

AUSTRALIAN

August 2013
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DIY MADE EASY

Handyman

PLASTERBOARD *makeovers*

Cover exposed brick walls

PLUS 3D moulding effects

LUSH LAWNS EASY WINTER CARE

CHAINSAWS

How to use them safely

12 Amazing man caves



FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

- Make this poker table
- 23 top gifts

BOOKCASES for tricky spaces

picnic table

MAKE IT THIS WEEKEND!

- + Build a raised herb bed
- + Pave a brick pathway
- + Install a clothesline



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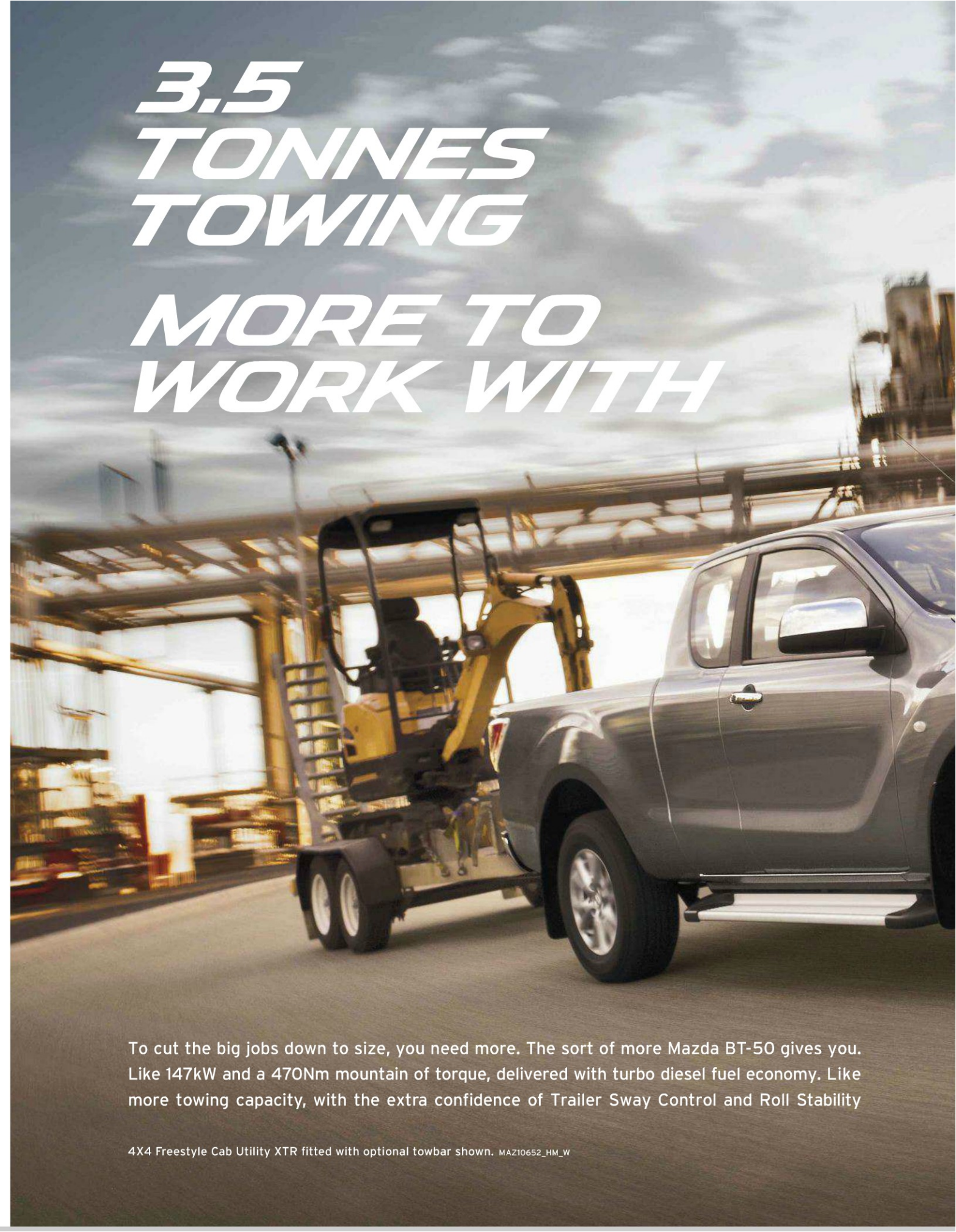
SDS Keyless accessory
change with the PMF 250 CES



Accessories included
in delivery scope



BOSCH
Invented for life

A silver Mazda BT-50 pickup truck is shown from the side, towing a yellow excavator on a trailer. The scene is set in an industrial area with large buildings and pipes in the background. The sky is overcast. The text "3.5 TONNES TOWING" is written in large, bold, italicized white letters at the top left.

***3.5
TONNES
TOWING***

***MORE TO
WORK WITH***

To cut the big jobs down to size, you need more. The sort of more Mazda BT-50 gives you. Like 147kW and a 470Nm mountain of torque, delivered with turbo diesel fuel economy. Like more towing capacity, with the extra confidence of Trailer Sway Control and Roll Stability

4X4 Freestyle Cab Utility XTR fitted with optional towbar shown. MAZ10652_HM_W



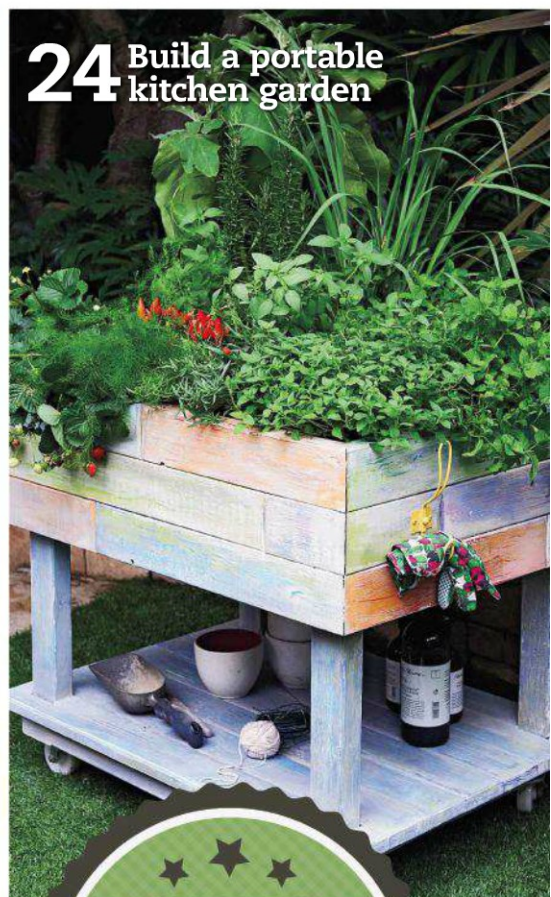
Control. Like more comfort, with Bluetooth®, cruise control, even Sat Nav on some models. All this and more choice too, with 4x2, 4x4, Single Cab, Freestyle Cab and Dual Cab. If you'd like more info to work with, check out your Mazda dealer, or BT-50.com.au

MAZDA BT-50 MORE IS MORE

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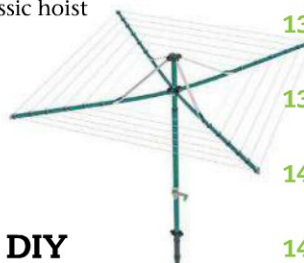
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Left your keys at home? No worries.

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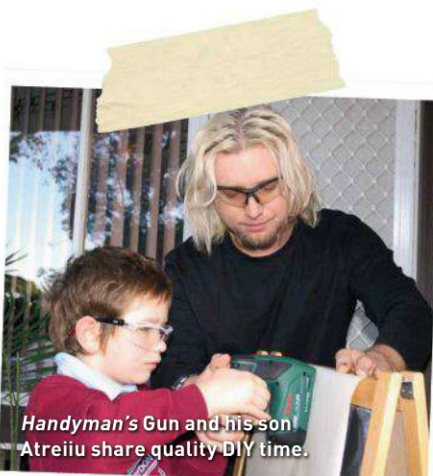
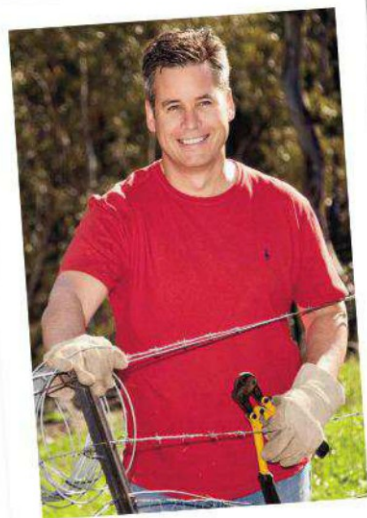


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Handyman's Gun and his son! Atreiiu share quality DIY time.

More inspiration

Looking for inspiration for your outdoor area? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next project. Check out *Handyman* at [pinterest.com/diyhandyman](https://www.pinterest.com/diyhandyman) or scan the code below with your phone.



Maximise your space and build a decking platform around trees.



Set up a dedicated dining area to make the most of outdoor living.



Pinterest

As winter is coming to a close it's time to start thinking about outdoor projects. We've put together lots of great jobs to get stuck into. Start them now so you can enjoy them when it warms up outside.

There are heaps of ideas to get you motivated. Choose from the outdoor table on the cover, complete with a living centrepiece, a herb trolley, vertical garden and paved brick path.

I installed the raised garden bed, on page 136, to grow basil. What I hadn't planned on was how much it would thrive. I've made and frozen so much pesto, our freezer is bursting at the seams! But the bed will be useful in summer to rotate the tomato crop.

FOR DIY DADS

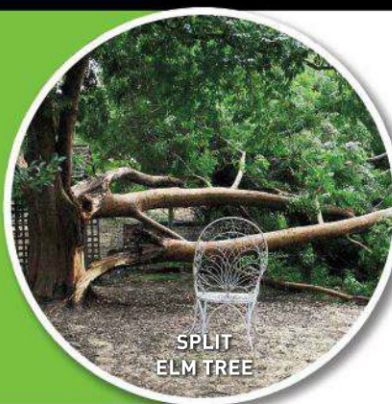
It's nice to spoil Dad on Father's Day and to help you find a great gift for him, we've put together a special guide full of top ideas, from page 33.

Handyman Technical subeditor Gun Arvidssen has selected his top picks of clever tool inventions. I'm sure these gadgets are top of Dad's wish-list because they're on mine. Happy DIYing,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

Using a chainsaw

Our 30-year-old Chinese Elm tree split in half during a summer windstorm. It took three weekends of cutting and chopping with electric and cordless chainsaws to clear the yard. It was sad to see such a beautiful tree go but our goats enjoyed the leaves and we got lots of firewood. Check out page 89 for step-by-step techniques, safety advice and a buyer's guide to chainsaws.



SPLIT
ELM TREE



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www.handihome.com.au.

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HANDYSTUFF

Try these simple strategies to protect your home and garden from the weather so everything stays ship-shape

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

1 Billion Watts

'The power in a single lightning strike, with currents exceeding 10,000 amps,' says Dr Todd Lane from the University of Melbourne.

Walls of steel

You won't need to batten down the hatches when it storms if you have an Absco Premier Shed, \$847 for 3 x 3m. Engineered to meet Australian Cyclonic conditions it features superior wall rigidity and reinforced hinges, to protect your tools in the roughest weather.

abscosheds.com.au

Block the shock

Ditch the risk of damage to electronics by plugging them into the Arlec Four Outlet Surge Protected Powerboard, \$30. It takes care of your technology and features two wide-spaced outlets, plus phone line and TV antenna inputs.

arlec.com.au



Power patch up

Got more holes in your gutters than your showerhead?

Use the rapid drying Rust-Oleum Leak Seal, 340g for \$16. A spray-on flexible rubberised coating, it blocks leaks immediately and can be painted over.

rustoleum.com.au



Bring back-up

Skip the wait for the power to come back on after a storm with the Ryobi 1000W Inverter Generator, \$499. Powered by petrol it's suitable for everything from your phone and laptop to power tools for DIY. The auto-idle feature saves fuel so it keeps running for longer. Score.

ryobi.com.au





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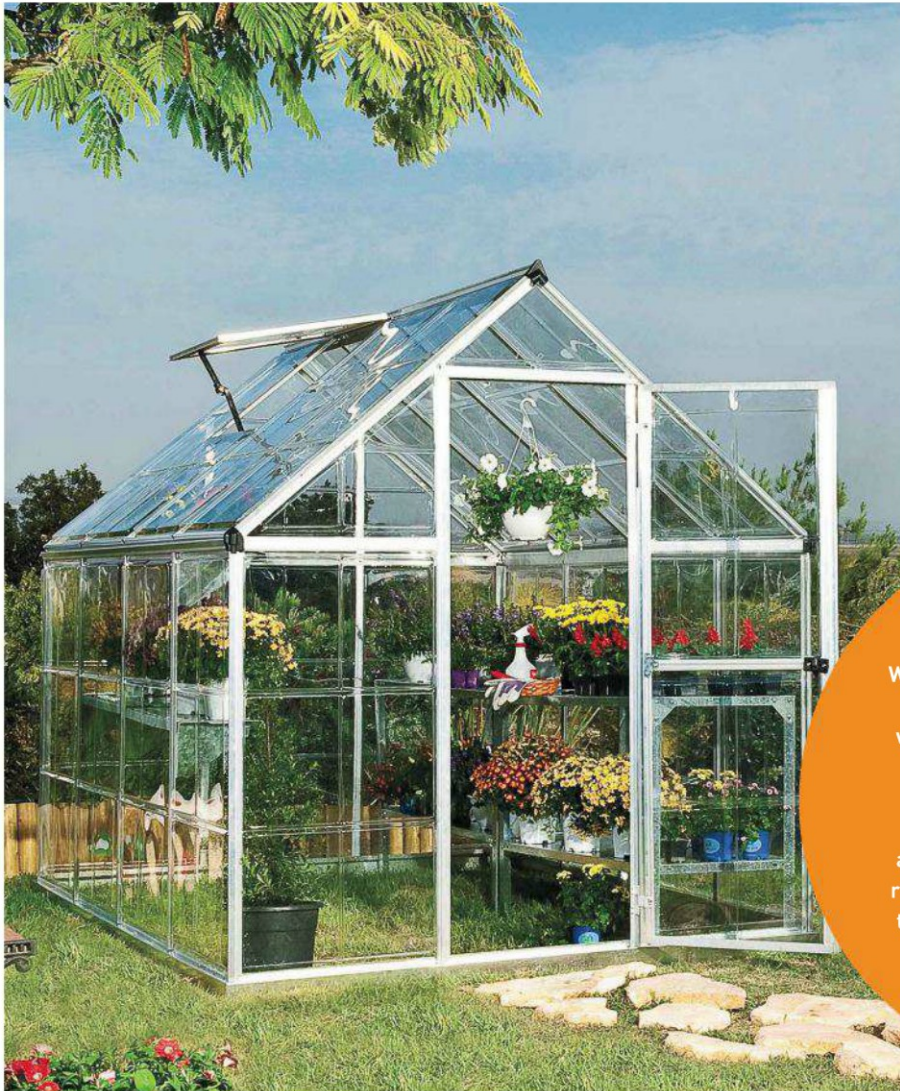
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Climate control

Making the most of your garden won't need to wait until spring with a Maze Greenhouse, \$499 for a 248 x 185 x 209cm model. Your plants are kept cosy and out of the cold, soaking up 90% of the natural light filtering through the UV protected polycarbonate panels, which are held in place by a strong aluminium frame. And the gutters include outlets on each corner for easy water collection. mazeproducts.com.au

Fact or fiction?

We've all heard the saying, 'A red sky in the morning, shepherds take warning', but is it true? 'It has some scientific basis,' says Professor Michael Reeder from Monash University. 'In the mid-latitudes, approaching rain clouds in the west reflect sunlight from the east, giving the sky a red look.' But he adds that it's not a very accurate method of weather forecasting.

Wild weather

Take your gardening to the next level with a Sontax Wireless Weather Centre, \$129, which measures rainfall, humidity, temperature, air pressure, wind speed and direction. The weather centre makes

it easy to give your plants optimal care, as you'll know when to water during a dry spell and when to protect them from frost or strong winds.

sontax.com.au



● Base Station



● Rain Sensor



● Thermo/hygro Sensor

● Wind Sensor



AFTER
Refurbished to look brand new with a little elbow grease and furniture oil.



Three years outside braving the elements and pets left this table dirty and grey.

Turn back time

Don't throw out old outdoor furniture, even if the timber has seen better days. Scrub away the layers of dirt with a stiff brush and warm soapy water, rinse, then apply Cabot's Deck Clean, \$13 for 1L, and let it sit for 20 minutes then rinse again. With the grime gone, apply two coats of Garden Furniture Oil, \$31 for 1L, for a fresh finish.

cabots.com.au



Spray-on guard

You'll be stepping out confidently no matter the weather after you waterproof your clothes and furniture with Scotchgard Protector For Fabric & Upholstery, \$11. Available in a handy aerosol, once dry it repels spills and stains to keep fabric looking newer for longer.

scotchgard.com.au



Watertight and bright

You'll dodge wet daks while working outdoors when you add the UniSafe Waterproof Trousers, \$8, to your wardrobe. Made of PVC coated polyester they can tackle any job and keep you dry. The bright yellow of these pants make you stand out from the background for added safety.

bunnings.com.au



PICTURE (TOP) GETTY IMAGES

Give Dad What He Really Wants!



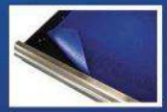
Give Dad The **ULTIMATE** gift
this Fathers Day with the
**15 Drawer ULTIMA Stainless
Steel Tool Workshop!**

*Ideal for the garage, workshop
or mancave!*

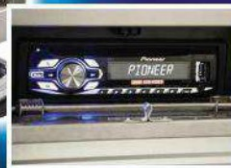
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- Drawer Anti Slip Matting
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- Down Lights
- Top Bench working area
- Dimensions: 1330 x 580 x 1760mm



22" LCD TV with Remote
6" Speakers, USB Port



**DVD / CD Player with AM/FM
Radio**
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iPod/iPhone connectivity



46 Litre Mini Fridge
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Accessories pictured not included

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BUYER'S GUIDE

SANDING TOOLS



Three in one

Make life easy with the Shur-Line Prep and Paint Tool, \$12. It takes care of it all with three pads for sanding, cleaning and staining or painting. The ergonomic design and triangular shape can reach into tricky corners, making it ideal for most projects.

Super sized

Need to sand an entire wall? Power through the job with the Uni-Pro Large Hand Sander, about \$16. It's half-sheet sized base plate means you'll need half the elbow grease to smooth out any flat surface. Just loosen the nuts on the clamps to load new abrasive paper. Easy.

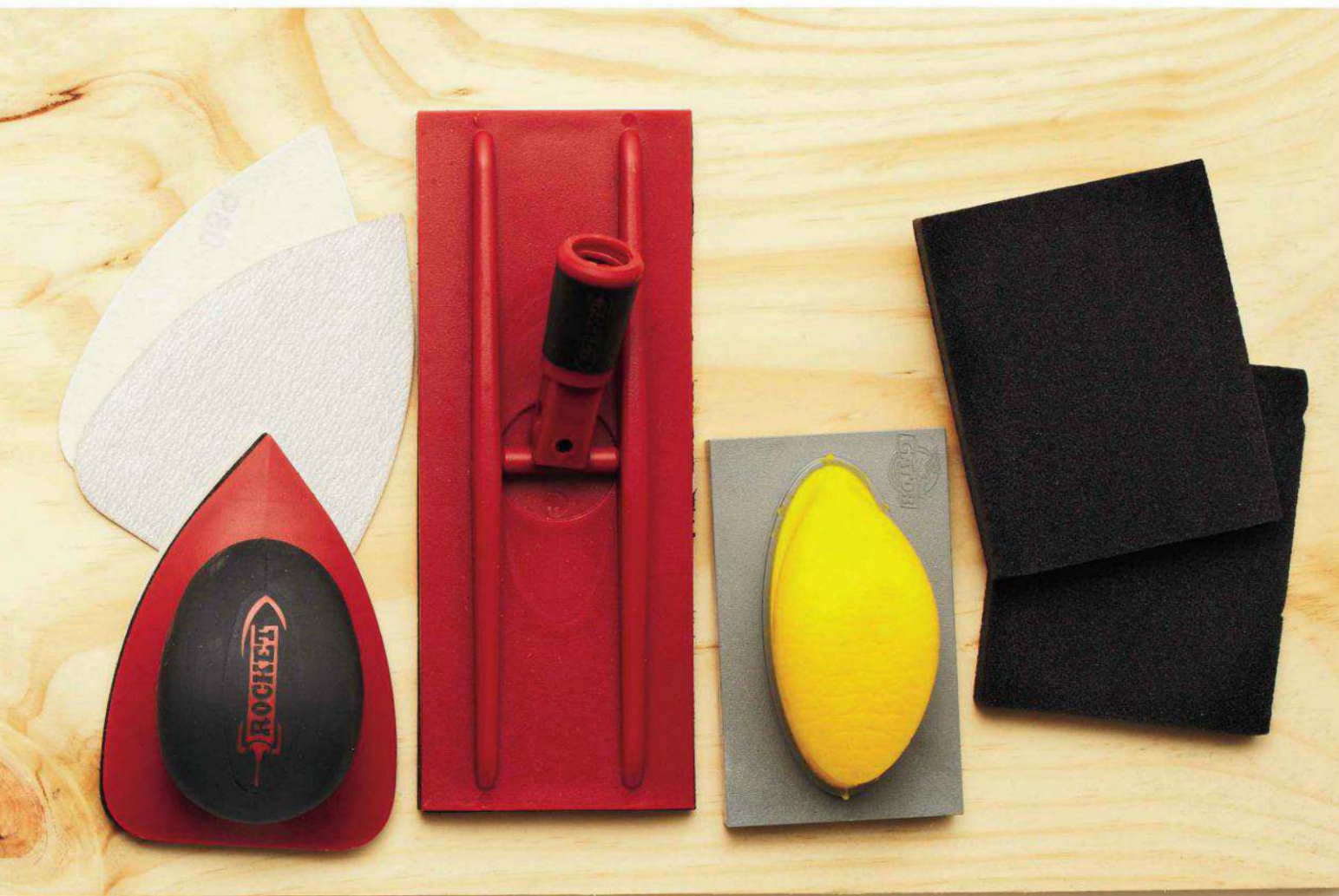
Side swipe

Take on tight spaces and tricky surfaces with the large-sized Trojan Angled Sanding Sponge, about \$6, in 120 and 220 grit. Use it wet or dry for surface preparation, between coats and fine sanding on a range of surfaces including metal, plasterboard and plastic.

Major mass

Go the distance with the Trojan 120 Grit Jumbo Sanding Sponge, about \$6. It's said to last four times as long as a regular sanding sponge, and is 1.4 times larger, so you'll keep going for longer before tiring out. Its coarse surface makes it ideal for paint surface prep.

Say goodbye to flaky paint and rough surfaces with the most useful hand-sanding tools for discerning DIYers



Precise point

Squeeze into the narrowest corners with the Rocket Mouse Sander, about \$9, featuring a rubber-coated grip that is kind to hands. Work your way through the included three grades of abrasive paper to smooth timber, plaster, painted surfaces or fibreglass.

Out on a limb

Feeling like Jack in the Land of the Giants? Don't stress, the Rocket Pole Sander, \$14, has you covered. Designed to connect to a long pole for sanding projects that are out of your reach, it comes with fine, medium and coarse grit papers that attach with a hook-and-loop application.

Take hold

Skip the scraped knuckles and add a Trojan Sanding Sponge Holder, about \$8, to your tool kit. Just pop a Trojan Jumbo Series sanding sponge into the grip and get working. The handle is cushioned and ergonomic for hand comfort and to speed up the job.

Limber up

More bendy than an Olympic gymnast, Uni-Pro Flexible Sanding Pads, \$3 for a pack of two, ensure any contoured surface will end up as smooth as silk. Available in three grits, the sanding pads are double sided and long lasting, just wash to keep them working wet or dry.

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While stocks last

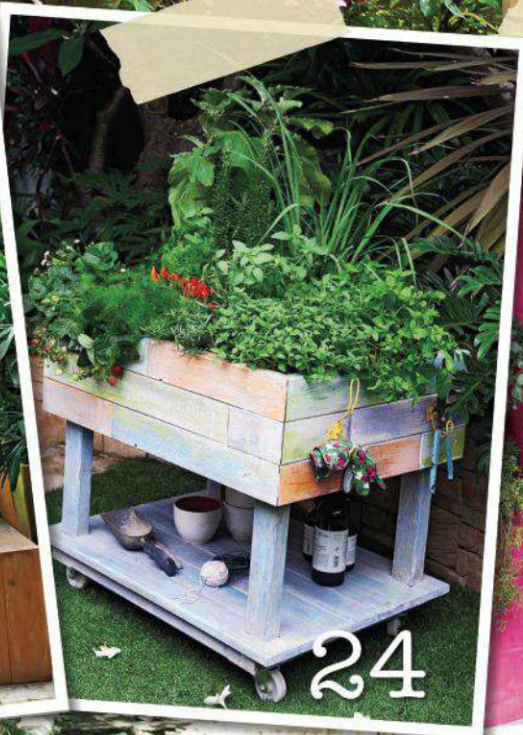
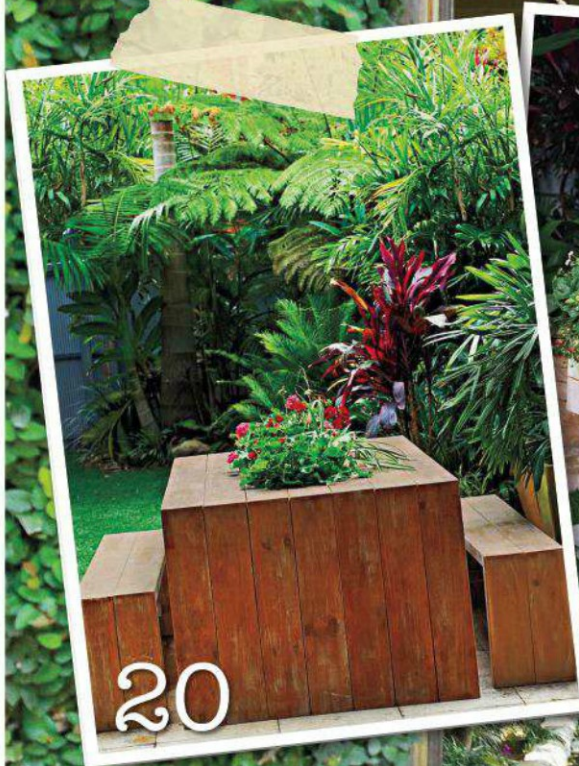
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OUTDOOR *projects*

Make a picnic table, garden trolley and concrete wall that all double up as planters





Fasteners

Use 75mm x 14g treated pine bugle screws to secure the top rails and corner blocks to the top boards, and to attach the side rails then the brace rails.

To attach the corner blocks to the bench side boards, use 125mm x 14g bugle screws, enlarging the first 10mm of the holes using a 12mm spade bit. **TIP** Use exterior PVA adhesive on all mitred corners.

GARDEN FURNITURE

PICNIC SETTING

Make a timber outdoor table with a cutout top to grow flowers or herbs

WORDS **ARTEMIS GOUROS** PROJECT **GEMA BENEITEZ** PICTURE **SUE FERRIS**

DIY > \$390

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$790

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 1 DAY

At 1700mm long and about 980mm wide this table is a solid piece of furniture for the deck, courtyard or pergola.

It's designed to double as a garden feature and is built with waterfall sides instead of legs to complement the two bench seats, measuring 1500mm long.

The three-piece outdoor setting is made from 140 x 45mm treated pine boards joined with mitred corners.

For the living centrepiece, the tabletop has a cutout sized to fit two 600mm long plastic garden troughs.

The lip of the planters fit neatly over the edge of the cutout so you can lift them out to change the display.

Use the planters to green the scene in areas where floorspace is limited, such as on a deck, or grow herbs in them for cooking alfresco.

CUT THE PARTS

Use a mitresaw to cut the top and side boards for the table and benches with mitred ends.

Stabilise the table and benches by securing braces to the side rails, adding extra diagonal bracing from the ends of the cross braces to the underside of the top boards if needed.

For the planter hole, cut two 250mm infills, leaving a 1200mm long space in the centre of the table.

To finish, create a limewash effect by sanding back a coat of thin white paint and sealing it with varnish.

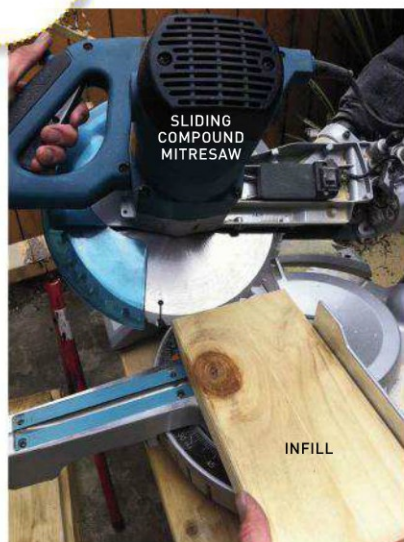
You can also use semi-transparent decking finish in a pale shade such as Feast Watson Decking Oil in Snow Gum, about \$54 for two litres. >



Eden 600mm Terracotta Plastic Trough, \$8. edengardens.com.au

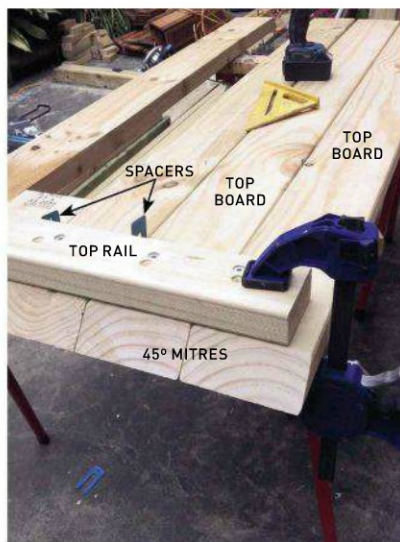
Use spring blooms as a centrepiece for this timber table setting or grow edibles to use for outdoor cooking.

BUILD THE PICNIC SETTING



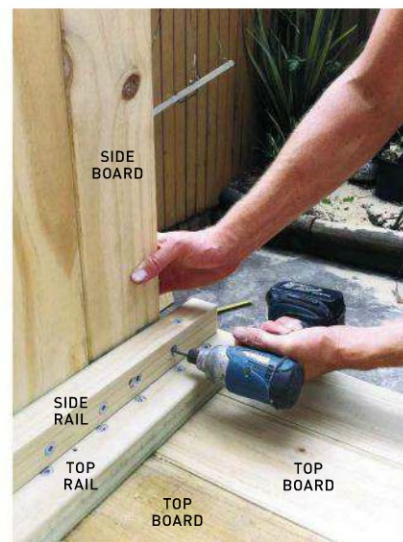
1 Cut the mitres

Clamp the top boards for the table and benches to a level work surface, using a sliding compound mitresaw to cut them with their ends at opposing 45° mitres. Mitre one end of the side boards and the infill pieces for the tabletop.



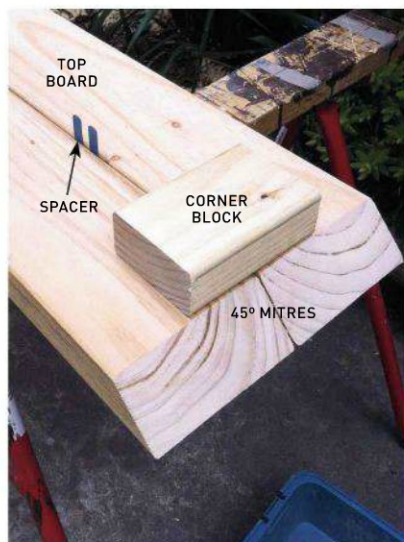
2 Assemble the tabletop

Position the top boards edge to edge with the infill pieces in the centre of the six boards, using 2mm spacers and aligning the mitred ends. Drill 4mm pilot holes in the top rails then clamp them across the ends of the top boards, securing with screws.



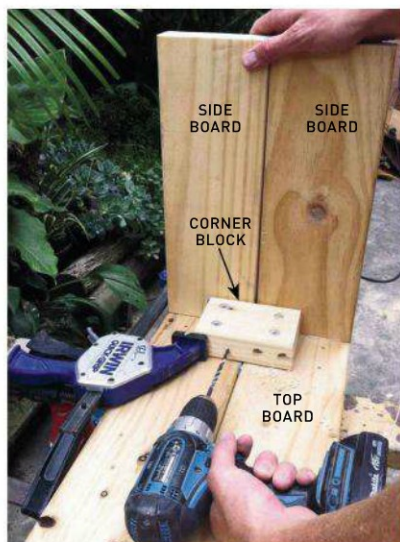
3 Add the table sides

Position the upper side rails flush with the edge of the top rails, securing with screws. Apply adhesive to the mitres then secure the side boards with screws, using 2mm spacers. Attach the side rails and the brace rail using screws.



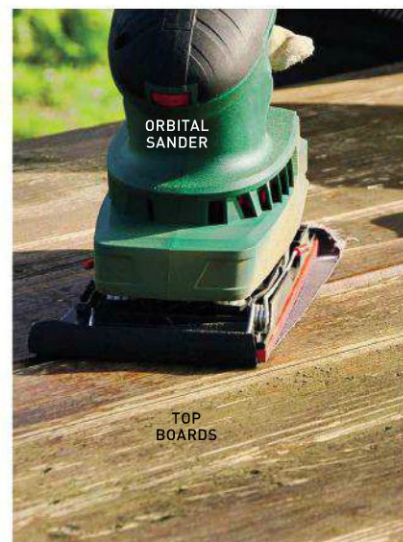
4 Make the bench seat

Position the two top boards for each bench seat edge to edge with a 2mm spacer in between, aligning the mitred ends. Position the corner blocks flush with the mitred ends and secure to the top boards with four screws.



5 Attach the bench sides

Apply PVA adhesive to the mitres then clamp each side board to the bench top and corner, securing through the block into the side board with screws. Attach the side rails 200mm up from the base then add a brace rail on top of the side rails.

