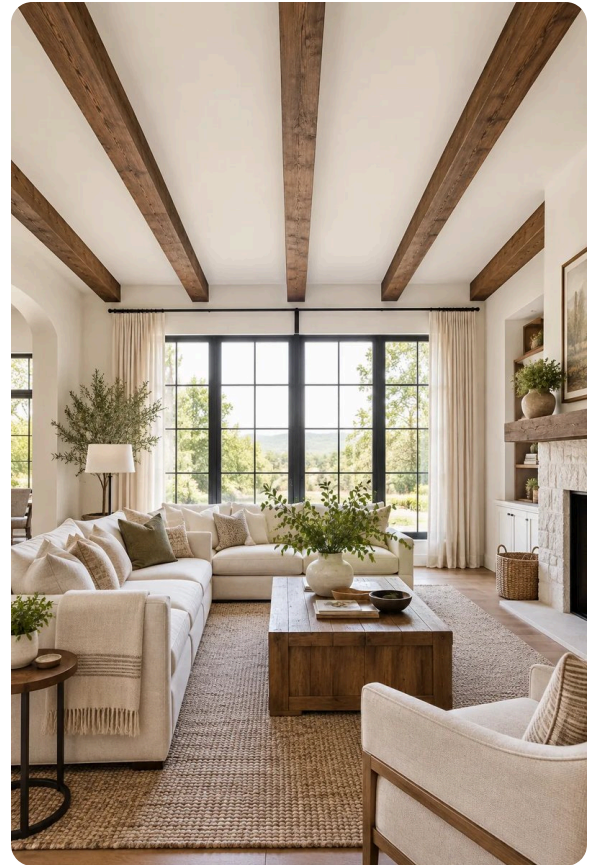
Wood screws into ceiling joists

18-gauge

Brad nails for U-shape assembly

3-sided

Hollow box construction



The Friction Fit Secret

Ensure the outer width of your ceiling cleat perfectly matches the inner width of your hollow beam for a snug, secure friction fit.

● Installation Sequence

- 1 Build the shell** Join boards with wood glue and brad nails on a perfectly flat floor to prevent twisting.
- 2 Add wood texture** Use a wire brush drill attachment on pine to create a raised grain, then stain.
- 3 Mount the cleats** Screw raw wood blocks directly into ceiling joists to create the hidden support system.
- 4 Hide the joints** Wrap a faux iron strap around finished beams to conceal butt seams and add rustic character.

● Size Your Materials

Find your row: **Ceiling Height**

Ceiling Height	Your pick	Why
8 feet	1x4 boards	Subtle and low-profile
9 to 10 feet	1x6 boards	Classic structural scale
11+ feet or vaulted	1x8 boards	Bold and architectural

● Layout Checks Before You Build

- Measure total room width wall-to-wall for accurate spacing calculation.
- Locate and mark ceiling joists with a reliable stud finder.
- Mark existing ceiling vents or light fixtures to avoid overlaps.
- Keep your grid centered on windows, fireplaces, or French doors.

● Layout & Spacing Notes

Enjoy your beautifully balanced space and the warmth of your new ceiling beams!