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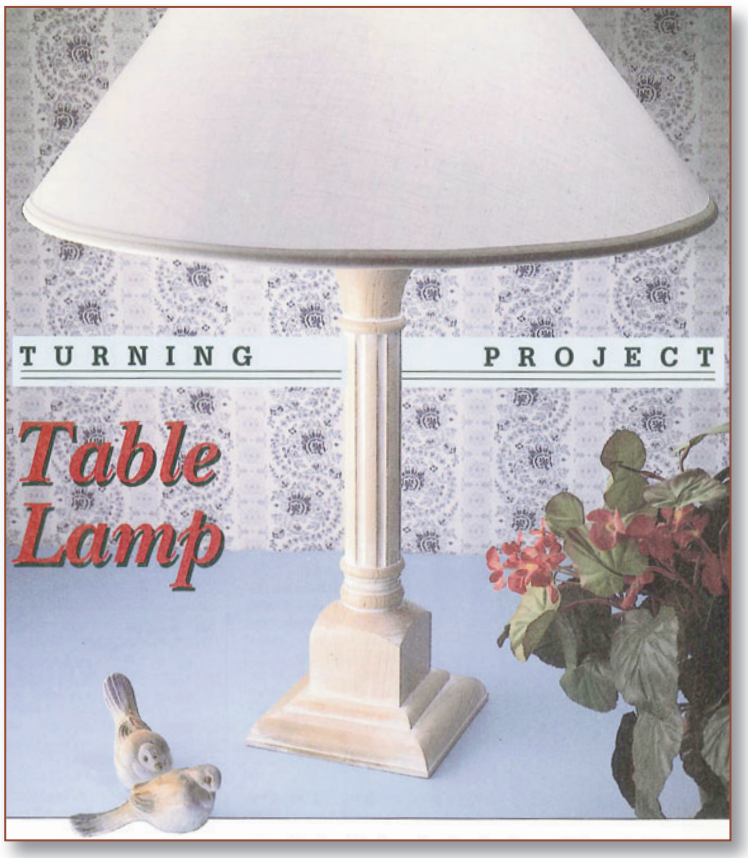
Classic Project

In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Table Lamp



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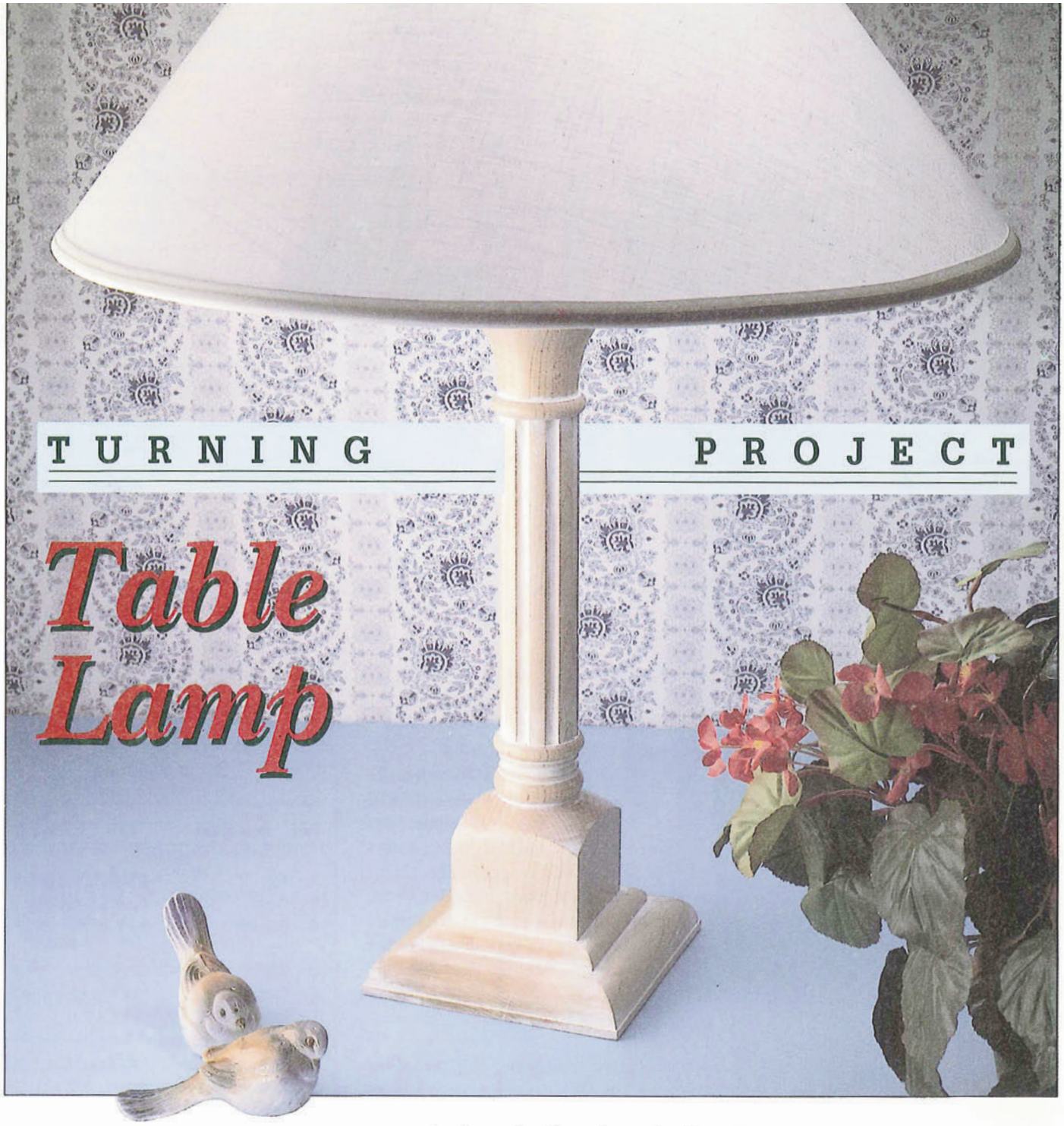