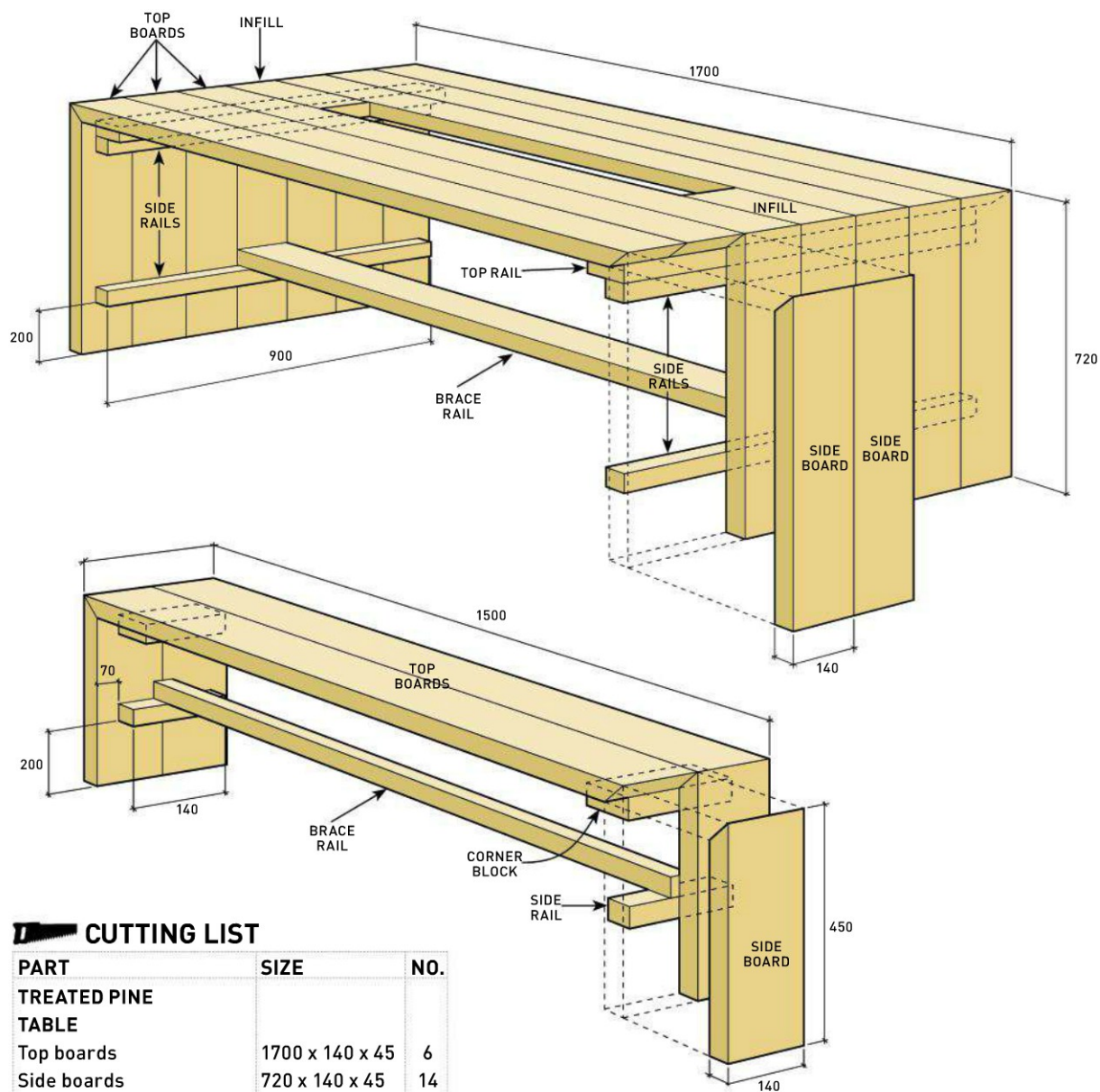


6 Finish the timber

Sand all surfaces and wipe off the dust, then thin down white exterior acrylic and apply it with a paintbrush. Leave to dry and sand back lightly, then apply clear polyurethane.
TIP You could also use a traditional limewash to finish the timber.

PICNIC SETTING

measurements in mm

**CUTTING LIST**

PART	SIZE	NO.
TREATED PINE		
TABLE		
Top boards	1700 x 140 x 45	6
Side boards	720 x 140 x 45	14
Infills	250 x 140 x 45	2
Top rails	900 x 90 x 45	2
Side rails	900 x 45 x 45	3
Brace rail	1610 x 140 x 45	1
BENCHES		
Top boards	1500 x 140 x 45	2
Side boards	450 x 140 x 45	2
Corner blocks	140 x 90 x 45	2
Side rails	140 x 45 x 45	2
Brace rail	1410 x 45 x 45	1

✦ **Handyman.net.au**

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to make this picnic setting.

WEEKEND
PROJECT

KITCHEN GARDEN TROLLEY

Make a portable planter with a storage shelf from treated pine and use it to grow herbs anywhere

WORDS **ARTEMIS GOUROS** PROJECT **GEMA BENEITEZ** MAIN PICTURE **SUE FERRIS**

DIY> \$315

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$715

SKILL> 1 2 3 4 5

TIME> 1 DAY

This garden trolley is the perfect solution if you're looking to grow more than a windowsill of herbs but don't have the space for a full produce patch.

Standing at about 800mm high, the trolley features a 900 x 650mm planting area that's about 180mm deep and a shelf for storage.

The unit is a comfortable working height and a good size to grow enough herbs for the average household.

With castors for mobility, it's easy to wheel around to chase the sun or free up space for outdoor entertaining.

It's built out of treated pine with marine plywood used as a base for the planter box and decking boards as slats for the shelf.

Cut the parts with a circular saw and assemble using butt joints and mitred corners, then paint it and add

four 75mm castors to the base, making sure two are lockable.

To get the shabby chic look, finish the trolley with specialist milk paint.

ADD THE PLANTS

Fill the trolley with pots or plant herbs and vegies into the box. To use it as a planter, drill holes in the base and line it with landscape fabric.

Add a 20mm layer of gravel to assist drainage, cover it with fabric then fill the planter with a potting mix formulated for vegies and herbs.

This planter features strawberries, chillies, eggplant, lemongrass, basil, mint, oregano and rosemary.

TIP For a fast crop, plant herb and vegie seedlings instead of seeds, watering them in well. ➤



Oasis Seville Tasty Bite
150mm Chilli Plant, about \$11.
oasishorticulture.com.au



Gallipoli Rosemary,
140mm, \$10,
australianperennials.com.au



Nellie Kelly 125mm Pink
Flowering Strawberry Plant,
\$5. nelliekelly.com.au



Move the planter around to catch the sun, storing the tools needed to keep an edible garden thriving on the shelf and hooks.

Fasteners

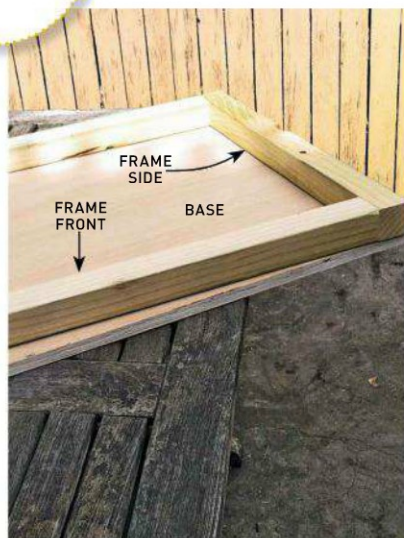
Use 75mm x 8g screws to build the box frame, and attach the legs and the blocks. Secure the box base with 40mm x 8g screws.

On all the corners use PVA adhesive and square-drive 75mm x 8g treated pine screws.

Secure the planter box pieces with 125mm x 14g bugle screws.

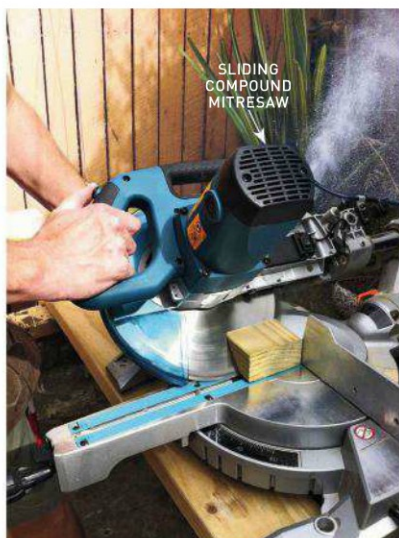
Make the shelf frame using 100mm x 8g screws, attaching the slats with 60mm x 8g screws.

BUILD THE TROLLEY



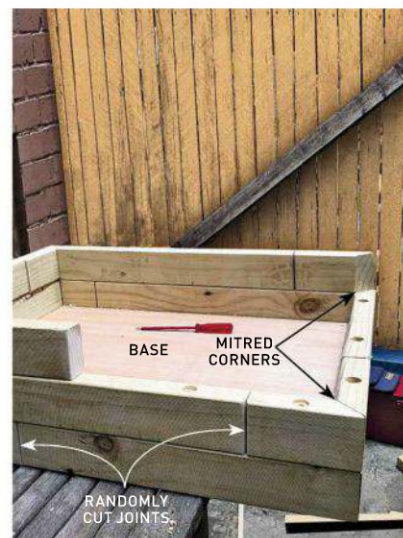
1 Make the frame

Position the frame front and back between the frame sides, apply PVA adhesive to the joints, securing with screws through the sides into the front and back pieces. Join the frame to the marine ply base by securing screws through the base into the frame.



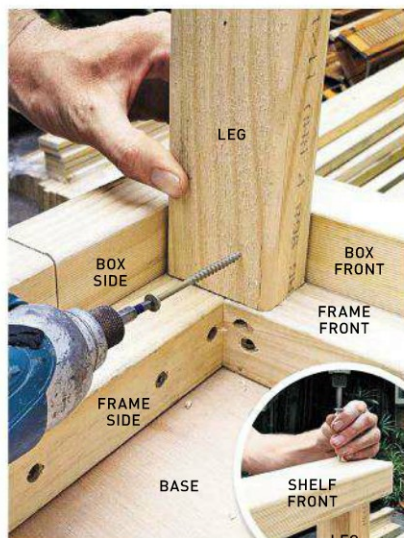
2 Cut the mitres

Cut the front, back and side box pieces with 45° mitres on the ends using a circular saw. To create the offset effect on the three layers of the planter box, cut each piece into two random lengths, rounding over the edges with a belt sander.



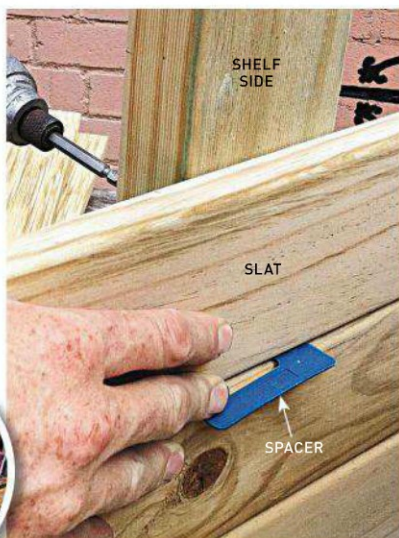
3 Build the planter

Secure the planter box pieces with adhesive and bugle screws, recessing the heads by enlarging part of the hole with a spade bit. Position the base layer around the frame, add the middle layer and corner blocks then secure the top layer.



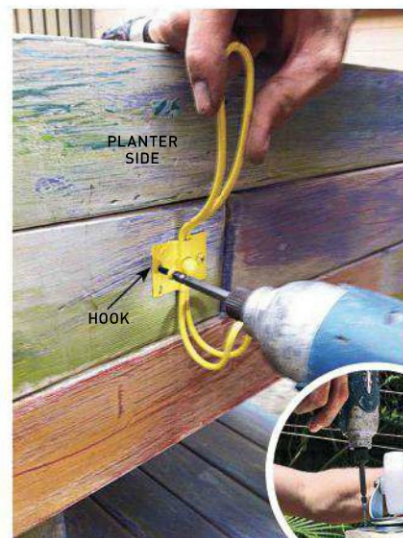
4 Attach the legs

Turn the planter box upside down and position a leg in each corner of the base frame, securing it to the planter box with screws. Secure the shelf sides to the base of the legs with a 15mm overhang on leading edges using adhesive and screws.



5 Attach the slats

Cut notches into the front and back slats using a jigsaw so they fit neatly around the legs. Secure the slats from underneath and through the shelf sides with screws, using a spacer to ensure even gaps. Drill drainage holes through the planter box base.

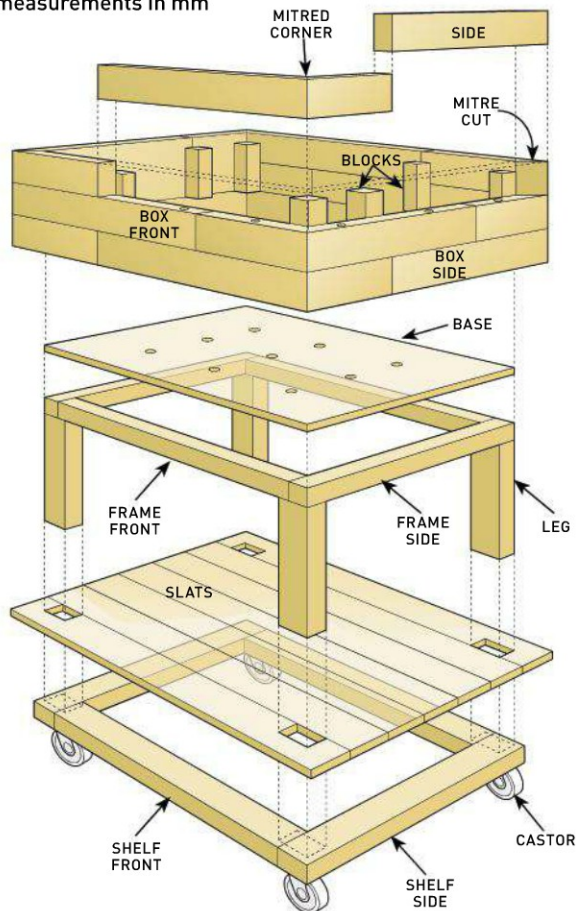


6 Finish the trolley

Mark the ends of the shelf front and back to secure the castors with the supplied screws. Attach salvaged hooks or tool holders to the middle layer of the box sides then apply two coats of leftover exterior acrylic in various colours of your choice.

KITCHEN GARDEN TROLLEY

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
TREATED PINE		
Frame front and back	670 x 45 x 45	2
Frame sides	560 x 45 x 45	2
Box front and back	850 x 90 x 45	6
Box sides	650 x 90 x 45	6
Blocks	150 x 45 x 45	8
Legs	300 x 70 x 45	4
Shelf front and back	650 x 70 x 45	2
Shelf sides	590 x 70 x 45	2
Slats	850 x 90 x 18	7
MARINE PLY		
Base	760 x 560 x 18	1

+ Handyman.net.au

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to make a kitchen garden trolley.



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VERTICAL
GARDEN

Plant up a bare wall in a day, using concrete blocks, bright paint and structural succulents for maximum impact with minimum maintenance.



KALANCHOE

CONCRETE PLANTER WALL

Use budget, easy to lay blocks to build a decorative display for succulents that costs just \$250

PROJECT **GEMA BENEITEZ** MAIN PICTURE **SUE FERRIS**

Besser concrete blocks are cheap, stackable and durable, with two cavities that are ideal for plants.

This mortared wall is made of eight courses using 26 blocks and four half-blocks, with 16 used as planters.

Dry-stack the blocks to get the best configuration for the space, make a mortar mix and lay them in position.

Include full and half blocks in the wall with seven set perpendicular to the rows, half-lapping in position.

The planter wall is decorative and was built on the footing of a raft slab in a spot protected from the elements.

For extra safety, each block course is securely tied to the existing brick wall using Grade 316 stainless steel ties.



Besser Block, 390 x 190 x 190mm, about \$4 each, from Bunnings.

CHOOSE THE PLANTS

Succulents are a good choice for a planter wall as they are drought tolerant, hardy and low maintenance.

Many succulents, such as certain varieties of aloe, echeveria and kalanchoe, grow well in both full sun or shaded positions.

Buy the plants in 100mm pots, from about \$4 each, from nurseries and garden centres.

Choose this size so the rootballs fit in the cavities of the blocks and allow enough room for growth.

Go for a combination of upright and cascading succulent varieties, mixing up the foliage shape, texture and colour for an eye-catching and structural display.

Use a good quality, free-draining potting mix or buy a specially formulated cacti and succulent mix, watering the plants in well.

Once established, water only once a week in summer and every two to three weeks in winter.

TIP Ensure the drainage is efficient as succulents rot if left standing in water.

Painting the wall

Coloured concrete structures have a very South American look, so go all out when choosing a colour to paint the planter wall.

Go for bold and vibrant red, blue, orange or yellow, or for a fun fiesta feel choose a bright pink like the one used here.

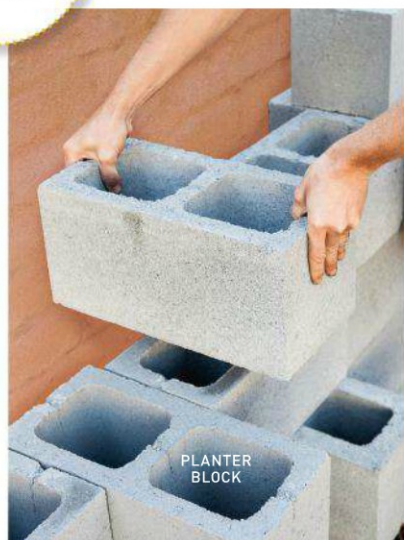
Buy a low sheen exterior acrylic, check out the swatches and choose a colour, then get the paint tinted in-store. ➤



HOT FLAMINGO

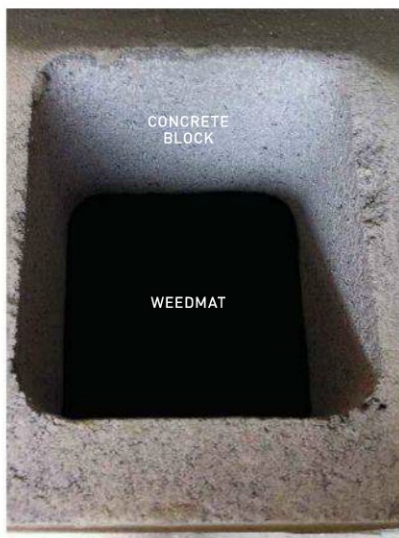
Dulux Once Low Sheen Acrylic For Exteriors, \$64 for 2L. dulux.com.au

BUILD A PLANTER WALL



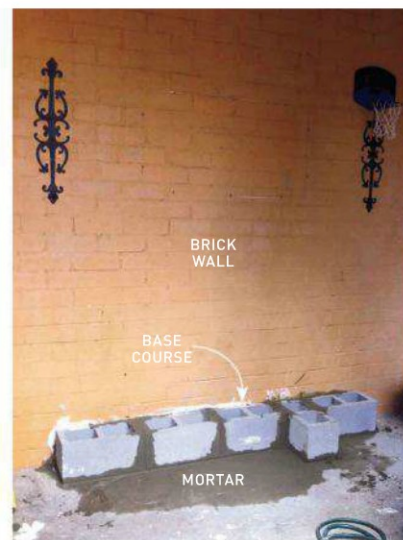
1 Dry-stack the blocks

To establish the best layout for the available space, dry-stack the blocks in position, ensuring the perpendicular blocks are anchored by full blocks above. Draw a sketch or take a photo of the layout then dismantle the wall, numbering the blocks as you go.



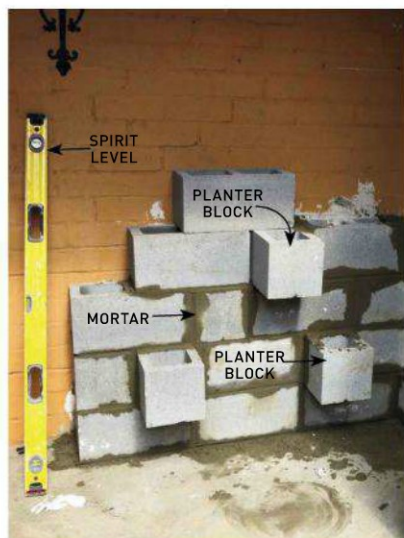
2 Line the blocks

Measure the base of the block then cut 16 pieces of weedmat to measure 100mm longer and wider than the block base using a utility knife. Fold over the edges and secure the weedmat inside the blocks to be planted using construction adhesive.



3 Build the wall

Mix a batch of mortar to a creamy consistency on a mortar board then lay the blocks one course at a time on a 10mm thick mortar bed. Stagger the planter blocks in each course and prop the front edges with lengths of timber until the mortar has set.



4 Check the level

As you build the planter wall, use a spirit level to check each course of blocks for level, adjusting them by tapping the blocks gently with the handle of a brickie's trowel if needed. **TIP** Secure stainless steel wall ties in position with each course of blocks.



5 Paint the wall

Apply a white-coloured primer to the brick wall and concrete block planter then two coats of exterior acrylic using a roller. The paint job won't be flawless because of the different textures but a rustic finish is part of the appeal of the planter wall.



6 Add the plants

Fill the planter blocks lined with weedmat to three-quarters with a good quality, free-draining potting mix. Remove each plant from its pot, loosen the rootball and position in the planting holes. Backfill with mix and firm it down gently, watering in well.

Remove Surface Water Fast

The Everhard EasyDRAIN™ Compact drainage system has a shallow profile that allows for quick installation that is

Easy As 1, 2, 3
Prepare • Install • Finish



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- Shallow 80mm profile allows for quick installation
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Father's Day



These innovative gadgets and new DIY designs
will have Dad smiling from ear to ear

WORDS GUN ARVIDSSEN

Top 10 gifts

According to the proverb, necessity is credited as being the mother of invention.

While *Handyman* agrees with this, as far as these brilliant products are concerned, we suspect that they were born from a love of technology, a generous dose of imagination and lateral thinking, plus some good old-fashioned audacity.

The world of DIY is always evolving, and while some crazy contraptions end up falling flat and disappearing back into the woodwork, other ideas end up workshop stalwarts that change the way we work.

The cordless drill, random orbital sander and oscillating tool are just three such innovations that made big waves when they appeared on the market, and some of the ingenious goodies in this gift guide are sure to attain a similar status with time.

IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

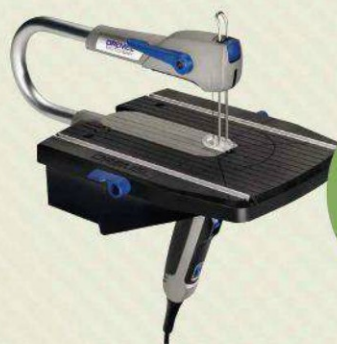
How many times have you thought DIY would be so much easier or safer if only someone could come up with a new approach to an age-old problem?

We've brought together the top 10 state-of-the-art DIY inventions that feature exactly this design ethos.

From fretworking fathers to Masterchef enthusiasts to dads who already have a shedful of tools but need to lock them up safely, we've covered a range of tastes and budgets so that nobody gets left out.

Whether they boast integrated electronics or digital technology, or simply incorporate a completely new combination of design features to make life easier, these diverse products all have one thing in common.

Each of them has at least one futuristic aspect that sets it apart from anything remotely similar, and makes it right at home in the 21st century.



DREMEL MOTOSAW

Used with its bench-mount platform as a scroll saw or popped out and held in your hand like an electric fretsaw, the MotoSaw, \$129, is a revolutionary product that many have wished for but nobody has manufactured until now.

With variable speed and tool-free blade change, as well as the option to mount the blade with its cutting edge perpendicular to the frame, the MotoSaw will delight anyone who has ever developed blisters from arduous fretsaw use. dremel.com.au



2

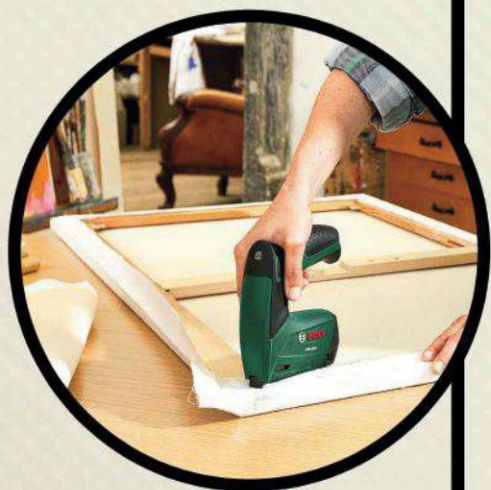


BOSCH CORDLESS TACKER

A few *Handyman* staffers asked why anyone would want a powered staple gun. My answer was, 'Who wouldn't want such an awesome tool?'

Electric and pneumatic staple guns have been around for a while, but this cordless version, \$99, is powered by a 3.6V Li-ion battery.

The tool features a charge level indicator and magazine window so you can see how much ammo is left. Also, the push/release safety system only lets the trigger work when the tacking nose is pressed against a solid surface. bosch-do-it.com.au

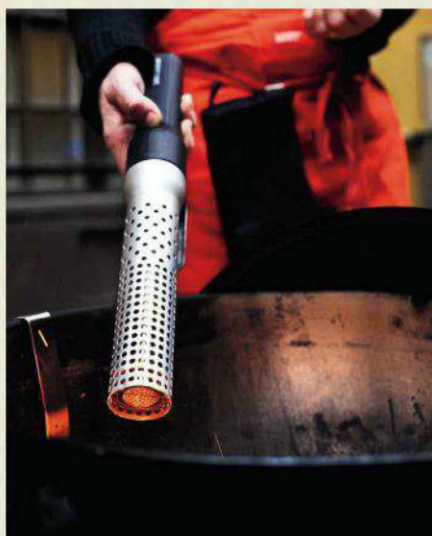


3

LOOFT INDUSTRIES LOOFTLIGHTER

The Looftlighter, \$40, must be seen to be believed. Like a cross between a hair dryer and a flame thrower, it can light a briquette barbie, home fireplace or wood-fired pizza oven in seconds. Yet the actual heat applied is so focused at the business end that you can wave your hand in front of it and feel only a warm breeze.

It's hard to say whether the best thing about this product is that your food will never again taste of firelighters, the built-in bottle opener, or the amazingly low price point. looftlighter.com



HART CLAW HAMMER

Overhauling the hammer is like reinventing the wheel, right? Wrong. The Hart 20oz claw hammer, \$38, has design features that put a new spin on driving and extracting nails.

It features a side-mounted extractor, so you can pluck out nails from confined spaces and the main face has a magnetic nail holder at the top for starting nails one-handed.

The I-beam shaft is engineered to minimise vibration and the neck is shaped to easily bend reinforcing rod. nothinghitsharder.com.au



4

Top 10 gifts

5

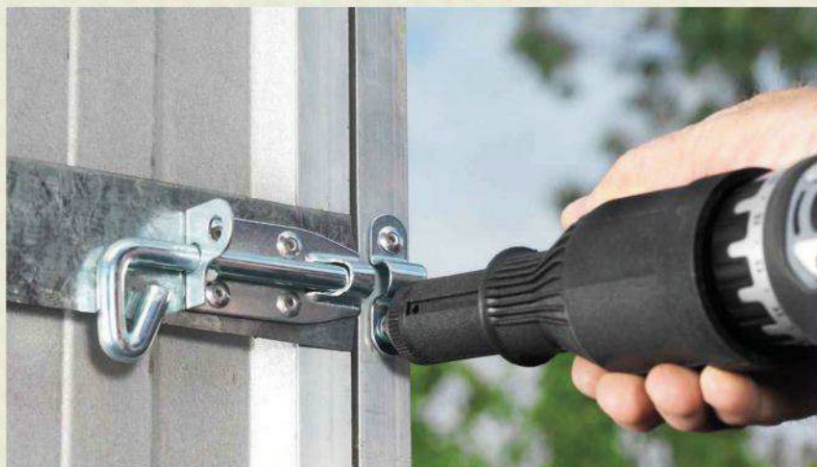
OSITO RIVE DRILL



You could almost imagine someone from NASA coming up with the RiveDrill, \$89, after a few drinks. 'Hey, imagine if you could secure rivets with a cordless drill!'

Although a rivet gun is usually a little easier on the pocket, so is a manual screwdriver, but not many people would favour that over the savings in effort a power tool gives.

By the same token, if you're putting up a shed and have hundreds of rivets to pop, you will be thanking your lucky stars that you have the option of using a RiveDrill. It comes with three nose pieces to suit common rivet sizes. ozito.com.au



6



CRESCENT COMPOUND PLIERS

Using the same kind of compound lever action as found on bolt cutters and aviation shears, these compound pliers, \$28, exert a dramatically higher amount of pressure than ordinary pliers. The mechanical advantage makes it easier for Dad to put the squeeze on any workpiece.

They come in the long-nose option shown here, plus linesman's pliers and diagonal cutters, all featuring induction hardened cutting edges and spring-loaded action with a locking lever to keep them closed when not in use. cooperhandtools.com.au

7

STANLEY FATMAX 400MM DIGITAL LEVEL

The spirit level is a simple tool that has stood the test of time. The digital level, from \$80, heralds a new era in checking for plumb and level. In addition to bubble vials, the tool beeps when it's horizontal, vertical, or at 45°. It also features a backlit LCD screen, and shows the exact tilt with a precision of 0.1°. It can be switched to show percentage gradient and rise over run, and has magnetised edges. stanleytools.com.au





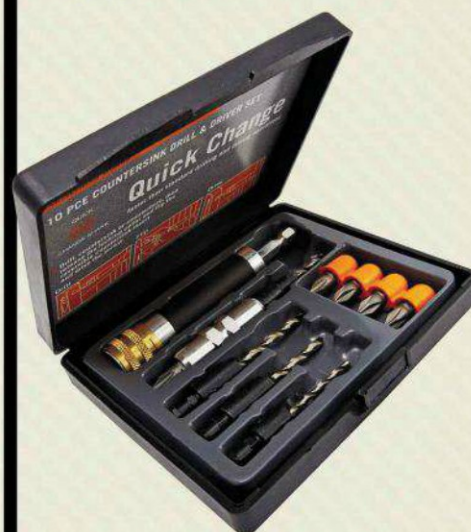
RYOBI NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES

Protect your hearing while you work with these powered earmuffs, \$80, with active noise attenuation and an auxiliary input for listening to music.

Featuring technology that lets you hear what people are saying at close range, the circuitry includes quick-response impulse protection that shuts out sudden blasts of loud noise. The headset comes with a 4V Li-ion battery and charger, and is resistant to impact, dust and water. ryobi.com.au



CRAFTRIGHT THREE-IN-ONE BITS



If you thought a combination countersink bit was a great idea, and you always keep a Quick Bit sleeve lodged in your drill chuck, you'll love this set of three-in-one bits.

The master barrel is compatible with the 1/4in Quick Bit system and holds a double-ended insert that has a combination countersink bit at one extreme and a driver bit at the other.

This awesome time-saver lets you drill and countersink the pilot hole in one action, then flip the end and drive the screw straight away. The kit, \$12, from Bunnings has combination bits to suit six to 12 gauge screws, and the driver bits are also interchangeable.

MASTERLOCK SPHERO

The combination lock is also a concept that has been around for decades, but one that lights up when you turn the dial? Now that's something worth writing home about.

Perfect on gates or sheds that are often accessed after dark, or lockers in dimly lit halls, the G.L.o Sphero, \$30, has a backlit dial and sleek spheroid shape, with a range of colour options to choose from. masterlock.com.au



Poker table

Build this classic card table from MDF for just \$290 and turn your rumpus into a games room

PROJECT **ED FREND** MAIN PICTURE **STUART SCOTT**

DIY > \$290

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1090

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 2 DAYS

For an authentic gaming experience, whether you're playing Texas Hold 'Em for toothpicks or Snap with the kids, build this card table.

Made entirely from MDF this lightweight table is designed for a maximum of six players.

Compact and portable the table has a hexagonal top and removable legs so you can flat-pack it for storage.

The hexagon is marked on the tabletop using a compass made from a length of timber that rotates around a centre nail with a pencil at the other end scribing the circle.

As the length of one hexagonal side is equal to the radius of its circle, the set compass spacing used to draw the circle remains the same to mark the length of each side around the circumference.

THE MATERIALS

The tabletop is cut from a half-sheet of 1200 x 1200 x 16mm MDF using a circular saw. The legs and armrests are also cut from 16mm MDF.

Automotive roof lining is positioned on the table as an underlay then covered with a gaming cloth.

For the armrests, two layers of 10mm foam are secured then covered with vinyl, from upholstery suppliers.

The top layer of foam and the vinyl wrap over the long outside edge of the armrest and are attached under the table base.

Practice cutting and stapling the foam and vinyl on offcuts of timber to master the technique of upholstery before covering the armrests.

Finish the table with timber and brass cup holders as a special feature. New Guinea Rosewood was used here and clear finished, but more affordable Tasmanian Oak can also be used then stained to achieve the same colour.

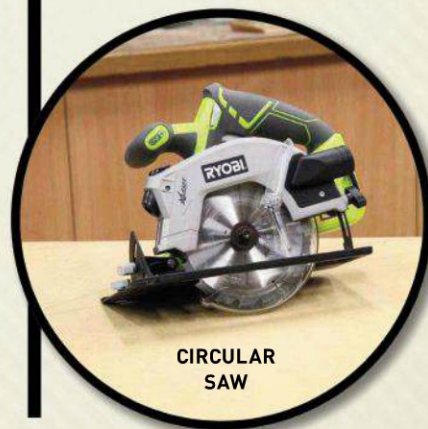
TIP For all your poker playing supplies, visit the online store Poker Shop at pokershop.com.au >

CUTTING THE PARTS

This handy little 18V 150mm ONE+ Circular Saw, \$99, from Ryobi makes light work of cutting 16mm MDF (ryobi.com.au).

Connecting it to the new model of workshop vac keeps the fine MDF dust to a minimum.

Set the depth of cut to just lower than the thickness of the material by adjusting the base plate for a fine finishing cut.



CIRCULAR SAW



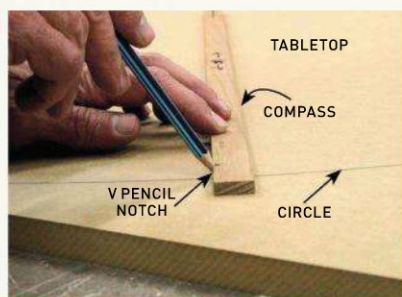
FASTENERS

Attach the armrests through the underside of the baseboard and the battens to the table base using 32mm x 8g timber screws.

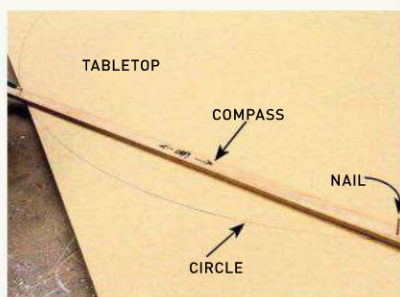
Secure the underlay and foam using spray adhesive and the vinyl with 10mm staples.

At home games

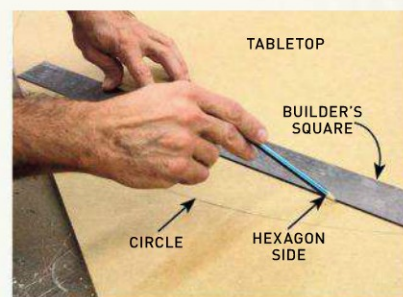
Build the table



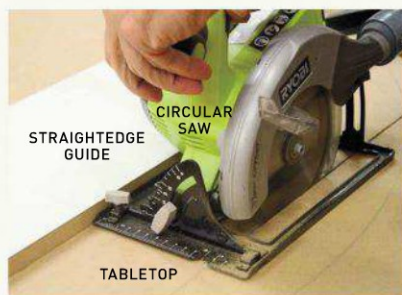
1 Mark the table circle
Make a compass using an 800mm timber offcut with a 3mm hole at one end and a V pencil notch spaced 600mm from it. Secure a nail through the hole at the board centre, hold a pencil in the notch and scribe a circle.



