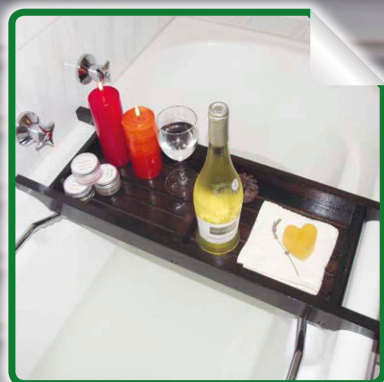


The Home HANDYMAN

April 2016 • Vol 23 No 3
R35.00 (incl VAT)



SA'S
ORIGINAL
DIY
MAGAZINE



**MAKE A BATH CADDY
FOR MOTHER'S DAY**



**IDEAS TO GREEN
YOUR SMALL SPACE**

Toolbox essentials

Types of toolboxes

Handheld tools

Must-have accessories

+ plus

Meet DIY lady

Elle Franco

She proves women
can do it too!



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Women are doing it for themselves

It was difficult finding the inspiration needed to write the main feature (Home toolbox essentials) this month. I couldn't think of anything new on the subject our DIY'ers would find interested in reading. After some thought, I realised that despite my comprehensive collection of tools it's always a hassle to pull out the tools needed for a job. In fact, the prospect of wasting time rummaging through my toolboxes causes me to give up before starting.

This sent me on a mission to pull aside the tools I thought to be the most appropriate, versatile and useful for use inside the home. The tools had to fit into a compact toolbox and enable completion of most household tasks. I also realised that newcomers to DIY are faced with the task of selecting the necessary tools from a massive collection of purpose specific tools. These fancy-looking tools sometimes result in impulse purchases, leaving you with a collection of tools that are never removed from the original packaging.

Early in March, we attended Hobby X at The Ticketpro Dome where we met many keen readers, including many handywomen. When it comes to DIY, the divide between men and women is decreasing and there is no need to ask anyone for help. Men were once seen as the provider of the household, but today the man of the house often collects the children from school, changes nappies, cooks dinner, does the laundry and washes dishes. On the other hand, many women are now extremely career driven, and the only way to get everything done is to share the household duties.

Woodworking is described by many as an escape and our increasingly stressful lifestyles mean more and more people are taking up the hobby. Each time I visit John Young (Young's Woodworking and Antique Restoration), he tells me about a millionaire, woman or child attending his courses. "The workmanship seen in the finished products produced by these newcomers is unbelievable," says John. On that note, you probably noticed the pretty lady on the cover; this is something new to *The Home Handyman*, but ambitious women have a lot of knowledge to share with us. The bath caddy made by feature writer Aarifah Nosarka and our new subscriptions manager, Candida Giambo-Kruger, serves as proof of what is possible with some guidance.

Brian Jolly's introduction to woodturning (The wonder of wood turning) also features in this issue and it inspired me to try my hand at some turning. While doing this, I discovered the reason why so many people find a friend in woodturning. Turning wood is definitely one of the most satisfying woodworking experiences I have had.

Gareth Greathead, Editor



The Home HANDYMAN

www.homehandyman.co.za

The Home Handyman is published by Home Handyman
Publishing cc ck2000/036356/23
PO Box 48, Cramerview, 2060
10 Cypress Avenue, Bryanston Ext. 3, RSA
email: editorial@homehandyman.co.za
Tel: 011-462-5645 / 5796 / 3213
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Subscription rates:
SA: R296.00 (incl VAT) for 11 issues
Reproduction: AstraGraphics
Printing: Paarl Media KZN, Mahogany Ridge, Westmead, Durban
Distribution: Republican News Agency

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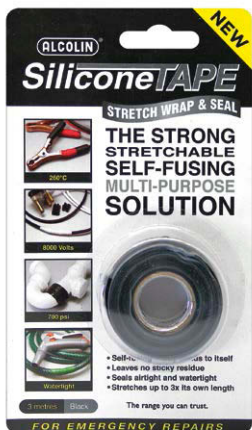
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Self-fusing tape

Alcolin Silicone Tape is a self-fusing repair tape that, once wrapped, only sticks to itself. This versatile wrap creates a temporary or even permanent air- and watertight seal in seconds. It is ideal for electrical insulation, plumbing, gardening, household, automotive and other emergency repairs. It comes in 3m rolls and is available in black, white, red and green. Available at most hardware stores.

Applications:

- Wraps and secures anything without leaving a sticky residue.
- Creates non-slip grips by wrapping onto equipment and tools.
- Withstands extreme temperatures of up to 260°C.



For more information

Visit: www.alcolin.com
Tel: 021-555-7400



Get the best finish

Liberon steel wool is produced using high quality steel to create a crumble and dust resistant wool that is virtually oil free. It is available in seven grades from Ultra Fine (0000) to Fine (00, 0, 1), Medium and Coarse (2, 3 and 4). Available at Hardware Centre.

Applications:

- Ultra Fine grade – polishing and cleaning delicate surfaces.
- Fine grade – light cleaning and surface preparation.
- Medium and Coarse grades – heavy cleaning, paint and varnish removal.



For more information

Visit: www.hardwarecentre.co.za
Tel: 011-791-0844

Professional drill for DIY enthusiasts

The Bosch GBM 13-2 RE Professional Drill bores precise and consistent holes every time. In addition to its quick action keyed chuck, it has a precision chuck with an additional clamping ring to hold the drill firmly in place for pinpoint accuracy. It's perfectly suited for everyday use with metal, carpentry, roofing and masonry applications.



Features and specifications:

- 750W motor.
- Two-speed gearbox and spindle speed pre-selector.
- Motor cut-off protection to protect the user.
- Maximum diameters (first gear) – 13mm in steel and 32mm in wood.



For more information

Visit: www.bosch.co.za
Tel: 012-381-3552

Unobtrusive chucks for wood lathes

Record Power recently introduced a range of chucks and accessories that will be welcomed by woodturners everywhere. These chucks grip the wood in an unobtrusive way, enabling the turner to avoid unsightly screw holes in the base of the turned item. Strand Hardware has an introductory offer, which includes free jaws, a free faceplate and a free insert adapter to fit nearly every lathe on the market. There is a choice of 14 different jaw sets, which are interchangeable with other brands of collet chucks. For a dealer near you, contact Strand Hardware.



For more information

Visit: www.strandhardware.co.za
Tel: 041-585-6996

Ceilings and drywalling made easy

The Makita 18V cordless plasterboard Cut-Out Tool (DCO180Z) has a high rotational speed, which enables cutting of holes for plugs, switches, downlighters, doorways or cuts around any template. It is supplied with a depth gauge that doubles up as your spanner to change the bit. It has a no-load speed of 30 000rpm and will take 3 and 6mm bits. The batteries and charger are sold separately. Available at hardware retailers.

i For more information

Visit: www.makita.co.za
Tel: 011-878-2600



Surface primer for tiling

TAL Keymix is a cementitious powder primer used in a 2:1 volume mix with TAL Keycoat. It helps to overcome potential tiling system failures such as lifting of tiles linked to surfaces that are dense, impervious or smooth.

It has the ability to:

- Enhance the bond strength.
- Enhance the water resistance.
- Improve flexibility.



i For more information

Visit: www.tal.co.za
Tel: 086-000-0825

TAL Keymix is available in a 20kg branded paper bag at tiling shops and home improvement retailers.

Non-compromised precision

The Woodster td 16s is a workshop quality 16mm bench drill press to suit all the demands of the serious home workshop and semi-professional user.

Features and specifications:

- Powerful 370W motor.
- Quick-lock chuck.
- Chuck capacity: 16 mm.
- 12 speeds from 230 to 2 470rpm.
- Sturdy cast iron construction.



i For more information

Visit: www.newcopowertools.co.za
Tel: 011-315-1504

Extend the usable life of sanding belts



Sandpaper often gets clogged before it becomes worn, especially when removing varnish. This means you are wasting money that may be better spent on other tools and accessories. The Tork Craft (TBC32324) Sanding Belt Cleaner cleans sanding belts of all grits by removing accumulated particles that lodge between the abrasive grains and cause a dull cut. This low cost item saves on material resources and also avoids the frustration caused by repeat visits to the hardware store. Tork Craft products can be found at most hardware stores.

i For more information

Visit: www.vermontsales.co.za
Tel: 011-314-7711



Bats in the city

Dear editor, thanks for your magazine, which I enjoy thoroughly. May I propose a step-by-step project on building a bat box? Last year there was an article on both owls and bats, but only the owl box was featured as project. I have bats in my roof, but don't want to kill them – better to provide them with some alternate accommodation outside my roof!

Martin Gouws, Pretoria

Ed replies: Hi Martin, thank you for your letter and request. Since writing the article I have noticed many more bats in my area, but not in my roof, fortunately. May I call upon fellow woodworkers who have built a box in the past to work with us in getting a step-by-step guide together?

Winning letter

This month's winning letter comes from Martin Gouws who wins a Makita DML801 18V Flashlight



Meranti is not indigenous

In your article 'Fundamentals of solid timber' in the Jan/Feb issue of *The Home Handyman*, you state we have five different species of meranti to choose from. It includes a photo of a patio set

labelled as an indigenous meranti patio set. Meranti comes from Southeast Asia and is not grown locally.

Vincent Hubner, by email

Ed replies: You are absolutely correct. Its popularity and affordability led to an incorrect assumption, resulting in the mistake.

The leadwood tree

I am pleased to see that you followed the convention of setting the botanical name in italics. Unfortunately, you made a mistake by capitalising the species name 'Combretum Imberbe'. The species name is never capitalised even if it is derived from a proper name. For example, American ash is 'Fraxinus americana'. I also noticed a misprint – the weight of the wood is 1 200kg/m³ and not 200kg/m³.

Denis Lock, Bedfordview

Scroll saw or treadle saw for John Webb

Further to the letter from John Webb who requires a treadle fretsaw, I have one in perfect working order.

Tenny McKenzie-Taylor, Durbanville

Dear *The Home Handyman* team, I refer to the letter in the Jan/Feb issue from John Webb (a retired pensioner) looking for

a treadle fretsaw to make saleable items. I do not have the treadle fretsaw he is looking for, but do have a 220V Hegner Scroll Saw he may be interested in.

John Rae, Northlands



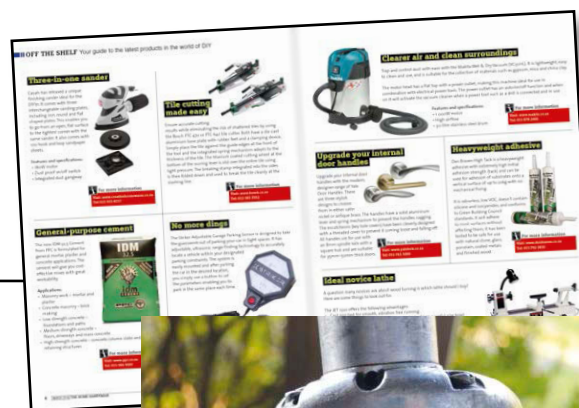
Ed replies: Thanks Tenny and John – I'm sure John Webb will be thrilled. We are humbled by a woodworking fraternity always ready to help where they can

Off the shelf – a valuable resource

I started with a bit of DIY woodwork when the Millers Falls 888 drill was the in thing and you could buy a jigsaw attachment, a small circular saw table, an orbital sanding attachment and many more. Incidentally, I still have all of mine, but hardly use them because of improved and more convenient DIY power equipment.

I really appreciate the 'Off the shelf' (OTS) pages in *The Home Handyman* because the many new and improved products coming out is astounding. It would be difficult to keep up with new developments without this column. Through *The Home Handyman* we become aware of all the modern glue types, heat resistant paints, keyless chucks, battery driven and variable speed power tools and much more. In addition, we see projects made by fellow woodworkers as well as a host of useful articles for the home DIY'er – just look at the article index seen in the Jan/Feb 2016 edition!

However, I do have a few suggestions which may make the information provided more usable. With regard to OTS, it would be nice to have an expected retail price to work with. In the latter half of 2015, I saw an advert for heat resistant paint. Fantastic, I thought, as my portable braai was in serious need of renovation. Then my frustration started, because it was only at the third hardware that I was able to get the product, and they were not Mickey Mouse shops either. That outlines the need to list retail outlets where readers are likely to find the product in question.



► Millers Falls 888 drill



On another positive note, I must commend your encouragement of upcycling. In the Jan/Feb issue, Andries Eyegelaar used recycled timber to make an Adirondack style chair. This should be encouraged because beautiful wood

is often sent to the dump – what a waste.

Malvin O'Donovan, by email

Ed replies: Yours is not the first request for us to include recommended retail prices and retail outlets in OTS. I understand the disappointment and frustration that can incur without these details. Our hesitation to do so stems from potential for changes in price, but a small disclaimer may resolve that issue. I will pass on your suggestions to our advertisers for their input.

WIN!

A Makita DHP453ZK 18V Cordless Impact Driver Drill

Share your opinion

Send us your views, ideas and opinions addressed to *The Home Handyman*:

Email: editorial@homehandyman.co.za

Fax: 086 551 0749

By mail: PO Box 48, Cramerview, 2060

Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Please note: Winners' prizes may take up to six weeks for delivery once the issue is on the shelf. The prize sponsor sends out the prizes.



Responsible living

The theme of this year's Grand Designs Live show at the Ticketpro Dome from 20-22 May is Responsible Living. This interactive home, design and garden show, brought to you by Black+Decker, is held annually and focuses on gardens, interiors, DIY, kitchens and bathrooms, with experts offering tips and demonstrations in these fields. General admittance is R95, pensioners and students pay R65 and children under 12 are free.

**GRAND
DESIGNS** **LIVE**
HOME & GARDEN SHOW

For more information
visit www.granddesignslive.co.za or call 021-140-1527

Get it Done is back

Get it Done is back in an all new series. Join DIY duo Peter and Annalien as they work on new and exciting projects and give you step-by-step instructions to inspire you to build your own. Peter says, "We'll show you the right tools to use and how to use them. We will also offer some handy household tips to make your life a little easier." Series 14 starts on 5 April with a new episode each week and various time slots so you don't miss an episode.