TURNING PROJECT

Table Lamp

Column style table lamps have been all the rage of late, and our handsome version captures all the best details. There's a fluted column, classic turnings, and a sturdy base.

You'll need a lathe—or access to one—in order to make this project. However, because the turnings are so basic, even if this is your first turning project, you should have little problem with this piece. Our lamp is made of maple, and has a whitewashed finish, but you could use just about any wood and finish that suits your decor.

The Column Parts

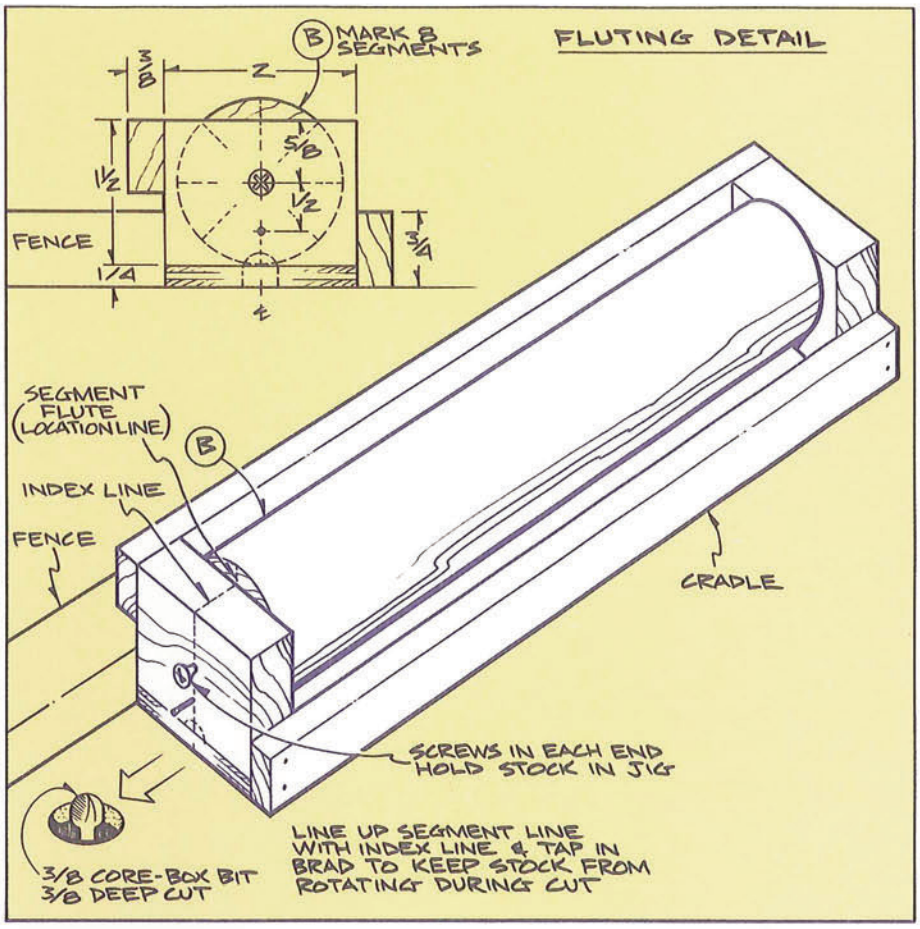
As the Bill Of Materials details, the wooden parts of the lamp are broken down into two sections—the column and the base. The three column parts—the top (A), center (B) and bottom (C)—are all lathe-turned. Although you could use separate turning blocks for all three parts, we laid up sufficient stock to yield both the top and bottom from a single turning blank. A blank measuring 3 in. by 3 in. by 8 in. long will be adequate. Turn the top and bottom to the dimensions shown (don't forget to include the 1/2 in. long by 7/8 in. diameter tenon on each part) then separate the individual parts. We accomplished all the turning work with just a skew and a few gouges.

