



DE NUECES

HOUSTON ★ TEXAS

832.207.9384

M O ' D O K N I

Modoc Nation

O K L A H O M A

2022 License Plate Series

Jose Rodriguez de Nueces

License Plate Design and Production
Consultant

DECEMBER 2021



Introduction

Since 2000 the Modoc Nation has issued license plates to its members

(Left) Early 2000s Plate showing the MO-123 format after MO 99 was hit.



(Right) The Current design since going flat circa 2010

From the beginning to the present the Modoc Nation has used the same design, a white-blue-green gradient and the National Seal prominently displayed, as is customary among native tribes.

At the time of the adoption, the Modoc plate was one of the most distinct plates in Oklahoma, as most Tribes used either plain white plates, or the off-the-shelf template (pictured to the right) used by the Sac & Fox who issued the first Oklahoma tribal plates in 1983, and eventually led to the U.S.



Supreme Court decision in *OK Tax Comm'n v. Sac & Fox* (1993) which affirmed the right of Oklahoma tribes and nations to issue their own plates despite lacking formal reservations.

In 20 years since the issuance of the first Modoc plates, several tribes have adopted incredibly distinct designs, including the Myaamia who currently handle the administration and issuance of Modoc plates, with several tribes murmuring about adopting new designs as not only an expression of Native Pride and assertion of Sovereignty in a post-McGrit era, but recognition that most of the designs are not only just outdated, but using the same design for 20 years and all plates ever issued still being valid creates a public safety issue as not only are these plates far past their design lifespan and may have serious degradation of reflectivity, but the ready availability of the older plates on Ebay and antique shops that can be used for nefarious purposes.



2022 Series

There are 9 plate types for the 2022 series, partially split between two sets of graphics; the new Mt Shasta Graphic that is available for all plate types, with a special camo color version for Veteran Plates, and the Bison graphic which is an update to the 2000 graphics and is based on a personal concept from November 2020; It is only optional for the plate types issued to private vehicles, with Mt. Shasta graphics being mandatory for Government, Commercial and Farm plates.

Mount Shasta



This design includes several elements symbolic to the Modoc Nation, firstly the bottom weave pattern is taken directly from the purported hat of Captain Jack at the time of his capture, the top flower pattern is taken from a shash Chief Yellowhammer (c.1850-1915) is seen wearing in a photo, with the yellow flowers to represent the Wokas that were traditionally harvested on Tulelake.

The two bison being representative of the Modoc Bison Project, as well as the two major points in Modoc history, the 1873 Bison faces right, which is east, representing the relocation of the Modoc to Oklahoma, the 1978 Bison, representing the year federal recognition was restored, faces left, which traditionally in government symbols represents moving forward, or progress, especially when contextualized onto a flag. Left is also west, meaning it's looking towards California, and represents the Modoc's desire to finish Captain Jack's 150 year goal of declaring independence from the Klamath and reestablishing the Tribe on ancestral land in California.

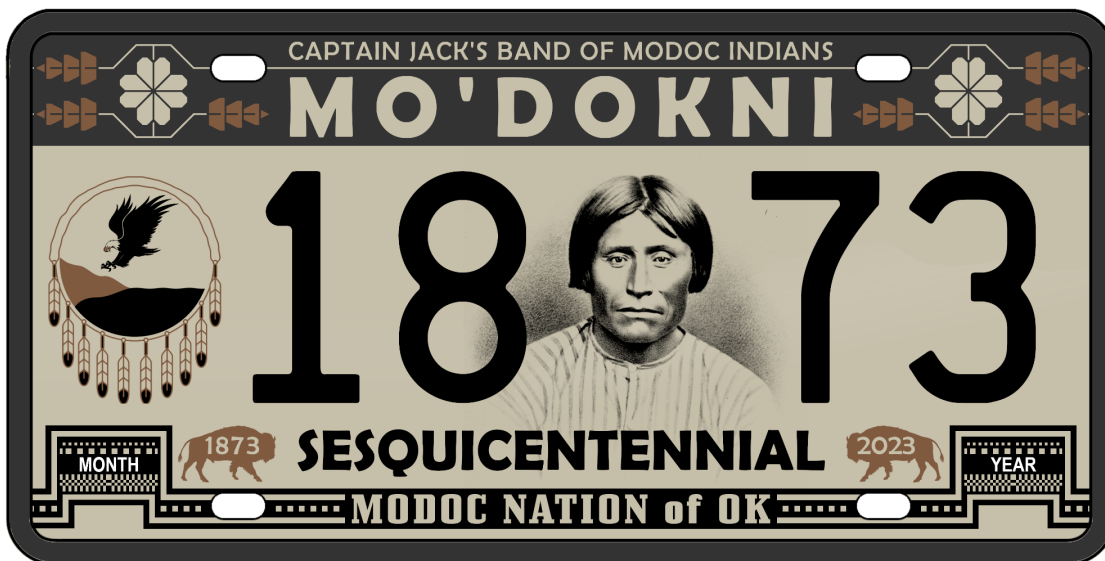


Bison



This design is actually based on a concept developed in November 2020 for the Veteran plates that were to be introduced that year, the bottom pattern, like the top, is also taken from Captain Jack's purported hat at the time of his capture, with the addition of the buffalo and Mount Shasta in the bottom right, as well as the years of relocation and federal re-recognition.

Sesquicentennial



This design is intended to be a limited edition for 22-'23 only for the Modoc War sesquicentennial. On this plate *Mo'dokni* is given prominence as a reference to the fact that in 1873 most Modoc only spoke Modoc.



Souvenir / Front Plate



This base is based on a rejected design from the first round of submissions, which was specifically requested to be kept as a designated booster/front plate/souvenir design to ensure these can not be used as fake plates, I have replaced "Modoc Nation" with *Captain Jack's Band of Modoc Indians*, which is taken from the dictionary entry for *Mo'dokni*. To try and dissuade misuse or at least make it obvious, watermarks will be added above and below the serial that explicitly state it's not valid.

Other Plate Types

Prefix	Alpha	Plate Type
1	N/A	Bison Standard
2	N/A	Mt. Shasta Standard
3	C	<i>Commerical</i>
4	D	<i>Disabled Person</i>
5	E	<i>Elder</i>
6	F	<i>Farm Vehicle</i>
7	G	<i>Government</i>
8	H	<i>Handicap (Overflow)</i>
9-12	N/A	Unassigned
13	M	<i>Motorcycle</i>
VET		<i>Veteran</i>
DV		<i>Disabled Veteran</i>

With the design requirement that all plate types (excluding Veteran Plates) follow the all numeric 4 digit pattern, it was quickly determined a number prefix system in a 1-234 pattern should be used to separate plate types as the alternative of assigning block of numbers to each plate type would cause confusion and ambiguity in the assigned plate numbers.

With number 1 and 2 assigned to the standard passenger plates as common sense as the current Passenger series is currently in the 1000s range, the rest of the numbers are assigned based on the numerical equivalent of the first plate type.



Eligibility Based

Disabled Person



Elder (55+)





Veteran



Extra-Fee

Personalized



Handicap symbol (one space), Ñ, É, apostrophe, period, full and half space dash, half-space | all available.



Regulated

Commercial



Farm Vehicle



Tribal Government