Show schedule:

Tuesday: 7.30pm; Wednesday: 10pm;
Thursday: 11.30am



On 29 March, Geberit Southern Africa will be moving its head office, training centre and warehouse to 6 Meadowview Lane, Meadowview Business Estate, Longmeadow, Linbro Park.

This follows Geberit's decision to expand its product offering to include ceramics and bathroom furniture to the existing range of plumbing and sanitaryware solutions. The new product line means the company now offers a full bathroom solution – behind and in front of the wall.

The expanded premises in Johannesburg will house the full product offering under one roof, catering for the needs of plumbers, installers, specifiers, merchants, retailers, architects, designers and end users.

In addition, the improved, more advanced training facility will ensure that trainees will experience both the theoretical and practical aspects of all the inner workings of various Geberit products.

For more information visit Geberit.co.za or email: sales.za@geberit.com

Submit your woodworking project

Tools4Wood in conjunction with Bosch, Home-Dzine and *The Home Handyman* would like to see your latest woodworking creation. To submit your project, visit the Tools4Wood website (www.tools4wood.co.za), follow the competition prompts and upload your images. These will be posted on the Tools4Wood Facebook page and the project that gets the most 'likes' wins. The competition will run until the end of April and there will be prizes for the six projects with the most likes.



Prizes include:

- **1st prize:** a Bosch POF 1400ACE Router and 12-piece accessory set
- **2nd and 3rd prize:** a Bosch POF 1200 AE Router and six-piece accessory set
- **4th, 5th and 6th prize:** a Bosch POF 1200 AE Router

All prizes will be delivered to your door courtesy of Bosch SA and all six winners will be invited to attend a workshop at the Bosch HQ in Midrand hosted by Peter du Bruyn, presenter of *Get It Done*, featured on DSTV's Home Channel.

Two brand new highlights at Decorex Cape Town

The second instalment of the country's three-part Decorex exhibition showcase takes place from 29 April to 2 May at the CTICC. This year, two new features will add an exciting artisanal spin to the décor, design and lifestyle exhibition. The first of these, Picture Africa at the 100% Textile Pavilion, is a celebration of the relationship between photography and textiles, and the impact both have on design in Africa. It aims to portray our creative talent to counteract the negative images found in the media.

The second new feature is the Maker's Corner, which forms part of the existing Craft + Create market. This year, the Craft + Create Market moves to the main foyer area of the CTICC and offers a colourful collection of handmade lifestyle products that showcase the talents and innovative designs from locals.



Things to look forward to at the Maker's Corner include an introduction to 3D printing and scanning for your home, smart electronics, robots, drones and laser cutting. Demos and workshops on everything from make-it-yourself lighting, furniture and pottery to leather craft, casting, welding and ironmongery will also take place.

For more information visit
www.decorex.co.za or
 email: decorexsa@thebereed.co.za



Introduction to power tools

Vermont Sales has announced that it will be running one-day courses on power tool use, application, construction, maintenance, safety and how to read and understand the information found on the specification plate. This month's course will take place on 13 April and all loyal customers are invited to attend.

Course outline:

- The electric drill: different types and drill bits.
- Saws and cutting tools: angle grinders, cut-off machines, wall chasers, chainsaws, circular saws, bandsaws, jigsaws, reciprocating saws, scroll saws, plus the correct saw blades to use.
- Surface treatment tools and accessories: sanders and polishers.
- Pneumatics: compressor maintenance as well as pneumatic tools and accessories.
- Spray finishing: how a spray gun works, how to use an airbrush and general maintenance.
- Assembly: the latest in clamping technology.
- Fixings: screws, bits and screwdrivers.
- Joinery: biscuit joiners and dowels.
- Profiling: routers.
- Wood preparation: using hand planers, surface planers and thicknesser planers.
- Lathes: spindle moulders.
- Metalwork: pop riveting and welding.

Vermont Sales training facilitator Stefan Lé Hanie says, "Completion of this comprehensive one-day course will go a long way in making you a DIY champion, and not many could add to the knowledge gained about woodworking tools. After a day with us, you will know everything about how they work and what they can do." Additional courses and dates will be announced on the Vermont Sales website – bookings are essential.

For more information visit www.vsevents.co.za
 or call 011-314-7711



Peeling barge boards

I reside in the northern suburbs of Cape Town. My residence is 35 years old and I'm a keen DIY'er, love woodworking and have done my own maintenance over the years. Our summers are windy and I have to pay special attention to the exterior woodwork, including the doors, window frames, fascias and barge boards. My question is – why would the paint on two of the barge boards keep peeling off despite all getting the same treatment? This includes cleaning, wood primer, undercoat (when needed) and paint. The wood primer, undercoat and paint are all Plascon Wall & All products. The wood was bought at the same outlet, at the same time years ago and treated equally.

This is really frustrating, as over the years I have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to overcome and prevent this problem. I experienced the same problem last year with the paint, topcoat, undercoat and primer all peeling off, exposing the bare boards in less than a year. I do believe my method of working is correct as the rest of the boards are all in perfect condition. I would appreciate any advice you may have to overcome this problem and prevent it from reoccurring.

Blackie Swart, Monte Vista, Cape Town

Technical services consultant at Prominent Paints, Herman Rabe replies: Thank you for your enquiry regarding the premature paint failure you experience on a regular basis – an understandable and justifiable frustration. Various factors need to be considered when painting and in this instance I believe the macroclimate your paint is being exposed to may be to blame. A possible reason for the continuous cracking and peeling of your paint may also be the moisture content of the wooden surface.

The expansion and contraction of the wood causes the primer, the first coating, (non-flexible) to crack. Once the paint film has been opened and it starts to rain, moisture penetrates the surface, resulting in the peeling you are experiencing. With just photographic evidence to go on, my response may not be entirely accurate,

but taking what you have said into consideration, it is the most likely scenario.

Prepare your surface by removing all the loose and flaky paint and wipe the surface down with a damp rag to get rid of all the surface dust as you have done before. Then make sure that the moisture levels are below 15% before the application of new paint. Apply one full coat of Prominent Ultra Prime (flexible) and then apply two final coats of Prominent Ultra Sheen - all in accordance with the product's technical data sheet.

Prominent Paints would like to offer you a five-litre Prominent Ultra Prime and a five-litre Prominent Premium Satin to use on your paint project. We will also gladly send out one of our expert technicians to assist you with the moisture reading in the substrate prior to painting – expertise that will greatly improve your chances of success.

Contact the Prominent Paints Technical Department on 011-389-4746

Winning query

This month's winning query comes from Roland Zacharie who wins a Drill Bit Sharpener and a 2-in-1 Knife and Scissor Sharpener from Vermont





Adhesive for laminate surface

I want to make doggy steps from standard laminated chipboard shelving. When finished, I would like it to be four steps in all with a total height of about 600mm. This equates to a step graduation of about 140mm or so for each step. What adhesive should I use to glue the white laminated surface, which may be a white PVC coated edge, to the cut chipboard edge? The edges are at right angles to each other, with the smooth laminated end glued to the cut exposed chipboard edge. It was suggested that I use Gorilla Glue, but I am not sure about that and it is quite expensive.

Eric Jacobson

Product manager at Vermont Sales, Greg de Villiers replies: Gluing melamine is a huge issue as you need an adhesive that can adhere to the smooth surface. There are three products that I have used successfully. The first is two part epoxy, available at most hardware stores. Pattex No More Nails Exterior and Pattex PL700 or FT101 are MS-Polymer adhesives and problem-solvers and should work as well.

Ed responds: The scientists at Alcolin recommend Bostik Evo-Stik Sticks for this application. Den Braven is another well-known brand and it offers High Tack for this application. It has high initial tack, meaning no slipping and sliding and almost instant adhesion. It can adhere a 25kg piece of natural stone to a wall in a matter of seconds, so your dog will no doubt have a secure platform to stand on.

Brad point wood bit increments



WINNING QUERY

I have been looking for brad point wood drill bits in standard metric sizes $+1/2 - 4.5\text{mm}$ in particular. Unlike steel bits, I have never encountered half sizes in wood bits. Extensive enquiries in this regard have proved fruitless, and I hope you can shed some light on this subject. Are they available at all, and, if so, where?

Roland Zacharie, by email

Product manager at Vermont Sales, Greg de Villiers replies: Thank you for the enquiry. The simple answer is yes you do get half size brad point drill bits, but demand is low so retailers don't stock them. One of the reasons is that the nearest mm would normally suffice when working with wood. For instance, a 4mm pilot hole would accommodate a 4.5mm screw. In addition, the tolerances provided by wood are greatly different to that of steel. I have contacted Alpen, our drill bit manufacturer, for comment and we will advise should we receive a useful response.

For more information contact Vermont Sales on 011-314-7711

WIN!

A TC BS001 bicycle stand from Vermont Sales

Ask our experts

Send us your DIY queries and you could win!

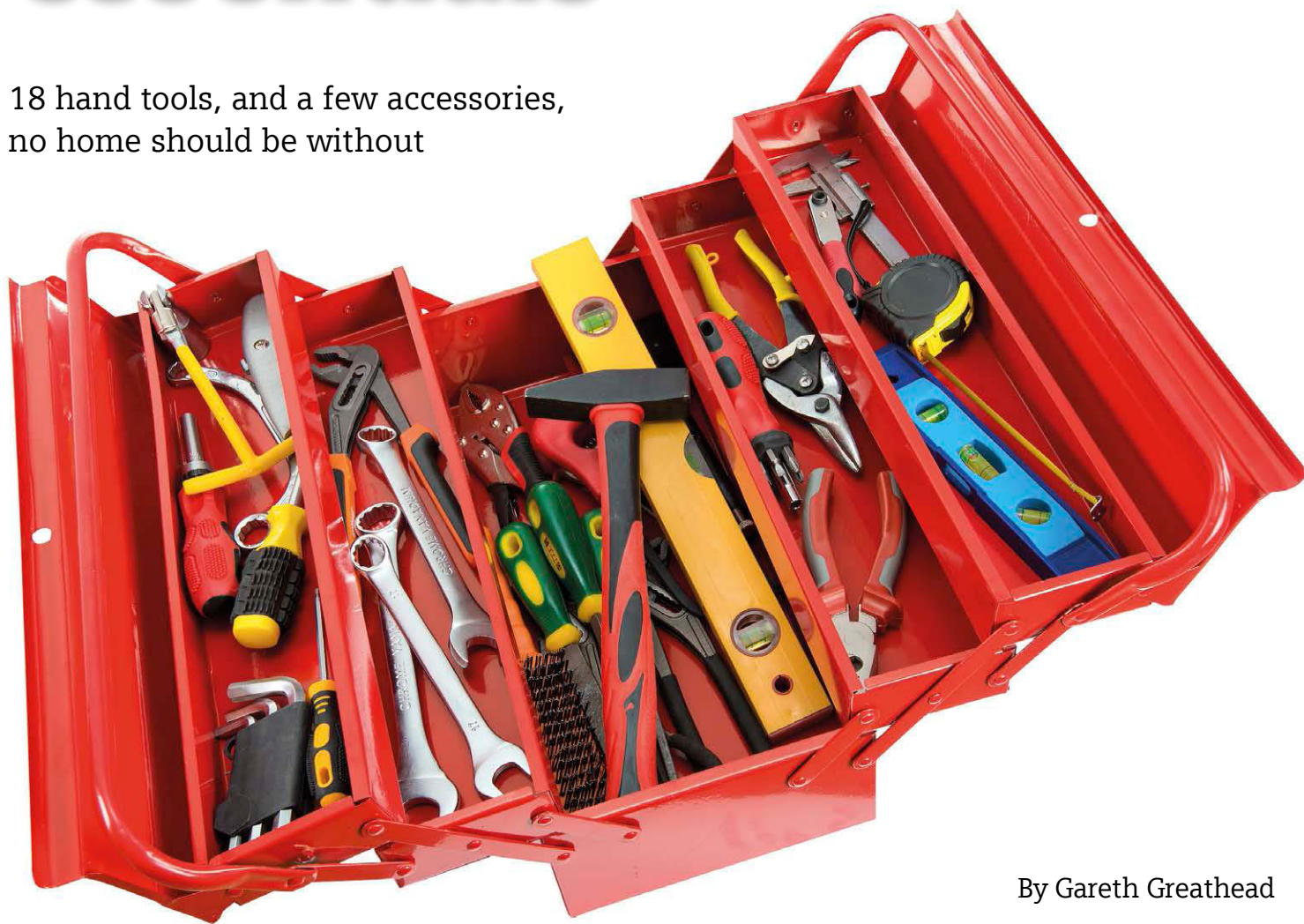
Send your query to:
The Home Handyman DIY Queries,
PO Box 48 Cramerview, 2060 or Fax: 086 551 0749
Email: editorial@homehandyman.co.za
Remember to include your physical address and telephone number during office hours.

Please note: Queries will be answered in the magazine. Winners' prizes may take up to six weeks for delivery and are sent by the prize sponsor.



Home toolbox essentials

18 hand tools, and a few accessories, no home should be without



By Gareth Greathead

Choosing what tools to buy first or which ones to keep inside your home isn't easy. The vast number of purpose made tools makes it difficult to decide what you will actually need. Even if you have more tools than you care to count, choosing which ones will be most useful among well-established favourites is difficult. However, pulling aside only the 'home essentials' and keeping these neatly stored in one place will prevent you having to run from the garage or workshop and back to the house to do a single job. Whether you have all the tools or only a few, part of the trick is selecting the most versatile tools while keeping in mind your most frequently called upon tasks.