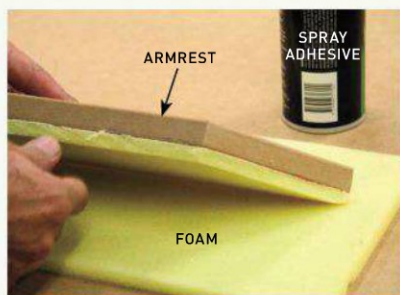
2 Set out the hexagon
Position the nail of the compass anywhere on the circle circumference. Mark an intersecting point on the circle at the notch, reposition the nail on the mark and repeat the procedure around the circle's circumference.



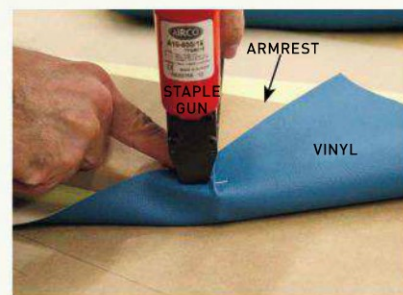
3 Draw the hexagon
Use a straightedge or builder's square to join two adjacent intersecting points with a straight line, producing one side. Repeat the process around the circle until the last side meets the first, producing a hexagon.



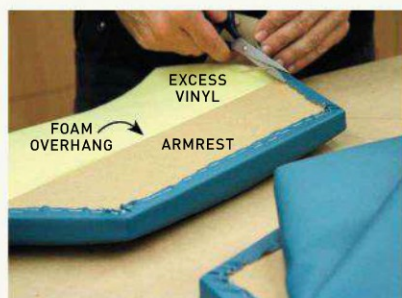
4 Cut the tabletop
Use a circular saw with a clamped straightedge guide to cut the hexagon. The straightedge is offset the same distance as the measurement from the edge of the saw's base plate to the inside edge of the saw blade.



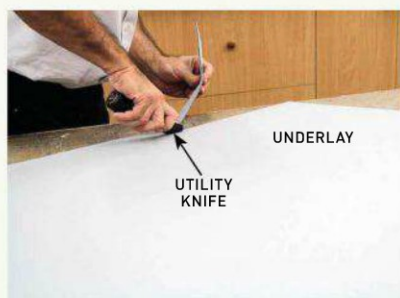
5 Prepare the armrests
Cut out the armrests with the saw. Soften the base edges with a router and 3mm roundover cutter. Attach a layer of 10mm foam with adhesive, trim flush and add another layer with a 50mm overhang on the long edge.



6 Upholster the armrests
Cut the vinyl to fit with 50mm extra all around. Start upholstering from a corner at the inside edge, working along the inside and side edges, stretching and stapling every 5mm and 10mm in from the edge.



7 Finish the armrests
Use a pair of scissors to trim the excess vinyl about 5mm beyond the staples. Leave the overhanging foam and vinyl along the outside edge for now as this will be secured later. Repeat to cover all the armrests.

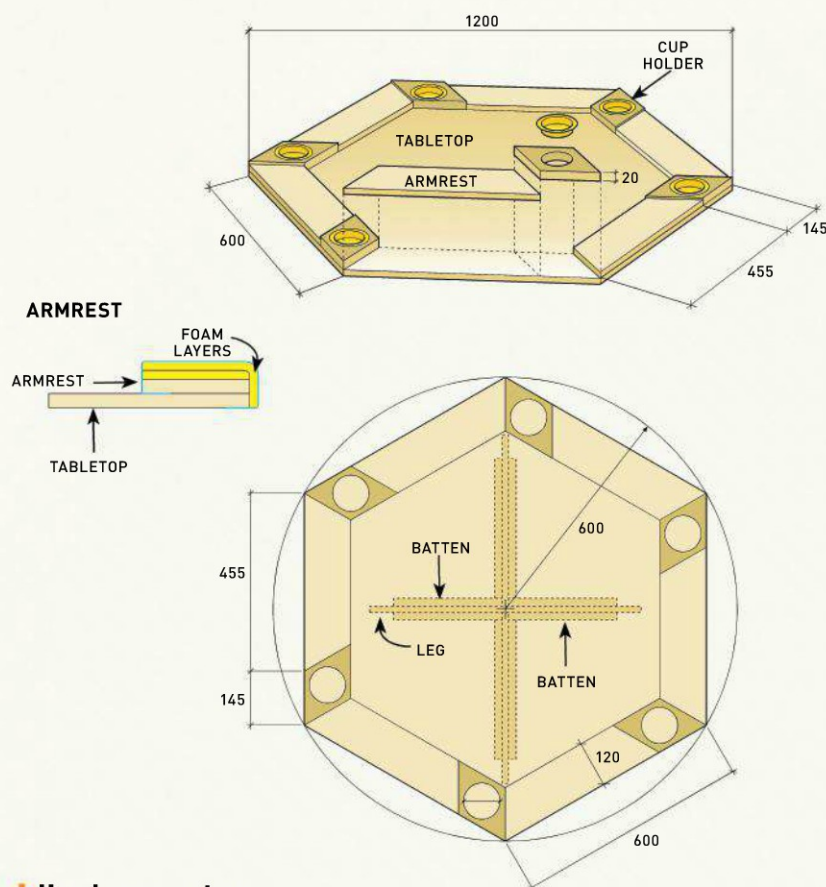


8 Add the underlay
Apply spray adhesive to the back of the underlay and the tabletop then roll up the underlay. Starting from one side, unroll it over the table, pressing and smoothing it in place as you go. Trim the excess with a utility knife.



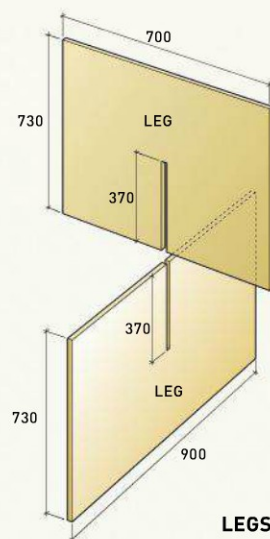
9 Cover the table
Lay the gaming cloth upside down and apply spray adhesive to the back of the cloth and the table underlay. Work with a helper to lay the cloth on the table, ensuring it has slight tension and is smooth with no air pockets.

POKER TABLE measurements in mm



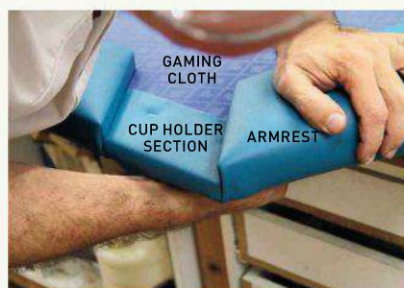
✚ **Handyman.net.au**

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to build a poker table.



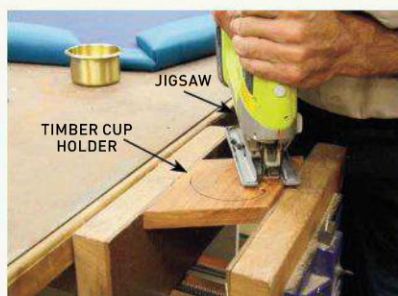
CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
MDF		
Tabletop	1200 x 1200 x 16	1
Legs	730 x 900 x 16	1
	730 x 700 x 16	1
Armrests	455 x 120 x 16	6
NEW GUINEA ROSEWOOD		
Cup holders	145 x 120 x 20	6
MAPLE		
Battens	300 x 20 x 20	8



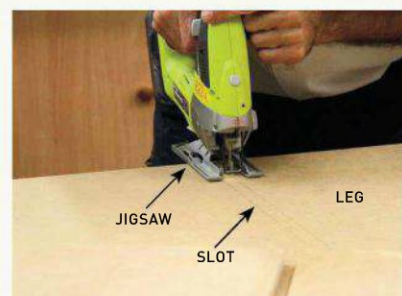
10 Secure the armrests

Mark the cup holder positions and attach a 16mm strip of foam to the exposed edge with adhesive then cover with vinyl. Secure the armrests from underneath the table with screws then staple the excess vinyl in place.



11 Make the cup holders

Round over the cup holder edges then draw diagonal lines to locate the centres. Mark a 94mm circle, drill a 10mm starter hole then cut out with a jigsaw. Secure to the table with screws then cut a hole through the table.



12 Attach the legs

Cut a 370 x 16mm slot in the centre of the legs parallel to the 730mm sides with a jigsaw then check the half-lap fit. Secure the battens to the table base with screws then slot the legs into position.



Medieval armoury

Nurture a young hero's imagination by helping them carve pretend weapons from branches and plywood

PROJECTS ROB REICHENFELD

With the recent popularity of fantasy films such as *The Hobbit*, *Epic* and *Brave*, it's no surprise there has been renewed interest in swords and sorcery among children of all ages.

Get the kids off the iPad and into the workshop with these fun projects to make their own pretend medieval weapons. Plus, involving the kids in woodwork with Dad is a great way to spend family time on Father's Day.

USE LEFTOVER ITEMS

The material costs are low, especially if you have a tiedown strap lying around plus leftover primer and paint, as the swords and shield are made from discarded tree branches and offcuts of plywood.

To keep it real, you can quite easily make these weapons without power tools, using a boot knife to whittle away the bark and a hand plane to shape the sword blades.

A coping saw will cut the ply easily while a bit and brace will handle the drilling duties.

TIP It's best to use an auger bit to bore the holes for the cross-guards unless the branch is in very good condition, as a spade bit is more likely to split or splinter the timber.

PUT SAFETY FIRST

Designing the weapons, finding the branches and painting the shield are all tasks that kids can do with a minimum of supervision, but as soon as sharp cutting tools are involved, an adult must take charge.

Be particularly mindful that your young helpers are wearing goggles or safety glasses, and give them earmuffs if they are nearby while you're using noisy power tools.

Even if they are made from timber, swords and axes can still cause nasty injuries, so it's best if the weapons don't see actual combat.

The best use for them is as a majestic display on the wall, but they can be taken down and used for authenticity when children are playing dress-ups. ➤

MOUNTING THE WEAPONS

This armoury features a shield, a two-handed sword and an arming sword or one-handed sword.

Mount the weapons so they can be easily removed but with the fasteners kept out of sight. **CHOOSE A BACKING BOARD** large enough to show off your weapons. We used laminated hardwood that had been salvaged from a discarded tabletop.

MARK THE POSITIONS of the weapons then wind in square screw hooks at balance points such as the hilt and near the end of the blade. **DRILL MATCHING HOLES** using a 3mm twist bit at an angle into the balance points on the weapons then hook them onto the square hooks.

TIP Hang the shield directly on its straps.

Grunt 25mm x 4m Tiedown, about \$6. usegrunt.com



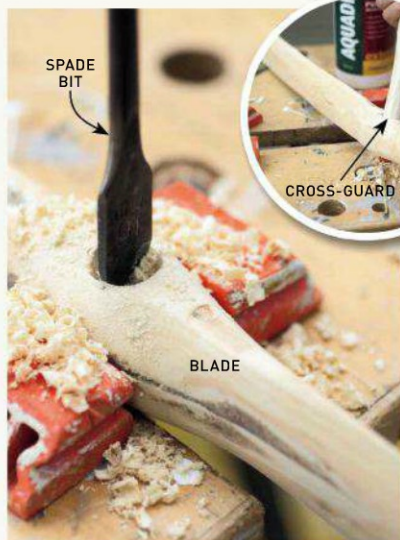
Make the armoury



1 Shape the sword blade

For a double-handed sword, find a branch about 650mm long and 40mm in diameter. Strip the bark then plane down about 450mm of the branch for the blade, leaving a 200mm hilt.

TIP For an arming sword, make the hilt 130mm and the blade 470mm.



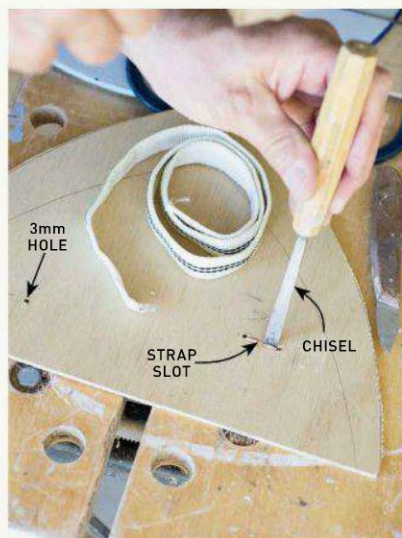
2 Add the cross-guard

Use a 16mm auger bit or spade bit to drill through the top of the hilt. Strip the bark from a 160 x 20mm branch and rasp it down to 16mm in diameter then secure it in the hole using exterior PVA. Use a rasp to shape the grip and taper the blade to a point.



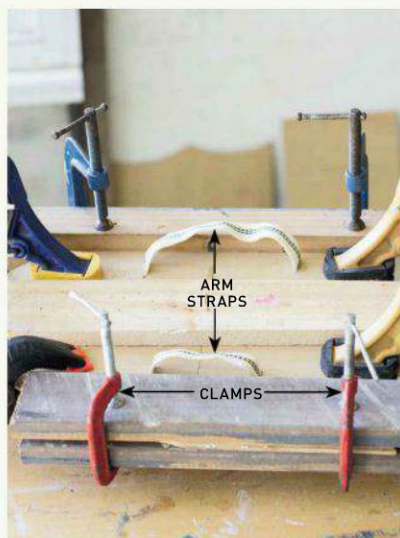
3 Cut out the front and back

Enlarge the shield pattern with a photocopier or on a 50mm grid then use it to cut out a template from an A2 sheet of cardboard. Trace two shield outlines on a HandiPanel or offcuts of 3mm thick plywood then cut out using a coping saw.



4 Cut the strap slots

Ask your young knight to hold his or her arm across the shield to mark comfortable strap locations, one across the palm and one across the forearm. Drill 3mm holes centred 25mm apart at the ends of the strap positions then cut out the slots using a chisel.



5 Laminate the shield

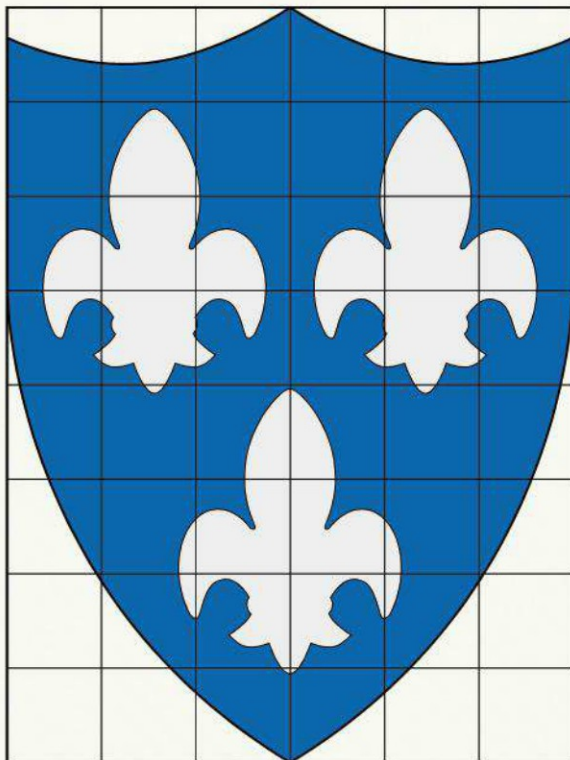
Cut 25mm nylon webbing long enough to go around the child's arm plus at least 30mm extra at each end. Feed the ends through the slots then apply PVA adhesive and sandwich the ends between the front and back of the shield. Clamp and leave to dry.



6 Apply the finish

Apply primer followed by two coats of acrylic in your chosen colour. Use a scalpel or precision utility knife to cut out the fleur-de-lis pattern on the cardboard template then use it as a stencil to apply spray paint and complete the design.

SHIELD TEMPLATE
50mm grid

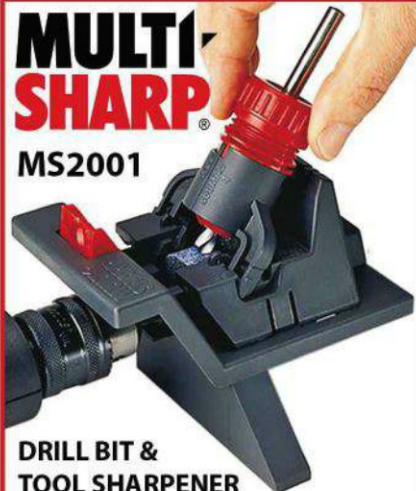


MACE

**BATTLE
AXE**

✦ Handyman.net.au

Go online for the instructions on making
a mace and axe to add to the armoury.



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Man caves

Check out these luxury sheds and workshops designed and built by DIYers and *Handyman* readers

DIYers use their sheds for more than just storing garden tools and spare parts, and almost 50% of shed owners say they would be lost without their backyard retreat, according to a UK survey.

Be inspired by this collection of man caves from *Handyman* readers and a round-up of unique entries from the annual UK Shed of the Year competition that reflect the character and passions of their owners.

This Father's Day, help Dad build a shed that stands out from the crowd.



Art fan Peter Ellis created a tribute to abstract painter Pieter Mondrian.

ROB'S TIKI BAR

Rob and Eileen Stanek did a lot of island hopping before they had kids, so they wanted a way to bring the Caribbean to their backyard.

The poolside Stanek Tiki Bar features a tropical-looking thatched roof but consists of a standard timber framework with a layer of 9mm thick marine grade plywood.

Sections of woven thatch are stapled to the plywood. In Rob's rainy climate, the thatch lasts two years and costs about \$400 to replace.

TIP To build your own tiki hut, source 'thatch rolls' online.





BRIAN'S BASEMENT

Brian Gartrell's basement is part pool hall, part sports bar and part shrine.

Brian met Muhammad Ali through a mutual friend, and the walls are decorated with cards, photos, and a pair of his autographed trunks.

The steel dado panelling is an eye-catching feature. Brian covered the wall studs with 12mm plywood.

He then clad the ply with sheets of corrugated, galvanised steel Mini Orb, adding skirting and a dado rail.

The ply was secured with screws only, so Brian can remove the panels to access cables for the basement's three TVs and sound system.

TIP To make a steel dado, have the metal cut to size by the supplier. ➤



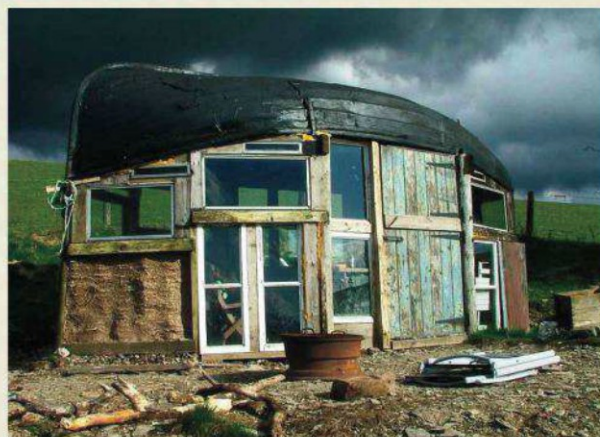
Rigging and a skull and crossbones contribute to the nautical theme.



Clare Kapma pays respect to Lord Nelson by replicating the HMS Victory.



Top dad Dave Hepplewhite built the kids a castle-style shed to play in.



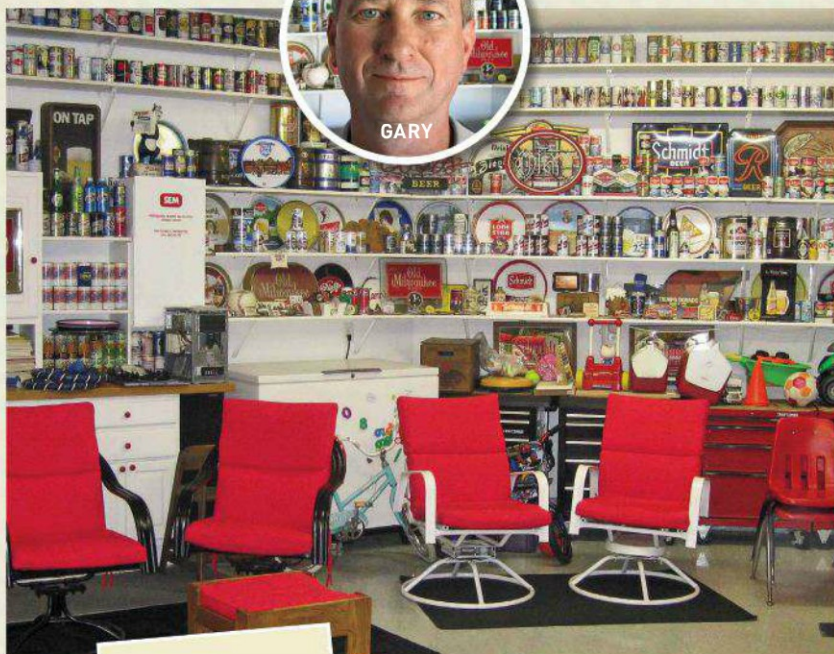
Alex Holland used a salvaged boat to build a shed with a view.

Man caves

GARY'S MULTIPURPOSE CAVE

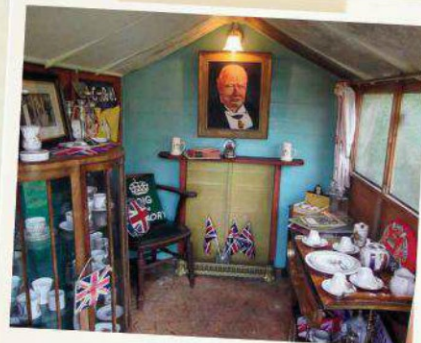
Some man caves are workshops, some are bars, and some are for sports and socialising. Gary Bickler's garage is all those things and more.

It began life as a beer can museum as Gary's 3000 collectible cans were finally put on display after 20 years in storage.



Over time, the museum morphed into other things. It's a spa, gym, home theatre, heated indoor playground for the grandkids, and a get-together spot for friends and family.

Somehow, Gary even finds space for the usual garage functions of DIY projects and parking cars.



The royal retreat also salutes influential figures such as Winston Churchill.



Amy Williams stores British memorabilia in her patriotic backyard shed.

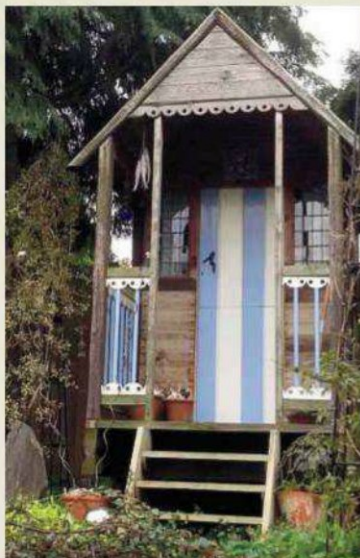


Memorabilia like a petrol pump and original radio completes the time warp.

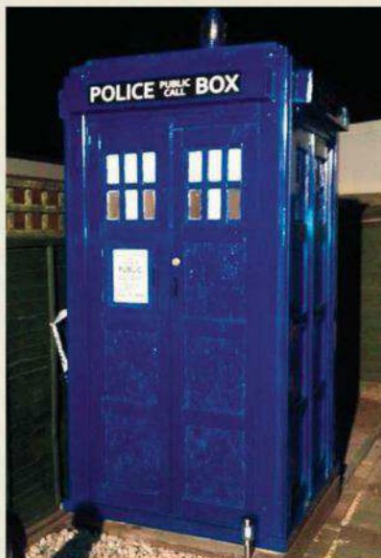
Ann Bate pays tribute to her parents' love of the 50s with an American diner set-up.



FATHER'S DAY



Sharron Smart's compact shed borrows from beach hut chic.



Dr Who fan Jacob McCartney couldn't resist a TARDIS-themed shed.

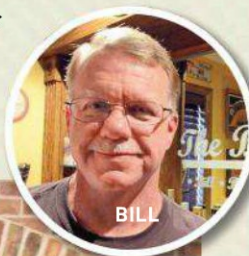
BILL'S BREWERY

Home brewer Bill Bensing wanted to give his basement the feel of an old-world brewery. That meant brick walls but he also wanted an archway, which seemed ambitious for a novice bricklayer, so he used brick thins.

Bill installed fibre cement sheet then clad it with 25mm thick bricks,

using tile adhesive to bed them and mortar to grout the joints.

He says that it was much easier than traditional bricklaying and nobody can tell the difference.



BILL



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Father's Day Gifts

» Handy solutions



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LIGHT UP OUTDOORS with the 16W 40 LED Portable Worklight, \$99.



BRIGHTEN UP your garden with the 29cm Stainless Steel Solar Bollard, \$6.



ADD ENERGY EFFICIENT LED Flexible Lighting Strips, multicoloured with remote control, \$59, or white, \$49*.



FOR ADDED COLOUR choose the 28cm LED Colour Changing Solar Path Lights, \$25 for a 20 pack.



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TACKLE TOUGH CUTS with the Ozito 12V Li-ion Rotator Combi Jigsaw, \$99.



FOR DOUBLE DUTY choose the Ozito 3.6V Li-ion Screwdriver Torch Kit, \$29.97.

»Head in-store to pick out the best gift for a handy dad from the latest workshop gadgets and gardening tools

»Garden gear



SEPARATE WOOD with less effort using the Fiskars X27 Splitting Axe, \$129.



TRIM IT FAST with the double-action blade of the Ryobi 500W Hedge Trimmer, \$79.



CUT QUICKLY through overgrown lawns with the Ryobi 4 Stroke 190cc Petrol Lawn Mower, \$429.



SAVE YOUR BACK with the Fiskars Telescopic Ergonomic Garden Spade, \$49.96, featuring an extendable handle.



GET A FORKFUL in the garden with the Fiskars Mulch Fork, \$99.



CUT CURVES on garden edges with the Ryobi 500W Line Trimmer, \$69.

Father's Day Gifts

»Outdoor tools



DIG IN using a Fiskars QuikDrill for garden beds and planting holes, \$69.



PRUNE PLANTS FAST with the 18V Li-ion Cordless Pole Pruner & Hedge Trimmer, \$199.

HANDS FREE night vision is made simple with the Panther Vision 4 LED Khaki Power Cap, \$19.98.



DISPOSE OF WASTE for a fresher garden with a Tumbleweed Pet Poo Composter, \$179.



HOLD ON with ease when you choose the quick adjusting, Trojan Multi Grip Pliers, \$19.98.



CART OFF BRICKS and other construction mess with the 100L Sherlock Poly Handyman & Gardener Wheelbarrow, \$149.

»Garage storage



TAKE ON any DIY job with the Romak Workbench, \$79, where there's space to keep your tools in easy reach.



STORE YOUR TOOLS safely in the heavy-duty Trojan Tool Chest & Trolley, 660 x 300 x 138mm, \$499.



SET UP SHOP with the Ultimate Workbench and Ultimate drawer combos, \$1417. Sold separately, tools not included.



GET TO WORK with the Ultimate Combo Workbench, \$399.



STACK IT UP when you combine 1800 x 1800mm Rack It storage sets, from \$253, with parts sold separately.



All for Dad

If you're still not sure what to buy, give him a Bunnings Gift Card and let him choose exactly what he wants. Gift cards are available in values of \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100, and can be used in any Bunnings Warehouse nationally.



WIN
THE SHED PLUS ALL
THE EQUIPMENT
TO FILL IT

WIN BIG

in the Father's Day Shed Giveaway!

HANDYMAN is celebrating this Father's Day by giving our readers the chance to take home the ultimate handy prize.

One lucky reader will win a shedful of DIY and gardening tools and equipment, plus a **10m² Workshop Shed** from **ABSCO Sheds**, valued at **\$1,095**.

Australian-made from BlueScope Steel and with easy SNAPTITE assembly, it's the ultimate garden shed, suitable as a workshop for the hobbyist or a large storage area for the serious gardener or home handyman.

So because it's Father's Day, we want to know how important DIY has been in your family. Just tell us in 50 words or less the best piece of DIY advice that you were ever given by one – or both – of your parents, and you could win!

Visit handyman.net.au/shedcomp to enter.

 **ABSCO
SHEDS**
So Tough. Too Easy.

➤➤➤ **The Kärcher Chassis Cleaner** (RRP \$169) protects the underside of your vehicle, removing dirt, sludge, mud and salt deposits from your car, boat or caravan. The cleaner also includes a nozzle for applying underbody wax and is compatible with all Kärcher machines from K2 through to K6. For more information, visit www.karcher.com.au



KÄRCHER
makes a difference

➤➤➤ **The 18V Ryobi One+ 6 Piece Combo Kit** (RRP \$499) includes a Drill Driver, Impact Driver, Multi-tool with accessories, Circular Saw, Angle Grinder and Torch (with pivoting head). Also includes two lithium battery packs and charger. For even more product information, please visit www.ryobi.com.au



RYOBI

➤➤➤ Enhance your rainwater tank with this prize pack from **Rain Harvesting** (RRP \$225). Featuring the First Flush Water Diverter, Leaf Eater and a wireless tank gauge among its goodies, the pack is ideal for anyone who's looking to expand their existing rainwater tank setup or install one for the first time. For more information, visit www.rainharvesting.com.au



Rain Harvesting
www.rainharvesting.com.au

➤➤➤ **Monarch** brings to you the ultimate painting prize pack (RRP \$350+). A full range of preparation accessories make the job easier, while the plastic-backed Canvas Drop Sheets with leak-proof technology make the job cleaner. The high quality Detail & Finishing brush range and Monarch Task roller covers provide the quality finish that you've been dreaming about. You haven't painted until you've painted with Monarch! For more information, visit www.austbrush.com.au



MONARCH



»»» **30 SECONDS** will help you stay spick and span with their cleaning prize pack (RRP \$155.70). It includes their Outdoor Cleaner, Spray & Walk Away, BBQ Cleaner and Indoor Mould Remover. These products are ideally stored in the shed, ready for any outside and inside cleaning jobs. For more information, visit www.30SECONDS.com.au



»»» Our friends at **TROJAN** have put together a great prize pack of hand tools for the lucky winner (RRP \$200).

Included in the prize pack is a 19-piece screwdriver set. Magnetised tips allow for easy retrieval and positioning of screws. And with heads to suit both large and small jobs, there's bound to be one that's right for you. For more information, visit www.trojantools.com.au



TROJAN
THE WORKHORSE

»»» Give your dad the ultimate gardening gift pack this Father's Day, courtesy of **FISKARS**. The pack consists of the revolutionary **PowerGear™** pruner, lopper and hedge shear, helping to ensure his garden is looking its best. For more information visit www.fiskars.com or call (03) 8645 2400.



FISKARS

»»» **The Ozito Airless Paint Sprayer** (RRP \$349) draws paint directly from the can, helping to avoid messy paint spills. With a durable metal gun and a 7.6 metre hose for longer reach, the Ozito Airless Paintless Sprayer has been designed for small to medium sized projects around the home. For more information, visit www.ozito.com.au



ozito

Whether it's cooking up a few sausages or something a bit more gourmet, the **Geneva BBQ** (RRP \$649) will be a great addition to any family gathering. Utilising **Outdoor Chef's** unique gas funnel system technology, the Geneva BBQ comes 95% assembled – all you'll need to do is attach the two side shelves. For more information, visit www.outdoorchef.com



You'll be ready to take on any lawn with the **Victa Easy Walker**, featuring a self-propelled 19" steel chassis, ReadyStart™ no-prime, no-choke starting system and a U.S.-built Briggs & Stratton 190cc 725EX Series engine (RRP \$679). It's designed and assembled right here in Australia, so you know it'll be up for the tough jobs. For more information, visit www.victa.com



VICTA
Altogether Better™

The winner will receive all six styles in the UV Wraps range of high-end **Polarised Safety Glasses** (RRP \$27.50). These shatterproof glasses are virtually indestructible under normal use and comply fully with Australian Safety Standard AS/NZS 1337.1, while still being affordable. The polarised lenses make them ideal for both work and play, and they are available now in the tools department of all Bunnings stores Australia-wide. For more information, visit www.uvwraps.com.au



UVWRAPS

This Father's Day, one winner could have the best garden in the street with **Seasol** and **Powerfeed**. Seasol's seaweed liquid solution (RRP \$74.76) helps enhance plant and root growth, while PowerFeed (RRP \$72.76) is a fertiliser that contains liquid compost to condition soil and is safe on all plants. For more information, visit www.seasol.com.au

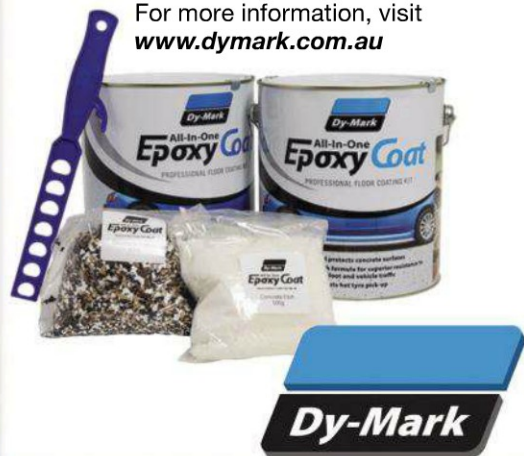


Seasol
THE SEAWEED SOLUTION



►►► **Dy-Mark's Epoxy Coat Kit** (RRP \$199) seals and protects concrete surfaces with an easy one-coat application, protecting against oil stains and simply wiping clean. Each kit provides enough coating to cover a standard double garage (36-40sqm). The winner will receive their choice of 1 of the 5 finishes in the range.

For more information, visit www.dymark.com.au



►►► **Kincrome TorqueMaster** screwdriver set features new S3 SVCM alloy steel. The new design screwdriver incorporates a hexagonal shaft for those times when you need extra torque. This screwdriver uses the highest quality components, including the popular TorqueMaster handle. TorqueMaster dovetails with your hand's pressure areas to transmit maximum torque. For more information, visit www.kincrome.com.au



KINCROME
PROFESSIONAL QUALITY TOOLS

►►► **Birdies "10-in-1" Shapes Range** allows you to choose from one of ten garden bed outlines, to suit any area. Using multiple beds allows you to create amazing layout designs. The prize pack include two **Birdies 4 Kids "6 in 1" Shapes Garden Bed** – you can use them to teach the kids the benefits of growing their own fruit and vegetables! (Total RRP \$250). For more information, visit www.birdiesgardenproducts.com.au



Birdies
Garden Products

►►► **Polyfilla Interior Large Cracks** (RRP 330ml \$11.42, 770ml \$21.22) is a ready-to-use, light-weight, quick-setting filler for interior use. It's ideal for filling cracks, primed nailheads, small and large holes. Polyfilla is pre-mixed, requires only one application and is usually dry and ready for sanding and painting in 30 minutes.

For more information, visit www.poly.com.au



Polyfilla

»»» **The IronHorse Tough LED Industrial Strength Worklight** (RRP \$219) is suitable for indoor and outdoor use for contractors, tradesmen and DIY applications. The worklight has a brightness of 3000 lumen, as well as a high visibility 'vivid green' finish and an IP44 weatherproof rating. This product is exclusively available at Bunnings.