The center section is a uniform turning, 1 3/4 in. in diameter. You may own a router/lathe fluting jig—and this would be fine for fluting the center—but we've worked out a simple method that enables you to do the fluting on your router table with a 3/8 in. diameter core-box bit and an easy-to-make shop-built jig.

As shown in the Fluting Detail, the jig is essentially just a cradle to secure the center as it's passed across the core-box bit. You can construct the cradle exactly as we have, or use whatever scraps you have handy. The important things to remember are that the inside length of the jig must be 7 1/4 in., to fit the center length, and that your bit height must include not only the 1/8 in. flute depth but also the thickness of the jig bottom. Since our jig bottom was 1/4 in. plywood, our bit depth totaled out to 3/8 in. Of course, you'll need to locate the fence (which the cradle guides against) so the core-box bit is on-center with the jig end.

As the Fluting Detail also shows, you'll need to drill for a screw and brad in each end of the jig. Drill these holes, then scribe flute location lines (45 degrees apart) on one end of the center, and mark an index line on-center on one end of the jig as a way to line up the flute lines. Once you've done all this, the fluting is fairly simple. Line up a flute location line with the index line, tighten the screws and tap the brad in to lock the position of the center in the cradle, then just pass the cradle across the core-box bit. For the initial pass, you'll want to make a first cut through the plywood, then reset the bit to final height and rout the flute. To rout subsequent flutes, just back off the brad, rotate the center 45 degrees so the next flute line is aligned with the index line, and repeat the procedure.

Once your flutes are done, you'll need to drill for the tenons and cord hole (we suggest that you use a drill press for this). Most long bits should handle the 3/8 in. diameter holes through the top and bottom. But, the tenon and cord holes in the center are a several-step procedure. Start by using a Forstner bit to drill the 7/8 in. diameter by 1/2 in. deep tenon holes, then switch to the 3/8 in. diameter bit, and drill the cord hole in from each end. Don't worry if the holes don't meet perfectly, you can always enlarge the hole enough for the cord to pass through.



The Base Parts

The base parts—the top (D), center (E) and bottom (F)—are cut to the indicated sizes, then the top and center are rounded with 3/8 in. and 3/4 in. radius roundover bits, respectively. Drill through all three parts with the 3/8 in. diameter bit, then rout or chisel a groove in the bottom for the cord to exit out the side. Test assemble, then final sand the wood parts.

Assembly

If your test assembly fits well, thread the cord (K) through the wood parts one-by-one, then use epoxy to glue the parts together. Epoxy the threaded nipple (G) into the top of the lamp, leaving enough exposed to securely mount the neck (I), harp (H) and socket (J).