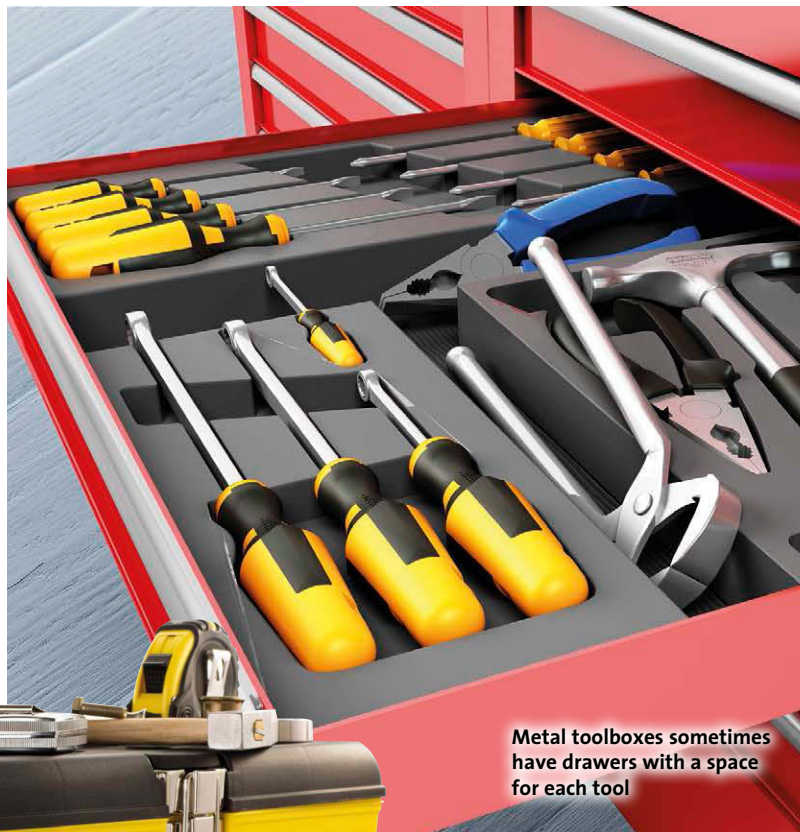
Toolboxes – hard case or fabric

A toolbox keeps your tools safe, secure and ready for use. The toolbox you choose should have enough space to keep your tools well organised with additional space for the smaller items and accessories. When rummaging through an unorganised toolbox, everything begins to look the same and you get distracted as you find the tools you were looking for last week.

Before trying to put a home toolbox together, consider how much space you have, where the toolbox will be kept and who will be using it. Most people do not have the space for a large toolbox inside and they can be difficult to carry. At the same time, large unwieldy boxes increase the probability of collision with a less 'durable' object such as the corner of a wall.

Quality metal toolboxes will last a lifetime and modern versions are compact considering what they can house. Top manufacturers sell complete kits with pull-out drawers for screwdrivers, spanners, pliers and bits. Provided you put everything back when you're finished, everything will be in the same place each time.

Plastic toolboxes come in a massive variety of shapes, colours and sizes. Many of these are extremely durable and will also last a lifetime. Others are water-resistant and prevent tools from getting wet should there be a sudden downpour. A major benefit of plastic, hard case toolboxes is the large number of compartments able to house many small tools and accessories neatly.



Metal toolboxes sometimes have drawers with a space for each tool



▲ Plastic toolboxes are durable

▼ Fabric toolbags have convenient side storage pockets



Tip

Fabric bags that wrap around your waist can be kept in conjunction with your toolbox in the cupboard. Tools for the job at hand can be pulled from the carry box, freeing your much-needed hands.

Fabric tool bags are lightweight and can be carried around the home without hassle. Like plastic toolboxes, fabric varieties come in many sizes and offer convenient side storage pockets for things like pliers and screwdrivers, which can be accessed without having to pull everything out of the bag.

Handheld tools for the home toolbox

1. Long shaft screwdrivers

While not used as much as before the advent of drill drivers, they are easy to carry around, don't need charging and can reach even the most concealed screw heads. On top of that, nothing beats the feel or quality of a beautifully crafted screwdriver. Features to look out for include soft grip, non-slip handles and slip and strip resistant bits. It all comes down to the metal used and the protective coating applied. Another interesting feature on some premium screwdrivers is the feedback transferred through the shaft into the handle and finally to your wrist. You may notice a sort of flexibility built into the shaft, which enables better control of how tightly the screw is set; this is referred to as 'torquing' of the screw.

2. Jewellers screwdrivers

There is little doubt that you will be exchanging two-pin plugs with three-pin replacements and changing batteries in remotes and children's toys. Repair of home electronics will also call on these specialised but widely available screwdrivers.

3. Compact multi-drive

These screwdrivers sometimes have a ratchet mechanism, and branded ones



The right screwdriver will reach even the most concealed screw heads



Tip

It is a good idea to keep at least one Phillips stub driver in your collection; these enable you to get into tight spaces no other driver, electric or handheld, will manage.

don't fold over every couple of turns and the ratchet mechanism doesn't fail after two uses. T-style ratchet drivers fit in the palm of your hand, enabling good leverage and manoeuvrability. These screwdrivers are the most space efficient and versatile given the large variety of bits carried onboard.

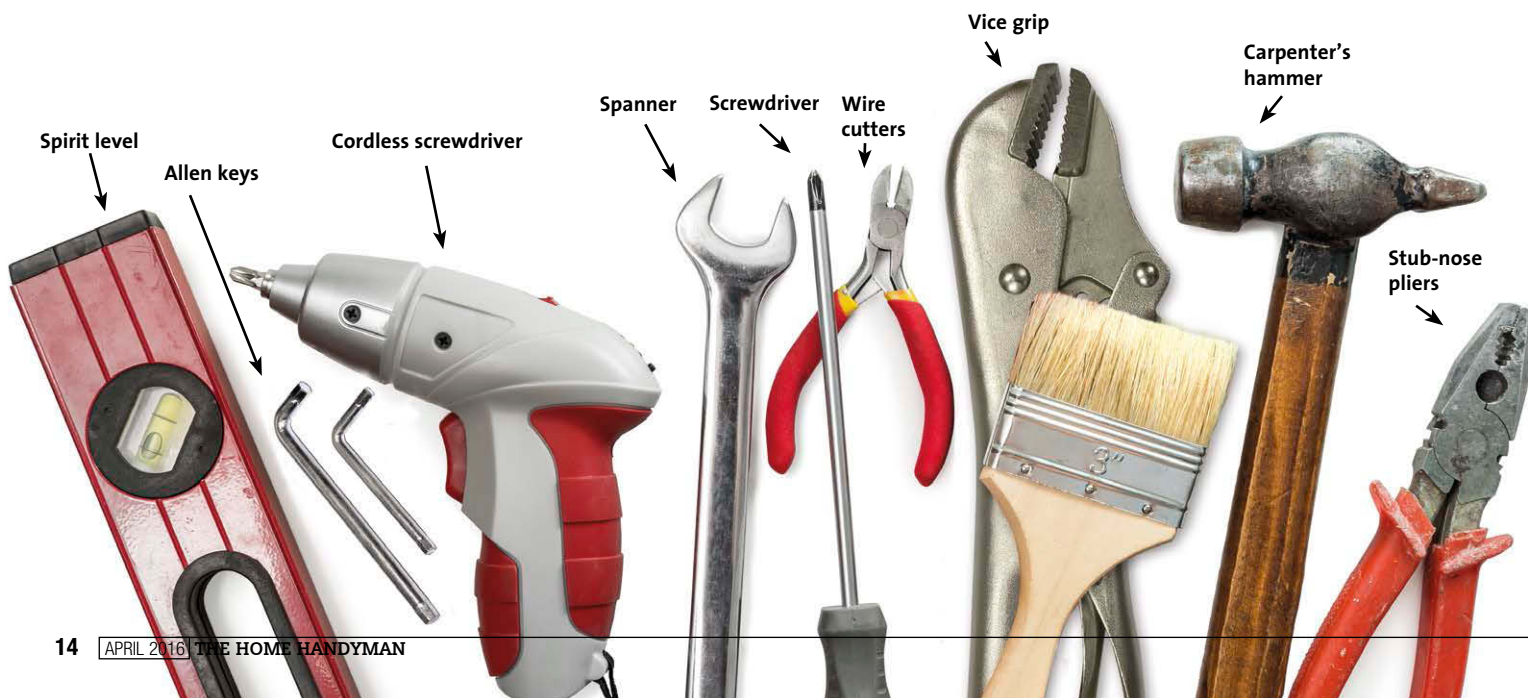
4. Allen key/ hex key

Many of the bathroom fixings and knock-down furniture available use hex screws. Complete sets with both metric and imperial standard sizes aren't always

necessary. A handheld compact all-in-one version has a comfortable grip and contains all the popular metric sizes.

5. Measuring tape

A 3m measuring tape is compact and you will hardly ever have to measure a distance longer than that.



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Again, development in the area has resulted in some rather over engineered versions of this old faithful.

Many of these are targeted at tradesmen who use their tapes every day, and convenient features like a magnet on the end of the tape do offer some solace.

6. Adjustable square rules

These are a modification of fixed rules that, depending on the side you are measuring from, can be difficult to position for accurate measurements. The modified form features a removable ruler, which can also be pulled from one side of the 'square to the other', meaning it is always possible to set the corner at zero whether measuring from left or right.

7. Spirit level

There is no need for a metre-long builder's level to be kept inside the home. This is one tool most of us already have, but its usefulness means it gets transferred from location to location and finding it each time is a nightmare. Smaller levels are equally as accurate as larger ones and can be used to good effect in keeping everything straight.



▲ Every household needs a good knife

8. Pencil

Maybe more than one, no need for explanation...

9. Hobby knife/Stanley knife

A good knife is the staple of almost every industry and hobby.

10. Hammer

If all else fails, out comes the hammer. Even if you aren't one to apply force to resolve an issue, it is a necessary item used to knock wall plugs in place and more. There is no need for a heavy and cumbersome hammer unless you're knocking a hole through a wall. A carpenter's hammer is slim and more versatile with its two-sided hammer head. It has an ordinary flat hitting surface on one side and a rounded head on the other designed to hit nails deeper into the surface. This is also useful when getting wall plugs flush with the surface of the wall.

If you hit in nails regularly and often hit the nails on your hand, there are hammers with a 'nail starter' attachment where the nail can be inserted for initial setting of the nail. This prevents hits to the hand and subsequent black nails or blood blisters.

11. Vice grip

This tool is a favourite among many DIY fanatics and tradesmen alike. The adjustable locking jaws ensure a good grip on any nut – even those that are stripped. It is also good for pulling nails out, removing rods and other troublesome hardware. The main disadvantage is the bulkiness of the tool, limiting the places where it can be used.



Tip

A side cutter is not made to cut 'bloudraad' – this will certainly leave an impression on the blades no matter how much you spent on the tool.

12. Side cutter pliers

There are specialised wire cutters designed to skin wires without breaking the strands of copper. Side cutters can be used to do the same thing and with some practise offer the same results, bar a bit of extra time spent on preparation before skinning of the wire casing can be done effectively. Side cutters can also be used to cut plastic or wooden rods/dowels and soft 'mild steel' wire.

13. Long-nose pliers

Reach into gaps like no other and are also useful when picking up a fallen screw. If you find yourself working on small components regularly, needle nose versions enable better control of these.



Keep a variety of pliers to pull, twist, grab and even cut



▲ The caulking gun helps you achieve professional results when sealing and gluing fixtures

14. Stub-nose pliers

Long-nose pliers or even a vice grip can often be used as a substitute to your stub-nose pliers. Essentially, stub-nose pliers have a larger gripping area than a long-nose and less flex in the jaws for a tighter fix on the object.

15. Hacksaw

A junior hacksaw will cut metal, plastic and wood the same as an ordinary sized version, but the process takes longer and requires more energy because of the reduced stroke length. When buying a hacksaw, be sure to get a good one, and the same is true for the blade. Cheaper versions will not tension the blade correctly and the blade will twist out of place, necessitating regular adjustment of the blade.

16. Spanners

There is no getting away from keeping at least some spanners. These make insertion of Rawl bolts and lug screws possible. You could, of course, use a one size fits all, like an adjustable wrench, but really there is no substitute for a proper spanner.



▼ Choose a good quality hacksaw

Smaller sets with only the popular sizes are often held together with a clip and don't take up much space. Designs where the spanners are slotted into plastic or fabric sleeves are more comprehensive while also being space efficient.

Quality spanners will last a lifetime and new and innovative designs ensure there are no stripped bolt heads or nuts. Today there are a number of manufacturers that claim to offer a lifetime warranty/ guarantee. The problem is that any tool can be broken if used incorrectly or even if weakened with years of abuse.

Offset spanners make it easier to access hard-to-reach places. Other types come with ratchets built into the hex, meaning there is no lifting the spanner off and back onto the bolt head between turns. Multiple spline spanners obtain a better grip on the bolt head, resist slippage and also make it easier to position the spanner over the bolt in order to get a larger turning angle.

There is no substitute for a proper spanner



Tip

Using one spanner to obtain leverage on another isn't advised – neither is slipping a bar over the handle for the same reason.

17. Caulking gun

This tool houses cartridges of sealant or adhesive and when the trigger is squeezed, it dispenses a consistent bead of the product being applied. The range of sealants and adhesives designed for use in these guns is vast. The canisters have a shelf life of only a year or two, so keeping stock is not advised unless you are a regular user of a particular cartridge. With just this gun and some knowledge on how to use it, you can achieve professional results when resealing window frames, junctions between basins and counters, gaps in ceilings, securing cornices and much more.



Tip

Hot glue guns can be used to glue multi-plug adapters to the back of TV cabinets or anywhere else for convenient use.

18. Hot glue gun

With some imagination, this useful tool can be used for a large variety of tasks. Inside the home it is most regularly used for tidying up of cables. If the wires need to be moved at a later stage, they can be pulled away relatively easily with little to no damage to the surface they were stuck to.



You can do a lot with only a few accessories

Accessories

LED headlamp

As a DIY fundi, you will inevitably find yourself working in dark spaces, most often in the roof or after dark doing an emergency repair. You probably already have several of these well hidden in your home, but finding one when you need it is impossible. Keeping one in your toolbox, and replacing it after use, is much easier than trying to balance your cell phone on a precarious edge 3m from the ground. The light emitted from these can be directed at the job site without you having to fiddle.