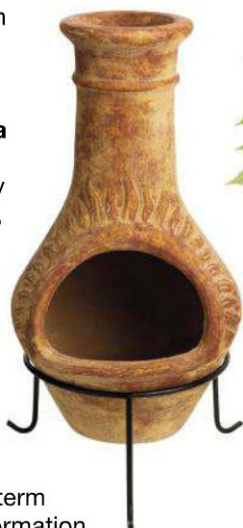
IRONHORSE

»»» The **Master Lock** prize pack (RRP \$200) can help to keep any home or shed safe and secure. Win a twin pack of Excell 50mm padlocks, a Python fully adjustable locking cable, Select Access portable heavy duty key safe, a 1m x 8mm high security pre-cut chain and a combination bike cable lock. For more information, visit www.masterlock.com.au



Master Lock

»»» Enjoy the warmth with a magical and uniquely appealing open fire ambience. **The Flamma Chiminea** (RRP \$179) is 100% handcrafted in Mexico by experienced craftsmen, using three types of volcanic clay. This exclusive use of only quality materials has been proven internationally as the most critical factor in achieving a brilliant radiant heating performance and long-term durability. For more information, visit www.chapala.com.au



CHAPALA
CHIMENEAS

»»» Let Dad savour his Father's Day with this ultimate collection of **BBQ Buddy** tools and accessories (RRP \$200). From cooking to cleaning, roasting and specialty, all tools and accessories are made from high quality durable materials. Dad will have no trouble cooking up a storm with our range of tools specifically designed for him, featuring ergonomically designed grips for maximum comfort and functionality. For more information, visit www.bbqbuddy.com.au



BBQ buddy

...too good to put down



DESIGNER
LIVING

Fireplace SHELVES

Install custom-built bookcases in wall alcoves for an open-plan display

PROJECT **FRANK GARDNER** MAIN PICTURE **STUART SCOTT**

DIY > \$325

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1125

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 2 DAYS

Whether you're building an extension or doing a reno it pays to integrate display areas into the structure of rooms.

In this living area, four short stud walls were built to create two 2760 x 995 x 400mm alcoves either side of a central fireplace column.

There was no complicated joinery involved, as the fascia, side and back supports were simply secured with screws to the stud framework then the shelves glued and nailed in position.

To create a smooth, sleek look, the leading edge of the shelves was recessed into a rebate in the back edge of the fascia support. The 16 x 8mm rebate was cut using a router with a 10mm straight cutting bit.

Five shelves were installed on either side, spaced 320mm apart starting 600mm above the floor. Extra 600mm spacings were provided above the third and fifth shelves.

CUT THE COMPONENTS

Use a circular saw and straightedge guide to cut the shelves from 16mm MDF or have the supplier cut them to size. The side and back supports, and the wider fascias are cut from primed finger-jointed (FJ) pine.

Start by measuring the height, width and depth between the floor, ceiling and walls then decide how many shelves are needed.

Space the shelving to fit the books and items to be showcased.

TIP Standard hardcover books are about 240mm high while taller albums are about 320mm high. >



Ozito 850W Plunge Router,
\$60. ozito.com.au



BEFORE

Short stud walls were added to create two wall recesses around the fireplace.

AFTER

The alcove shelves, with a TV and fireplace nestled between, give the room a welcoming atmosphere.



Fasteners

The fascia, side and back supports for the shelving were secured to the stud framework with 50mm x 8g timber screws.

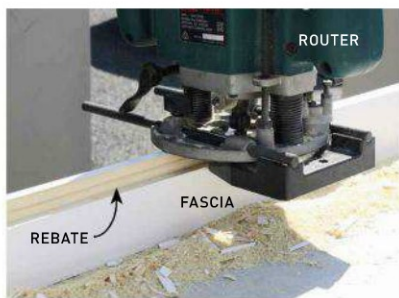
Attach the 10 MDF shelf panels to the pine supports from above using PVA adhesive and 40 x 1.6mm panel pins.

INSTALL THE SHELVES



1 Paint the timber

Apply an undercoat to seal the MDF shelves then apply two coats of gloss acrylic using a roller. The FJ pine is already primed so paint the fascias, back and side supports with two coats of acrylic using a paintbrush.



2 Rebate the fascias

Clamp the fascias securely to a workbench then use a router with a 10mm straight cutting bit, setting the depth to 16mm and the fence to cut 8mm wide, to cut a 16 x 8mm rebate along one edge.



3 Locate the studs

Mark the shelf setout on the back wall of the alcoves then use a stud finder or drill small 1.5mm holes to locate the centre of all studs. Use a spirit level to transfer the stud centres to each shelf location.



4 Attach the back supports

Measure and cut the back supports then position them at the base of the shelf setout. Drill 2mm countersunk pilot holes at each stud centre then check for level, securing the back support with screws.



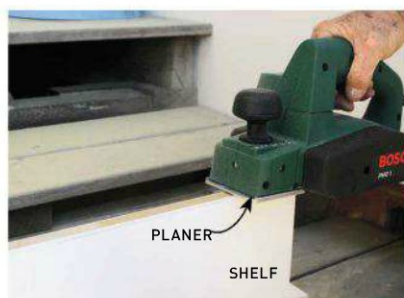
5 Secure the fascias

Use a spirit level to transfer the shelf setout to the front inside edge then measure and cut the fascias. Position each fascia, drill pilot holes and secure with screws, then cut and attach the side supports.



6 Check the fit

Position each shelf in turn to check for a neat fit on the fascia and supports. If the shelf is too long or wide or if the wall corners are out of square, scribe trim lines or measure the space and mark the shelves.



7 Plane the shelves

Clamp the shelf panels upright then use a power planer to remove the waste down to the trim lines. Rotate the shelf panel to plane one edge at a time, trimming down the shelves gradually.



8 Drill pilot holes

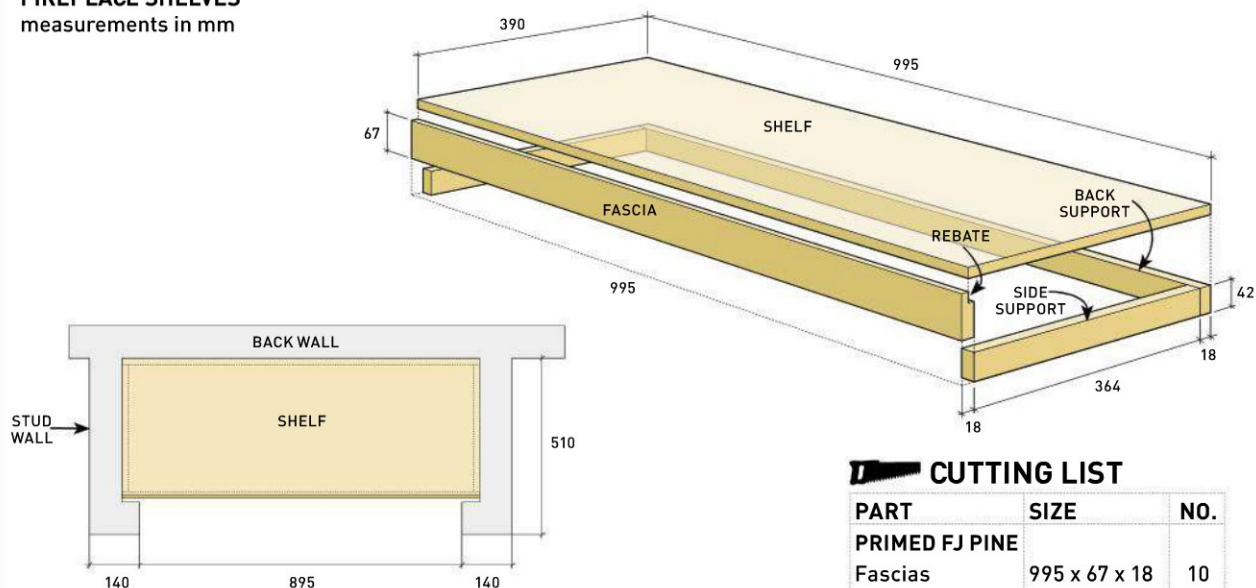
Mark the panel pin positions at 200mm centres, 8mm in from the front edge of each shelf. Drill 1.5mm pilot holes at the marks, angling the bit slightly to the outside so the panel pins don't break through.



9 Attach the shelves

Run a bead of PVA adhesive around the top of the supports and fascias then position each shelf. Tap in the panel pins, punch the heads below the surface and fill with timber filler. Sand lightly then touch up the paint.

FIREPLACE SHELVES measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
PRIMED FJ PINE		
Fascias	995 x 67 x 18	10
Back supports	995 x 42 x 18	10
Side supports	364 x 42 x 18	20
MDF		
Shelves	995 x 390 x 16	10

Handyman.net.au

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to make fireplace shelves.

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This bookcase is built as two boxes on plinths with overhead shelving.

Fasteners

To assemble the bookcase boxes and attach them to wall studs, use 50mm x 8g particleboard screws.

Attach the decorative skirting from inside the plinths using 25mm x 8g screws.

Use the same screws to add the cover panels and backs to all parts of the bookcase and to secure the overhead unit to the side boxes.

TIP Drill and countersink 2mm pilot holes for all screws.

SPACE
SAVER

DOORWAY BOOKCASE

Create extra storage by surrounding an internal door with shelving

PROJECT **ED FREND** MAIN PICTURE **STUART SCOTT**

DIY > \$395

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1595

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 3 DAYS

The best home layouts use the available space efficiently while providing plenty of storage.

In this home, one living room wall had a sliding door flanked by narrow columns of unused space.

Bookcases were built to surround the doorframe and fill the two awkward spaces, then painted to match the sliding doors.

The measurements are easily adapted to suit the dimensions of any space around a door, as the design consists of two bookcases positioned either side and a third set of shelves mounted overhead.

BUILD THE SHELVES

The bookcase is built from MDF and trimmed with ribbed edging, from Porta Mouldings (porta.com.au).

Cut the parts with a circular saw and straightedge guide or have them cut by the supplier, as full

2400 x 1200mm sheets of MDF are heavy and won't fit in the average car.

The sides of the bookcase boxes are two layers of 18mm thick MDF, with the inner sides stopping 340mm short of the top to support the overhead unit. The fixed and adjustable shelves are 25mm thick.

To install, build two plinths for the bookcase boxes and position the overhead unit between them.

For extra stability, secure the bookcase to the wall studs at the sides and above the doorway.

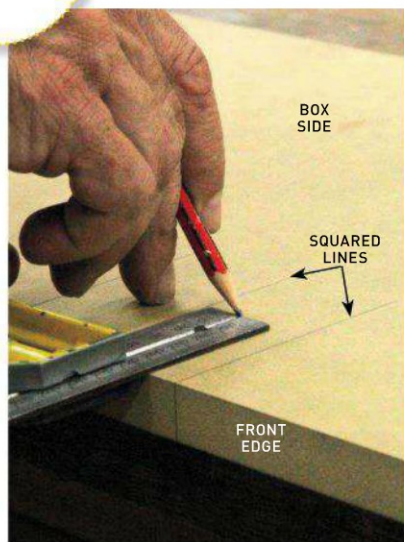
Mark the stud positions on the walls then transfer the locations to the bookcase boxes before installing them on the plinths.

TIP To give it a built-in look, the plinths are clad with skirting. ➤

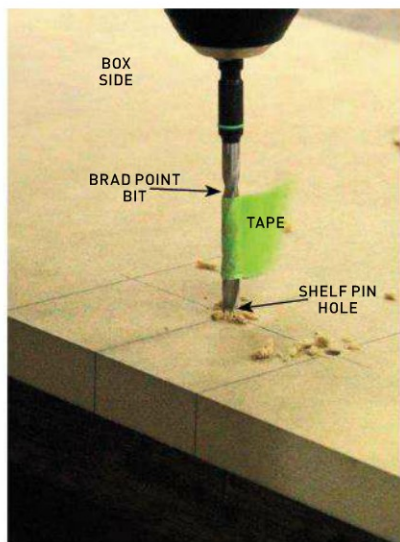


Makita 620W Planer,
\$198. makita.com.au

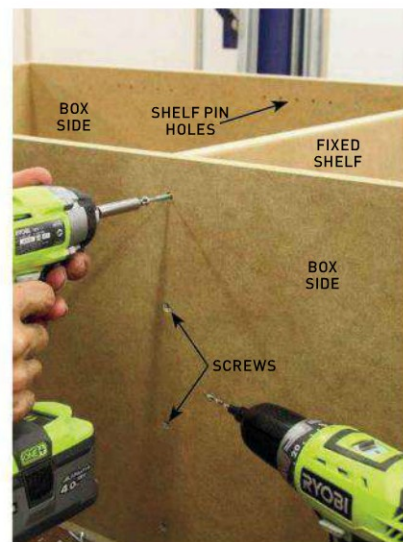
BUILD THE BOOKCASE



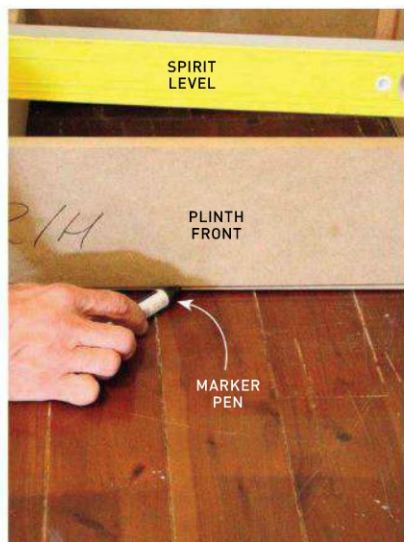
1 Mark the shelf positions
Position two box sides face to face, checking all edges are flush. Mark the shelf hole heights across both front edges, then square these lines across the inside faces. Set the blade of a combination square at 50mm then use it to mark the shelf pin centres.



2 Drill the shelf holes
Use a 5mm brad point bit to drill 10mm deep shelf pin holes at the intersections of the marked lines, using masking tape on the bit or a depth collar to ensure accuracy.
TIP Drill 2mm pilot holes for the fixed shelves right through the sides.



3 Build the bookcase boxes
Soften the front edges of the shelves using a router with a 6mm roundover bit. Position the top, base and fixed shelf between the sides, drilling pilot holes to secure with screws. Build the overhead unit then attach the backs with screws.



4 Level the base plinths
Position the sides of each plinth between the front and back, securing with screws. Position on the floor and adjust the height with shims until the tops are level. Run a marker pen along the floor to mark a trim line on each plinth then plane down to the line.



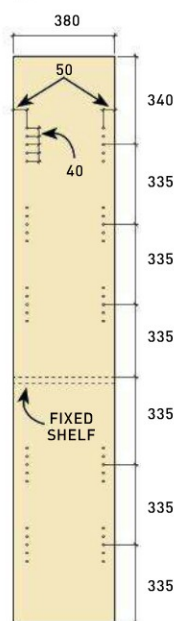
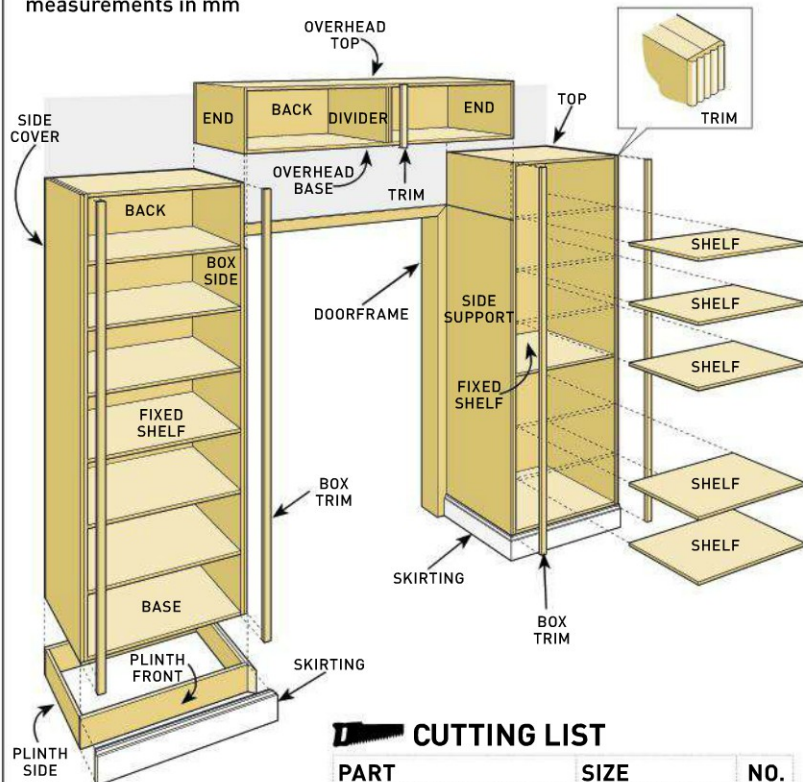
5 Secure the skirting
Cut the skirting to length and use a mitresaw to cut the corner joints. Using the plinths as templates, mark trim lines and plane the skirting to match. Secure the skirting with screws and construction adhesive. Add the covers and support sides to the boxes.



6 Install the bookcase
Position the bookcases on the plinths then clamp the overhead unit, securing with screws. Secure to the wall studs with screws then use PVA adhesive to attach the decorative trim, using masking tape to hold it in position until the adhesive dries.

DOORWAY BOOKCASE

measurements in mm



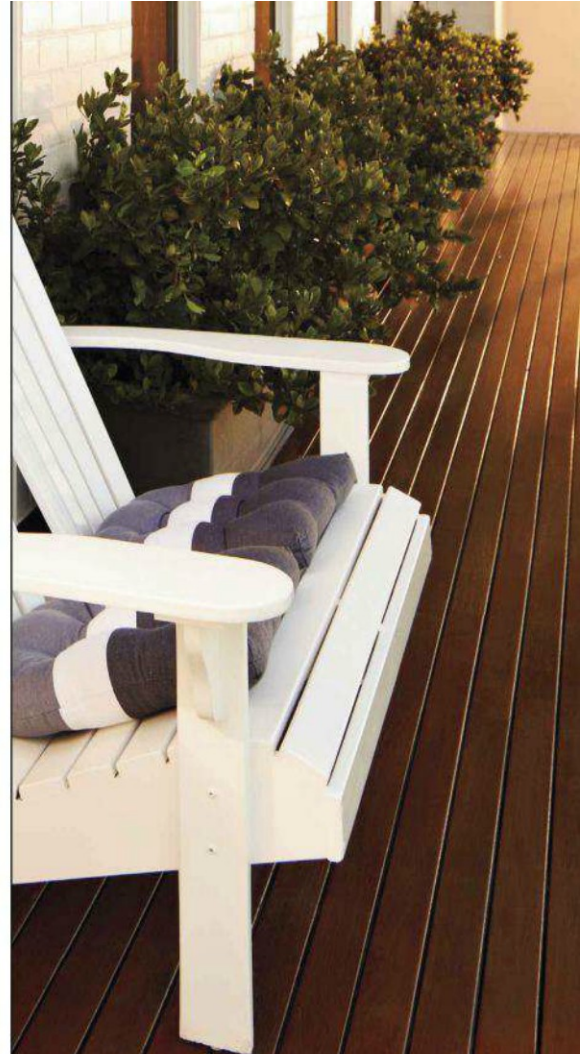
SIDE LAYOUT

CUTTING LIST

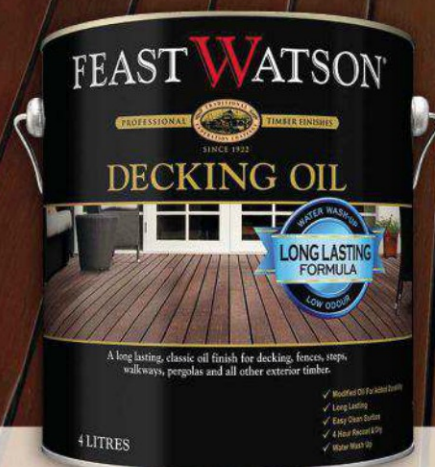
PART	SIZE	NO.
MDF		
Side covers	2350 x 392 x 18	2
Box sides	2350 x 380 x 18	4
Side supports	2010 x 392 x 18	2
Overhead dividers	380 x 304 x 18	2
Overhead top and base	1750 x 380 x 25	2
Overhead ends	380 x 340 x 18	2
Top and base	812 x 380 x 25	4
Fixed shelves	812 x 380 x 25	2
Adjustable shelves	810 x 380 x 25	10
Box backs	2350 x 848 x 12	2
Overhead back	1786 x 340 x 12	1
Plinth front and back	884 x 140 x 18	4
Plinth sides	356 x 140 x 18	4
TASMANIAN OAK		
Overhead trim	340 x 35 x 8	1
Box trim	2350 x 35 x 8	4
PRIMED PINE		
Skirting fronts	902 x 138 x 18	2
Skirting sides	410 x 138 x 18	2

✦ Handyman.net.au

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to make a doorway bookcase.



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MODULAR
BUILD

LOW-LINE BOOKSHELF

Make a unit designed to span an entire wall for storage and display

PROJECT **JOHN BOWLER** MAIN PICTURE **STUART SCOTT**

DIY > \$740

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1540

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 2 DAYS

Readymade bookcases are great for storage but sometimes a room needs a custom-made unit to fill an available space.

This 3000mm long x 800mm high bookshelf is designed to sit between two walls and comprises three 1000mm long modular units.

The units are easy to assemble and simply butt together, with the joints hidden by vertical trim pieces.

It's made from Tasmanian oak veneer MDF board and trimmed with solid Tassie oak timber, while the adjustable shelves and rails are edged with iron-on veneer.

Use a router to add a decorative profile around the edge of the top trim, then apply clear polyurethane to finish the bookcase.

MAKE THE SIDES

A cover panel is attached to one side of each outer unit to make them the same double thickness as the joint between the centre and outer units.

The outer sides are 34mm shorter than the inner sides so the rails and base can be secured above and below.

Cut a 17mm strip off the base of the shelf pin hole template before drilling into the outer sides to correct for this difference.

TIP The MDF boards can be cut using a circular saw and straightedge guide or have them cut by the supplier. >



Ozito 1010W Biscuit Joiner,
\$80. ozito.com.au



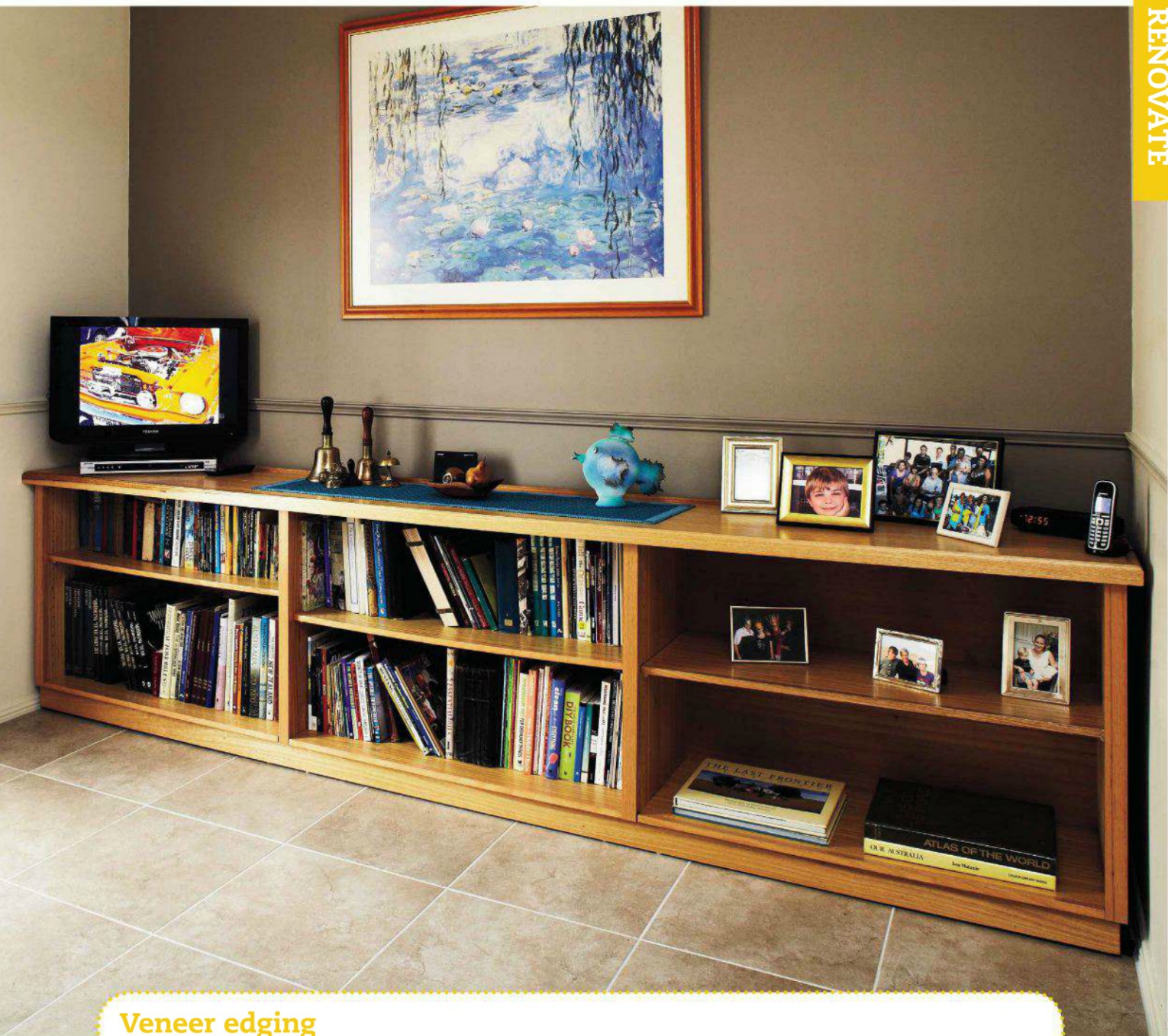
This bookshelf is a good height and size for a TV and has plenty of room for pictures or other decorations.

Fasteners

Use PVA adhesive on all joints and assemble each unit using 40mm x 8g particleboard screws.

Attach the back panels to each modular unit and join the three of them together using 25mm x 8g screws.

Build the plinth with adhesive and 40 x 2mm bullethead nails, securing the top edging and centre joint with size 20 biscuits.



Veneer edging

The adjustable shelves and rails are trimmed with veneer edge strip that has a hot-melt adhesive backing. Hold each board upright in a vice to cut a length of veneer edging slightly longer than the edge.



POSITION THE VENEER over the edge of the board and use a hot iron to melt the adhesive, moving it continually back and forth.

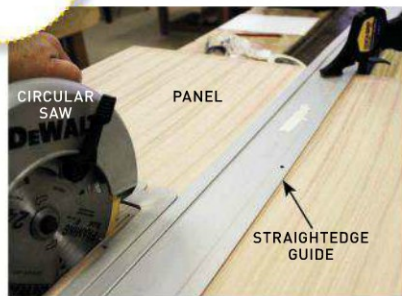


SECURE THE STRIP by pressing down on it firmly using a cork block immediately after removing the iron to ensure a good bond.

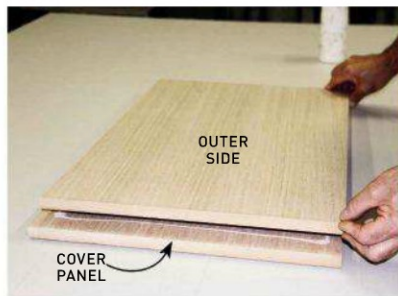


TRIM THE OVERHANG by working a fine-toothed file along the edge at a steep downward angle. Use 120 grit abrasive paper to tidy the edges.

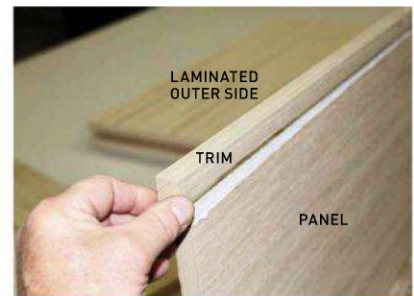
MAKE A LOW-LINE SHELF



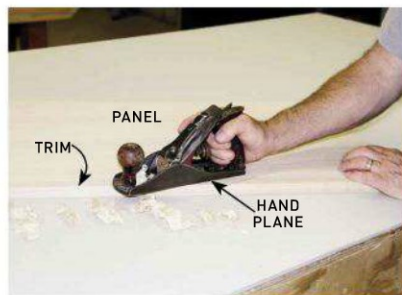
1 Cut the panels to size
Mark out the panels on the veneered MDF, ensuring the grain is in the correct direction then cut using a circular saw and straightedge guide.
TIP Apply masking tape over the cut line to prevent the veneer chipping.



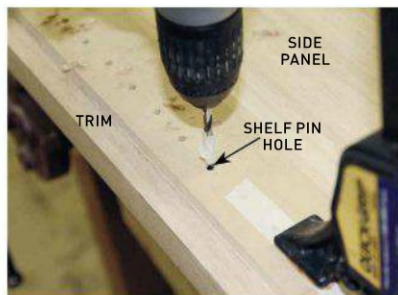
2 Laminate the outer sides
Apply PVA adhesive to join the smaller outer side and cover panels for double thickness sides. Keep the front edges flush with the outer sides, 17mm in from the top and base of the cover panels, clamping until dry.



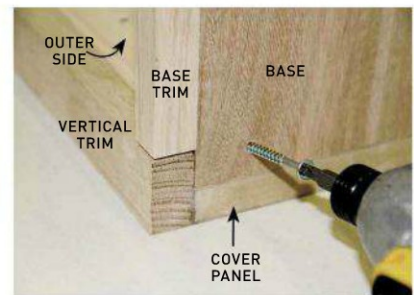
3 Secure the trim
Cut the trim to length, using solid timber on the four vertical double thickness joints and over the front edge of the base. Apply adhesive, position the trim with the ends flush and hold with masking tape until dry.



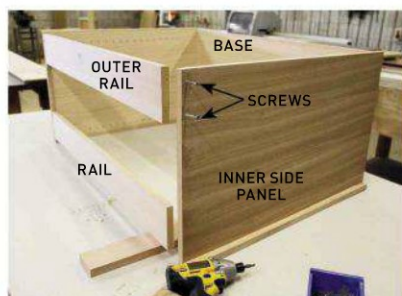
4 Plane the edges flush
Using a sharp hand plane, shave the overhang off the trim so it finishes flush with the veneered surface of the panels. Sand with 120 grit abrasive paper to remove any imperfections and excess adhesive.



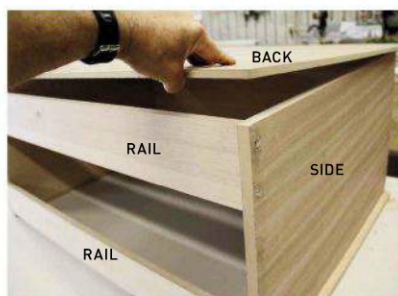
5 Drill the shelf pin holes
To make a template for the shelf pin holes, drill a line of 5mm holes at 30mm centres through an offcut. Clamp the template to drill the shelf pin holes 50mm from the front and back edges of the sides.



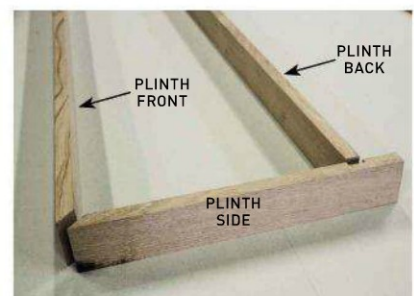
6 Attach the base and rails
Position the double-thickness outer side on a flat surface and stand the base in the rebate. Hold square and drill three pilot holes through the base then secure with screws. Attach the rails in the top rebate.



7 Secure the butt joints
Butt the base and rails against the inner sides then drill pilot holes through the sides and secure with adhesive and screws. Assemble the centre unit by butt joining the base and rails to the sides in the same way.



8 Attach the back
Check each carcass for square by measuring the diagonals then position the backing board over the outer units in the rebate at the outer side and flush with the inner side. Secure with four screws along each edge.

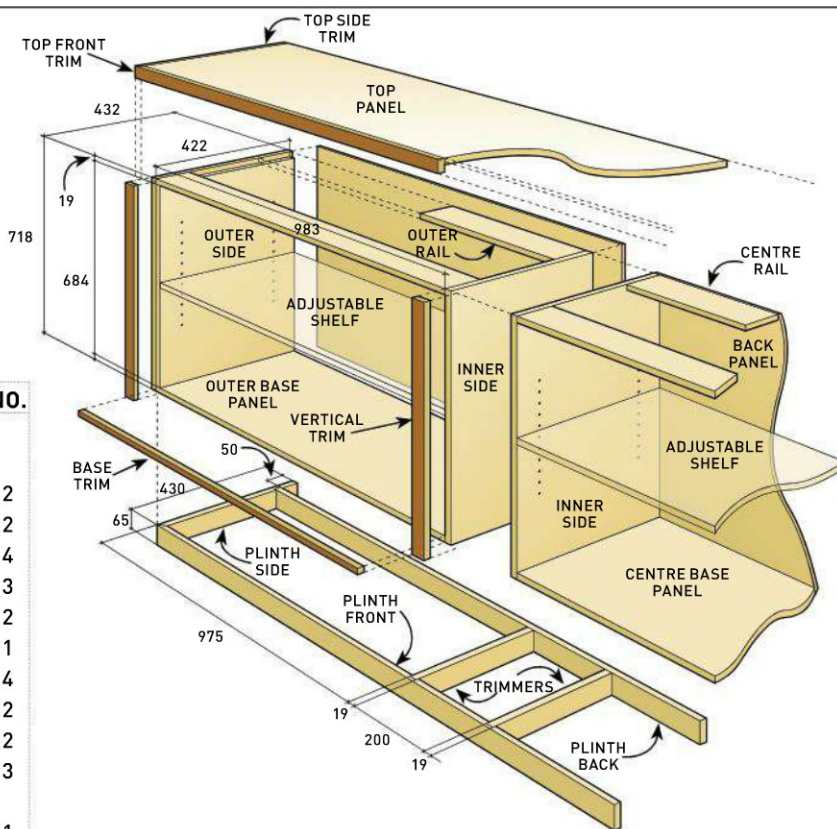


9 Build the plinth
Use a mitresaw to cut the mitres for the plinth front and sides. Cut 17 x 8mm housings, 50mm from the back of the sides then at 975mm and 1005 in from each end on the front. Assemble with adhesive and nails.