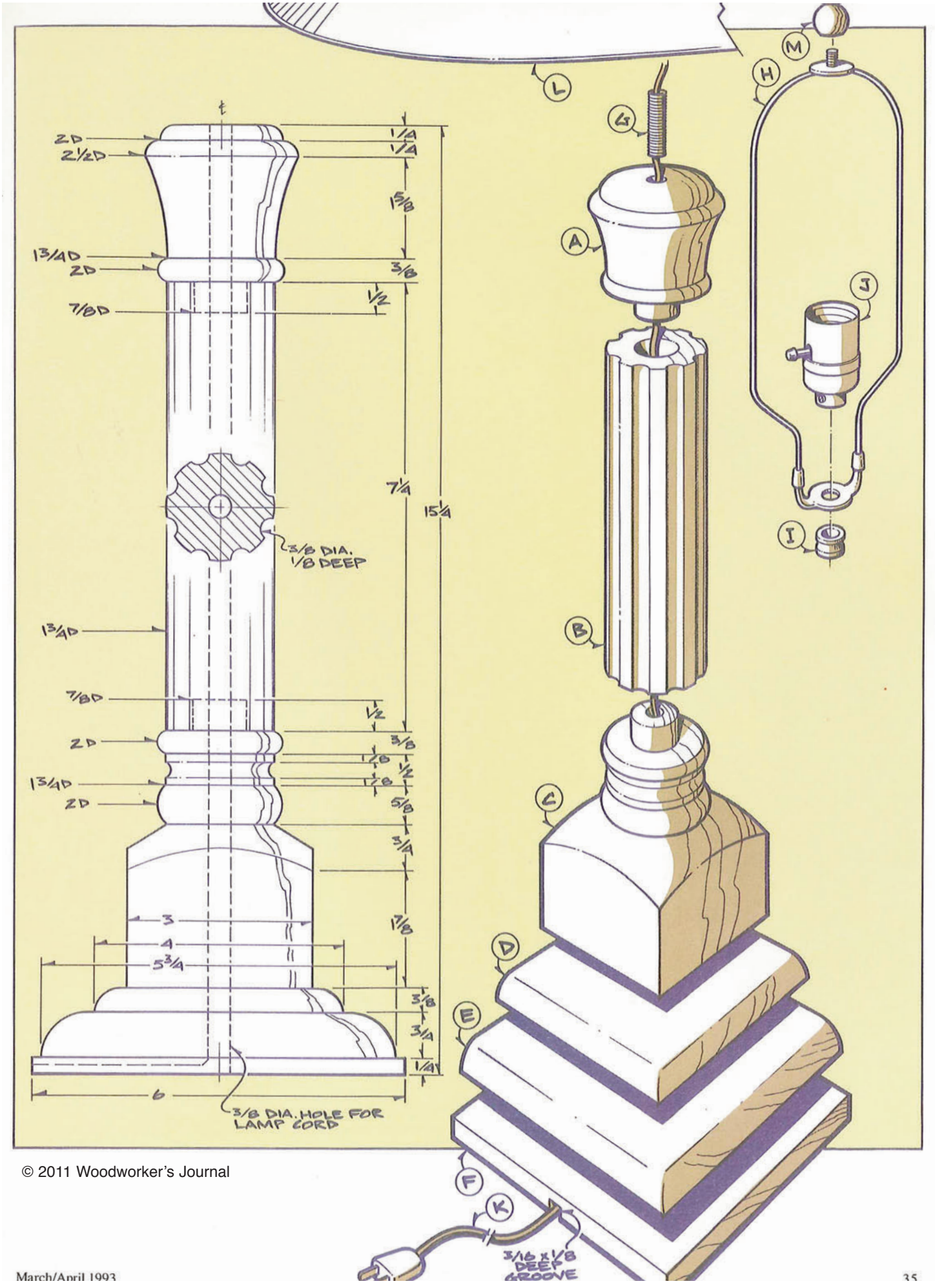
Finish

Now's a good time to apply your finish. We brushed on a white oil-based primer, wiped most of the paint off, let dry, added a paste wax and finally buffed with a soft cloth. Mount the remaining hardware, make your electrical connections, add the shade (L) and finial (M), and your lamp is complete.

Bill of Materials
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
	Column		
A	Top	2 1/2 dia. x 3 long*	1
B	Center	1 3/4 dia. x 7 1/4 long	1
C	Bottom	3 x 3 x 4 5/8*	1
	Base		
D	Top	3/8 x 4 x 4	1
E	Center	3/4 x 5 3/4 x 5 3/4	1
F	Bottom	1/4 x 6 x 6	1
	Hardware		
G	Threaded Nipple	3/8 O.D. x 2 long	1
H	Harp	9 in.	1
I	Neck	9/16 high	1
J	Socket	3-way	1
K	Cord w/plug	8 ft.	1
	Decorative		
L	Shade	20 dia.	1
M	Finial	1 1/4 dia.	1

* Length includes tenon



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Internet Production Coordinator