6mm wall plugs with screws

6mm plugs will have a 4mm screw that is strong enough to hold most fixings such as towel rails, toilet roll holders and picture frames.

Drill bits

In most cases, a small portable contractor's kit of drill bits will suffice. Boxes with the most common sizes for masonry work (4mm, 6mm, 8mm) steel work (3mm, 4mm, 6mm) are of high quality and are kept neatly in a small case.

Conex fittings

Your house is bound to spring a leak at some stage, either through a DIY

mishap or otherwise. An exposed soldered copper elbow fitting may be bumped or kicked accidentally and this could cause the solder to fracture, causing a leak. After the water has been switched off, the elbow can be sawn off and replaced with a Conex in a matter of minutes.

Insulation tape

For covering electrical wires.

Duct tape

Another favourite of not only the handyman but MacGyvers everywhere. People combine ingenuity with the inherent strength of this tape to achieve things not thought possible. Use at your discretion...

PTFE tape

This is used to seal the threads on plumbing fixtures, creating a watertight seal.

Cyanoacrylate

Dries instantly and is one of the oldest and most popular multipurpose adhesives. It is important to remember that some plastics are difficult to glue using any adhesive, like nylon. Also, the bond formed in all instances is brittle and may not withstand movement, heat and UV exposure very well. We all know this, but no harm in trying... ✖

An environmentally friendly Wendy house

Gaetano Gesualdo explains how he made a Wendy house using recycled materials

By Aarifah Nosarka

Gaetano Gesualdo, a 65-year-old Italian expatriate tool and die maker who has resided in South Africa for about 20 years, has years of experience building practical items. We take a look at his latest creation – a wooden Wendy house type structure with two separate entrances and consisting of a room, bathroom and kitchen, which he built using what he calls ‘scrap’ material.

“It all began with my need to find a shed to store my tools. I priced around and after finding prices ranging between R30 000 to R75 000 for a Wendy house, I decided to build one myself.”

Gaetano says there was no rush to complete the project, which evolved from a tool shed to housing a worker at his Nigel property on Gauteng’s East Rand.

Gaetano used about 6 000 pieces of pallet wood to build the Wendy house



Gaetano shows the wooden roof trusses he put together

The exterior

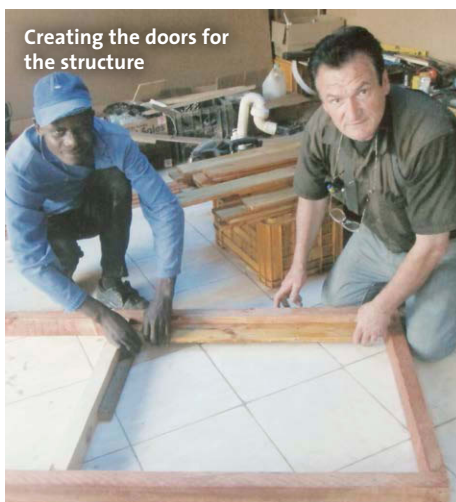
Gaetano began by collecting enough pallets to begin construction of the Wendy house.

"Altogether I used approximately 6 000 pieces of pallet wood. I used a plane to smooth down each plank after they were individually removed from their pallets using a crowbar." After all the planks were smoothed out, which took about a month, they were stacked up and stored in Gaetano's yard.

"My son, one of my employees and I initiated construction by excavating 300mm of sand from the area where we decided to build the foundation. We dug up an area 10m in length and 5m in width. We poured the concrete and left it to dry." A total of 30 bags of cement, 15m³ of sand and 10m³ stone was mixed to create the foundation.

Next, they laid three layers of bricks (about 200) on the concrete base. Gaetano says more than 50 pieces of 40 x 100mm structural pine were used as the frame of the wooden home.

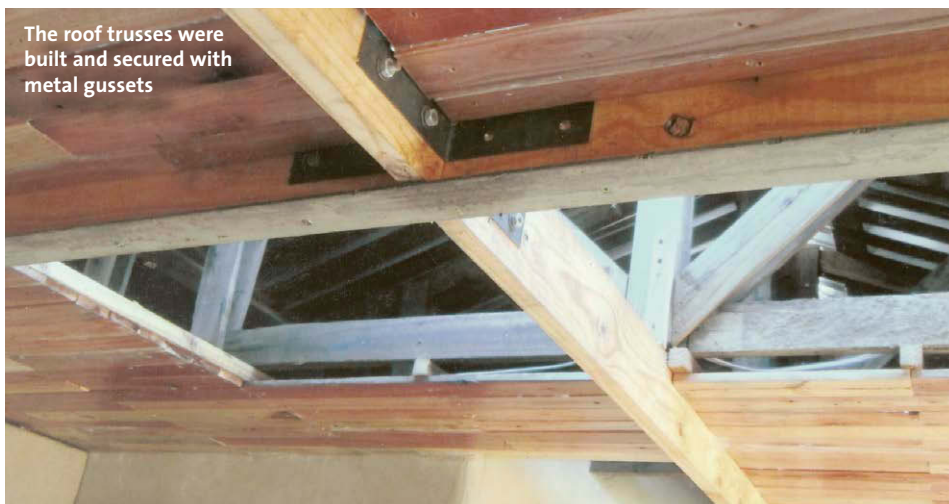
"These were placed vertically and we secured the individual pallet wood



Creating the doors for the structure

horizontally against the structural pine using nails. Space was left for the addition of window frames at a later stage. The complete wooden house has four windows in the front section and two on each of the sides."

Gaetano says approximately 450 nails were used to attach the planks to the structural supports. The door frames and doors were constructed using a generous amount of the pallet wood planks. The roof trusses were built and secured with metal gussets. "Four roof trusses were placed on both the right and left side of the wooden structure. A total of eight was placed inside.



The roof trusses were built and secured with metal gussets



A combination of wood varnish and thinners was used to protect the wood

It took a total of seven months of hard work to complete the Wendy house

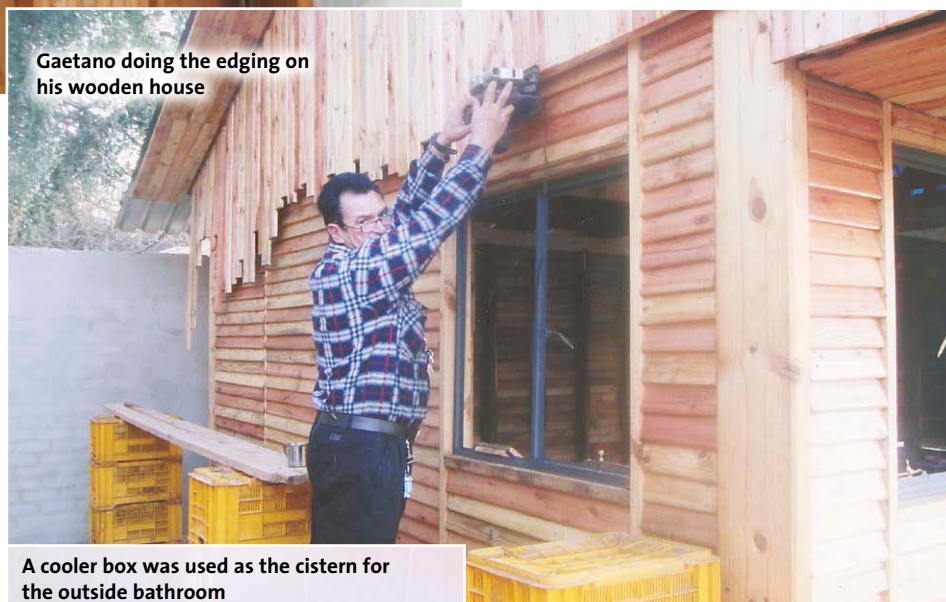
This was done to secure the home so that it does not collapse.”

An area was left open to attach a clear roof sheet on a small section of the roof. “This is the skylight for the Wendy house and allows more light to penetrate through, so there is light inside without the need to use electricity. The corrugated sheet was attached using corrugated fasteners.

The interior

Gaetano used 15m³ of ceramic tiles for the interior floor of the Wendy house. “I searched for a tile supplier and opted for redundant tiles. The tiles I chose were not tainted or damaged in any way, they were quality tiles.” He says the supplier only had one box left, so two different styles of tiles were purchased. The wooden structure’s bathroom has both a shower and toilet.

A second-hand garbage bin was utilised as a cistern for the toilet inside the house. “The 25-litre capacity bin is perfect. I drilled a hole through the right-hand side of the bin and connected a pipe through it.” Gaetano also built an outside toilet using a cooler box as the cistern and had that connected in the same way. “I called in a plumber and an electrician to do the electrical and plumbing work required.”



Gaetano doing the edging on his wooden house



A cooler box was used as the cistern for the outside bathroom

The kitchen units were built using solid wood purchased at a hardware store. Gaetano is sure his ‘hand-built’ wooden home will last for many years without being affected by weathering. “The combination of wood varnish and thinners works well to protect wood. I applied five coats to ensure it will withstand weathering.” He says diluting wood varnish and thinners ensures that the mixture seeps through the wood, thereby providing a solid layer of protection. It took a total of seven months to complete the Wendy house. “I am proud of this structure and will continue improving its internal aesthetics,” says Gaetano. ✖

Household tasks made easy

Ensure the top and sides of the handles are horizontally and vertically true before screwing them in place

Replace door handles, install blinds, hang picture frames and reseal basins or sinks with ease

By Aarifah Nosarka

Replacing a door handle

Door handles are used regularly on a daily basis and must work properly not only to prevent agitation, but also for security reasons. The general rule when selecting door handles is to choose good quality units for lasting performance. Changing a door handle can also be done for aesthetic reasons, but are most often replaced when worn or broken.

In order to choose the correct handle for your door, measure the backset and hole diameter of the door in question. The hole links the handle on the outside to that on the inside, and the backset is the distance from the edge of the door to the centre of the lock itself.

Method

Step 1: Start by removing the old handle. To do this, unscrew the screws

from both sides of the handle plate. Do this one side at a time, starting at the bottom and ending at the top. If you are unable to find the screws, it may be because the door handle has a cover plate. This can be easily removed using the blade of a flat screwdriver to clip off the plate.

Step 2: Make sure the face plate or strike plate is still secure and the screws are flush. If the face plate is not secure, it may be a safety hazard, and if the screws are not flush, they can prevent the door from closing properly. The internals of the lock can also be replaced if necessary by removing the face plate.

Step 3: Read the instructions provided with the new handle; assembly directions may differ between brands. Align the front and back handles and insert these through the holes and into the cylinder mechanism provided (this links the inside and outside handles). It is best to use a level when positioning the handles to ensure the top and sides of the handles are horizontally and vertically true before screwing them in place.



Tools

- Screwdriver
- Ruler
- The new handle
- Spirit level

Installing blinds

Dressing your windows can be a difficult decision thanks to the variety of options available. However, if you are exchanging outdated curtains for blinds, a DIY installation is simple and will save you money. Common blinds consist of horizontal or vertical slats, which can be opened or pulled aside using a mechanism. The slats can be adjusted to alter the amount of light allowed in or opened fully for maximum light.

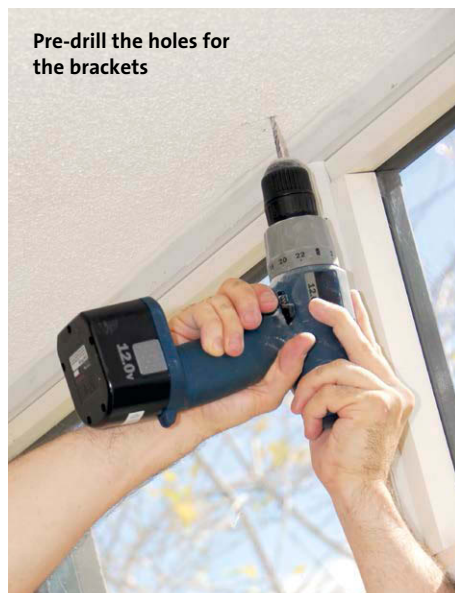


Tools

- Stepladder (use at your discretion)
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Screwdriver
- Drill driver

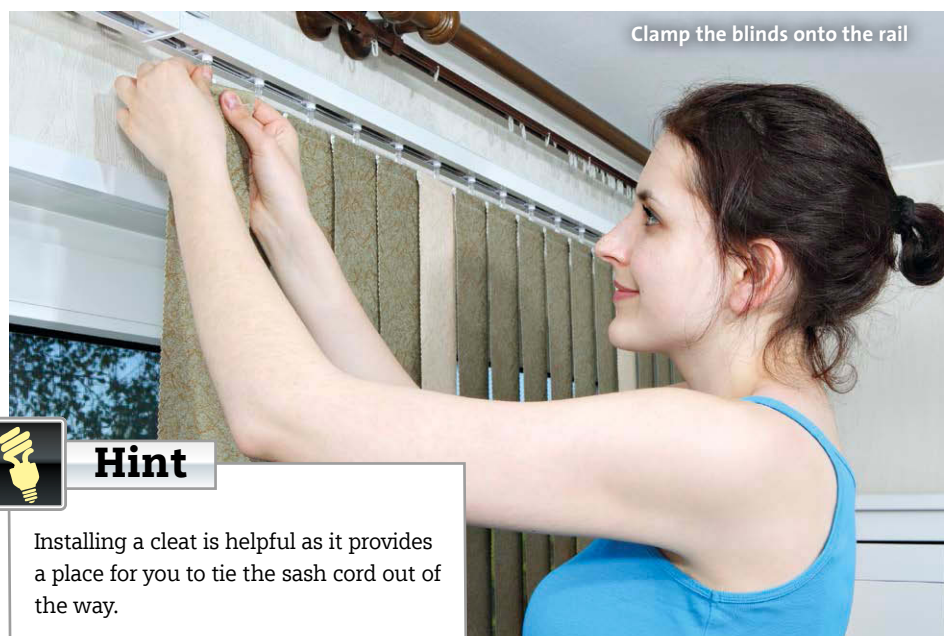
Method

Step 1: Before purchasing your blinds, measure the width and height of the wall surrounding the window. Subtract about 10mm from the width to allow for clearance on either side and add a couple



of millimetres to the top and bottom for adequate length.