LOW-LINE BOOKSHELF measurements in mm

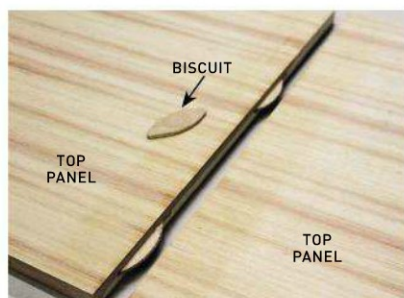
CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
TASMANIAN OAK VENEER MDF		
Cover panels	718 x 432 x 17	2
Outer side panels	684 x 422 x 17	2
Inner side panels	718 x 422 x 17	4
Adjustable shelves	964 x 422 x 17	3
Outer base panels	983 x 422 x 17	2
Centre base panel	966 x 422 x 17	1
Outer rails	983 x 100 x 17	4
Centre rails	966 x 100 x 17	2
Top panels	1517 x 450 x 17	2
Back panels	1000 x 718 x 10	3
TASMANIAN OAK		
Plinth front	3000 x 65 x 19	1
Plinth sides	430 x 65 x 19	2
Plinth back	2982 x 65 x 19	1
Trimmers	371 x 65 x 19	4
Vertical trim	718 x 34 x 18	4
Base trim	966 x 17 x 18	3
Top front trim	3070 x 40 x 18	1
Top side trim	468 x 40 x 18	2



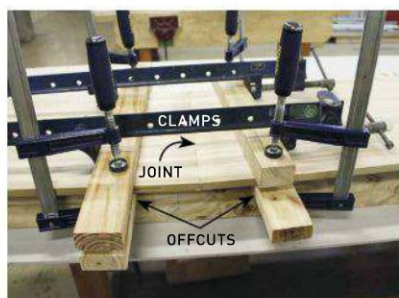
+ Handyman.net.au

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to build a low-line bookshelf.



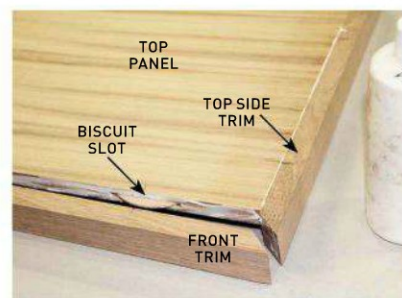
10 Cut the biscuit slots

Position the top panels end to end and check that the joint closes up neatly, straightening with a hand plane as required. Mark corresponding biscuit positions on both ends and use a biscuit joiner to cut the slots.



11 Join the top panels

Position offcuts above and below the top panels, apply adhesive then insert the biscuits and push the joint closed, clamping the offcuts. Pull the joint tight with sash clamps over the offcuts, wiping off excess adhesive.



12 Attach the top trim

Cut the top trim with a mitre on the front corners then cut biscuit slots around the edge at 200mm centres. Apply adhesive then insert the biscuits and tap the trim in position, clamping until dry.

STYLE ON
A BUDGET

Timber WALL TREATMENTS

Give your rooms texture and warmth using pine beading and plywood panels for a designer look you can do DIY

Profiled walls are popular again but with a more modern look than the paper and panels of old.

To break up a bare wall, use sheets of 7mm CD plywood and inexpensive 30 x 11mm finger-jointed pine beading, painted for a fresh finish.

A coffer is a sunken angular panel often seen on the ceilings of very old buildings. Bring the look up to date by securing beading to ply then hang on the wall using split battens to get a coffered look right up to the ceiling.

COFFERED PANELS

Secure beading to both long edges of a sheet of ply using PVA adhesive and 15 x 1mm panel pins with two more strips spaced equally in between, adding horizontal lengths cut to fit.

For an entire wall, use several sheets and space the arrangement to cover the sheet joints with 15mm of the vertical strips on either side.

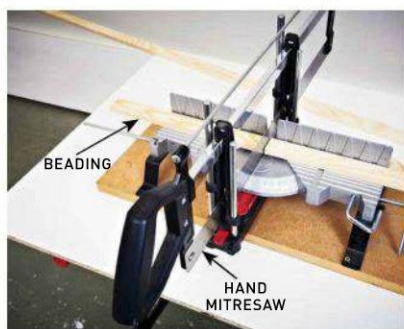
Measure the wall from floor to ceiling and if it's less than 2430mm, trim the sheet to fit with a 20mm gap

above and 10mm below, so the split battens engage smoothly.

TIP The battens are thick enough for the panels to rest against the skirting.



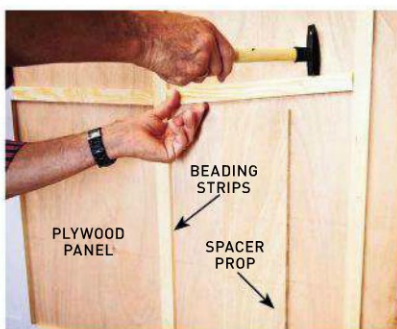
Craftright Mitre Box And Saw Set, \$13, from Bunnings.



1 Cut the beading

Use a mitresaw or mitre box and handsaw to cut the horizontal and vertical strips of beading to length with perfectly square ends.

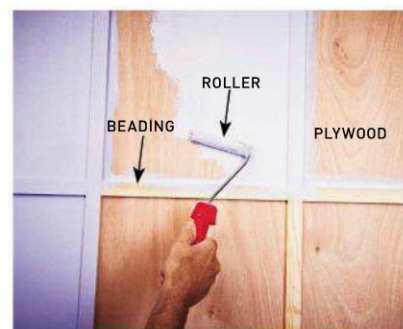
TIP Equally space the vertical strips.



2 Secure the strips

Attach the beading at the top and base edge of the ply then at 475mm centres, tapping tight fits into position.

TIP Cut a scrap of ply to 445mm to use as a spacer between the horizontals.



3 Paint the panel

Apply a primer and two coats of low sheen interior acrylic to the coffered panels using a brush for the beading and to cut in the panels, and a small roller on the plywood.



Making split battens

To hang panels on a wall, cut split battens from 42 x 19mm pine.

Use a tablesaw to cut the timber in half along the grain at a 45° angle.

Secure one length to the plywood using adhesive and 25mm x 8g countersunk timber screws.

Mark the height of the second batten then mark the stud locations.

Drill and countersink 4mm clearance holes then secure the batten to the studs with 75mm x 8g countersunk screws. ➤

Hang sheets of painted plywood to create a coffered wall with a modern look.



Make walls pop with a colourful patchwork of painted plywood.

Timber patchwork

Dados are traditionally covered in wallpaper or timber boards to waist high. For a colourful new take on an old classic, use patchwork panels.

The success of a patchwork pattern relies on a harmonious palette. To create a complementary scheme, choose colours that sit next to each other on the colour wheel.

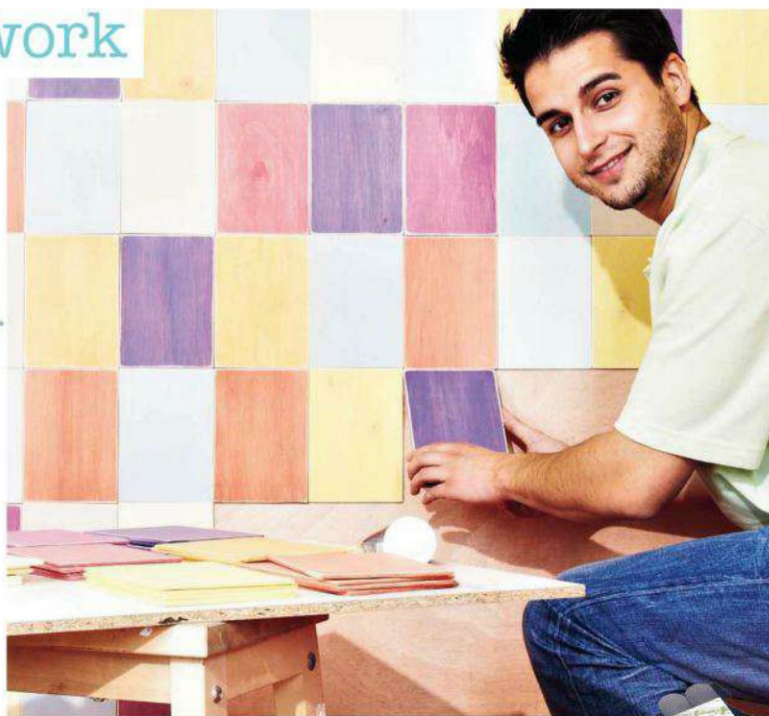
Test the colours by painting swatches on an offcut of plywood. Position the patchwork pieces of plywood on the backing panel to mix up the colours to best effect.

When you're happy with the arrangement, number the patchwork pieces on the back to make it easy when it comes to securing them.

TIP A 2400 x 1200mm sheet of 7mm plywood was divided into seven rows of 20 columns as a backing panel for patchwork pieces about 170 x 120mm.



Irwin Quick-Grip Bar Clamps, from \$25. irwintools.com.au

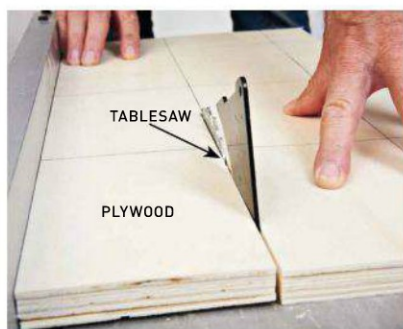


Hanging solutions

The patchwork panel can be wall mounted using split battens but as it's so lightweight non-drilling hanging methods can also be used.

Double-sided tape works well but Command Picture Hanging Strips are specially designed for fuss-free wall mounting with no damage to the surface.

They come in black and white in a range of different sizes to hang weights from 500g up to 7.2kg, and are a flexible solution that allow displays to be easily reconfigured. **TIP** For this project, you'll need only two large strips for each panel. ➤



1 Cut the patchwork

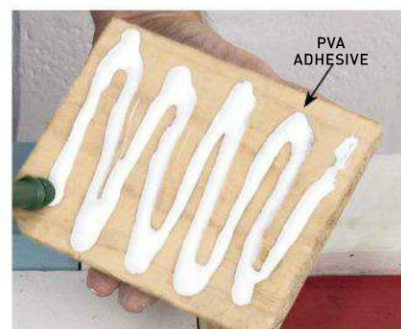
Use a tablesaw or circular saw with a straightedge guide to cut a sheet of 3mm thick plywood into quarters then clamp and stack for cutting into 170 x 120mm patchwork pieces.



2 Apply the paint

Lightly sand the patchwork pieces with 120 grit abrasive paper, applying one coat of paint with a brush.

TIP To let the grain of the timber show through don't apply primer.



3 Secure the panels

Apply PVA adhesive to the back of the patchwork pieces then secure to sheets of 2400 x 1200 x 7mm ply in numbered order. Start at the skirting, working up in horizontal rows.

CD wall shelves

If you have a CD collection you want to show off, make simple display shelves using timber beading.

This project uses six lengths of 30 x 11mm finger-jointed pine beading, each backed with a strip of 18 x 11mm beading to create a rebate for the CDs to stand in.

The strips are then secured to 40 x 8mm dowels that are attached to the studs through the plasterboard.

For a masonry wall, use a masonry bit and hammer drill to bore an 8mm hole into the wall then glue in the dowels using construction adhesive.

Stagger the cases using the cover art as the visual guide and experiment with the arrangement until you achieve a balanced effect.

TIP For a one-piece alternative, you could secure rebated 30 x 19mm picture frame moulding from Porta Mouldings to the wall (porta.com.au).



Bosch 80cm Digital Detector, \$88.
bosch-do-it.com.au

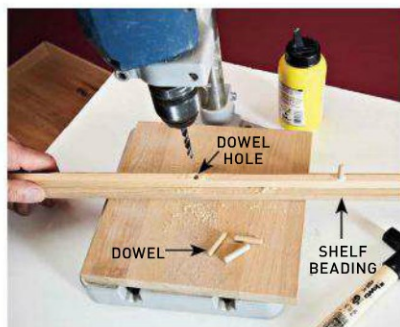


Mount pine beading on the wall to create slimline shelves for CDs.



1 Make the shelves

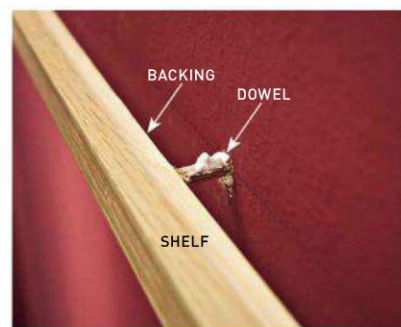
Draw a centreline for the backing on the beading 9mm from one edge. Drill 1mm clearance holes in the backing, securing with adhesive and 15 x 1mm panel pins. Leave to dry.



2 Drill dowel holes

Use a drill press to bore 8mm holes in the backing, 200mm from one end then at 450mm or 600mm centres.

TIP Use a stud finder to mark the stud locations and determine the spacing.



3 Attach the display

Insert the dowel centres in the holes, align with the stud marks on the wall then check for level. Drill corresponding holes in the studs, apply adhesive and push in the dowels.

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1 Architrave	2 Skirting	3 Wall Rail	4 Insert/Panel Mould	5 Picture Rail

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or visit www.porta.com.au



portamouldings

Paint a wall stencil



The best way to update a plain wall and give it designer flair without spending too much time or money is to use a stencil.

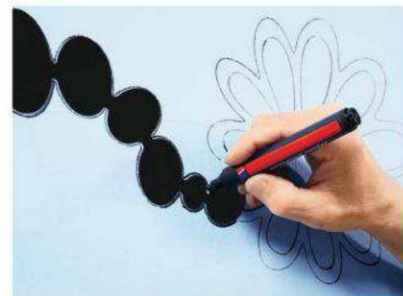
Creating a stencilled wall is as simple as choosing a picture or pattern then using a marker pen and acrylic paint to draw the outline on the wall and fill it in with colour.

To make your own stencils, trace the design on plastic film or cardboard then cut it out with a utility knife.

TIP Stencils are easy to apply and also re-usable. Clean plastic stencils after painting with soap and warm water.



Make stencils for painting designs on walls from cardboard or plastic.



1 MARK THE OUTLINE by securing the stencil on a painted wall using double-sided tape or repositionable spray adhesive, tracing the design by hand with a black marker pen.

»Reinvent your rooms by using D.I.Y. stencils to decorate the walls for a budget-friendly designer look

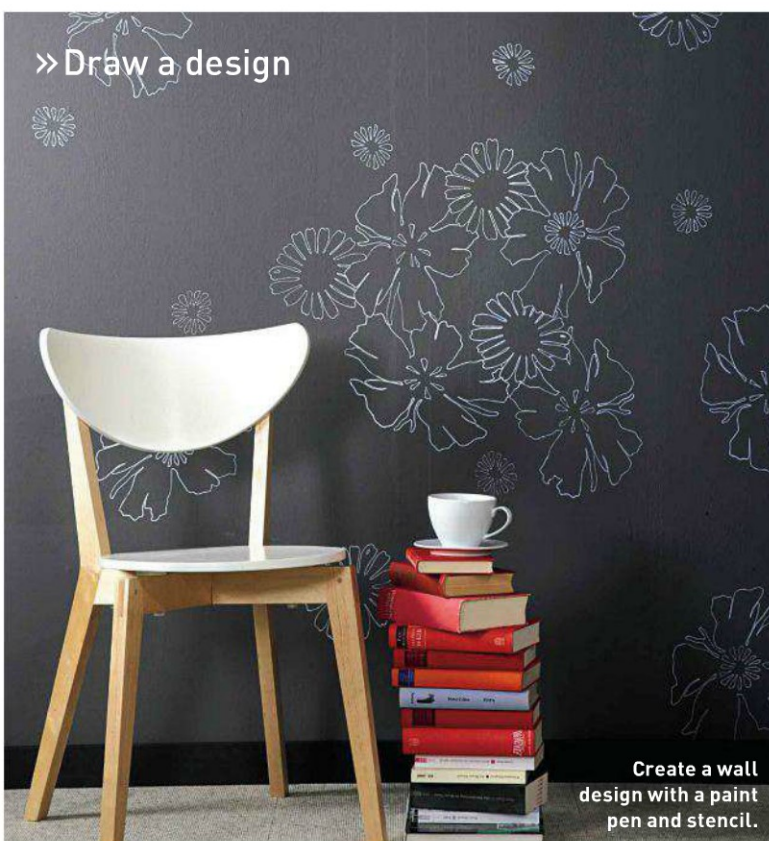


Make over interior walls with easy-to-paint stencilled graphics.



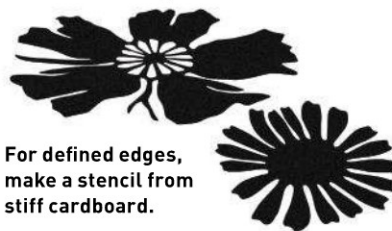
2 PAINT THE STENCIL by using a small paintbrush to apply artist's acrylic paint to the design on the wall. Don't overload the brush and dab lightly, leaving the paint to dry then applying a second coat.

» Draw a design



Create a wall design with a paint pen and stencil.

For a monochromatic and minimalist look, paint a wall black or grey and use a white paint pen to draw stencilled shapes. **TIP** To update the design regularly, use chalkboard paint and chalk.



For defined edges, make a stencil from stiff cardboard.



DRAW THE DESIGN by holding the stencil against the painted wall and tracing the outline by hand with a white paint marker pen.



AFTER
New plasterboard walls painted white open up the space and reflect light for a fresh and inviting atmosphere.

BEFORE

Exposed brick walls made this spare room feel smaller than it was.

SPARE
ROOM
REVAMP

PLASTERBOARD MAKEOVER

Transform exposed brick walls by attaching sheets of interior cladding and adding timber trim

PROJECT **FRANK GARDNER** MAIN PICTURE **STUART SCOTT**

DIY > \$1400

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$3400

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 5 DAYS

Raw brickwork is a common finish for the exterior of a building. When used inside, it can add warmth, but the joints shed messy mortar dust and multicoloured bricks can make a room feel small.

In this home, the spare room featured single-skinned brickwork for the internal walls with a metal doorjamb and window.

The brick made the room hard to decorate, so plasterboard sheets were attached using masonry adhesive, then a plasterer set the joints and secured the replacement cornice.

TIP The plasterboard joints can also be set DIY using perforated jointing tape and three coats of compound.

Two coats of white paint were applied to the new walls, then the window architrave and cedar reveal stained in light oak and clear finished.

The metal doorjamb was painted to match the door with an architrave secured over the top to match the colonial profile of the new primed finger-jointed pine skirting. ➤

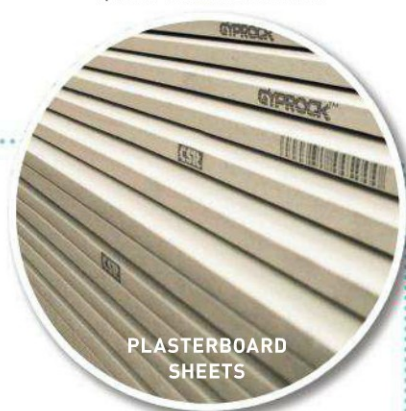
Using plasterboard

Plasterboard consists of a layer of gypsum sandwiched between two outer layers of lining paper, resulting in a strong wall cladding that is highly resistant to fire.

Different additives can be used in the gypsum layer, and varying the weight and strength of the lining results in sheets that are suitable for applications ranging from soundproofing to waterproofing.



Irwin Retractable Utility Knife, \$14. irwintools.com.au



To work with plasterboard sheets, score the lining paper with a utility knife, snapping the brittle gypsum along the cut line.

INSTALL THE PLASTERBOARD

To line interior block and brick walls with plasterboard the sheets are attached directly to the face of relatively even masonry surfaces using masonry adhesive.

If the wall surface is uneven and has undulations greater than about 15mm, then it's best to secure steel furring channels before the sheets of plasterboard to overcome the problem.

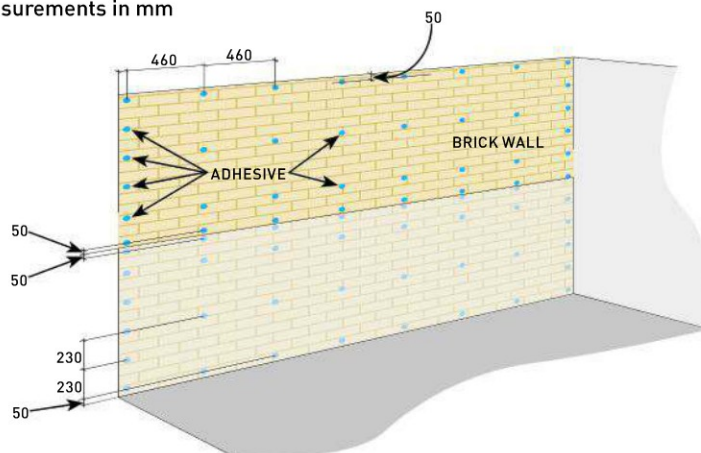
Apply the adhesive to the wall surface in 50mm diameter blobs spaced 460mm apart, starting 50mm from the top, base and side edges.

Set the corners and the joints between the plasterboard sheets with two basecoats of joint compound and a finishing top coat.

When installing sheets of plasterboard DIY, the key to getting a professional result is all in the quality of the finish.

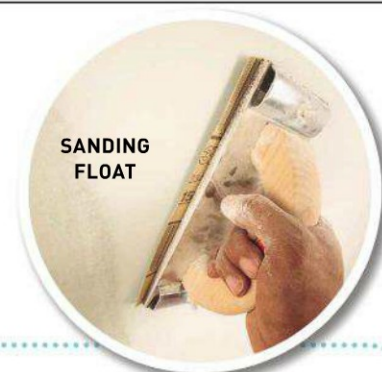
FOR A SMOOTH FINISH leave the compound to dry, then sand all the joints and corners with 150 grit abrasive paper using a sanding float, working diagonally across the joints.

ADHESIVE SETOUT measurements in mm



Using a sanding float in corners can cause damage so sand these tricky areas with a flexible sanding sponge or folded piece of abrasive paper.

When sanding, always wear a face mask and safety glasses as protection against the dust. It's also a good idea to wear a hat to keep the fine dust out of your hair.



Securing the new cornice

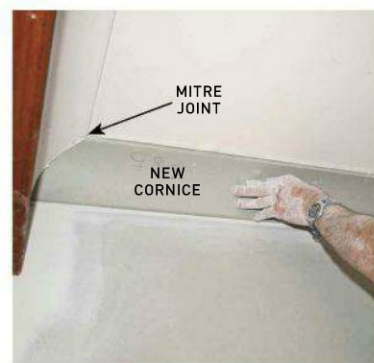
In this room the ceiling cornice was removed before the walls were lined with plasterboard sheets. After the installation, new cornice was cut to length with mitred ends and installed DIY using cornice adhesive.



1 CUT THE CORNICE by measuring the old cornice and marking the new pieces to cut them to length. For an internal corner mitre, position the cornice upside down in a mitre box and cut with a handsaw.



2 APPLY THE ADHESIVE by mixing it in a bucket to a creamy consistency then using a steel trowel or float to apply the adhesive to both back edges of each length of cornice, finishing at a depth of about 20mm.

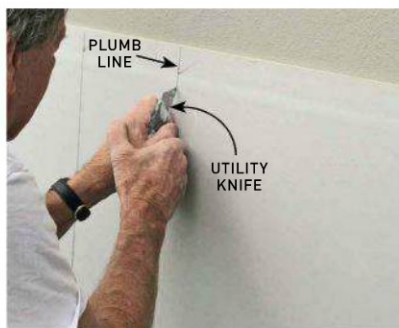


3 SET THE CORNICE by lifting each length into position, pressing firmly and filling the mitre joints with adhesive. Scrape adhesive from the joints with a narrow broadknife then wipe with a damp cloth.



1 Remove the cornice

Use a utility knife to cut along the joint of the cornice and ceiling and through the mitred end corners. Use a claw hammer to prise the cornice free and chip away leftover adhesive.



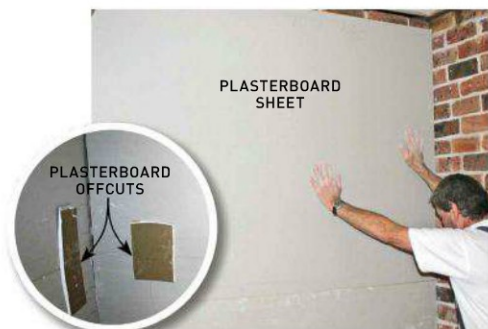
2 Cut the sheets to size

Mark the length on the sheets with a plumb line then use a utility knife to score the face, working from the top and base. Snap the sheet with your knee then cut through the backing.



3 Apply masonry adhesive

Mix masonry adhesive with water then use a 40mm putty knife to apply blobs about 50mm in diameter and 15mm thick to the wall, at 230 and 460mm spacings.



4 Position the plasterboard

With a helper, position each sheet, using a straightedge to tap it into alignment. Check for level, prop it up using plasterboard offcuts and masonry nails then leave to dry for 24 hours.



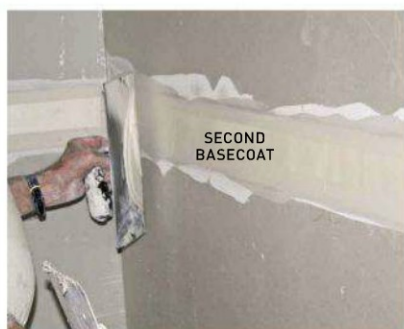
5 Apply the basecoat

Use a 150mm broadknife or steel float to apply a premixed basecoat compound to the joints, or mix a dry product to a creamy consistency by adding the powder to water.



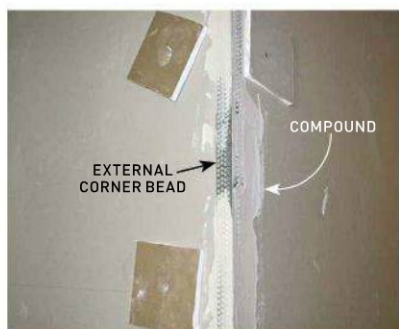
6 Set the jointing tape

Roll jointing tape out of one hand, pressing it into the compound using the blade of the broadknife. Apply minimal pressure so you don't squeeze out compound, then leave to dry.



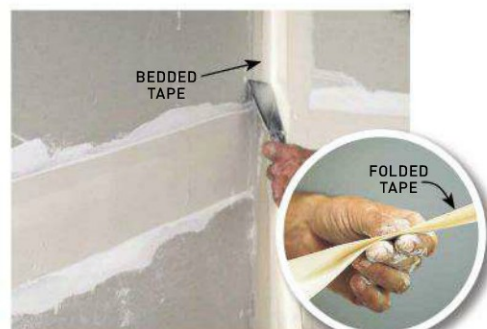
7 Finish setting the joints

Sand off any lumps then apply a second coat 170mm wide, taking care to achieve an even finish. Leave to dry then apply a finishing coat 250mm wide, feathering the edges.



8 Secure the external angle

Cut metal corner bead to length with tinsnips and secure with compound. Leave to dry then apply two basecoats and one top coat using a 150, 200 and 250mm broadknife.



9 Set the internal corners

Cut paper tape to length and fold in half lengthways, then bed it in compound. Use a corner trowel and broadknife to apply a second and top coat to 150mm on either side. ➤



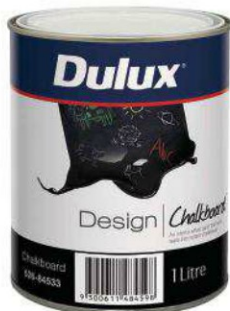
Do you often miss messages or can't find your shopping list?

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ADD THE TRIM

Once the joints and cornice have been left to dry for 24 hours, it's time to add new trim, upgrade the window and door frames then paint the walls.

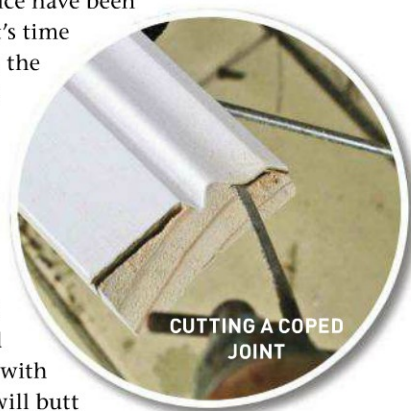
Cut the skirtings 50mm too long and trim the external corners with mitred ends.

For the internal corners, mitre one side at 45° then clamp the board and cut along the profile with a coping saw so the end will butt against face of the adjacent trim.

To prime metal window frames and doorjambs, use Dulux 1 Step Primer, Sealer & Undercoat, which can be used under oil-based or acrylic finishes.

We painted the walls in low sheen Dulux Wash & Wear while the skirtings and door architrave were finished in Dulux Aquanamel gloss acrylic, in White on White.

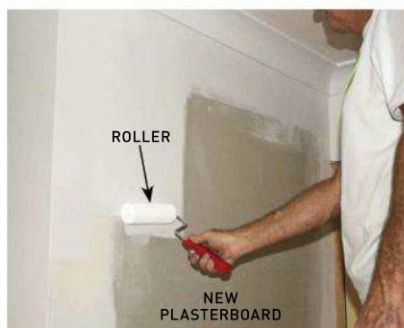
Dulux 1 Step Primer, Sealer & Undercoat, about \$38 for 1L. dulux.com.au



WHAT IT COST

It took five days to install the plasterboard and new trim DIY, plus have a plasterer set the joints and new cornice.

Plasterboard and cornice	\$240
Plasterer	\$450
Masonry adhesive and compounds	\$118
Cornice cement	\$16
Sealer and clear finish	\$100
Paint	\$205
Metal primer	\$40
Light Oak Stain	\$37
Lever door handle	\$20
Architrave and skirting	\$90
Downlights	\$68
Accessories	\$25
TOTAL	\$1409



1 Seal the plasterboard

Repair any small dings then apply a sealing undercoat over the cornice, plasterboard and joints to equalise porosity, prevent bleeding and hide any differences in the surface texture.



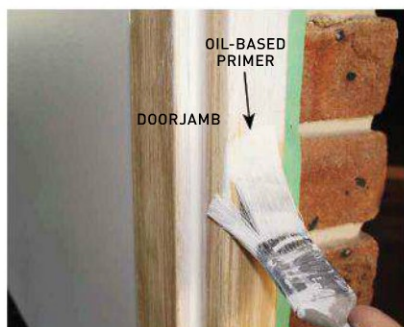
2 Paint the room

Position a drop cloth on the floor then paint the ceiling and cornice, applying one-coat ceiling paint. On the walls, apply two coats of low sheen acrylic using a brush and roller.



3 Change the door colour

Remove the door from its hinges and position on a pair of sawhorses, repair any damage then lightly sand. Apply two coats of gloss acrylic using a brush and a mini roller.



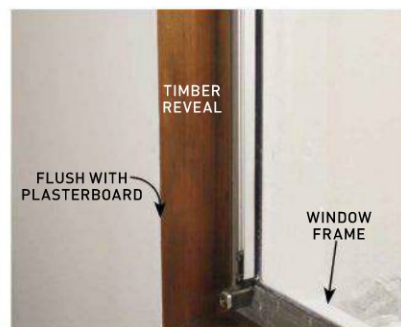
4 Prepare the doorjamb

Prepare painted metal doorjamb by sanding with 120 grit abrasive paper. Apply an oil-based primer such as Dulux 1 Step, leave to dry then apply two coats of gloss acrylic.



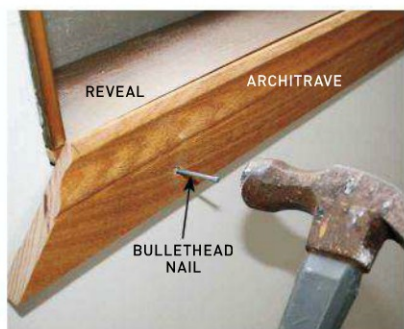
5 Secure the skirtings

Paint the skirtings with two coats of gloss acrylic, then cut each piece to fit. Secure to the walls with 65 x 2.8mm bullethead nails, using 5mm plastic spaghetti in 70mm deep holes.



6 Add the window reveal

Cut timber boards to width with a tablesaw so they cover the brick reveal and finish flush with the plasterboard. Secure with plastic plugs and nails, then stain and apply a clear finish.



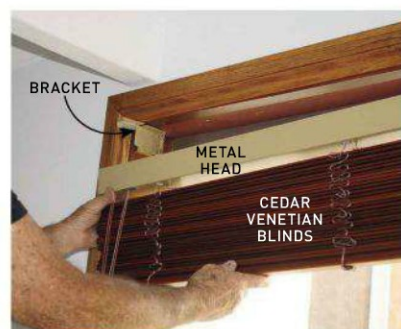
7 Secure the architrave

Trim the window with 66 x 18mm maple architrave, mitring the corners. Attach the top and base with spaghetti and 40 x 2mm bullethead nails. Cut the sides to fit and secure with nails.



8 Finish the trim

Fill mitre gaps and nail heads with timber filler and sand with 180 grit abrasive paper. Wipe with mineral turpentine, leave to dry, then stain and apply two coats of clear finish.



9 Trim the blinds

Compress the blinds at one end, wrap in masking tape and cut using a mitresaw with a fine tooth blade. Cut the metal head using tinsnips, then attach brackets and hang the blinds.

Repairing plasterboard

» Use a piece of plasterboard to seamlessly patch a damaged wall then paint it to match

Walls can see a lot of wear and tear, getting damaged when furniture is moved around or pictures are mounted.

The easiest way to patch a small hole up to 125mm across is to secure a plasterboard or FC offcut behind the damaged section then build up the repair with plasterboard and filler.

Use a keyhole saw to enlarge the damage into a neat, straight-sided hole.

Thread string through a backing piece slightly larger than the hole, apply cornice cement to the edges then guide it through the hole, pulling it tight against the back of the wall.

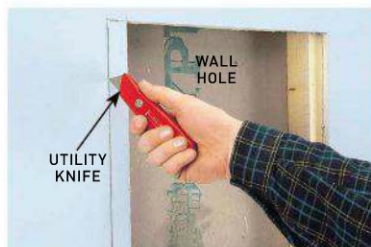
Cut off the string, add plasterboard then patch the edges with filler.



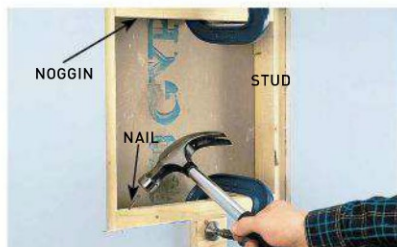
Doors that open onto a wall and do not have a doorstop can do a lot of surface damage.

» How to repair damaged plasterboard

Large holes in walls need to have a plasterboard patch nailed to the studs then filler applied to the surface. **TIP** Always check that there are no cables or pipes behind the area before cutting into the wall.



1 SQUARE OFF THE HOLE with a keyhole saw then enlarge the damaged section to the studs on either side. Score and remove strips of plasterboard using a utility knife to expose half of each stud.



2 SECURE TIMBER NOGGINS cut from the same size timber as the existing studs to fit tightly across the gap. Hold the noggin in position using G-clamps and skew-nail into the studs with a hammer to secure.



3 CUT A PATCH the same thickness as the original plasterboard to fit the hole, nailing it to the timber frame finished side out. Sand the edges of the patch, apply plaster filler with a spatula, let dry then sand again.



D.I.Y. Workshops

»Brush up your knowledge and gain new skills with workshops for everyone, including the kids

Father's Day Family Night

Head to your local Bunnings Warehouse and join in the fun at the Father's Day Family Night on Thursday 29th August from 6 to 8pm (Wednesday 28th August for WA). There will be workshops for adults and kids, plus activities for the whole family to enjoy.