Step 2: Once you have the blinds, mark the dimensions described above on the top of the wall surrounding the window. Also measure and mark the space in-between the window and the end of the wall opening. While doing this, consider how the blind will look in this position, and make sure it is not positioned too close to the window.



Hint

Installing a cleat is helpful as it provides a place for you to tie the sash cord out of the way.

Step 3: Hold the bracket in place and use it as a template to mark the screw holes. Pre-drill the holes and secure the bracket with wall plugs and screws using a screwdriver or drill driver.

Step 4: Mount the headrail (the top portion of the blinds) in the brackets. Venetian blinds are normally locked into place by a swivel catch on each bracket and others are simply clamped.

Test that the mechanism works by raising and lowering the blind. Lowering or moving the blind across involves pulling the sash chord across the front of the blind, which releases the lock mechanism, then letting the sash cord slide through your hand.

Resealing a bath, basin or sink

When you notice that the silicone sealant around your bath, basin or sink is peeling or that there is mould build-up, this is indicative that a reseal is required. All silicone seals must be kept in good condition, otherwise water will penetrate and cause damage. Before resealing the junctions around your sanitaryware, remove the old sealant from the surrounding areas.



Tools

- Utility knife
- Paint scraper
- Silicone/sealant
- Latex gloves



Hint

To avoid squeezing out too much or too little sealant, practise on a piece of scrap paper or cardboard until you get the hang of it. Masking tape can also be applied parallel to the gap to prevent the spread of excess silicone.



Hold the nozzle against the gap to be sealed and pull the trigger slowly and smoothly

To remove old sealant cut along the length of the silicone



Applying new sealant on top of the old is not advised because the new silicone won't stick very well to the old stuff.

Removing the old sealant

Use a utility knife to carefully cut along the length of the silicone, loosening it vertically and horizontally without scratching or damaging the surface you are removing it from. Peel away the loose silicone and scrape off the remainder with a paint scraper. There may be some small strands of sealant left. Remove these by dabbing a little white spirit on an old cloth and rubbing it over the excess strands until they come off. Clean the area with water and a



If the silicone extends past the joint, you can use your finger to smooth the sealant

mild detergent. Thoroughly dry the surface before attempting to apply new sealant. There are several ways to reapply a silicone seal, but the one described below uses only a cartridge of applicable sealant, a caulking gun and a nozzle cutter or blade.

Method

Step 1: Read the manufacturer's instructions on how to apply the sealant. Pull the nozzle away from the cartridge, screw the nozzle onto the cartridge and trim it diagonally leaving a hole twice the width of the bead of silicone you intend laying down.

Step 2: Hold the vertical opening against the gap being sealed and push the gun away from you while pulling the trigger slowly and smoothly, ensuring that you work it well into the gap. This should lay down the perfect fillet of silicone without you having to touch the silicone.



Hint

Natural stone can be affected by some silicones and it is important to use a neutral curing silicone.

Hanging a picture

A house without decoration is not a home. Hanging pictures or paintings allows you to show off your family members or reveal your artistic side. They also add a splash of colour to a room and give it a unique personal touch.

Method

Step 1: Position your picture by holding it against the wall and mark the top using a pencil or tape. If your frame is too large to hold, use a level instead of the picture itself, taking into consideration the dimensions.



Tools

- Spirit level
- Tape measure
- Pencil or tape
- Drill driver (only necessary if you are drilling into the wall)
- Picture screw/picture hanging strips/adhesive nails, hooks, sawtooth fasteners or double-sided tape

Hang pictures with ease



Step 2: Turn the picture around and measure the distance from the top of the frame to the hook. Transfer the measurement to the wall moving downwards from where you marked with pencil or tape.

Step 3: Draw an X on the spot where you need to drill the hole for the picture screw to be inserted.

Step 4: After drilling in the desired location, insert the plug and screw.

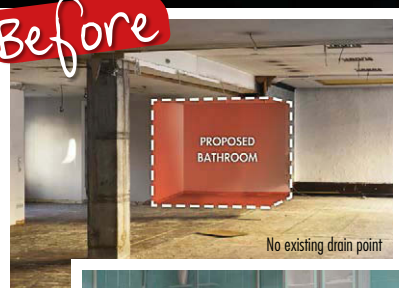
Modern fixings

Modern fixings may differ in design. People staying in rented homes are often not allowed to make any holes or add permanent fixtures. Ways to hang a picture on a wall without creating any holes include using picture hanging strips, adhesive nails and hooks, sawtooth fasteners or double-sided tape (for lighter objects – avoid hanging anything with a frame when using double-sided tape).

Ensure that the wall surface and picture are clean and dry when using adhesive products so they stick properly. Follow step 1 described above as well as the manufacturer's instructions for a perfectly mounted picture frame. ✂

STOP BREAKING CONCRETE INSTALL A BATHROOM ANYWHERE

Before



After



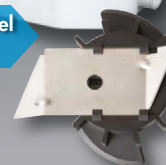
Discharge: 5 m vertically or 100 m horizontally (or combination of less)



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PLUMBING THE POSSIBILITIES

Women are doing it for themselves

Presenter and DIY enthusiast Elle Franco explains why she chose 'DIY in the public eye'

Elle Franco attended Bracken High School in the south of Johannesburg and went on to study psychology at UJ where she graduated with a BA Honours degree. "My family has always been into DIY and I grew up helping my parents with work around the home and garden. By the time I was 14 I had the basics and began doing my own DIY projects." Over the past four years Elle has built a business doing what she calls "DIY in the public eye".

Why DIY?

When offering career advice, psychologists agree that it has a lot to do with identifying your passion and finding a way to make a living from it. Elle says, "My interest in DIY has enabled me to combine my love for presenting with DIY." It began with writing blogs and sharing ideas with others online and has grown from there.

Two years ago Elle started doing live presentations at Builders Warehouse stores and home expos. "The workspace at Builders Warehouse was positioned near the magazine rack at the front of the store and I often got distracted by *The Home Handyman's* cover. I fantasised about being featured in the magazine and here I am."

With increased demand for her involvement, Elle started a brand for herself called DIY with Elle. In September last year she joined the Ian F show on Hot 91.9FM. She has a regular slot every Wednesday afternoon called *Nailing DIY* at 3:30pm. She comes up with a topic each week and offer advice on DIY projects, including tips and tricks.



▲ Elle does live presentations at Builders Warehouse stores and home expos

Not only has DIY enabled Elle to start her own business, it has also saved her a lot of money. "With the experience gained over the years, I have been able to save a lot of money furnishing my new house by making some of my own furniture."

Women in DIY

Elle says that there are three things that prevent enthusiastic women from getting involved in DIY. "Firstly, a lot of the anxiety women feel is related to a fear of the unknown. Unlike me, some women have not been exposed to DIY.

"Secondly, there is the perception that you need to be big and strong to do DIY. This is not true because power tools do the work for you. If you are exerting a lot of energy using a power tool, you aren't using it correctly. By allowing the tool to do the work, it will not only become easier, you will also see better results.

"Thirdly, there is the intimidating noise and mechanical action some of the tools make and the perceived danger. As soon as I need to cut a piece of wood at a presentation and I start up the jigsaw I see terror on the faces of the audience." The fear of getting injured using a power tool can be reduced with responsible use of the tool as well as the use of personal protective equipment. Hearing protection will reduce noise levels, gloves will reduce vibration and safety eyewear will help to keep your eyes safe.



Try something new

The best way to develop confidence in DIY is to start with something small and build your way up to more challenging projects. "Each time you go back you'll find yourself using another tool and gaining confidence in using it. The first tools you should buy include a cordless drill, a jigsaw and an orbital sander. With these you will be able to refurbish old furniture and upcycle or build other household items."

Elle says she looks at current trends in architecture and design, and draws much of her inspiration from these. "Inspiration also comes from what I see in magazines and social media platforms like DIY blogs, Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest and Instagram. I never start a project without doing research and this is where I get addicted and excitement begins to build. With the basic concept in mind I begin to adjust the design to suit my style."

Elle's advice to women? "Be inspired and get involved in DIY. Enrol for courses that explain how power tools work, how to use them safely and what they can be used for." ✂

Project guide



Difficulty: Beginner/intermediate



Estimated cost: ±R200



Estimated time: Two hours

Show appreciation for your mom this Mother's Day with this simple project

By Aarifah Norsaka

Make a bath caddy

I cannot stress the importance of preparation. When I say preparation, I don't mean getting the necessary tools and materials together, but an idea or vision of how you would like the finished product to turn out. "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," are the wise words of Benjamin Franklin. As such, we started by researching various bath caddy designs before settling on what we thought would be simple yet elegant. The design, tools needed and construction methods must be within your reach and capacity to be enjoyable.



Tools & Materials

- Drill driver
- Pocket-hole jig
- Compound mitre saw
- Jigsaw
- Router table
- Round over bit
- Cove bit
- Sander
- Two sash clamps
- Twelve 4 x 32mm pocket-hole screws
- Six 4mm x 30mm wood screws
- Wood glue
- Sealant or varnish
- Medium-sized paintbrushes
- Artist's brush
- Pencil

With many of us leading such hectic, on-the-go lifestyles, the occasional break from reality is welcomed. After work, there is nothing more relaxing than a warm bubble bath to soak away those body aches and pains, which we needed after a day in the workshop. A bath caddy makes the experience even more pleasurable by providing a space for a good book and a glass of wine. The bath caddy is the ultimate relaxation companion and can be built using this fairly simple slatted design.



Note!

We used protective eyewear throughout the construction of this project.



1 Greg de Villiers marked off the measurements before cutting



2 Greg assisting Aarifah to cut the wood to size using a compound mitre saw

The ladies from *The Home Handyman* team were fortunate that Greg de Villiers from Vermont Sales was able to assist with this project that both I and subscriptions manager Candida Giambò Kruger bravely tackled. This project was Candida's first attempt at a DIY creation and it was a second for me. The wood used was sponsored by Foresta Timber and Board in Alrode. *The Home Handyman* duo visited the Vermont Sales workshop in Midrand where the bath caddy was assembled.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: Measure the width of the bathtub, both outside and inside, to establish the measurements required to create your caddy. We used six 570mm x 30 x 20mm, two 770 x 50 x 20mm and three 210 x 20 x 20mm strips of meranti.

Step 2: Cut the pieces of wood using a compound mitre saw if the wood was not cut at the timber merchant. We cut the six pieces of 570mm to form the bottom part of the tray in the workshop. The two 770mm-long pieces were designated for the side rails and the three 210mm lengths were for the shorter sides at each end with one used to form a divider in the middle of the caddy tray.

Step 3: For convenience we used the Kreg pocket-hole jig to create two pocket holes on the same surface at each end of the 57mm slats. We did this by clamping each slat to the workbench and adjusted the jig guides for the diameter of the hole and adjusted the stop collar for the correct bit depth. Make sure your wood is clamped tightly in the jig before bringing out the drill. Place your bit in the guide and drill, it's that easy.

Creating pocket holes is simple because the Kreg does all the work for you. However, be sure to make the pocket holes on the same side of the slat, one at each end. All hyped up and energised, Candida drilled two pocket holes back to back on one end of the same slat. After noticing the mistake,



3 The meranti slats were laid out on the table to visualise the layout of the bath caddy



4 A Kreg jig was used to create the pocket holes for each slat

Greg calmly and very patiently solved the problem by cutting another slat with the compound mitre saw. When he handed the slat to Candida, he jokingly said there was no more wood should another accident happen. Be sure that you have more rather than less wood before commencing with any project as the odd mistake is inevitable.

Step 4: Lay your slats down on your workbench, leaving a 10mm gap between each. Glue two of the 210mm pieces to the shorter sides of the six slats already laid out. You need not be too generous with the glue – the addition of pocket holes later on will go further to secure the wooden pieces.

Step 5: After applying glue, ensure that the sides are flush with the six 'cross slats'. After positioning the sides, use your sash clamps to secure the frames on each end before drilling your Kreg screws into each of the pocket holes. Wipe off excess glue with a damp cloth.



5 Once the pocket holes were completed the slats were laid out before the insertion of screws

Admittedly, I was overwhelmed by the thought of having to use a drill, fearing that I may drill right through the wood, thereby destroying the project I so eagerly wanted to complete. Once we finished drilling in each of the pocket screws, I felt a sense of relief, forcing me to question whether I had, in fact, been petty to fear something as simple as drill driving.

Step 6: Use a sander to smooth the wooden surface and edges. This gets rid of any sharp bits that were created during sawing.

Step 7: Since the measurement of the slats is 570mm, half of that will give you 285mm. Mark the halfway point with a pencil. This is where the 210mm centre slat will be positioned to divide the tray of the caddy in half. We again applied glue along the pencil line before clamping the divider in place.

Step 8: Turn the half complete caddy onto its side lengthways and use the drill driver to drive screws from the bottom into the wooden centre slat.



6 The side and middle pieces were glued onto the slats and held in place with sash clamps

Step 9: The longer sides of our caddy had a 75mm overhang, which would increase stability when placed on top of the bath. We trimmed the bottom portions of each overhanging slat using a jigsaw. This would make our caddy impossible to bump off the bath and into the water – wasting wine! We were told not to cut along the pencil mark, but slightly outside it, so when the cutting is complete, the pencil marking is still visible.

When using a jigsaw:

- Ensure that the surface you are cutting on is secure and the jigsaw shoe is flush against the piece you are cutting.
- Start the jigsaw before it touches the wood.
- While cutting a curve, set the jigsaw to ensure your blade is not bevelling.
- Using the right blade is the key to achieving a clean cut

Step 10: To neaten up the finish of the overhangs we used the router table to create smoother coves. We made several passes until the pencil line was no longer



9 The 75mm overhang was cut using a jigsaw and neaten on the router table

visible. Use your sander to smooth off the side rails before attaching them to your almost complete bath caddy.

Step 11: Glue each of the rails and attach these vertically onto the supporting frame in the middle. Clamp the pieces together, then measure 3mm from each end (right and left) and 10mm from the bottom before marking an X with a pencil. Do this with the other rail as well.

Step 12: Drill wood screws through the bottom of the long side rails so that there is one on the bottom on each side and one



The finished pieces were screwed together

going into the middle divider. Repeat this process on the second side rail.

Step 13: Add wood filler to plug holes and fill cracks that you want to cover; we recessed the exposed screws on the sides. With the assembly complete, we did a bit more sanding to create a smoother look and feel. This also removes excess wood filler.

Step 14: We used Woodoc Waterborne Primer followed by Woodoc Waterborne Deck Sealer in imbuia. We applied one coat of primer and left it to dry for an hour, before applying three coats of imbuia in the same way. A larger brush was used for the larger surface areas on the caddy and a smaller brush made it easier for us to get in-between the slats. We opted for an outdoor sealant used on wooden decks because it offers good protection against ingress of moisture. ✂



A coat of Woodoc Waterborne Primer was applied by our magazine designer, Rosemary

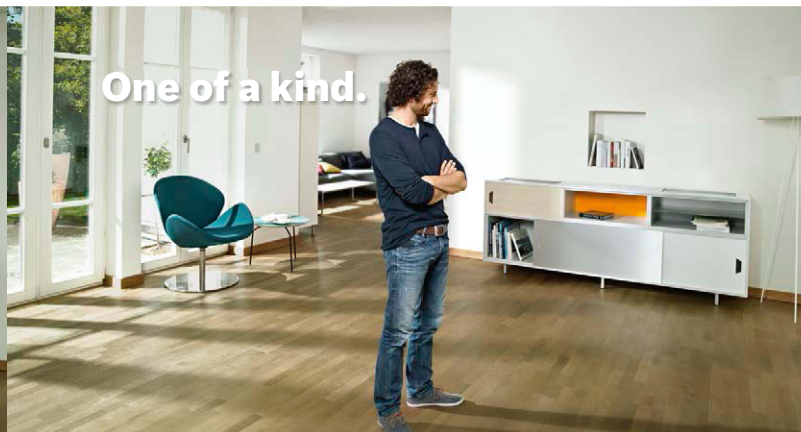


Three coats of Woodoc Waterborne Deck Sealer were applied to protect the wood

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Go big in a small space

By Aarifah Nosarka

How to get your dream garden started, even if you have minimal space outside

Plants, both inside and outside the home, bring a host of physical and mental health benefits. Research undertaken by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) yielded interesting results about common plants and air pollution. The study revealed that plants reduce the amount of harmful gases such as benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from the air. It further specified that the best pollutant-removing plants include ivy, dragon tree (*Dracaena*

aletriformis), ficus, philodendrons, spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*), peace lilies, ferns, chrysanthemums, palms and the rubber plant.

Head of the workshop and vertical garden department at Tiakaya, Wayne Brodie says that plants also add a sense of calm to an environment, whether indoors or outdoors. He says that there are many ways to create a small garden if you have limited garden space; you can use ground available by lifting up paving, removing the screed and topping up with potting soil and a good nutrient mix.

If that is not an option, consider these alternative ideas.

Gardening in containers

If you live in a complex with very little garden space, Wayne recommends using pots for planting or tapping into your creative side by making planter boxes. "Pots allow you freedom to change your space around from time to time or upcycle old crates and pieces of wood to suit your taste."



Tip!

Adequate drainage in containers is vital to avoid drowning your plants!

Wayne says planter boxes tailored for a specific balcony are best to use when growing a wide selection of plants. "Depending on how the garden is laid out, and the amount of sunlight cast onto the balcony, consider putting trellises on your walls to provide growing room for creepers such as raspberries. You can even train your planted tomato vines to grow up a trellis." If you decide to grow creepers on your balcony and live in a complex, Wayne suggests choosing plants that do not have aggressive root systems.



These shelves make an ideal vertical garden



Paint an old colander to use as a hanging pot

The types of containers you can choose from include:

- **Terracotta, ceramic and concrete pots** offer more visually appealing options in terms of colour and design. You may have to drill additional holes in the base (without breaking the pot) for drainage. They are porous, which draws moisture from the potting mix, drying it out quickly. As such, they need more watering.
- **Wooden pots** are attractive and work well, but after some time they may begin to rot on the inside from the moisture, unless lined with plastic.
- **Planter boxes** add character to an outdoor space, but find out which chemical preservative treatments have been used (for food safety) or whether it needs sealing before being used as a container for growing edibles. It can be painted or made with pressure-treated woods for a longer life.
- **Decorative plastic pots** are inexpensive, transfer heat and cool quickly so plant roots and microorganisms are not damaged as easily even when in a sunny location.
- **Metal containers** are durable and age gracefully. They don't crack, chip or break easily but provide little insulation and heat up rapidly, which causes the soil to dry out quickly. This also increases the possibility of root damage.



Pretty hanging pots on a balcony



A wooden tool box has been converted into a planter box



You can make a pot for a plant out of almost anything so why not get creative?



Panda plants have silvery hairs

Some succulents to choose from:

- **Burro's tail** (*Sedum morganianum*). These provide fascinating textures and look great when grown in a hanging basket. Medium to bright light is required.
- **Jade plant** (*Crassula ovata*). Also known as a friendship or money tree, it is indigenous to South Africa and produces small pink or white flowers. Jade plants are most commonly killed by overwatering. When this particular plant adopts a weeping form, it is a sign of overwatering. It needs bright light.
- **Aloe vera**. This medicinal plant makes for an excellent house plant when kept in direct sunlight or the greatest amount of light possible. Allow the soil to dry out before giving the plant a cup or two of water.
- **Panda plant** (*Kalanchoe tomentosa*). Produces green leaves covered with soft, silvery hairs, which gives the plant a fuzzy, blue-grey appearance. The edges of the leaves are tipped with brown hairs. It requires medium to bright filtered light and, although it does not require much watering, should be watered enough to keep the soil moist.
- **Snake plant** (*Sansevieria trifasciata*). The long, pointed leaves have patterned markings resembling a snake, hence the name. This plant can tolerate neglect, however it flourishes when taken care of. It does not require much light, but will thrive with medium to high amounts of light.



Hint

Charlotte advises using diluted hydrogen peroxide as a plant booster. Dilute 3% of 35% food grade hydrogen peroxide with water and spray onto your pot plants. Plants love this. It acts as an oxygen supplement for plants.



The snake plant has long pointed leaves with patterned markings



Aloe vera is known for its medicinal properties



There are many vegetables you can grow in containers. Small spaces and balconies often have the problem of too much shade, but there are vegetables that will tolerate some shade, including leafy vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, rocket, as well as parsley, chives and celery. Sunny areas are great for growing tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, cucumbers and onions.

Indoor plants

If you have an affinity for plants with little to no space for planting outside, bonsai trees are a great option for indoors. Wayne says succulents planted in sunny indoor spaces are also a good idea, and they grow easily and don't require much attention. Succulents have thickened, fleshy leaves that retain water – perfect for forgetful gardeners.

Wayne also recommends orchids and tropical plants for avid gardeners, which he says can be grown to create a tropical paradise. "These plants make for beautiful focal points inside a home. A simple flower or large leaf can make a huge impact in a bland corner."

Benefits of growing edibles

Nutritional therapist, Charlotte Jean Steenekamp, says that growing your own vegetables and herbs means nutritious and less costly fresh foods for you, and the methods you will use are better for the



An innovative wall garden

environment and your health. “Growing your own food means it stays unprocessed, and you can avoid artificial ripening and cold storage. This makes it healthier, even if not organically grown. We are all feeling the change in the economy and the 20% increase in food prices isn’t encouraging.”

According to Charlotte, greening a home with edible food is one of the most sustainable ways to help heal our environment.

Tips for growing plants and herbs

Wayne says the internet provides ample information about planting. “Research the specifications on the plants you want to grow, the available varieties and whether they are able to grow in the conditions you have to offer.”

Most plants require specific conditions for growth. According to Wayne, one of the determining factors when choosing a plant is the soil it grows in. In general, vegetable garden or potting soil should be well draining and loose; it should not be too heavy or too sandy. Providing a suitable growing medium for your container plants is a key factor to success. Most gardeners do fine with packaged container mixes available at the nursery, but these one-size-fits-all options might not be the best,

The best herbs to grow

Charlotte says it is best to grow herbs that are both culinary and medicinal. She outlines six of her favourites, with an explanation of the healing properties they provide.

- **Rosemary.** This is tasty in cooking and excellent for blood circulation and the immune system.
- **Sage.** This serves as a mental and concentration tonic.
- **Mint.** This is wonderful for just about everything, including dyspepsia (indigestion).
- **Bulbinella.** A handy burn tonic and sunburn aid, it can grow everywhere, including in pots, and is an excellent skin aid.
- **Lavender.** Can be used as a culinary herb and to make a beautifully calming tea. It attracts bees, which is good for pollinating a garden.
- **Lemon balm.** This is not only wonderful in cooking but has a fragrant aroma and is a helpful stress and sleep aid.

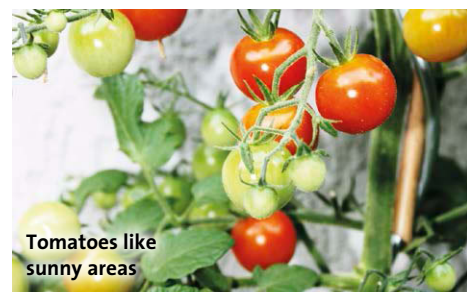
especially when growing plants that have specific soil needs.

It is important to create a soil mix that holds nutrients, retains moisture and provides ventilation for the roots of the plant.

Charlotte says there are three vital considerations when growing herbs in pots:

- What is the optimal light setting required? For example, does it need full sun, half shade, full shade?
- How often should it be watered?
- What nutrition does it need and how often does it need this, for example potassium, an organic fertiliser or compost? Knowing and applying the answers should keep your plant happy and parasite or disease free. ✂

Sources: www.better4life.co.za,
www.tiakaya.co.za



Tomatoes like sunny areas

Painting with a roller

Paint rollers cover an area faster than brushes so are ideal when painting large surfaces inside and outside your home

By Aarifah Nosarka



The surface to be painted should be primed if necessary before applying the colour of your choice



When painting, preparation is everything. Toni Stella the Paint Fella says, "For every hour of painting, five hours of preparation is advised." Thereafter, an attractive finish is achieved with the combination of good quality paint rollers or brushes and good workmanship.

Preparing the work area

Before commencing with paintwork, remove ornaments, fittings, blinds, curtains and furniture that could interfere with and affect the outcome of your finish. Adequate ventilation not only aids the drying process, but, according to the South African Paint Manufacturers Association, also helps to disperse chemical vapours emitted by the paint.



What roller to use

- **Eezypile** – semi-smooth to rough surfaces – ideal with PVA and water-based paints.
- **White mohair** – smooth surfaces – ideal with varnishes, enamel and oil-based paints.
- **Mohair** – smooth surfaces – ideal with varnishes, enamel and oil-based paints.
- **Ruffpile** – rough surfaces – ideal with PVA and water-based paints.
- **Corrugated** – corrugated iron – ideal with PVA paints on corrugated sheeting.
- **Sheepskin and lambswool** – semi-rough to rough surfaces – ideal with PVA and water-based paints.
- **Propile** – smooth surfaces – ideal with PVA and water-based paints.
- **Smooth sponge** – smooth to semi-smooth surfaces – ideal with oil-based paints, enamels and varnishes.
- **Furpile** – smooth to rough surfaces – ideal with PVA, water-based paints and enamels.
- **Texture sponge** – for rippled and textured effects – ideal with PVA and water-based paints.
- **Ecopile** – smooth to rough surfaces – ideal with PVA and water-based paints.



► Roller for corrugated iron



▲ Mohair is ideal for smooth surfaces



▲ Texture sponge for textured effects



▲ Sheepskin rollers are ideal for semi-rough to rough surfaces

Before you begin, use soapy water or a general-purpose cleaner to remove dirt or dust from the surface to be painted. Cracks must be closed using a flexible filler to create a smooth and even surface, and the surface primed with an appropriate primer if necessary.

Difference between cheap and quality rollers

The most important part of your paint rolling setup is the roller cover, also known as a sleeve. It is tempting to buy the



Tip

To avoid transferring loose fibres from a roller sleeve onto your walls, dab the sleeve with some masking tape before dipping it into the paint.

cheapest roller available and throw it away when you're done, but cheaper sleeves do not hold enough paint, which essentially does not allow for a good paint job. You are likely to end up with inconsistent layers of paint or lap marks. Even the best painting technique won't work with poor quality equipment.

Cheaper sleeves generally consist of cardboard to which the skin is stuck. This cardboard becomes damp and often results in loose bristles and foam, and also tends to lose its shape. Good roller covers have moisture-resistant plastic or phenolic cores that do not absorb water or lose shape. They are made with solvent-resistant glues so the fabric nap stays bonded to the core instead of ending up on the wall tuck.

Before choosing a roller, ensure that the roller does not have any fabric hanging over either end – quality rollers are bevelled. There are two points to consider when selecting a quality paint roller: the roller cover material and the nap length, both of which determine the finish.

What are nap lengths?

Roller covers are made from a range of materials that have different 'nap' lengths. The nap refers to the material bonded onto the core or sleeve of the roller, while length refers to the thickness of the material. The longer the nap, the more paint it will hold.

- **Short nap (5 to 8mm)** – is ideal when working with glossy paint. It leaves a thin, smooth coating. It does not hold as much



Short, regular and long nap rollers

paint as other sizes and is recommended for use on smooth and semi-smooth surfaces.