SATURDAY 27 JULY
HOME ORGANISATION
PLANT A TREE (12:30)
KIDS' WORKSHOP WALL ART

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST
PAINTING & PLASTERING
KIDS' WORKSHOP CRAFT

SUNDAY 28 JULY
HOME ORGANISATION
PLANT A TREE (12:30)
KIDS' WORKSHOP GAME MAKERS

SATURDAY 17 AUGUST
FENCING
BUILD A BILLYCART (12:30)
KIDS' WORKSHOP DECORATOR

SATURDAY 3 AUGUST
QUICK REFRESH, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
KIDS' WORKSHOP ANIMAL CRAFT

SUNDAY 18 AUGUST
FENCING
BUILD A BILLYCART (12:30)
KIDS' WORKSHOP FUN WITH PAINT

SUNDAY 4 AUGUST
QUICK REFRESH, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
KIDS' WORKSHOP DRESS-UPS

SATURDAY 24 AUGUST
BASIC DIY
KIDS' WORKSHOP MAKE A GIFT FOR DAD

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST
PAINTING & PLASTERING
KIDS' WORKSHOP ART CLASS

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST
BASIC DIY
KIDS' WORKSHOP MAKE A GIFT FOR DAD

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ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

CHAINSAWS

This powerful tool has a scary reputation but can be very useful and is safe if operated correctly



CHOOSING A SAW

Wayne Beckwith, National Training Manager for Ryobi says, 'If you're just looking to do light pruning then a cordless saw will be fine, typically available from 18V through to 36V.

'If running a cord is no issue then an electric chainsaw will save you the hassle of fuelling.'

A good quality 2000W chainsaw is comparable to a 40cc petrol model.

'But if you need cordless freedom with plenty of power then a petrol chainsaw is required,' Wayne says.

SAFE SAWING

A chainsaw is potentially one of the most dangerous power tools. Before using one to remove dead or diseased trees, or to cut up firewood, take adequate precautions, wear correct safety gear and concentrate on the task.

SIZE isn't everything, as for most DIYers a 400mm bar is plenty. Longer bars can get in the way with dangerous kickback possible. Check the maximum cut diameter for a good indication of what the saw can handle.

COST tends to indicate quality. More expensive saws generally have better components and will last longer.

SAFETY GEAR is a must. You need a helmet with face shield, hearing protection, leather gloves and special chainsaw chaps to shield your legs.

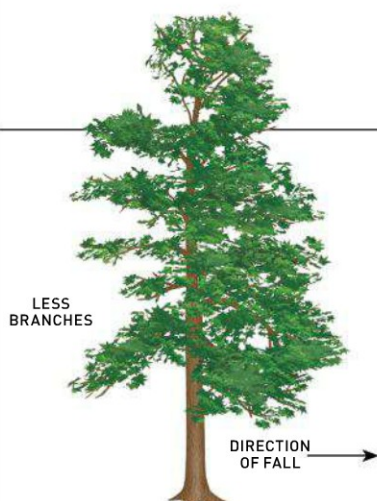
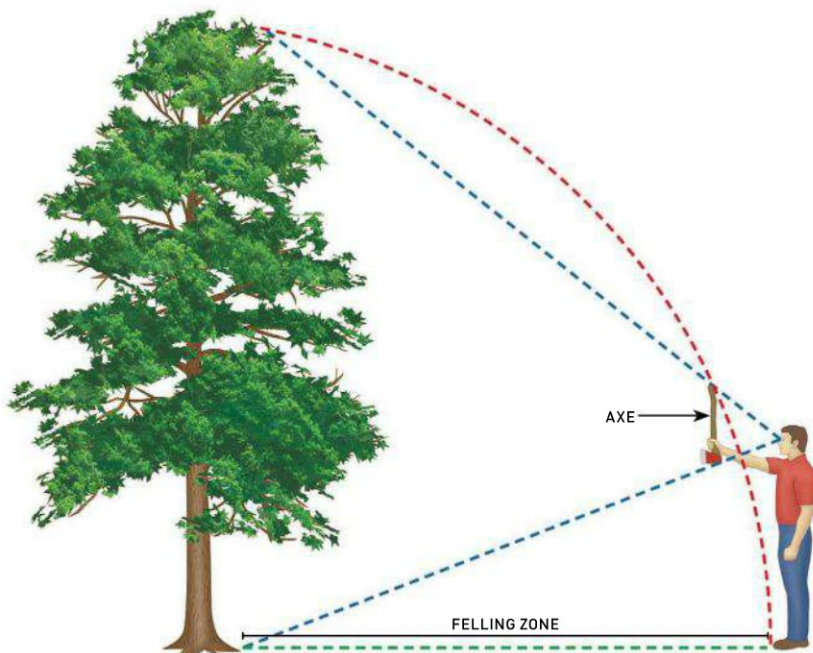
FELLING A SMALL TREE

*ESTIMATE THE FELLING ZONE

Trees are taller than they seem and reach farther on the ground than you'd expect, but you can use an axe to estimate how far the tree will fall.

Hold the axe upside down at arm's length, with the head about shoulder height. Walk towards or away from the tree until you can sight the treetop just over the handle end, and the base under the blade.

The treetop will land roughly where your feet are. This is just an estimate, so allow extra room if there's something it might fall on.



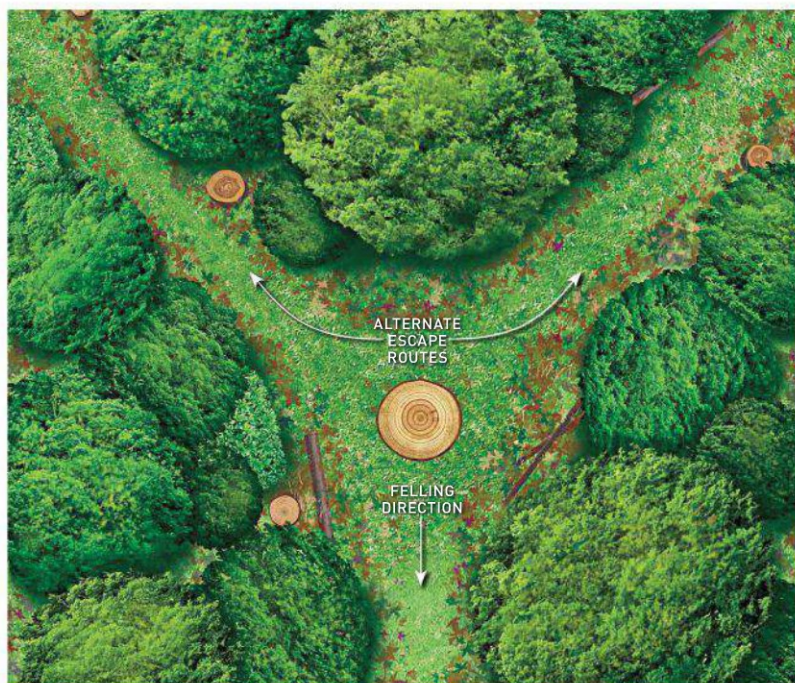
*SIZE UP A TREE

Before cutting, check the crown of the tree for any dead branches that are partly broken but still attached, or broken off and tangled into other branches that support them.

If there are any such branches or other debris high up, don't cut down the tree yourself as these can become dislodged and fall on you.

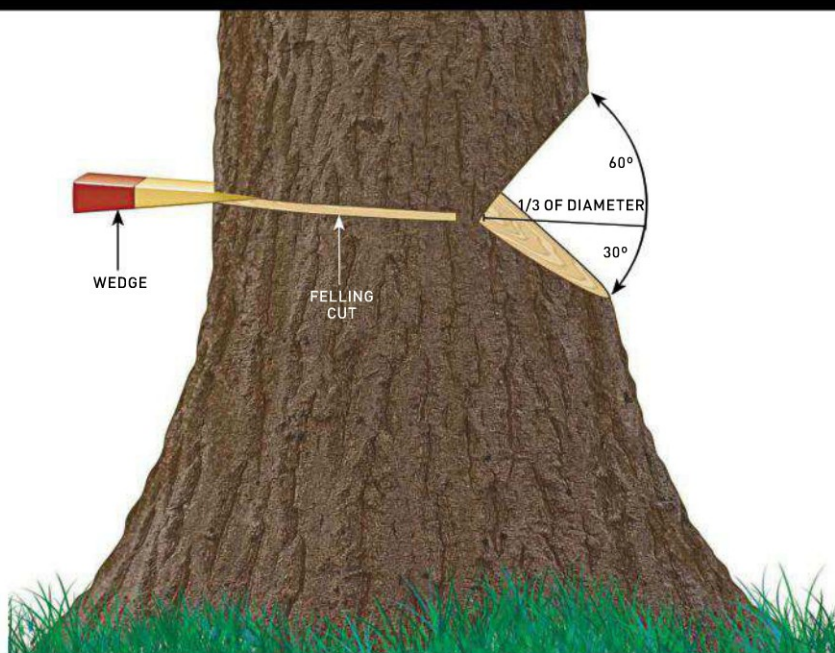
Check how the tree leans, if at all, and whether it has many more branches on one side, since this is the direction it will fall.

If there are any buildings, fences, powerlines or other obstructions in the felling zone, avoid felling DIY and call a professional instead.



CLEAR THE CUTTING ZONE

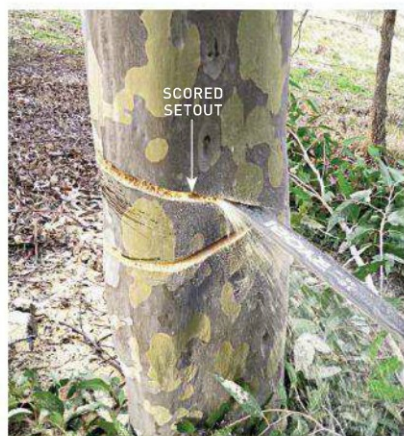
Even when you're sure which way the tree is going to fall, you're still not ready to fell it. Cut away any brush around the trunk and clear two escape routes on the opposite side of the tree to its direction of fall. They should be about 45° away from each other in opposite directions. The last thing you want is to trip while walking away from a falling tree.



*ANATOMY OF A PROPER NOTCH

The rule of thumb is to make the depth of the notch about one-third of the tree trunk's diameter. Try to cut the notch with a 60° angle on the upper face and 30° below.

The felling cut should be just above the apex of the notch and finish short of the notch, leaving an even uncut hinge to guide the rate and direction of fall of the tree.



*PLAN THE NOTCH

To mark the notch before cutting it, first sight along the handle of the chainsaw until it is pointing in the direction you want the tree to fall.

Keeping the saw in the same orientation, bring the bar up to the trunk. Where it touches the bark will be the centre of the notch.

Mark the notch at a comfortable working height using chalk or by scoring the bark with the chainsaw. **TIP** You can shorten the stump after the tree has been felled.



MAKE THE FELLING CUT

The felling cut should be straight and at least 25mm higher than the notch apex, finishing just short of the notch and leaving a hinge of uncut wood to guide the fall direction.

Tap wedges into the back cut until the tree begins to lean. Pull the saw free and walk away along one of the escape routes, keeping an eye on the tree so you can react if it deviates from the planned direction of fall.



*CUT THE NOTCH

Make the upper cut first, aiming for an angle of about 60° from level, followed by the lower one, which should be angled about 30° down.

When making the lower cut, turn your hand to keep a firm hold on the rear handle, controlling the throttle with your thumb.

If the second cut meets the first perfectly, the wedge will drop out. If it does not, extend the upper cut and then the lower cut gradually until the wedge falls out.

*CLEARING THE TRUNK

Once the tree is down, it needs to be cut it into manageable pieces. Start by removing branches near the base of the trunk and work your way up.

Stand on the uphill side of the trunk in case it starts to roll and rest the saw against the trunk to pivot the bar through the branch.

Remove the branches as soon as they're cut so you won't trip on them.



1. MAKE A DOWNWARD CUT

To cut off parts that are pressing against the ground, start by cutting downward through one-third of the branch.



2. FINISH THE CUT

Saw upward from below to meet the first cut. Be prepared for the trunk to roll or drop, even before you've cut all the way through.

*FREE A PINCHED CHAINSAW

A chainsaw can become pinched if you cut too far through a branch that is supporting the trunk. The cut will close, tightening and clamping around the bar and chain.

If this happens, stop the engine immediately and use a stout branch or fencing bar as a lever to lift the trunk and take pressure off the branch, opening up the cut to free the saw.



SAW THE TRUNK INTO FIREWOOD

When cutting a log into 400mm lengths for firewood, first cut three-quarters of the way through, then if it is resting on the ground, roll it over to complete the cut from the other side. If the log has a 70 to 150mm gap underneath, you can cut the whole way through, but keep the bar parallel to the ground. As you near the end of the cut, finish with the base of the saw engine resting flat on the ground to prevent the the chain from accidentally hitting the dirt.

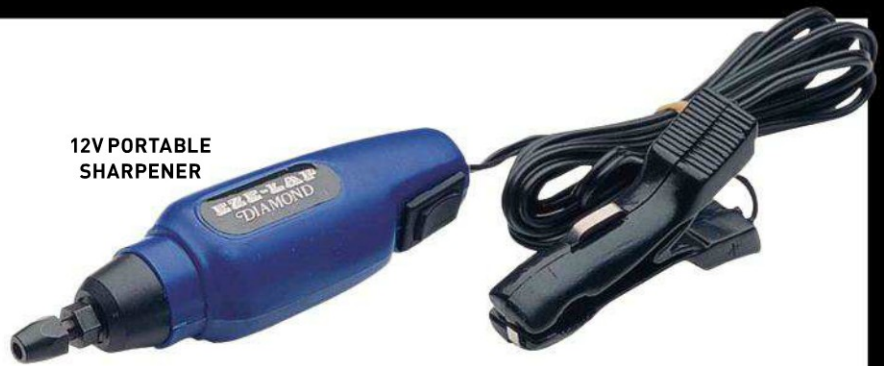
*SHARPEN A BLADE

There are various ways to sharpen a blade DIY. Some devices can be attached to a drill and sharpen each tooth, using a guide to control the depth and angle of cut.

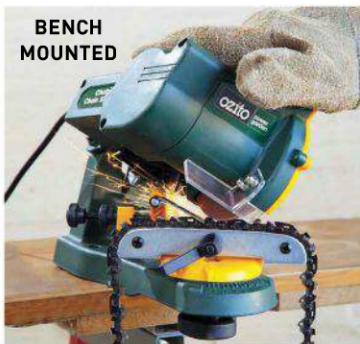
Others are bench mounted with a grinding disc to file the cutting edge of each tooth in turn as the chain is fed over a guide bar.

TIP Chains can be sharpened professionally for about \$10.

12V PORTABLE SHARPENER



BENCH MOUNTED



DRILL DRIVEN



*CHAIN TENSION

The chain on your saw has to be tensioned correctly. If it's too loose or too tight, it can damage the bar and present a safety hazard.

Most modern saws feature tool-free tensioning systems, but

older models may need to be adjusted using a screwdriver and wrench.

On modern chainsaws, the bar can be loosened using a locking wheel on the clutch cover. A knurled dial is then turned to adjust the chain tension.



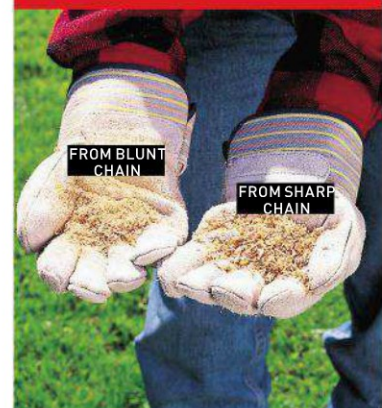
CHECK IF THE CHAIN IS BLUNT

A dull chain cuts slowly, wasting time and causing unnecessary fatigue. What's worse, it can damage the chain and the bar, as well as put extra strain on the saw.

It only takes a moment to dull the blade if you touch the ground with the chain, saw muddy wood or hit a nail.

If the chain is sharp, the woodchip from the saw will have a rough texture.

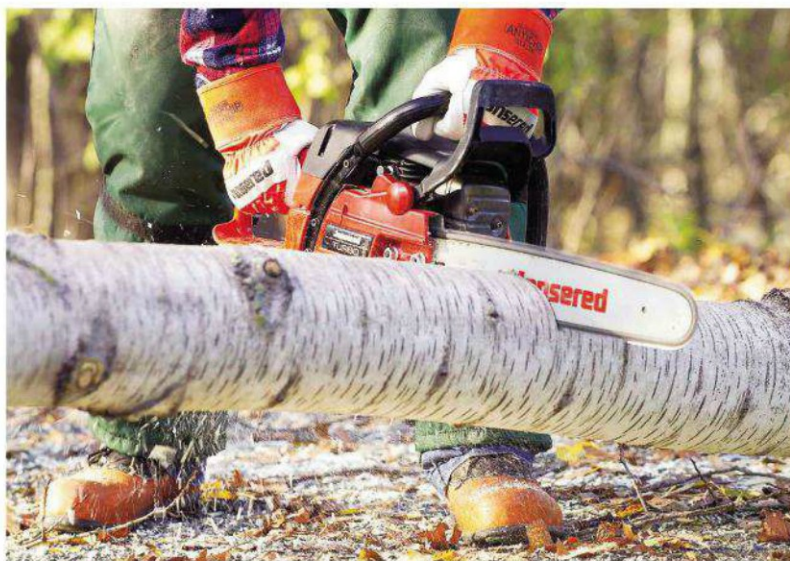
The teeth need sharpening when the chainsaw begins to eject fine sawdust instead of coarse chips.



*TIPS FOR SAFE CHAINSAWING

- Only use a chainsaw when you are fully alert and not distracted.
- Wear full safety gear.
- Fill the chainsaw with petrol before beginning a cut to avoid running out halfway through.
- Ensure the chainsaw is always full of chain and bar oil.
- Once you start working, don't take a break until the tree is down.

- Never cut on a breezy day, as the force of the wind can cause the tree to fall in an unplanned direction.
- The colder months are a good time to fell deciduous trees, as they are easier to cut up when they are free of leaves.
- Wrap the thumb of your left hand around the front handle with your right hand firmly on the trigger handle.
- Stay away from hollowed-out trees, especially if they're big. They are unpredictable and dangerous to fell.



*BEWARE OF KICKBACK

Chainsaws can potentially cause terrible injuries. Most of these are caused by kickback, which occurs when the upper part of the blade tip comes in contact with something it can't immediately cut, such as metal or a rock, while the chain is moving.

This throws the blade upwards and towards you with great speed and force. The hand guard normally has an integrated chain brake that locks on in the event of kickback.

Even if the chain stops, the bar is hurled so violently upwards if kickback occurs that it can still cause severe injury, so prevention is the only way to ensure safety.

KICKBACK
ZONE



NEVER USE A CHAINSAW ALONE

Make sure you have a helper nearby when you are operating a chainsaw. If there is no way to avoid working alone, make sure someone knows where you are so they can raise the alarm if something does go wrong.

Always keep a mobile phone on hand, and ideally enlist the help of a trusted assistant who can stand a few metres away and monitor the top of the tree for falling branches.

They can also alert you to vacate the area via one of the planned escape routes once the tree starts to fall.

Ensure helpers move away from the felling area once you start cutting at a distance at least twice the height of the tree.

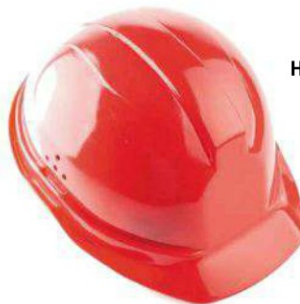


PERSONAL PROTECTION

Wear full safety gear and clear the area of trip hazards before cutting. Check the chain tension before and during use, as a chain will loosen as it heats up and new chains stretch. A loose chain can fly off and cause serious injury.



CHAINSAW GLOVES



HARD HAT



FACE
SHIELD



HIGH-VISIBILITY VEST



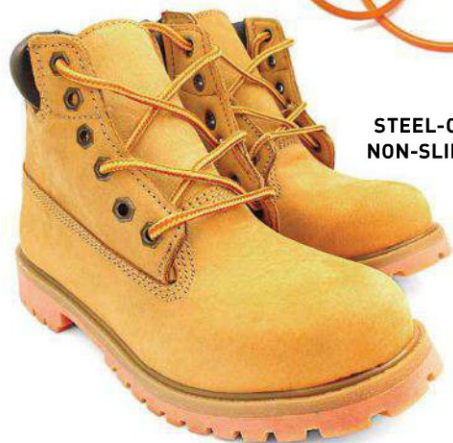
DUST
MASK



EARPLUGS



SAFETY GLASSES



STEEL-CAPPED
NON-SLIP BOOTS



EAR DEFENDERS

CHAINSAW BUYING GUIDE

Pruning a tree or cutting up firewood DIY can save lots of money. When buying a chainsaw, consider the type and frequency of work you'll be doing then choose from battery, electric or powerful petrol-driven options.

TOOL	OCCASIONAL USE	REGULAR USE	HEAVY USE
PETROL Petrol chainsaws are the heavy-duty answer for turning a dead tree into a stack of firewood, even if it is far from mains power. They are also great for large gardens where running an extension cord is impractical. They require fuelling with two-stroke petrol mix and a bit of muscle to pull-start the engine.	 Features an anti-vibration handle and an automatic chain-oiling system. Homelite 33cc Chainsaw, 405mm, \$179. homelite.com	 Great performer with dual activated chain brake and soft-start feature. McCulloch 36cc Saw, 350mm, \$199. mcculloch.com/au	 Lightweight saw with a two-stroke engine, and low kickback bar and chain. Victa 40cc Chainsaw, 420mm, \$239. victa.com
ELECTRIC Electric chainsaws have plenty of cutting power for garden tidy-up jobs and felling small trees. They are cheaper to buy than petrol chainsaws, plus they're lighter, quieter to operate and require no fuel mixing, but are limited to use in areas where mains power is available. To start an electric chainsaw, simply plug it in and squeeze the trigger.	 Only for light jobs, this saw has an automatic brake and self-oiling chain system. Ozito 1800W Chainsaw, 355mm, \$69. ozito.com.au	 User-friendly saw with tool-free chain adjustment and automatic chain oiling. Ryobi 2000W Chainsaw, 400mm, \$149. ryobi.com.au	 Ideal saw for professional to DIY use, with auto oiling and a large cooling fan. Makita 1800W Saw, 350mm, \$165. makita.com.au
BATTERY Battery chainsaws are available in 18V and 36V versions with no power leads or fuel mixing to worry about, making them very user-friendly. Ideal for trimming branches around the home or garden in isolated areas, they cost more but can be operated with less noise and vibration than petrol chainsaws.	 Lightweight saw with push button oiler and lock off to prevent accidental start. Ryobi ONE+ 18V Li-ion Chainsaw Kit, 254mm, \$189.	 Well-balanced saw with tool-free chain tensioning and overmould handle. Ryobi 36V Li-ion Chainsaw Kit, 300mm, \$399.	 Ergonomic design suitable for everything from heavy jobs to delicate trimming. Makita 36V Li-ion Chainsaw Kit, 250mm, \$599.

ON SALE
28 August

**DON'T MISS THE
NEXT ISSUE OF**

Handyman

Lawns

Follow our easy step-by-step guide on how to grow your greenest lawn ever.

PLUS Expert advice on laying new turf.

Eco living

Add a green roof to your place, stop wasting food and get into beekeeping.

PLUS A beginner's guide to aquaponics.

Bathrooms

Survive the reno with our secrets to avoiding common design blunders.

PLUS How to waterproof and tile DIY to save cash.

SLATTED *timber screen*

Cover up outdoors with a landscape feature you can build from treated pine and decking boards for just \$150

PROJECT AND PICTURES **ADAM WOODHAM**

Do you have an outdoor area you'd like to cover up or a spot that needs more privacy?

A timber screen is a cost effective, durable and decorative landscape cover-all that can be built in a day.

This suburban home had a large underhouse area that was ideal for storage but open to the weather and visible from the garden.

The solution was to install a screen to hide the area from view, protect it from the elements and provide security for the items being stored.

For this home, the screen was mounted between brick piers but the same techniques can be used for a freestanding screen or to create a wall trellis for climbers and espalier.

MEASURE THE SPACE

To build it you'll need 90 x 20mm ACQ decking, \$2 a metre, and 90 x 45mm H3 treated pine, about \$5 a metre. The timber for this screen cost about \$150.

The only other costs are hardware, paint and aluminium core flashing,

which can be bought in rolls, such as Sureform Lead Free Roof Flashing, \$96 for 140mm x 5m, from Bunnings.

Measure the space, dividing the finished height by the slat width plus gap to calculate the number needed.

The decking boards used for this project were 90mm wide and 20mm thick. A board was used as a spacer, so 110mm was allowed for each slat.

TIP At 1.8 x 2m high, this timber screen needed 19 slats. ➤



Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen, about \$87 for 4L dark base. dulux.com.au

Building with timber

Use H3 treated pine above ground but for in-ground structures like posts, use H4 grade treated pine.

■ **CHOOSE** ACQ treated pine over CCA treated pine. It's often sold as 'safe pine' and is arsenic-free.

■ **ORDER** the timber in lengths that will minimise offcuts and wastage.

■ **BUY** longer lengths to save money. If you need three 1.8m lengths, buy a 5.4m piece of timber.

■ **USE** stainless steel fittings or screws and bolts classed ACQ-safe.

■ **SELECT** the timber yourself, being careful not to choose any warped, bowed or damaged pieces.

■ **PAINT** or treat timber as soon as possible after installing, sealing all cut ends before applying the finish.

TIP You may find it easier to paint the slats for the screen after cutting, then touching-up after installation.



BEFORE

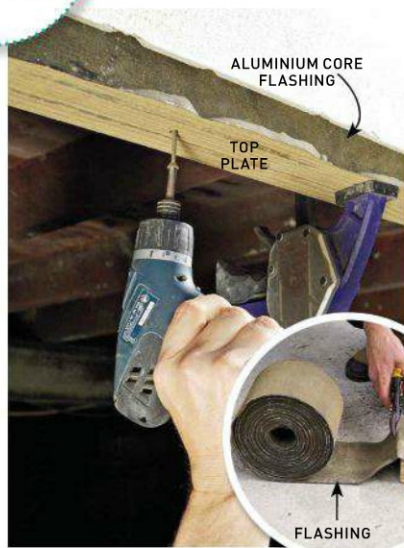
There was lots of storage space under this house but it was exposed to the elements.



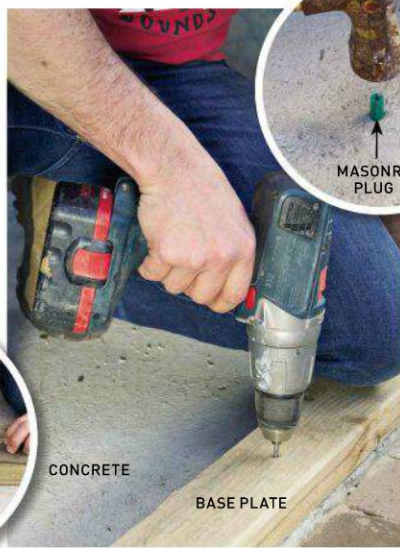
AFTER

A slatted screen built from treated pine and decking boards hides the underhouse area from view and keeps out the weather.

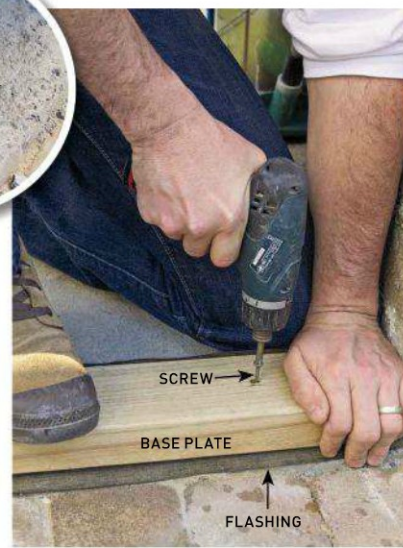
BUILD A SLATTED SCREEN



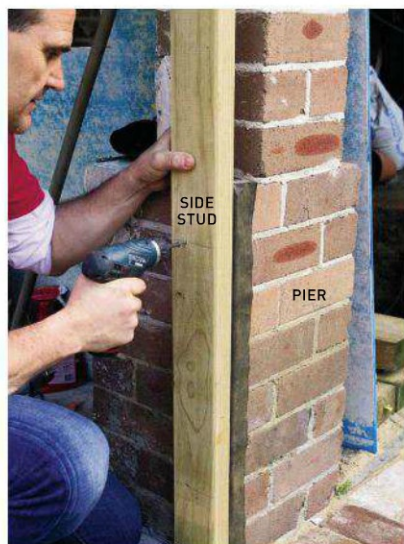
1 Install the top plate
Cut 90 x 45mm timber for the top plate with a circular saw then trim flashing to length. Mould the flashing over the top plate with overlap at the front. Predrill the top plate, clamp in position with the flashing, securing with three 75mm treated pine screws.



2 Prepare the base plate
Cut 90 x 45mm timber for the base plate and predrill for screws. To mark the concrete, position the base plate and drill with a masonry bit. Remove the base plate, drill the holes in the concrete then hammer in masonry plugs, trimming any excess.



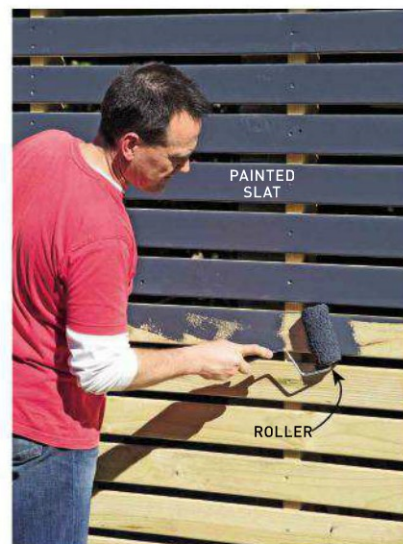
3 Secure the base plate
Cut flashing to fit under the base plate and position above the drilled holes in the concrete, leaving 20mm extra flashing at the front. Secure the base plate with 75mm treated pine screws. Fold down the front flashing and fold up any excess at the back.



4 Attach the studs
Cut the side studs from 90 x 45mm timber, predrilling to secure to the piers with 75mm screws. Measure from the centre of the top and base plates, cut a stud to fit and clamp in position. Check for plumb, securing with screws.
TIP Install additional studs if required.



5 Add the slats
Mark 90 x 20mm decking boards to length then clamp, cutting with a circular saw. Starting from the base, position a slat against the frame then clamp, securing with two 50mm treated pine screws into each stud.
TIP Use a slat spacer for even gaps.



6 Paint the screen
Wash the timber screen then apply two coats of self-priming exterior acrylic using a roller, applying the paint along the grain and diagonally, to keep the coverage even. To paint the studs, use a brush to reach the timber visible between the slats.

Screening options

Whether they are part of another structure or freestanding, screens are extremely useful and very DIY-friendly to build.

Here are a few ways to modify this project to suit your needs.

■ **WALL SCREEN** Secure 90 x 45mm exterior grade H3 timber battens to a wall and attach decking slats.

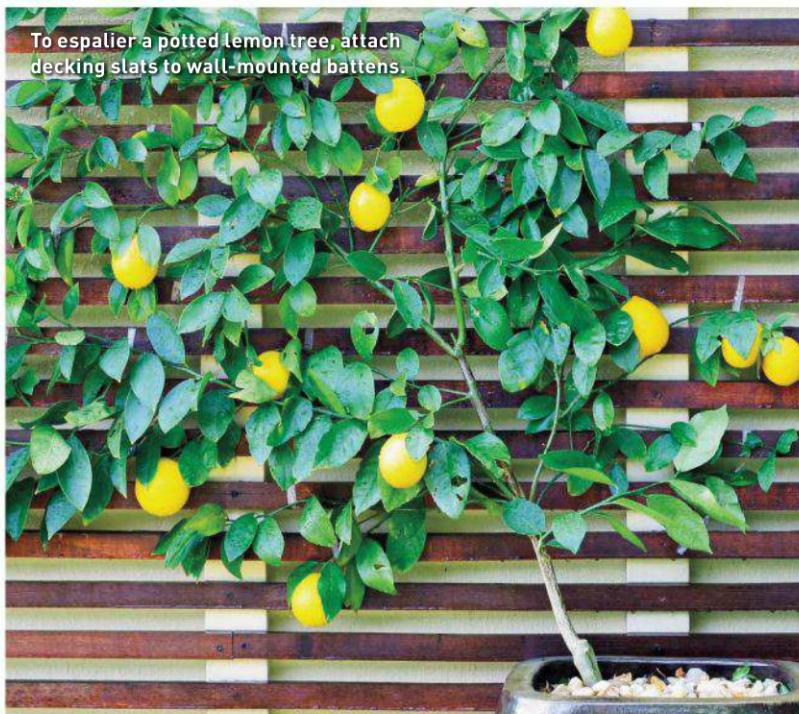
■ **FREESTANDING SCREEN** Sink 90 x 90mm H4 treated pine posts in the ground, then secure 90 x 45mm top and base plates. Add vertical studs spaced every 1000mm and attach horizontal slats.

■ **PRIVACY SCREEN** Extend the posts of balcony handrails, add a top plate then secure slats.

✚ Get more online

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for easy espalier techniques.

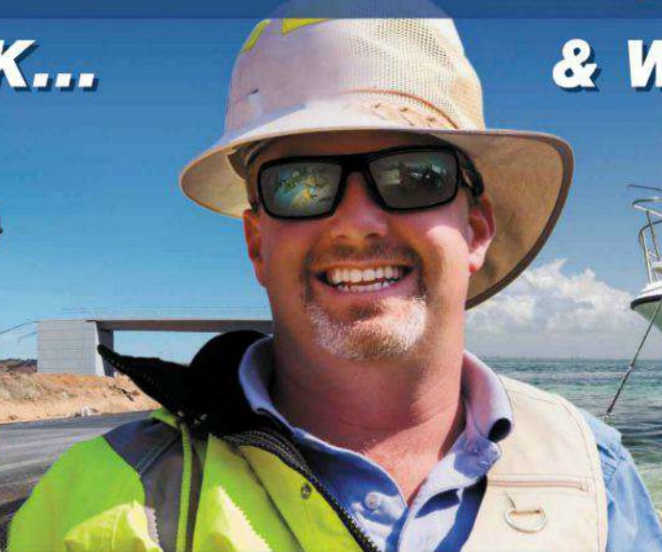
To espalier a potted lemon tree, attach decking slats to wall-mounted battens.



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LANDSCAPE
SOLUTION



BEFORE

The clothesline needed a path so bare lawn patches wouldn't turn to mud after rain.

AFTER

A paved path makes getting a laundry trolley to the clothesline easier and stops the grass being trampled.

PAVE A PATHWAY

Take a weekend to extend a paved area using recycled bricks and improve access to the clothesline

PROJECT AND PICTURES **ADAM WOODHAMS**

Aussies love their lawns but in most backyards there are areas where a hard surface is needed underfoot for a barbecue or to provide access to the clothesline or shed.

To save the lawn from wear and tear plus prevent muddy spots without pouring a concrete path, DIY paving is the budget-friendly solution.