- **Regular nap (10 to 12mm)** – is more suitable for use with water-based paints on smooth and semi-smooth surfaces. Regular naps produce a stippled effect.
- **Long nap (22 to 32mm)** – is suitable for semi-smooth surfaces where heavy coverage is more important than the finish. It has an exceptional paint-holding capacity. Heavy loads of paint are worked into the irregularities of textured, damaged or porous surfaces, creating a deeply stippled effect.

Paint tray

A roller tray is a plastic dish prescribed for use when painting. Paint is tipped into the one end. The roller is dipped in the paint and surplus paint is removed by running the roller up and down the flat surface of the tray.

Loading a roller

Director at Kinghorn Brushware, Andrew Potgieter says an overloaded roller sprays and splatters while painting, which is a headache to clean up. "Immerse the pile of the roller only into the paint trough of your tray. Roll the excess paint off onto the corrugated board of the tray. It is important to note that no matter how careful you are when painting, the painter will always be flecked with a fine splatter of paint. Wear protective gear if you don't want to apply a turpentine facial mask afterwards."

To avoid creating a mess on surrounding surfaces while painting with a roller, Andrew advises that you should:

- Take care not to overload the roller with paint.
- Use a paintbrush for the edges of walls being painted.
- Start from the top of the wall, working from top to bottom, left to right.
- Use masking tape to mask off the areas you don't want painted. Use canvas or cotton sheets on the floor as plastic can get slippery.

Cleaning your roller

Marketing assistant at Academy Brushware, Marcus Helena shares the following tips on cleaning your rollers after painting:

- Remove the roller from the handle immediately after use.
- For water-based paint, wash the roller with soapy water before rinsing until clean. For oil-based paints, dip the roller into a recommended solvent such as



Tip

Line the tray with cling film each time you use it. By doing this you can avoid the hassle of cleaning the tray after each use.



Refrain from leaving a roller to soak after use



mineral turpentine (as per instructions on the product label).

- Roll out excess solvent and allow the roller to dry.
- Refrain from leaving a roller to soak in water or paint solvent.

Storage

According to Andrew, proper storage of rollers is just as important as cleaning them to ensure you get the maximum use out of them. "Store your rollers in a cool, dry place that is pest-free. Rodents love eating rollers and paintbrushes," he adds. ✖



Immerse the pile of the roller only into the paint trough of your tray and then roll the excess paint off onto the corrugated part of the tray

Microwave maintenance



Tips

Higher wattage microwaves heat food faster. To make heating more precise, choose a microwave with sensor cooking options where food types and applicable timing can be selected.

Caring for your microwave

Clean the interior regularly. Use a specially formulated microwave oven cleaner and a microfibre cloth, or a gentle solution of soap and water to clean the interior. Food particles and splatters left in the microwave may cause burns, rust and other damage to components of the appliance. They also absorb and waste some of the microwave's energy during operation.

Did you know that microwave ovens cook food by radiating the water inside the food, causing it to vibrate? The vibration of particles produces heat that cooks the food. This means that food with a higher water content cooks faster.

This versatile appliance is used daily in many homes without a second thought about the maintenance needed for it to continue performing at its best. The way you care for and use your microwave has a significant effect on its longevity.

Ensure a long life for your microwave oven by following these tips

By Aarifah Nosarka

Prevent damage to the microwave door. This is often the most abused part of the microwave and, at some point, has likely been slammed, pulled open without turning off the microwave and possibly even closed using an elbow for lack of a free hand. Closing the door carelessly can cause gradual damage, while pulling the door open during heating or cooking can blow a safety fuse.

Use suitable dishes. You're probably aware that dishes with gold or silver plating, metal parts as well as aluminium foil should not be used in a microwave. Look for

Safety tips

- Avoid operating a microwave if the door does not close firmly. If the door is bent, warped or damaged, harmful radiation may be allowed to escape.
- Do not stand directly against the appliance during operation.
- Heating water in a microwave is not advised. It can result in water being much hotter than boiling water. Cases have been reported where heated water in a cup boils suddenly when being removed, scalding those nearby. Stove tops and kettles are better for this purpose.
- If you have a pacemaker, stay away from the microwave while it's in use. Older pacemaker models may be affected by close proximity to a microwave.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instruction manual for recommended operating procedures and safety precautions.

microwave-safe labels on dishes – ceramic, glass and plastic items that seem safe for use in the microwave may not necessarily be. Unsafe materials can result in fires or explosions. Avoid using dishes that become hotter than the food.

Use preset cooking times. This rarely used pre-programming option is designed to allow the appliance to effectively heat food in the most energy efficient way. Your microwave should have this feature, so why not pay attention to how long it takes and see if food comes out better?

Do not run a microwave without anything inside. When a microwave runs without any food inside, the energy it produces is absorbed by its own components, such as the magnetron that produces energy or the glass inside it. Replacing these components can be costly.

Maintenance

Basic replacements

By conducting basic maintenance such as replacing light bulbs, turntables and the turntable motor when necessary, wear and efficiency should be improved.

Filter change

If your microwave releases strange odours or the filter appears greasy, this is usually indicative of grease build-up, which necessitates a filter change.

Surge protection

Power surges can be especially damaging to microwaves. It is best to unplug your microwave when it is not being used or opt for a surge protector, which is also a convenient solution.

Touch up rusty interiors

Repainting the interior of a microwave is a possible solution to an appliance with visible deterioration or peeling. The longer rust is present in a microwave, the more it can spread.

Examine the inside of the microwave for small pinholes in the sheet metal. If these

are found, repairs cannot be done to the interior and it must be replaced. Continual use of a microwave oven with a rusted interior is an accident waiting to happen.

Before conducting any repair work, follow the guide below for a successful result:

- Do not work without protective gear. Use safety glasses, rubber gloves and a mask for protection.
- Unplug the microwave from its power source before you begin any repair work.
- It is imperative to use a specially formulated food-safe microwave cavity paint that can withstand the environment inside a microwave. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all preparation work and the paint application.
- Ensure that the interior is ready for repainting by cleaning any dirt or grease. You can use soapy water and a sponge or cloth to do this. Once it is cleaned, dry the inside using a clean, dry rag.



Tips

- If there are stubborn spots that are tough to clean, try heating a cup of water inside the microwave for a minute or more as the steam helps loosen grime.
- To avoid splattering, use a microwave cover – a dome which is placed over an uncovered plate or tub when heating foods.



Paint in a well-ventilated area as cavity paint emits stronger fumes than other paints

- Remove the paint from the rust build-up area using a scraper, then sand the rusted area. Wipe off the sanded rusty parts, clean the area again and apply a rust prevention spray to the specified sections. This will prevent rust accumulating again.
- Tape the areas you don't plan to paint using painter's tape and plastic sheeting.
- There are two different types of paint to use on the interior – either brush-on or spray-paint. Although spray-paint saves more time, brush-on is handy for smaller areas. Make sure that every area is evenly sprayed with paint. If you are using a brush-on paint, apply the paint consistently over the surface. Allow the paint to dry overnight and keep the door of the microwave open so that it dries faster. Apply more coats if necessary and leave each coat to dry. Follow the instructions on the product label.
- Once you have completed all the coats, leave the appliance to dry for about three days before using it. ✖

The wonder of woodturning

Chairman of the Port Elizabeth Woodturners' Guild *Brian Jolly* tells us what it takes to start turning wood

The amazing thing about woodturning is how you can become totally absorbed. Three hours can flash by and it's dinner time already! It's as if you are in another world – the creative zone. What's more, you have something to show for it and something to be proud of! Woodturning is a combination of technique and artistic skill. Those who are gifted have both in full measure. But, even if you are not gifted, you can still have a lot of fun!

Where to begin?

Woodturning goes back to the Egyptians in 1300BC, but you needed a slave to make the machine go round. Fortunately, we have moved on and provided Eskom is on line things are a lot easier.

Woodturning has come a long way in the last 30 years. In the last century, turning was confined to professionals who needed finials and balustrades, which were widely used on verandas and staircases. Ornate pieces of furniture also sometimes required turning. Lathes and chisels

for the home craftsperson only started appearing in the 1960s together with literature giving encouragement to the hobbyist.

Many turners are self-taught. This involves acquiring a lathe and some chisels, watching YouTube demos and taking it from there. This works, but there are better ways of learning – there are clubs and guilds which have regular meetings and demonstrations countrywide. A lot can be learned by watching and asking questions, but even more so if you take lessons. If you are under the guidance of a competent teacher, you will be taught good basic technique and safety rules, which may otherwise take years to learn. In other words, it speeds up the learning process and saves you time. To my knowledge, there is only one local training workshop set up with six lathes and six chucks and six sets of chisels, and that is in Port Elizabeth. This facility can cater for three-day courses on a residential basis similar to what is popular in the United Kingdom

Equipment needed

Naturally, the starting point is a lathe and set of chisels. We want this to be an enjoyable experience, so give this thought. There are cheap lathes in the marketplace





and they will undoubtedly make the wood go round, but there are limitations. Cheap lathes usually use square tubing for the bed, which bends when you tighten the tail stock. Also, they do not cope with vibration very well. Over and above that, the headstock and tailstock do not have tapered recesses, which precludes the use of accessories such as chucks.

It is better to consider a lathe with a cast iron bed. These machines are more rigid, run smoother and accept a wider range of accessories. They typically have a short bed around 500mm, but this can usually be extended with an optional bed extension for longer workpieces. It is also worthwhile looking at second-hand equipment, but take an



▲ A good set of chisels is vital for woodturning

expert with you to check out the electrics, bearings and whether the headstock thread is suitable for additional chucks and faceplates.

Good chisels are typically made in Sheffield, UK and are very expensive. An option for the beginner is a set of Chinese made high-speed steel (HSS) chisels. They are not Sheffield steel, but have enough body to give a satisfactory turning experience.

Another useful piece of equipment is the bandsaw. This is required to prepare the wood before putting it in the lathe. If you have a friend with a bandsaw, that's a good start, and this is a good reason to join a club because there are always helpful members around. If you do purchase a bandsaw, remember the bigger the better.

Keep chisels sharp

Keeping chisels sharp is pivotal and there are various options:

- **Revolving bonded stone** – such as that found on a bench grinder. The white stone works well with HSS and 60-grit will do the job.
- **Jigs** – are available and these help hold the tool at the correct angle against grinding wheel when sharpening.
- **Belt sander** – either bench top or stationary machine. It is also possible to use a portable sander, but you have to overcome the problem of mounting it in a way that is convenient for sharpening
- **Oil stones and diamond grit plates** – these are good for touch ups, but are not suitable for removing any serious amount of metal.



▲ A woodworking lathe



A bandsaw is required to prepare the wood before putting it in the lathe

Wood

We are fortunate to have a huge variety of wood species in South Africa. Ideally, the wood should be dry, having been cut at least a year prior to turning. Wet wood is liable to split as it dries, although it is easier to turn. If the wood is wet, you can keep the wall thickness to no more than 6mm and this will usually avoid splitting problems.

Spindle turning

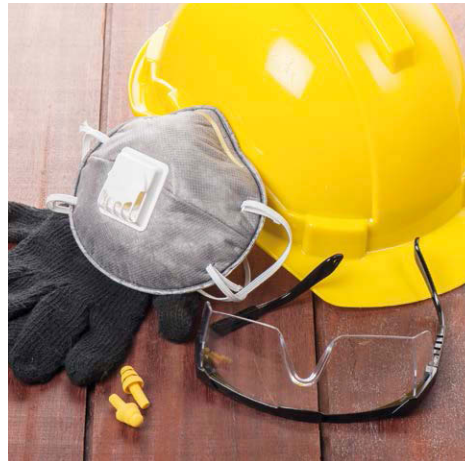
Once you have the wood, the lathe and the chisels, you can begin. Mark the centres and then place the wood between centres in the lathe. The tools you will need are the roughing gouge, the spindle gouge and a parting tool (when you become more proficient, the skew chisel gives a smooth finish on spindles). Start with the roughing gouge, which is used to make the wood round. An important principle with this and other chisels is to ensure that the bevel of the chisel is in contact with the wood. This is done to ensure a cutting action rather than a scraping action. Scraping the wood makes it difficult to get a decent finish. The spindle gouge is used to refine the shape and it can also be used to form beads and coves. The parting tool is used to cut the wood off at the end.

Bowl turning

To begin, the blank must be mounted on a faceplate, which is supplied with the lathe. To avoid ugly screw holes in the bottom of your bowl, a good plan is to glue a piece of wood to the base using wood glue and a piece of newspaper. The newspaper is placed on the glue joint, which makes it easier to separate afterwards. The tool used to shape the bowl is, not surprisingly, called a bowl gouge. Roughly shape the outside first and then the interior. Always remember that the bevel must be in contact with the wood to avoid scraping. Leave the shaping of the base to last because as you do this, you will be reducing the contact area of your glue joint. A chuck is a nice-to-have item that avoids the glue joint procedure, but that can come later.



▲ Spindle gouges (left) have a profile that is flatter than bowl gouges. Bowl gouges (right) have a round profile, allowing for a deeper flute



Safety while turning

As with any machine it is prudent to observe the ground rules:

- Wear a dust mask for dust. The light disposable masks are not the answer, so look for the type with disposable cartridges.
- Your hearing also needs protection, especially if you are using a noisy sander, planer, saw or router. Turning is not as noisy as these machines, so there is not a great problem there. The ear defenders that look like headphones are best when using loud tools.
- When the wood is placed in the lathe, rotate the drive centre slowly by hand to check that the wood clears the tool rest. Then start at a slow speed to monitor that the piece is not badly out of balance.
- Use appropriate speed. The larger the diameter, the lower the speed must be set, particularly when turning bowls.
- Never use a roughing gouge when turning a bowl. This chisel is for spindle work only.