In this backyard a paved area near the house was extended to create a path to the clothesline.

A simple paving job like this uses hand tools for excavating, laying and grouting, and can be done in a weekend by just one person.

If you use recycled house bricks, as here, the only costs are for paving and beach sand, and mortar.

Pavers come in clay and concrete, from house-brick size to 400mm square stone or concrete slabs.

The bricks were laid on a bed of paving sand in a traditional basket weave pattern, with a single row of end-on-end bricks laid as a stretcher border course for the paving.

TIP For sloping sites, high-traffic areas or where subsoil is loose, add a 100mm layer of compacted roadbase.

ORDER THE SUPPLIES

It pays in both time and money to get your material estimates right.

PAVING SAND is available in bulk from landscape suppliers or buy it bagged.

To calculate the amount multiply the length x width x depth of the area.

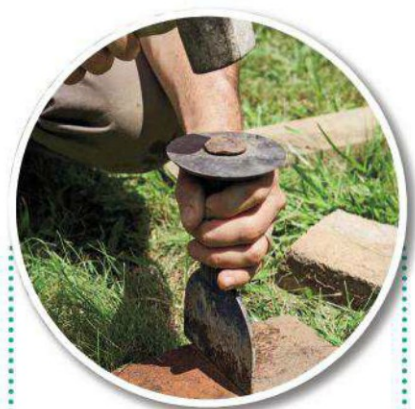
BEACH SAND can be used to make a sand and cement mortar mix, and to grout finished paving.

SAND AND CEMENT premixed mortars come in 20kg bags and just need water.

BRICKS AND PAVERS are measured by surface area. A standard brick is about 230 x 110mm, giving you about 40 bricks per square metre when used largest face up. Add an extra 5% for cuts and breakages. ➤



Australian Builders Home Handypac
Dried Sand, about \$9 for 10kg.
bpsaust.com



Cutting bricks

For a path it's usually necessary to cut a number of bricks to fit.

You can cut them dry using an angle grinder with a segmented diamond blade but if you're not experienced with this tool, use a simple brickie's bolster.

Mark the cut line on the brick face and position it on a firm but not hard surface, like a lawn.

Position the bolster on the marked line and strike a sharp blow with a lump hammer. The brick should break cleanly.

TIP For big jobs, hire a wet-bladed brick saw, for about \$100 a day.

LAY THE PAVING



1 Excavate the area
Mark the path using set-out paint, ensuring the width is consistent. Use a spade to cut a line through the turf outside the marked lines then across the width of the path to make it easier to lift the turf. Remove the turf from the marked area using the spade.



2 Set the stringline
Remove the soil to 30mm below the base of existing paving. Roughly level with a landscape rake then use a brick to check the depth. Hammer in pegs at the path corners, setting out a stringline at the height of the finished paving to outline the path.



3 Add the paving sand
Use a wheelbarrow to pour paving sand into the area, levelling with the rake as you go. Fill to 10mm higher than the existing paving sand, as it will compact slightly as you pave. Use a straightedge to compact the sand and screed the surface level.



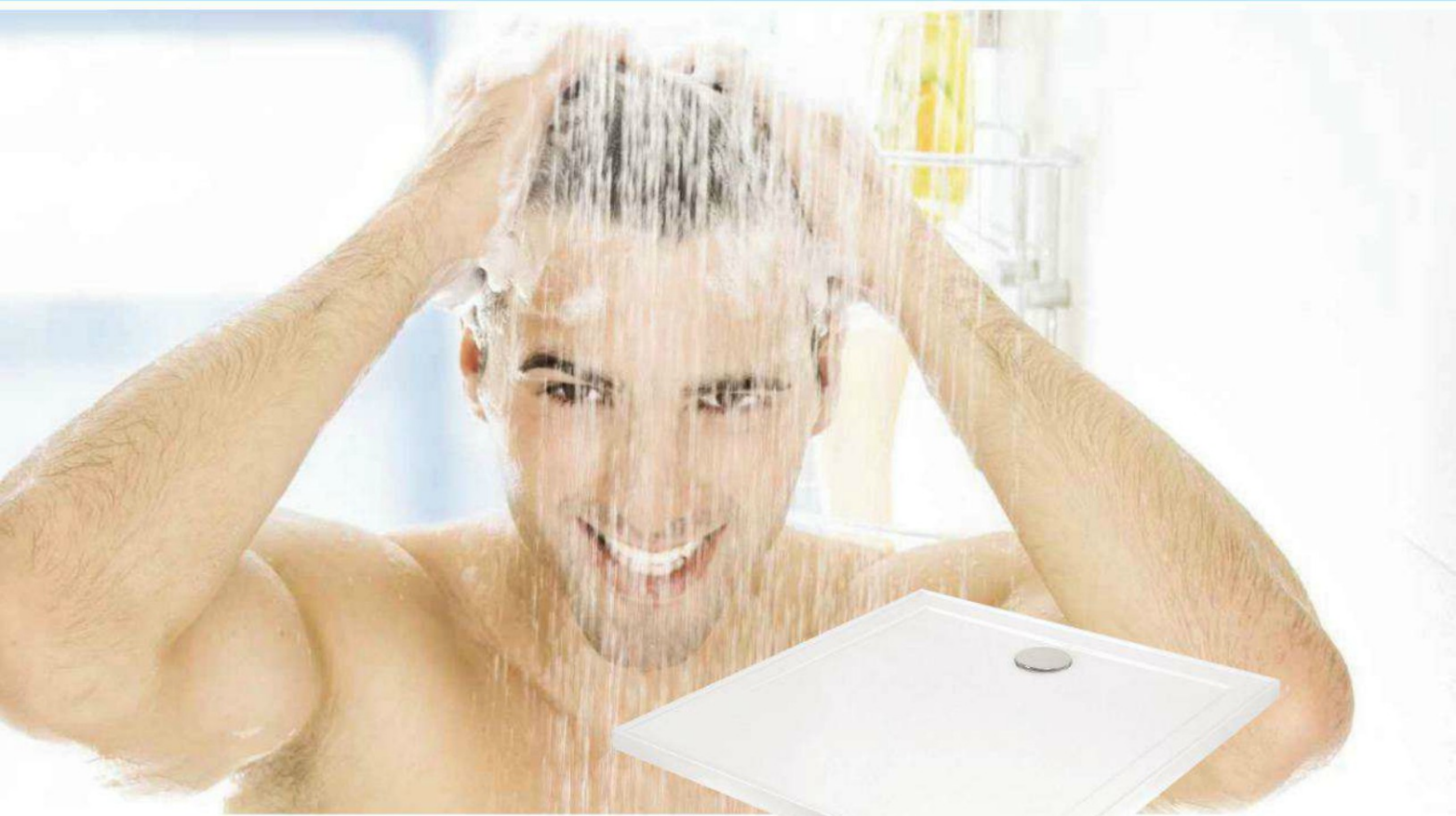
4 Lay the bricks
Starting from a corner at the head of the path, lay the bricks in a basket weave pattern with a stretcher course border. Firmly tamp down each brick using a rubber mallet to match the stringline, keeping the bricks flush and with 3mm gaps in between.



5 Add the border
Dig a 30mm deep trench then use a steel trowel to spread mortar in 1m sections. Position the bricks end to end and tamp down with the mallet. To haunch the edges, spread the mortar halfway up the border sides, sloping away at 45°. Let it set for 48 hours.



6 Grout the paving
Spread beach sand over the paving, using a broom to get it into all the gaps. Brush off excess sand then spray with water to settle the grout. Let the sand dry and pavers settle then repeat. Fill the unpaved border around the clothesline base with pebbles.



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BATHROOMS

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INSTALL A ROTARY CLOTHESLINE

Save money, time and energy by drying clothes outside, using wind power to get the job done faster

A rotary clothesline is an Aussie icon and for good reason. In the 1950s and 60s most backyards featured a Hills Hoist, made of heavy unpainted metal with steel wires, and generations of children grew up swinging on its arms.

Although Lance Hill didn't actually invent the rotary clothes hoist, he was the first to successfully market it in large numbers from 1945.

According to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Hills' prototype



Hills Rotary 6 Forest Green Clothesline, \$238. hills.com.au

was made from tubing salvaged from the underwater boom that hung under the Sydney Harbour Bridge to catch enemy submarines in WWII.

The winding gear was made from cast aluminium and worked to hoist the line up into the breeze.

ADVANCES IN DESIGN

The rotary clothesline has come a long way since Lance Hill knocked together the first version for his wife.

Its initial popularity may have been the result of a postwar baby boom but housewives were soon clamouring for a labour-saving hoist.

These days there's a clothesline to suit every space and they come in a variety of powdercoated colours.

They range up to five metres in diameter and many can be folded down or removed for entertaining.

Rotary hoists are also easy to install DIY, taking one person about an hour to dig the hole then insert the ground socket and post, plus the time it takes the concrete to cure. ➤



Keeping it clean

A clothesline is exposed to the elements and accumulates dirt, sap and spiderwebs, so it's a good idea to brush off visible debris and wipe the line down regularly to avoid marking clean clothes.

Use a soft cloth or kitchen sponge and a mild detergent diluted with water to clean the rotary hoist every few weeks, allowing it to dry before using.

Keep pegs clean and dry as well so they won't leave rust or dirt stains on clothing. Don't leave them out on the line or they will deteriorate rapidly. Store them in the laundry instead.

Line drying benefits

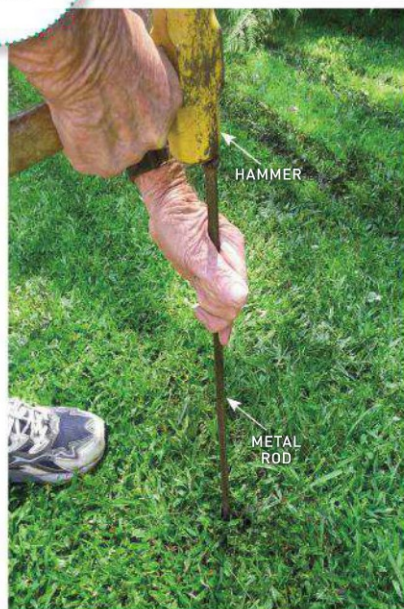
Hanging clothes on a line is gentler on them than using the tumble dryer. The laundry smells fresher and sunlight is a natural sanitising agent, zapping any germs and bacteria.

Drying clothes outdoors is also more energy efficient, as using the dryer for just four hours a week costs \$10 a month.

Hanging washing on the line is also good incidental exercise, getting you out in the fresh air.

Clothes that are correctly hung on the line need less ironing than when tumbled in a dryer, and the risk of shrinkage is lower.

INSTALL A ROTARY HOIST



1 Check the soil depth
Hammer a metal rod into the soil, choosing a position where it's at least 600mm deep and the hoist will have 1m clearance all around, taking tree growth and shading into account.



2 Dig the hole
Excavate a hole for the clothesline in the ground to 600mm deep and 250mm in diameter using a shovel or post-hole digger, checking the depth with a tape measure.



3 Sink the ground socket
Position the ground socket for the clothesline in the hole and insert the post to check the depth is correct, adding 150mm gravel to the base of the hole for good drainage.



4 Add the concrete
Pour quick-set concrete and water into the hole using a steel trowel to slope the surface away from the ground socket for runoff.
TIP This project used two 20kg bags.



5 Install the clothesline
Position the clothesline post in the ground socket and use a spirit level to check for plumb then remove the post and replace it when the concrete is dry, about 24 hours.



6 Tension the wires
Test the clothesline wires and tension if required using a shifter, making sure the wires are quite tight as the weight of the wet washing will make them sag.

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By Laurie Lawrence

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SWIMMING POOL FENCING

Maintain essential pool safety with fencing that keeps the kids and pets out but the views open

The backyard pool is a big part of the Australian lifestyle, with ownership varying from state to state but peaking at 30% and growing.

As a nation we spend a lot of time relaxing at home, so it's important the pool area looks as good as possible while also maintaining safety.

Modern pool fencing comes in a range of strong and durable materials with the rails, posts and gate hardware kept slimline and unobtrusive while meeting safety standards.

ALUMINIUM FENCING is the traditional choice for a pool fence, and is both durable and weather-resistant.

With powdercoated aluminium posts, this type of fencing is easy to install DIY and comes in standard 2450 x 1200mm panels.

GLASS FENCING has become a popular choice for a minimalist and modern look that works well in any space.

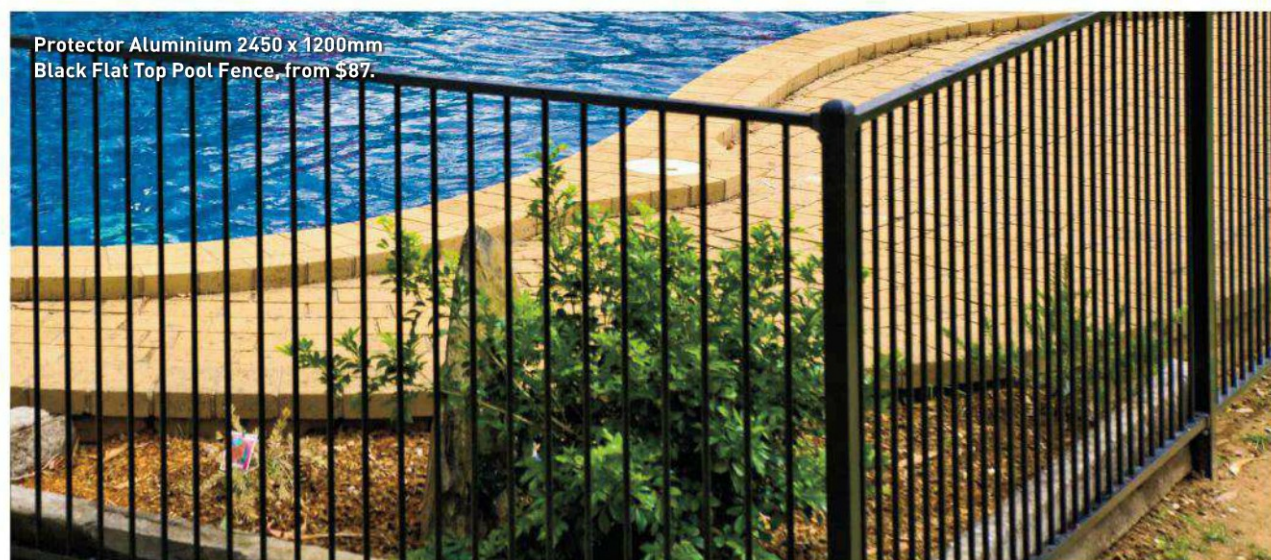
Fully frameless options keep the views intact, and little hands and feet can't climb them.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

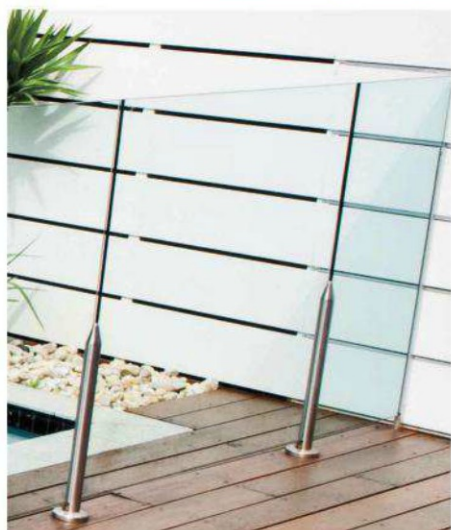
Alongside the increasing numbers of homes with pools, safety has become very well regulated and subject to federal law since the 1970s.

Fencing must be 1200mm high with anything climbable, such as trees or children's play equipment, located at least 1200mm away.

A secure, outward opening gate that latches automatically is also a requirement. Check other specific regulations with your local council.



Protector Aluminium 2450 x 1200mm
Black Flat Top Pool Fence, from \$87.



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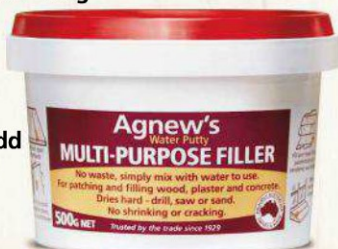
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3. Here's how it was done. First saturate a pad of Howard special steel wool with Restor-A-Finish
4. Wearing rubber gloves you apply it over the entire surface of the item you are working on
5. You must use firm but careful pressure as you go, while increasing the pressure into bad marks
6. Repeat this procedure over any marks that need it, then wipe the surface completely dry with a soft cloth
7. After an hour or so take a soft cotton cloth (old t-shirts are good) and apply some Restor-A-Shine
8. Rub it onto the surface using vigorous friction, as if you were polishing a car. Wait... now buff it to a shine
9. You do this in sections being careful to overlap each section to avoid dividing lines
10. Now take a large chunk of clean soft cloth and using good friction polish the entire surface to a shine
11. The surface will now really shine but it still may have some white residue of the polish visible
12. To eliminate residue spray the surface very lightly with Howard Orange Oil and buff clean. NICE!
13. If you'd like a waxed finish to preserve and protect the new finish apply a thin coat of Feed-N-Wax



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LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Make a feature of landscaping and increase security and safety in the evenings with garden lighting for all areas

Outdoor lighting is an important element that should always be factored into the design of the garden and the home itself.

Spotlights and sensor lights are essential for security, while pathlights and wall lights allow family and guests to navigate walkways and enter the home at night without risk.

STYLE AND AMBIENCE

Suitable lighting also makes the most of the landscaping.

To enjoy your outdoor spaces in the evenings, use uplights and downlights to illuminate plants and features while creating an inviting feel for relaxing and entertaining.



Solar Magic Twin Head LED Security Sensor Light, \$40.



Solar Magic Stainless Steel Wall Light, \$20 for two.



Solar Magic Stainless Steel LED Wind Spinner Light, \$14.



Make the garden come to life at night by highlighting features.



Use path lighting for a safe and atmospheric entrance to the home.



Solar Magic Solar Powered LED Bollard Lights, \$27 for five.

Solar Magic LED Spotlights, four pack \$24.



Solar Magic White LED Bollard Light, \$6.

Solar Magic Colour Change Crackled Lens Path Lights, \$6.



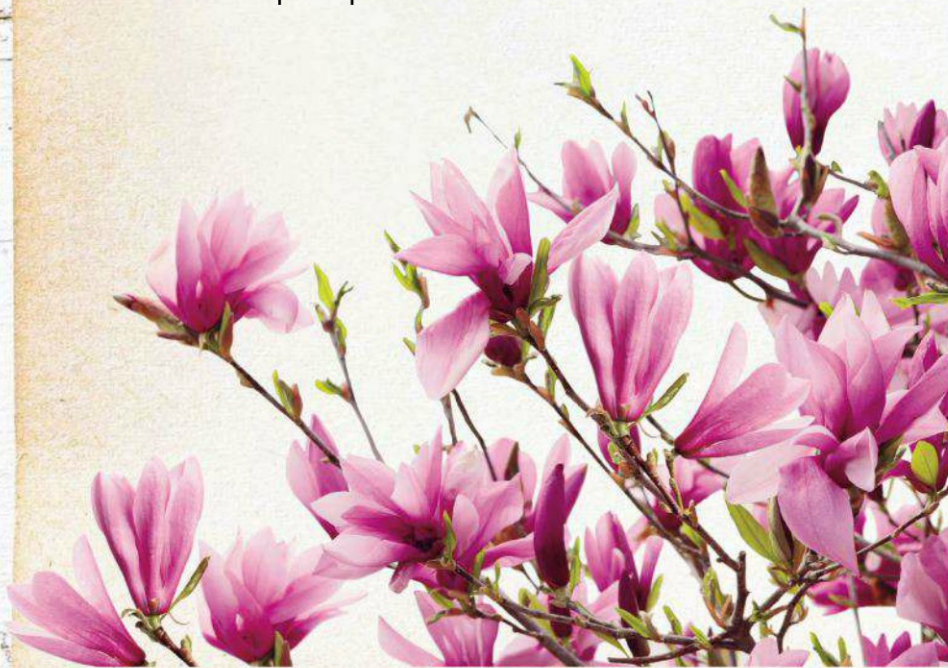
Do now

- **ADD** a gorgeous magnolia to the winter garden for an injection of colour and fragrance, on page 120.
- **CHOOSE** your favourite type of potato for mashing, frying or roasting and get it in the ground, from page 124.
- **PREPARE** for spring by ridding the yard of pests and weeds before the growing season starts, see page 128.



THIS MONTH

There are outdoor jobs to do in August but it's also a good time to prepare for next season



Sow now

For hardy colour and texture, sow these pretty blooms to enjoy a warm-weather display.

- **AFRICAN MARIGOLD**
- **KANGAROO PAW**
- **PETUNIA**
- **IMPATIENS**
- **PHLOX**



Plant now

Put these tasty crops in this month for a flavoursome harvest in the weeks to come.

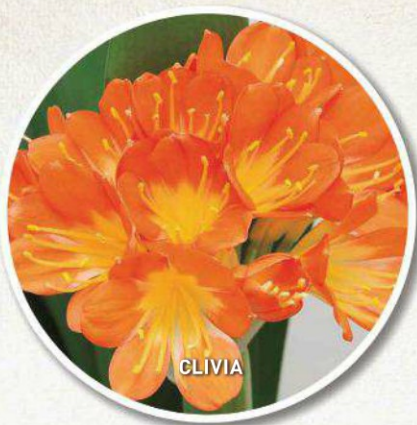
- **STRAWBERRY**
- **SPRING ONION**
- **PARSNIP**
- **CABBAGE**
- **LETTUCE**



Prune now

- **CUT** ornamental grape vine back to the main branches.
- **DIVIDE** large clumps of the ornamental grass liriope and replant about 100mm apart.
- **FINISH** pruning apple or pear trees by the end of the month.





Top pick

Clivia brightens shady areas of the garden in winter with clusters of orange or yellow flowers held on a spike above dark-green strappy foliage. The plant is basically indestructible, only needing a bit of water in hot weather and dividing when the clumps get crowded.



Lawn care

Raise the height of mower blades until new growth starts in spring and keep the catcher on so clippings don't cover the lawn and reduce the amount of light reaching the shoots. You should only need to mow about once a month in winter so take a break while you can.



Repot for blooms

Encourage your African violet to flower by positioning it on a windowsill that receives morning sun during winter. Repot each year into a specialised mix using a new pot that's the same size or only slightly larger, always watering from below so the plant doesn't become waterlogged.

Buy mulch

Add a 70 to 100mm layer of mulch to all garden beds to keep soil moist and warm to assist early spring growth. Use organic mulch such as sugar cane or lucerne hay that breaks down and adds nutrients to the soil.



PLANT
PROFILE

MAGNIFICENT *magnolia*

This all-time favourite takes centre stage with scented, showy blooms as winter wraps up

WORDS **JECCA BLAKE**

Each year in late winter, deciduous magnolia opens up impressive blooms on foliage-free stems before the bright green leaves arrive in spring.

The large, fragrant flowers come in white, pink, purple or yellow, and can be on display for weeks at a time, cheering up a garden otherwise devoid of colour.

An ancient plant family that originated in China, *Magnoliaceae* has more than 80 species in the genus, and fossil records show some are almost 60 million years old.

Magnolias have been highly prized throughout history. Intrepid plant hunters from Britain braved dangerous journeys in the 18th century to search for the exotic plant in China, the Himalayas and Tibet.

KEEP IT SMALL

Magnolias range from medium-sized shrubs to small trees up to eight metres tall, and many are too large for an average-sized backyard.

Compact varieties are better in small gardens, such as *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea', a pink-flowering tree that should only reach three metres.

With a mature size of up to five metres, *Magnolia x loebneri* 'Ballerina' is another favourite, featuring masses of white flowers tinged with pink from late winter through to spring.

The recently released compact evergreen *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Teddy Bear' is a popular choice, with glossy rounded leaves and large white blooms.

TIP Even if size isn't an issue, plant a single species of magnolia to better appreciate the colour and form. ➤



Evergreen varieties

Michelia is a genus of about 50 flowering shrubs and trees that is also part of the magnolia family.

Most varieties are evergreen rather than deciduous, and rely on strongly scented flowers to attract pollinators rather than colourful blooms.

The port wine magnolia with its strongly fragrant purple flowers and small growth habit is probably the best known, and often used for hedging.

For small gardens *Michelia yunnanensis* 'Scented Pearl' only gets to three or four metres high, so is happy growing in a large pot or can even be espaliered against a courtyard wall.

IN THE GARDEN

Magnolia is a relatively easy-care plant that is resistant to disease and doesn't need much maintenance.

POSITION magnolia in full sun with shelter from hot afternoon rays but not too much shade, as this causes leggy growth and poor flowering.

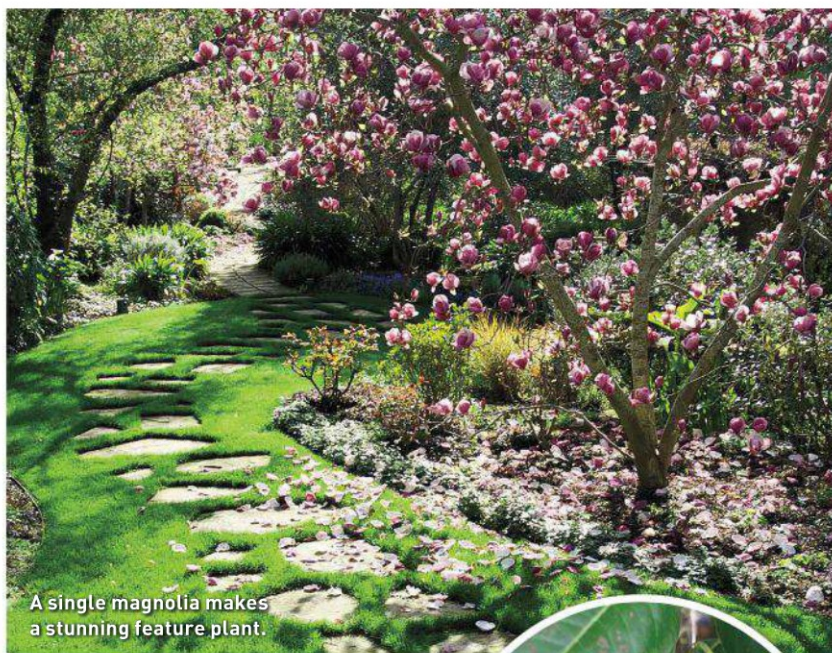
Magnolia also needs protection from strong winds that can bruise the delicate flowers. It doesn't like to have its roots disturbed, so avoid planting anything underneath it and keep weeds at bay.

PLANT in well-drained soil with added compost and manure. Add a layer of organic fertiliser as mulch in spring and water regularly.

PRUNING is rarely required and can ruin the plant's natural shape if you cut it back too harshly.

Remove dead wood and trim branches growing in unwanted directions. Cut small excess branches in spring before the buds burst to use for indoor floral arrangements.

WATCH FOR snails and slugs, which love the foliage. Leaf spot can be an issue after wet weather. Apply copper fungicide as a preventative measure, or wait for the magnolia to lose its leaves then rake and burn them.



A single magnolia makes a stunning feature plant.



Yates Liquid Copper, about \$15 for 200ml. yates.com.au



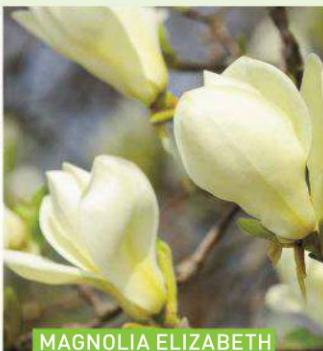
CHOOSING A VARIETY

Some magnolias grow into large trees, so selecting the right type to plant in your garden should be determined by the space available and number of trees required, as well as the colour and fragrance.



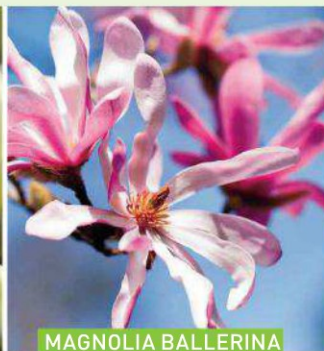
MAGNOLIA VULCAN

- Magenta flowers
- Fragrant
- Grows up to 4m high
- Reaches 1.5m wide



MAGNOLIA ELIZABETH

- Cream flowers
- Sweet perfume
- Grows up to 7m high
- Reaches 3m wide



MAGNOLIA BALLERINA

- Pink-tinged flowers
- Lightly fragrant
- Grows up to 5m high
- Reaches 4m wide



MAGNOLIA DENUDATA

- White flowers
- Sweet perfume
- Grows up to 5m high
- Reaches 2m wide



Nurseries sell magnolias that are about 12 months old.

GROW IT IN POTS

Magnolia seeds aren't available to buy in packets. Nurseries sell magnolias as young plants about a year old.

Small plants can be kept in pots, just choose a size that gives the fast-growing roots room to spread.

Add a potting mix rich in compost and position the plant so the soil level is 20mm below the pot rim, firming the mix down. Mulch with pine bark and water in well, then only weekly.

Fertilise in spring and autumn with a food for camellias and azaleas, as they are also acid-loving plants.

In summer magnolia produces a large brown pod full of red seeds that can be collected for propagation if you have the patience, as when growing from seed the first flowers won't appear for at least 10 years.

+ Get more online

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for more advice on The Winter Backyard.

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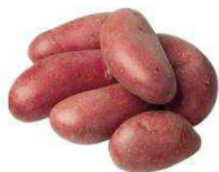
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GROWING
GUIDE

THE HUMBLE *spud*

Choosing a variety



DESIREE is a waxy potato with pink skin and creamy yellow flesh. Good for boiling and baking.



PINK FIR APPLE is an old English variety with pale skin and creamy flesh. Good for mashing and frying.



SEBAGO is a widely grown variety in Australia with light skin and flesh. Good for boiling, baking and frying.



This backyard classic is easy to grow and popular on every dinner table.

Get this old favourite into the ground now for a potato crop in just 12 weeks

WORDS **JECCA BLAKE**

Boiled, baked, fried or roasted, potatoes have been one of the world's most important food crops for centuries.

Originating in South America, they were introduced into Europe in the 1500s where they quickly became a staple in the diet of many cultures.

Spuds came to Australia with the First Fleet and were a favourite backyard crop until WWII.

A starchy tuber, potatoes are not actually high in kilojoules.

The reason they are seen as bad for weight control is because they're often served deep fried as chips, or with fatty toppings such as butter, cheese and sour cream.

Cut out the fat and frying and potatoes become a healthy, high-fibre food. Rich in vitamin C, they're also a good source of vitamin B and minerals like potassium and iron.

Described as waxy, all-rounder or floury, pick a variety to grow based on how you like to cook them.

Waxy varieties have less starch and a higher moisture content, so retain their shape when cooked, while floury spuds are great for baking or mashing.

A VERSATILE VEG

Easy to grow, harvest and use, spuds also give you a lot of bang for your buck with one plant producing a multitude of potatoes.

A common variety spud sends out a shoot from each eye on a seed potato, and each one of these shoots can produce five to 10 spuds.

Another bonus is that you don't need a lot of space to grow them and can even use a large planter.

In winter seed potatoes are available to buy at nurseries and are guaranteed to be disease-free.

Chit, or sprout, seed potatoes for planting by putting them in a cool, light spot with good ventilation and wait for shoots to develop.

TIP Not all potatoes grow well in every climate, so ask your local nursery which varieties thrive in your area. ➤



PURPLE CONGO has dark purple skin and sweet purple flesh that keeps its colour after cooking. Good for boiling.



COLIBAN is an Australian-bred, smooth, white variety with floury flesh. Good for baking and mashing.

IN THE GARDEN

The ideal location to grow potatoes is a spot that grew beans or peas the year before. Avoid planting spuds in the same spot year after year, as this increases the risk of disease.

PREPARE THE SOIL with added organic matter, digging 25mm of well-rotted manure or compost into the top 300mm layer and adding a sprinkling of fertiliser pellets.

Dig trenches 250mm wide and deep, and about 600mm apart.

PLANT SEED POTATOES in the trenches with the shoots pointing up and cover with 100mm of soil.

Keep covering shoots with soil as they appear and water them. This is called hilling up and is usually done about two or three times during the growing season.

CHECK THE CROP after about three months by digging up a plant.

If the tuber skins are thin and rub off easily, the crop isn't fully mature.

Leave the tubers in the ground for a week or two more to toughen the skins.

This helps protect them from scuffing and bruising during harvest and prolongs storage life.

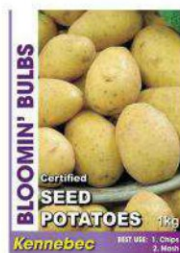
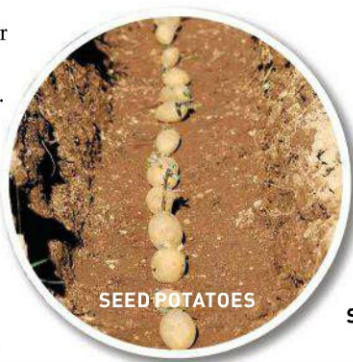
HARVEST POTATOES in the morning while it's still cool but don't leave tubers exposed to the light for more than a few hours or you risk them developing green patches.

Green potatoes can cause food poisoning so must be discarded.

To dig potatoes out of the ground, put your garden fork at the edge of the foliage to avoid stabbing them.

Lift the entire root system, one plant at a time, to minimise bruising, skinning or cutting the tubers.

TIP Spuds are generally ready to harvest when the white potato flowers bloom, just scrape back a little soil to double check.



Bloomin' Bulbs Certified Seed Potatoes, about \$9 for 1kg. bloominbulbs.com.au



Planting in a bag

If you have limited outdoor space, use garden bags to grow spuds.

Roll a plastic bag halfway down and fill with potting mix.

Position three seed potatoes, cover with mix and water in well.

As the shoots emerge, unroll the bag and add more mix.

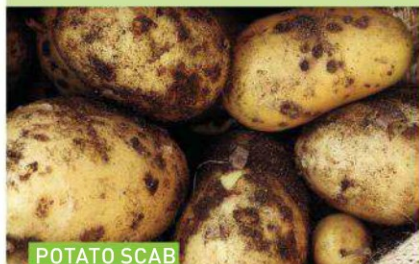
Unroll the bag completely when the shoots are 150 to 300mm tall and add mix until full, covering with a layer of straw.

Harvest the potatoes when the foliage yellows or dies back.

TIP Buy plastic grow bags with handles and drainage holes for about \$10 each from nurseries.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Spuds can suffer from a range of problems, so choose resistant varieties and only grow from disease-free seed potatoes. Enrich the soil with organic material such as compost to reduce the risk of soil-borne diseases.



POTATO SCAB

Small bumps on the skin that turn brown and powdery are a sign of this common tuber disease. Most are superficial and can be rubbed off. It's usually a problem in dry soil, so add organic matter and water well to increase moisture levels.



POTATO WIREWORM

A type of beetle larvae that burrow into tubers, making tunnels that provide entry points for fungal diseases. Spray with an insecticide such as Dipel before planting and harvest early to reduce the amount of potential damage to the potatoes.



POTATO LEAF ROLL

This virus stunts plants and reduces yields, causing the younger leaves to yellow and roll inwards. To avoid, plant certified disease-free seed potatoes, and control any aphids immediately as they can spread the problem.

Cheesy potato puffs



PREPARATION TIME 20 mins

COOKING TIME 15 mins

SERVES 4 to 6

INGREDIENTS

500g all-purpose potatoes, boiled and mashed until smooth

4 spring onions, finely chopped

½ cup mature cheddar cheese, finely grated

3 Tbsp milk

1 Tbsp butter

Freshly grated nutmeg, to taste

2 eggs, separated

- 1 **PREHEAT THE OVEN** to 220°C. Grease a 12-hole non-stick muffin tin, also greasing the flat sections of the tin in between the holes.
- 2 **COMBINE THE MASHED POTATO** with the spring onion and cheese in a large bowl.
- 3 **PUT THE MILK** and butter in a small saucepan and warm gently. Add the nutmeg then season with salt and pepper, swirling the pan to help melt the butter. Heat to just below boiling point, then beat into the potato mixture before beating in the egg yolks.
- 4 **WHISK THE EGGWHITES** until soft peaks form. Stir a spoonful or two into the potato mixture to loosen it, then fold in the rest as lightly as possible.
- 5 **SPOON THE MIXTURE** into muffin tins and bake for about 15 minutes, or until golden brown and well risen.

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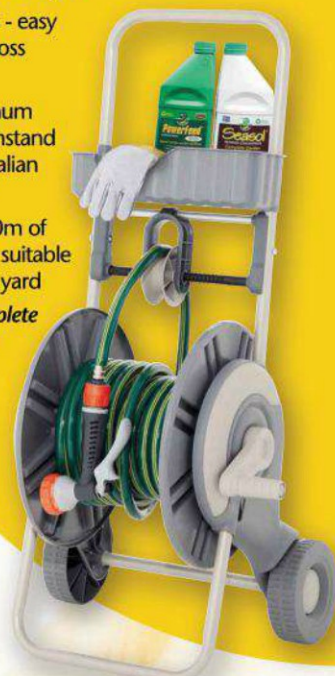
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10 SECRETS TO A HEALTHY YARD

Do a bit of hard work in the garden this month to tackle any problems and prepare for the growing season

WORDS **JECCA BLAKE**

Over winter pests and diseases ease their grip on the garden but it's worth keeping an eye out to make sure you're on top of any infestations before warmer weather causes existing problems to multiply.

A little prevention now can save you lots of hard work in spring when the garden comes back to life, so don't let the cold weather keep you indoors.

Maintenance such as the regular mowing of lawns, weeding and pruning of shrubs is essential, as is tailoring your garden-care plan to the changed conditions in your area.

Follow these simple rules to nurse the garden through the cooler months and ensure plants are strong and healthy for new spring growth.

1. Get mulching

Mulch pots and garden beds to keep weeds at bay, pulling them out as soon as they appear. Wait until after rain to remove weeds from beds and between pavers as the soil is softer, making them easier to pull out with roots attached.



2. Go natural

Plan a companion-planting system as a solution to pest control. Certain plants act as deterrents to pests and can be used in place of chemical controls.

TIP Try onions and garlic near roses to repel aphids and thrips.

3. Out, damn spot!

Rose black spot causes leaves to turn yellow with black dots. Pick off and burn infected leaves and give the plant a hard prune in late winter before spraying with a fungicide.

There are disease-resistant roses available, so choose those varieties if black spot is a problem in your yard.

4. Evict slimy invaders

Snails and slugs never rest when there is rain about. Collect them and feed them to chooks and ducks if you're sure they haven't eaten snail pellets.

To make a trap, half-fill a jar with beer and dig it into the soil, leaving 10mm above the surface. The snails and slugs are attracted to the yeast and crawl in, then get tipsy and drown.

5. Quarantine pots

Isolate any potted plants that show signs of pest or disease infestation and treat them before moving the pots back near other plants.



6. Banish bugs

Look for overwintering pupae or insect eggs on leaves and at the base of plants, particularly those species that are prone to pest infestations.

Spray plants with white oil to smother the insects before they get the chance to hatch in spring.

TIP Remember to always check the underside of leaves. ➤

7. Get rid of weeds

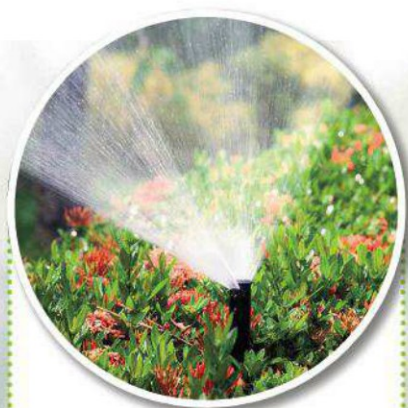
Remove wintergrass from lawns as soon as it appears by using a chemical control, or weed small patches by hand.

If you don't get to this weed in time, it dies down when the weather warms up but leaves seeds that pop up again next year.

8. Respect the soil

Avoid walking on garden beds after heavy rain as you run the risk of compacting the soil, which makes it hard to dig when it dries out and can affect plant growth.

Instead, lay large boards that will distribute your weight when walking or kneeling.



9. Water wisely

Adjust automatic sprinklers or irrigation systems to reduce the watering time to half or less of what you use in summer, preventing waterlogged soil.

To reduce the risk of fungal diseases, water the garden in the morning at ground level so the soil can dry out before nightfall.

10. Prune with care

To keep trees healthy, remove dead or broken branches as soon as you see them and shape-prune live wood in winter when deciduous trees are dormant.

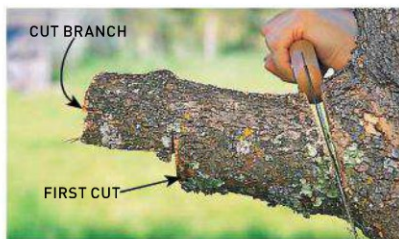
TIP The correct pruning technique allows wounds to heal rapidly.



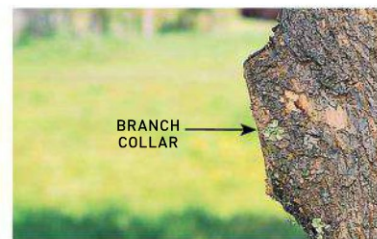
1 SAW THE BRANCH halfway through from the underside at 300mm from the trunk, to prevent splitting.



2 CUT THE BRANCH from the top, working 100mm from the first cut on the underside of the branch.



3 REMOVE THE STUB flush with the branch collar, the swollen area at the base, taking care not to damage it.



4 LET THE WOUND HEAL naturally instead of applying a sealant, so new tissue grows to cover the wound.

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WINTER
LAWN

TLC FOR TURF

Give the lawn a bit of care during the cold season
for a lush green carpet of grass in spring

PICTURES (LEFT) BETT IMAGES (RIGHT) THINKSTOCK



Turf grasses are divided into two main types, cool season and warm season.

Cool-season turfs, like Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and creeping bent, come from temperate to cold areas where the highest rainfall is in winter or spring.

Warm-season varieties, including couch, buffalo, kikuyu and zoysia, come from subtropical or tropical areas where the highest level of rainfall is in the warm months.

At this time of year cool-season grasses are looking better than their warm-season counterparts, as they handle the cold much better.

The roots of these grasses grow best in autumn and spring when soil temperatures are about 10 to 19°C, with some growth in winter.

Warm-season grasses slow down or stop growing altogether until the soil temperature is above about 23°C.

We asked the experts how to keep the lawn healthy in winter for a lush carpet of grass in spring.

MOW IT LESS

'Most of the grasses we grow for lawns are warm-season varieties,' says garden writer and TV presenter Adam Woodhams, who shares his tips for lawnmower company Victa (victa.com).

'The onset of the cooler weather means your lawn's growth slows dramatically, and it has to tolerate cold conditions as well as reduced light and increased shade,' he says.

'The lawn uses up its stored energy as it struggles to make do with limited sunlight, making it more susceptible to some diseases and weed invasion.

'Switch your mower from mulch to catch mode, as you need to get as much sunlight to the grass as possible, and don't mow too often as growth decreases quite substantially. Every three or four weeks should be enough.

'Also, raise the height of your mower to help the grass cope with wear as its growth slows down,' says Adam.

AERATE THE SOIL

Meredith Kirton, award-winning author and ambassador for Turf Australia (turfaustralia.com.au), adds her advice for keeping lawns healthy.

'Neighbours who share mowers or garden contractors should wash mower blades between jobs to stop the spread of weeds,' she says.

'In very cold areas you can use spray-on frost protection to help increase the lawn's season and let your grass grow very long as this keeps it alive, much like a doona.

'Work a pitchfork or garden fork into the soil a few centimetres, leaving holes where water and fertiliser can penetrate to aerate your lawn. For large areas it's worthwhile hiring a lawn coring machine,' says Meredith. ➤

DO THE MAINTENANCE

A little regular work through winter can reduce your list of lawn problems come spring, so survey the yard now and make a list of essential tasks.

■ **RAKE UP** any autumn leaves left on the lawn as they shade and ultimately kill off the grass below.

■ **DETHATCH** by running a metal rake over turf areas to remove older grass and mulch build-up, to encourage new and thick growth in spring.

■ **CONSIDER PRUNING** or thinning large trees to allow light to reach the grass underneath the canopies, helping the lawn to grow.

■ **AVOID WATERING** unless it is very dry, as wet lawns in winter are more susceptible to fungal problems. Water in the morning, if necessary.

■ **EDGE THE BORDERS** of the lawn or remodel beds now when the weather is cool, making heavy jobs easier.

■ **REMOVE WINTER GRASS** by hand, as it will stand out as bright green against the duller colour of the lawn.

■ **APPLY SEAWEED TONIC** each month to boost the lawn's resistance to fungal problems and cold weather.

■ **USE A HERBICIDE** formulated for bindiis and other broadleaf weeds if this has been a problem in summer, treating the lawn before spring.

■ **CONTROL WEEDS** regularly as they still thrive during winter, removing them by hand or spraying.

■ **CHECK ALL EQUIPMENT** is in good working order and do a mower service, focusing on blades, spark plugs, oil, air filters and fuel levels.



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Creating a planter bed that sits above ground level involves just a little bit of effort for a big gardening reward.

Winter is the best time to build a raised bed so it's ready for planting in spring and it only takes a day.

There are many reasons to install a raised bed, not the least of which is to make gardening easier on your back and your knees.

Raised beds are a good solution when the soil of a garden is less than ideal for growing. They also offer the added bonus of excellent drainage.

Instead of digging over soil or testing pH, you just fill a raised bed with good quality soil that is free of weeds, stones, pests and diseases.

The soil in raised beds also warms up quicker in spring than ground level beds, so your crops emerge sooner.

CHOOSE THE LOCATION

This bed is lined with newspaper and can be built directly onto grass or bare dirt, so you can site it anywhere.

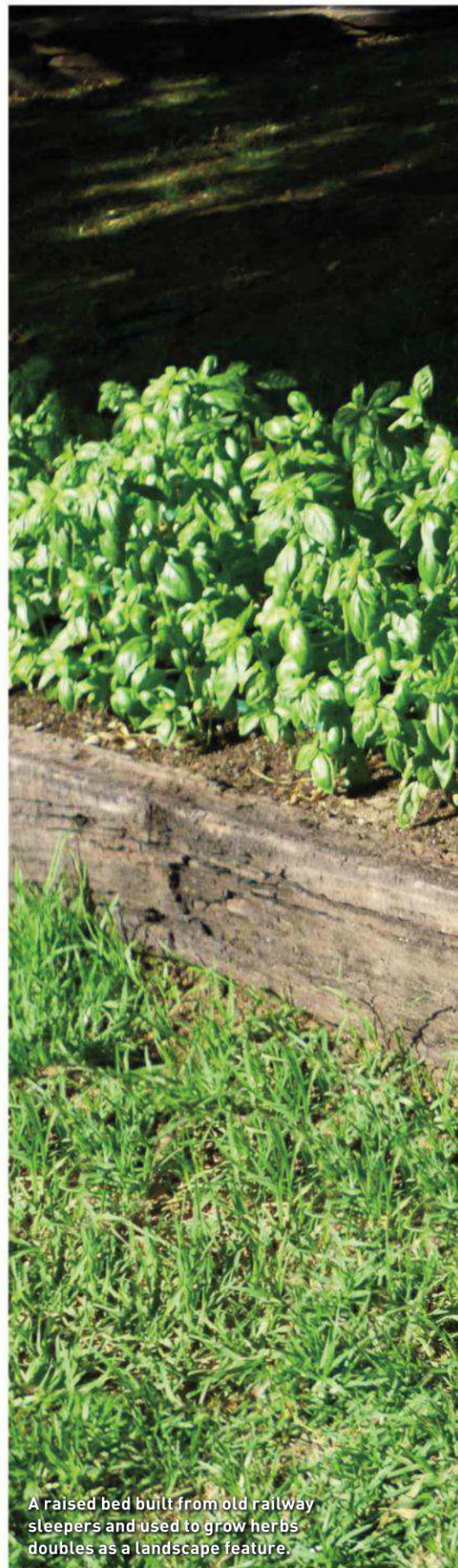
The ideal spot for an edible bed is one with a north-facing aspect to take advantage of morning sun and avoid the harsh afternoon rays.

Locate the bed close to the kitchen or back door if there is a flat space available, as edibles tend to be harvested and used more regularly if they're close to hand.

Old railway sleepers were chosen for this project but brick or landscape rocks can also be used.

If using new timber, choose a type that hasn't been treated with toxic chemicals that can leach into the soil.

TIP ACQ treated pine is preserved without arsenic, making it safe to use for growing edibles in garden beds. ➤



A raised bed built from old railway sleepers and used to grow herbs doubles as a landscape feature.

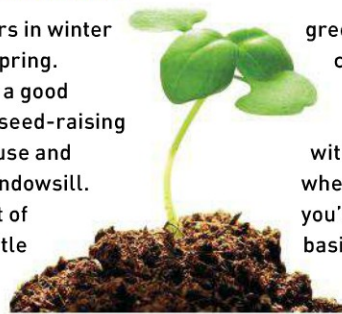


Starting basil seeds

Raise seedlings indoors in winter to fill a raised bed in spring.

Sow basil seeds in a good quality potting mix or seed-raising mix in a mini greenhouse and position on a sunny windowsill.

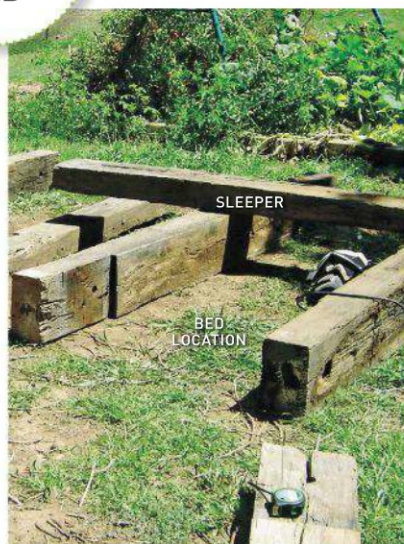
Give the mix a mist of water with a spray bottle every couple of days, keeping the lid of the



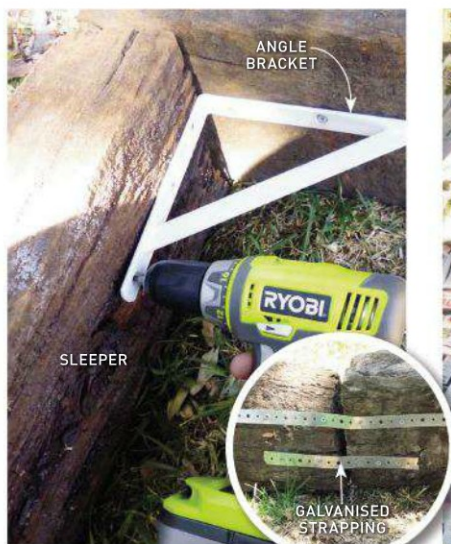
greenhouse closed to create humidity.

The seedlings should emerge within two weeks and when spring arrives you'll have plenty of basil seedlings to plant out in your raised garden bed.

BUILD A RAISED BED



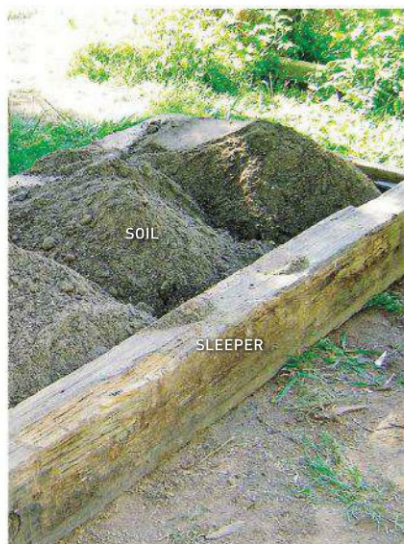
1 Set out the bed
Measure the sleepers then mark the bed on the ground using set-out paint, cutting any sleepers to fit with a circular saw. Lay the side sleepers end to end then position the ends against the sides, using a builder's square to ensure the corners are 90°.



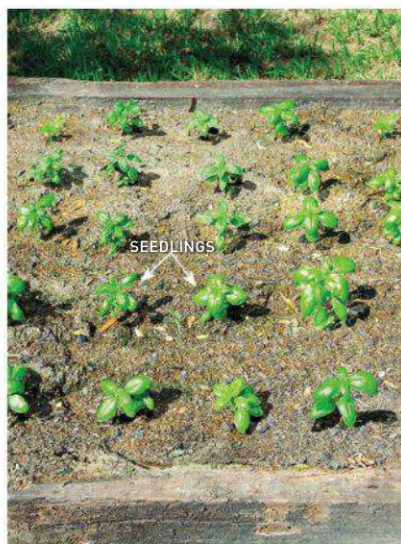
2 Secure the sleepers
Position metal angle brackets in each corner of the raised bed, securing with a cordless drill using galvanised screws. Join the side sleepers using galvanised strapping and screws. **TIP** Drill pilot holes to prevent the timber sleepers from splitting.



3 Line the beds
Position at least five layers of newspaper in the base of the bed, making sure there are no gaps, to provide a barrier for weeds while allowing moisture to penetrate. **TIP** Don't use cardboard or glossy paper as it takes a long time to break down.



4 Add the soil
Cover the newspaper with a 50mm thick layer of lucerne hay then fill the raised bed with soil, levelling it as you go. Mix in a 50mm layer of well-rotted compost, firm down the soil and water thoroughly, adding more if the level drops well below the top of the bed.



5 Plant the seedlings
Let the soil settle for three to five days then make planting holes in the bed by hand or using a trowel. Position the seedlings in the planting holes spaced 200 to 300mm apart, depending on the variety, firm down the soil and water in well.



6 Install the irrigation
Position a soaker hose in the raised bed, running it lengthways between the rows of seedlings, then connect it to the garden hose. **TIP** To mulch the bed, add a 100mm layer of lucerne hay or sugar cane, positioning the soaker hose on top.

EASY MAINTENANCE

Building a raised bed gives you the flexibility of using the available space but you can also buy ready-made beds in different sizes made from timber, plastic and corrugated steel.

These beds can be located on hard or soft surfaces and are especially user-friendly for junior green thumbs.

Fill raised beds with a potting mix suited for the plants being grown.

For this project the bed was so big that a mix of sandy loam, mushroom compost, ash and cow manure was delivered to the site by a local nursery.

To protect seedlings from birds, install stakes around the bed then cover with bird netting, securing with tent pegs. To weed, feed or harvest the bed, just roll up the netting.

For watering, use a soaker hose so water is evenly distributed at the roots, where the plants need it most.

It's more efficient than watering with a hose or by hand, as less water is lost through run-off or evaporation.



Absco My First Garden Raised Garden Bed For Kids, \$49, from Bunnings.



Birdies Raised Garden Kit, 900 x 400mm, \$126. birdiesgardenproducts.com.au

✦ Get more online

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for a guide to building a Portable Vegie Patch.

Growing root vegetables

Root vegies grown in poor, stony soil come out of the ground misshapen. For good form, grow in a quality mix in a raised bed to give them a smooth passage.



BEETROOT seeds should be sown 15mm deep in early spring and seedlings thinned to about 150mm apart to allow them room to grow.

Harvest when young for sweet tasting beets but leave some in the ground to last into winter.



CARROT seeds need to be sown 15mm deep in early spring. Thin out as they grow by pulling up small ones to eat as baby carrots.

Use a fork to gently prise carrots out of the ground in summer, leaving some in for winter harvest.

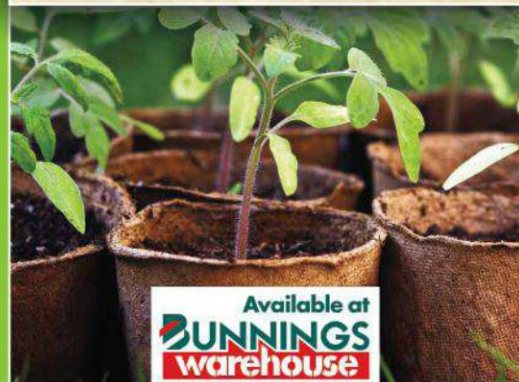
Mr. Fothergill's



GARDENING THIS MONTH



- August is great for starting your tomato seeds on a sunny windowsill. When the danger of frost has passed, you have strong seedlings that can be transplanted into the garden bed for an early harvest.
- Plant lettuce seeds straight in the garden now for a delicious crop of salad leaves in 6-8 weeks. In frost-free areas, Chinese cabbage, English spinach, rocket, silver beet, spring onion, coriander and parsley can be sown directly into beds now. Aster, carnation, cosmos, marigold, petunia, phlox, portulaca and zinnia are just a few of the spring and summer flowers that could also be sown now.
- Remember to feed the plants every two weeks for best results. Beware that wet weather and new season's growth bring out snails and slugs, so use a pet-safe snail bait around the most tender plants.
- To give your plants the best start in life, start the seeds in Jiffy® Peat Pellets or Peat Pots. This allows you to plant the pot and all in the garden, avoiding transplantation shock which will result in stronger and healthier plants.



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GIVE POTS BETTER DRAINAGE

The key to growing healthy plants is well-drained soil, so drill holes in the base to customise containers for planting

WORDS **JECCA BLAKE**

For the best plant growth and health, the growing medium needs to supply a balance of water, oxygen and nutrients.

Potting mixes are designed to provide aeration and drainage for successful container growing but all pots need drainage holes to prevent the mix becoming saturated.

If the mix is too wet the roots can't take up the oxygen they need to survive, leading to rot problems.

Well-drained soil has enough air pockets to let water run through freely, so it doesn't get waterlogged or drain so fast that the roots dry out.

You can put a small pot inside a decorative container without holes

but you'll have to constantly check the plant isn't standing in water, as this can also lead to root rot.

A better solution is to make drainage holes in the base of the container using a cordless drill.

TIP Even pots with holes should be raised off the ground with pot feet or small stones to assist drainage.

CHOOSING A DRILL BIT

To make drainage holes in plant pots, choose the right type of drill bit for the material.



MASONRY

TERRACOTTA and ceramic pots need a masonry bit.



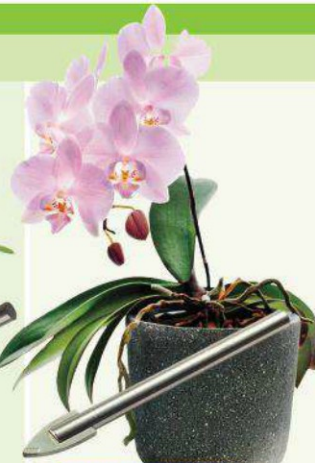
HSS

METAL containers need a HSS (high-speed steel) bit.



TWIST

PLASTIC and PVC planters need a sharp twist bit.



GLASS AND TILE

FIBREGLASS containers need a glass and tile bit.

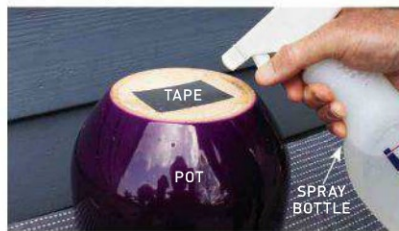


Making the drainage holes

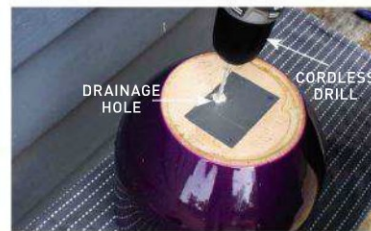
For a 150mm pot, drill three evenly spaced drainage holes about 5mm in diameter using a cordless drill.



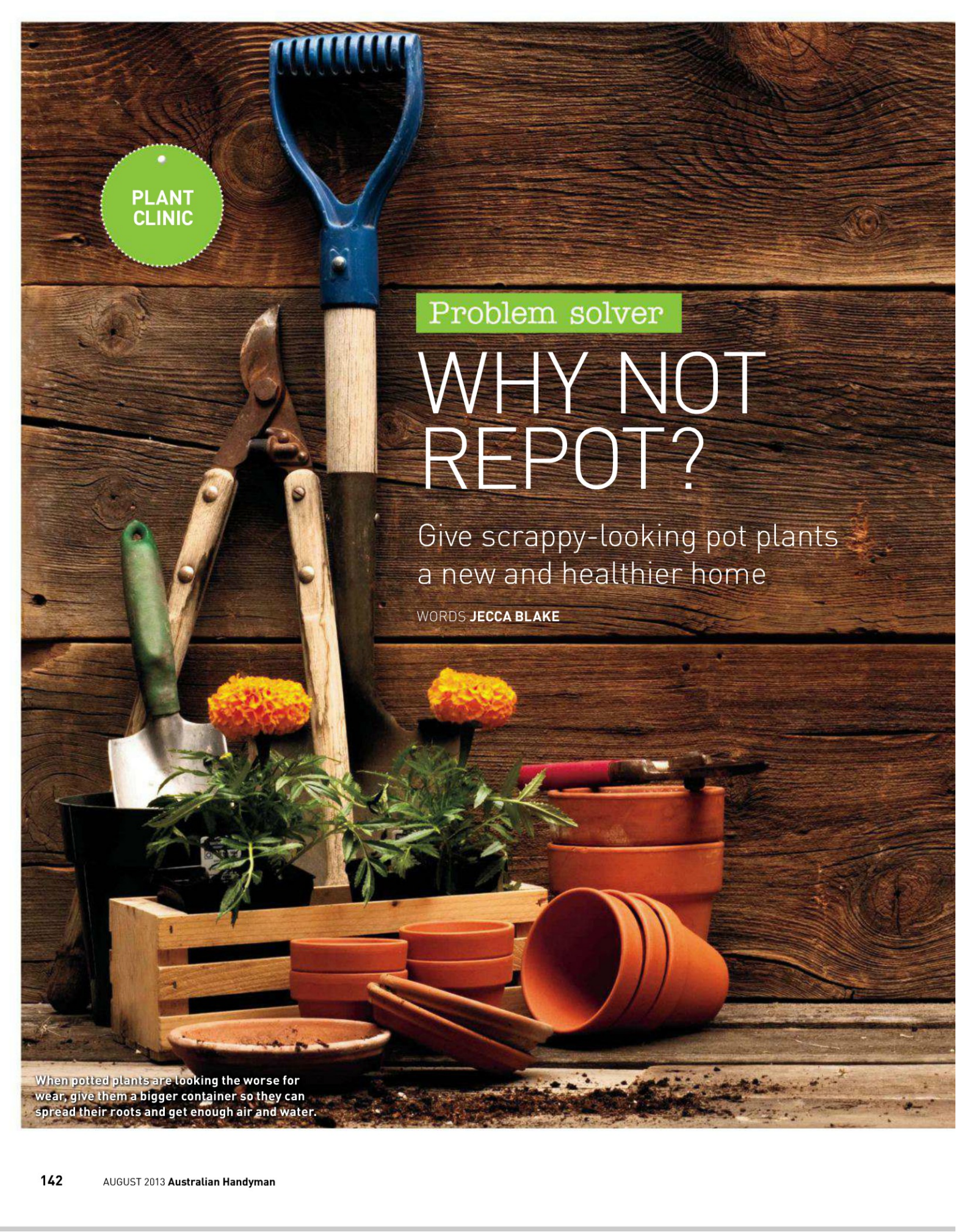
1 MARK THE HOLES to be drilled on a piece of duct tape secured to the base of the pot using a pen.



2 WET THE TAPE with water using a spray bottle, to prevent the drill bit overheating while drilling the holes.



3 DRILL THE HOLES through the tape on the pot base using a cordless drill, applying gentle pressure.



PLANT
CLINIC

Problem solver

WHY NOT REPOT?

Give scrappy-looking pot plants
a new and healthier home

WORDS **JECCA BLAKE**

When potted plants are looking the worse for wear, give them a bigger container so they can spread their roots and get enough air and water.

Growing plants in pots has many advantages. Container gardens offer flexibility as you can move them around to soak up the sun's rays.

Pots can also be rearranged so plants can be enjoyed when they're in bloom or at their best, and hidden when looking less than lush.

Another bonus is that potting mix can be selected to suit the variety being grown, so you have more choice when it comes to what to plant.

The flipside is that plants in pots are dependent on you to provide the right amount of light, water and fertiliser, plus keep an eye out and fix any problems as they appear.

WATER IT RIGHT

Moisture is one of the most important ingredients for healthy pot plants. Not enough water causes the mix to dry out but overwatering can quickly lead to root rot problems.

SOLUTION Check the level by sticking your index finger into the potting mix. If it's dry up to the first knuckle, then the plant needs water.

The amount of water needed is based on the type of plant, where it's located and the type and size of pot.

When the soil is dry, add water until it comes out of the drainage holes, so the roots right at the base have been

watered as well. Empty the saucer so the roots aren't sitting in water.

Plants with large or thin leaves usually need water more often than plants like succulents that have fleshier stems and leaves that store more water during dry periods.

In general, plants require less water during winter or just after heavy flowering and growth periods.

Take the guesswork out of the process by using self-watering pots or install an irrigation system designed for planters like the Holman Miniscape Drip Tube System, \$23, from Bunnings. **TIP** Mulch pots to regulate the soil temperature, suppress weeds and reduce evaporation. ➤



Yates Artesian Vogue Self-Watering Plastic Pot, about \$29. yates.com.au



Striking at the root

When a plant has outgrown its container the pot is full of roots with little potting mix left.

Water runs off the top or straight out of the base, as there is not enough mix to retain the moisture, and the plant wilts within a day of watering.

The roots may escape through the drainage holes or the pot may crack as the rootball expands.

SOLUTION Take the plant from its pot and loosen the rootball. Cut thin roots by a third and remove any dead or diseased ones then repot into a larger container.

Unhealthy plants are more sensitive to root pruning, so cut carefully, water well and apply a liquid feed after repotting.



Wash pots before re-using them to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases.

SCRUB THE POTS

Pots that held annuals or species that were transplanted are often re-used. But old pots can hold remnants of dirt, debris and roots that can contain soil-borne fungi, diseases and insects that aren't always easy to see.

Simply rinsing pots isn't enough to get rid of pests and diseases so it's important to properly sterilise containers before re-using them.

Seedlings are extremely vulnerable to a problem called damping-off, where newly planted seedlings wilt and look damaged near the base of the stem, eventually falling over.

This problem is usually caused by a fungus that can be prevented if pots are properly sterilised.

SOLUTION Sterilise pots after washing off excess dirt by soaking in a mixture of five parts water to one part bleach for about 20 minutes.

Rinse well in clean water and leave to dry in the sun before re-using or storing the pots.

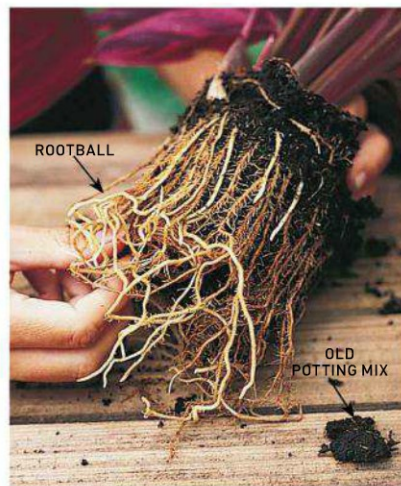


Hortico All Purpose Potting Mix, about \$6 for 25L. hortico.com.au

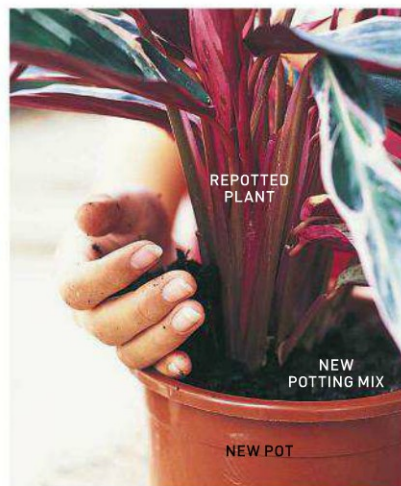
EASY REPOTTING

Repot a plant if it's rootbound, there is algae on the soil surface, growth is slow or the mix dries out quickly.

TIP If a plant is too big to repot, remove the top 70mm of soil and replace it with new potting mix.



1 REMOVE THE PLANT from its pot and tease out 10mm of potting mix from the base of the rootball, then cut away any dead, damaged or circling roots.



2 ADD POTTING MIX to the container, position the plant and backfill with mix until the surface level is 5mm lower than the pot rim, then water in well.

+ Get more online

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for How To Make Homemade Potting Mix.



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'D' Shape



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Super Slimline



Extended Hexagon

Features

- Choose from 1 of 10 possible shapes
- Create amazing layouts using multiple beds
- Made from a durable thick gauge Zinc Alloy
- Stainless steel Wing Nuts and Bolts
- Rolled steel safety edge with clip on safety strip
- Quick and Easy Assembly
- Australian Made
- Patent Pending



birdies 4 kids

MODULAR GARDEN BED



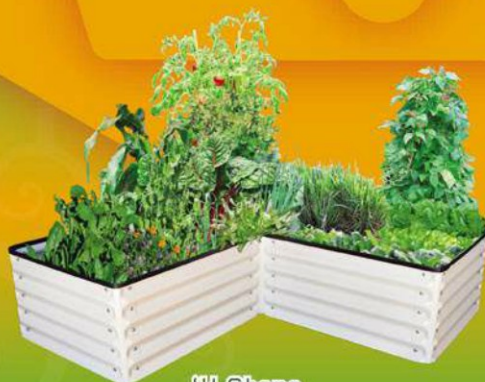
“HEALTHY
Outdoor
LEARNING”



- Choose from one 1 of 6 educational shapes
- Vibrant color combinations
- Quick and Easy assembly
- Rolled steel child edge with clip on safety strip
- Stainless steel dome nuts and bolts
- Made from a durable Zinc Alloy steel
- Australian Made
- Patent Pending

SHAPES RANGE
RAISED GARDEN BED

'L'



'L' Shape

Features

- Very practical shape
- Create amazing layouts using multiple beds
- Made from a durable thick gauge Zinc Alloy
- Stainless steel Wing Nuts and Bolts
- Rolled steel safety edge with clip on safety strip
- Quick and Easy Assembly
- Australian Made
- Patent Pending



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