Whether you wish to make useful turned objects or an artistic statement, the options are endless

Finishing

The quickest and easiest finish is sanding sealer diluted with thinners. Dip a cloth in the solution and apply to the wood generously. Then turn the lathe on to a slow speed and hold the cloth against the wood. This has a polishing action, which results in pleasing finish. There are, of course, many other ways of finishing. Examples are Woodoc 10, Danish oil, Shellac mixtures, cellulose lacquers applied by spray gun, waxes and oils. If the item is to be used for food, then it is safer to stick to vegetable oils without additives.

Whether you wish to make useful turned objects or an artistic statement, the options are endless. Whatever you do, make sure you do things that make you smile. Then you know you will be enjoying yourself! ✂

For further information, contact Brian at brianj@iafrica.com

Things you can turn

When starting out on the woodturning journey, it is best to start with small projects. These require less equipment, can be accomplished quicker and have less complications, giving the turner confidence.

Some items made by hobbyists include:

- Rolling pins – useful in the kitchen and make a good gift
- Garden dibber – for preparing the soil for seeds
- Foot massager – for those aching feet
- Mallet – for the workshop
- Spatula – for use with a frying pan
- Door wedges
- Wooden tops – for the kids
- Bowls
- Table legs
- Lamps

Source: Woodturning, Two Books in One – Projects To Practice and Inspire by Phil Irons



Project guide



Difficulty: Beginner/intermediate



Estimated cost: ±R200



Estimated time: Two hours

Turn a pen

John Watt and Gareth Greathead turn two pens from leadwood and Rhodesian teak

By Gareth Greathead

The Ed's note in the March issue of *The Home Handyman* promised to bring you a turning project in this issue. Since I have no lathe, the initial plan was to make a lathe from an electric drill. This proved impossible, but I called in another favour from a fellow woodworker, who was more than willing to assist.

Four days later, after only three hours in the workshop, we had two pens and plan to make more together in the future. John Watt makes pens to supplement his income and has the process down to a T. He uses his own pre-assembled jigs for every step to ensure accuracy and save time. John says, "The method used may not be the same as that used by others, but it works for me." Turning pens is truly an enjoyable and soothing experience, I believe, largely due to the instant gratification you get after only

a short time in the shop. Even better is the end product, which is accurate and can be finished quickly in a multitude of ways.

Step-by-step guide

Basic machining and cutting

Step 1: Before going to John's workshop, which is within walking distance of my home, I gathered together whatever I thought may be of use. This included a few pieces of leadwood already machined into



1 A table saw or bandsaw is used to cut the sizes needed from a larger piece of wood

25mm wide x 25mm thick 'rectangles' of a reasonable length. I also brought with me a plank of Rhodesian teak measuring 300mm x 100mm x 25mm. It had been planed and thickened, so all that was required was a pass through John's table saw to make a 300mm x 25mm x 25mm strip.

Step 2: At this stage we marked out the required lengths using a pencil. These were the same length as the brass insert tubes from the pen kit plus a bit extra. The individual pieces, measuring approximately 65mm x 25mm x 25mm, were cut with a bandsaw and an adjustable jig made for the purpose.

Jigs for pen-making

Step 3: After cutting the individual pieces, we moved to the drill press to make holes in which the brass tube would be inserted. To do this, John makes use of a jig that consists of two pieces of wood with slots cut at 45° angles. These grab the corners of the 65mm x 25mm x 25mm piece and hold it securely in position. This also makes it easier to bore vertical holes down the middle of the cut pieces.

Step 4: We moved back to the workbench and opened the pen kit. The tubes to house the internals were primed with cyanoacrylate and inserted into the wooden



Tools & materials

- Lathe
- Bandsaw
- Drill press
- Pen mandrel
- Chisels
- Pen kits
- Scouring pad
- Sandpaper
- Finishing products



3 A hole for the pen kit insert is drilled down the centre of each half of the pen



2 The top and bottom half of the pen was trimmed from the machined 'strips' of wood

'blocks' using a twisting motion. This makes insertion easier and spreads the cyanoacrylate evenly. Also, cyanoacrylate doesn't take long to dry and this prevents getting the tube in only halfway before the glue dries.

Step 5: After that, we moved back to the drill press, again using the jig from step 3, and used an auger bit to trim the wood extending beyond each end of the tubes.

Step 6: Before moving to the lathe, the corners of the 'blocks' were cut away using a bandsaw and another jig to avoid an incident on the lathe. John designed a jig that allows him to safely trim the corners on the bandsaw, leaving little room for error. Naturally, this also reduced the amount of wood chips and dust generated when turning in the next step.

Turning the pens

Step 7: With all of that done we moved to the lathe, assembled the spindle adaptor designed for pens and inserted our now 'rounded blocks'. We selected the appropriate chisel, switched on the lathe and began turning. It only takes a few minutes to go from a featureless block



4

The inserts are primed with cyanoacrylate before being inserted

of wood to a cylindrical object. After the majority of excess material was removed, we exchanged chisels for one with a 'flat' edge, enabling us to finish each end of the wooden components with a flute.

Finishing

John used a scouring (Scotch) pad from the supermarket to smooth out any imperfections left after turning. John likes to use Rustix water-based sealers/primers for this. The reason is that oil-based products take much longer to dry, which slows the process dramatically.

When it came to turning the leadwood pen, I was again looking for the polished finish synonymous with leadwood. In addition to the scouring pad, I suggested the use of 1 200-grit and 2 500-grit to get a silky smooth natural finish. After that, we used Howard beeswax to seal the pen.

The internals

We were now left with four shiny cylindrical wooden pieces – two made from leadwood and the other two made from Rhodesian teak. It was time to insert the rest of the components provided with the pen kit. John uses a sash clamp with two blocks of wood attached in-between the jaws. This makes insertion of the somewhat tight fitting components much easier on the hands. ✂



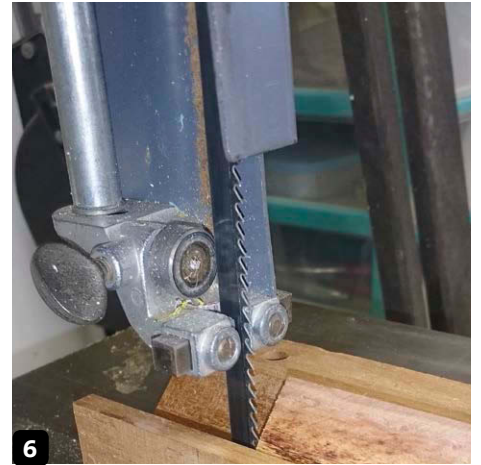
5

An auger bit, fitted to the drill press, is used to trim excess wood from the wooden components



7

A larger chisel is used to remove the majority of excess wood, and cutting is completed with a flat chisel to make the 'flutes' on each piece



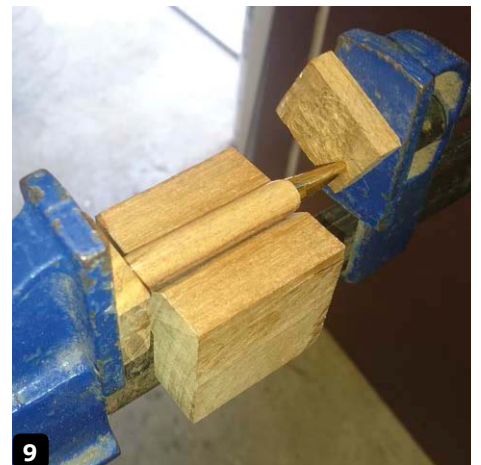
6

The final step before moving to the lathe is the removal of the corners from the wooden components



8

A wide variety of finishes can be applied to turned wooden pens



9

Modified sash clamps enable easy fitment of the remainder of the components into the body of the pen

BRIGHT IDEAS

Readers share their time-saving, space-saving or innovative ideas

Get it taped

I have made numerous picture frames and really battled with the four sash clamps and four sides of the frame, which don't cooperate. By the time they do come together, the glue is almost dry, and I'm sure my sweat and cursing doesn't help matters.

I have bought gadgets and made some very precise triangles out of pieces of MDF, which I clamp onto the inside of the frame using small

G-clamps. There many ways to kill the proverbial cat, but using something as simple as insulation tape, as shown in the photographs, has proved to be easiest, despite being the cheapest, and it really works well. I have indeed got the help of an 'extra pair of hands' as it were.

When using this method, it is important that nothing gets in the way when measurements are taken across the corners to check that the frame is square. If necessary, sash clamps can now easily be employed if the corners need slight coercion.

Thanks for the opportunity to share this tip – I found it to be really useful.

Malvin O'Donovan

The four sides of the picture frame



Applying the pieces of insulation tape



WINNING LETTER

The complete, mounted photo of my grandson



All four sides glued and taped



Congratulations to Malvin O'Donovan who wins a Bosch hamper



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Despite the popularity of the cordless drill driver, cordless screwdrivers still have much to offer

Cordless screwdrivers

By Gareth Greathead

For many people, the first cordless tool they ever owned was a screwdriver or stick driver, as they are now known. Since cordless drill drivers became affordable, many have forgotten about their cordless screwdriver and how it made life easier back then. Since then, Li-ion power packs have taken over and, just as the first drill drivers are a distant relative to the ones of new, so are modern cordless stick drivers.

New technology

The voltage rating on most stick driver models ranges between 3.6 and 7.2V – this is to keep the size and weight of stick drivers down. Still, while the voltage remains similar to older models, the size and weight of the stick drivers has decreased. The same is true for run time and charging time, while there is an increase in torque (turning power).

Like drill drivers, some stick driver models still make use of older battery technology.

Applications

- Ceilings
- Drywalls
- Kitchen cupboards
- Self tappers up to 40mm on some models
- Driving machine screws in appliances
- Precision woodworking
- Model cars
- Screwing into plastic
- Reassembly of electronics/gate motors
- Assembly of knock-down furniture

This doesn't necessarily mean these are not good as the use of a particular battery enables increased performance in a particular area, especially torque. Some drive screws far larger than recommended, with some stick drivers leading the pack with above average performance.

Stick drivers also have features not found on drill drivers. At least one manufacturer has developed a motion activated



screwdriver – twist your wrist to the right and it tightens, while a twist to the left and it loosens. Speed is controlled by the degree or angle of the twist, meaning no juggling of switches.

Applications

Brute force is hardly ever the answer, especially when working with fragile materials. This is just one of the benefits of using a purpose-made stick driver over a drill driver, depending on the application. When using a drill driver, it is difficult for the inexperienced user to prevent setting the screws too deep. This problem can be overcome with stick drivers, which offer a greater number of clutch settings, equating to more gradual increases in setting power. This makes it possible to drive screws into the softest materials without stripping threads or damaging the surface, for example the ceiling, instead of holding a drill over



How the cordless screwdriver has developed

- Highly affordable and well-developed technology
- Li-ion batteries
- Fast charge times
- Greater torque
- Ability to screw in hundreds of small screws
- Contoured handles
- Motion activated motor/switch

your head and trying to set the screws accurately into soft plasterboard. The reduced size also makes it easier to get into tight spaces, negating the need to use a handheld screwdriver.

It makes sense for the DIY'er to use this tool; sure, it may not be as fast as a drill driver, but you'll make up for that later with the addition of features not available on drill drivers and, unlike a contractor, you may not be used to holding a 2kg (average) drill driver above your head for any length of time. ✖



Cordless screwdrivers are lightweight, making driving screws an easy task

Looking after your cordless stick driver

Looking after a cordless stick driver is much the same as caring for a cordless drill driver, but bear in mind that a cordless stick driver is not as versatile as a drill driver and will not drive as large a screw – setting or locking the clutch at its maximum and expecting it to drive 4 x 60mm wood screws without pilot holes is sure to result in a shorter lifespan for the tool. Both the motor and the battery will take strain, with potential for premature failure of the tool and/or the battery if there is no onboard circuitry protection.

Denis Lock explains the use of gauges for accurate woodworking

How thick is a piece of paper?

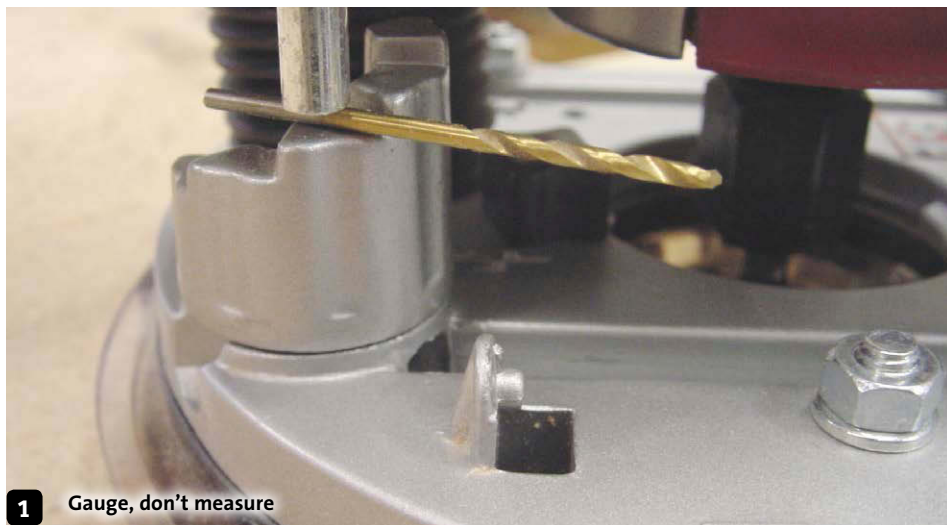
How thick is a piece of paper? I can give you the answer to this question immediately. If it is 80gsm paper it is 0.1mm (1/10 of a millimetre). The abbreviation gsm or g/m² stands for grams per square metre and measures the weight of paper. The weight of normal printer paper is 80gsm. Thin card stock has a weight of 160gsm, the stock used for business cards is generally 240gsm. The thickness of these three weights (as near

as makes no difference) is 0.1mm, 0.2mm and 0.3mm. What has the thickness of paper got to do with woodworking? My students and many of my readers know that one of my fundamental woodworking philosophies is 'gauge don't measure'. The gauges I use fall into five groups.

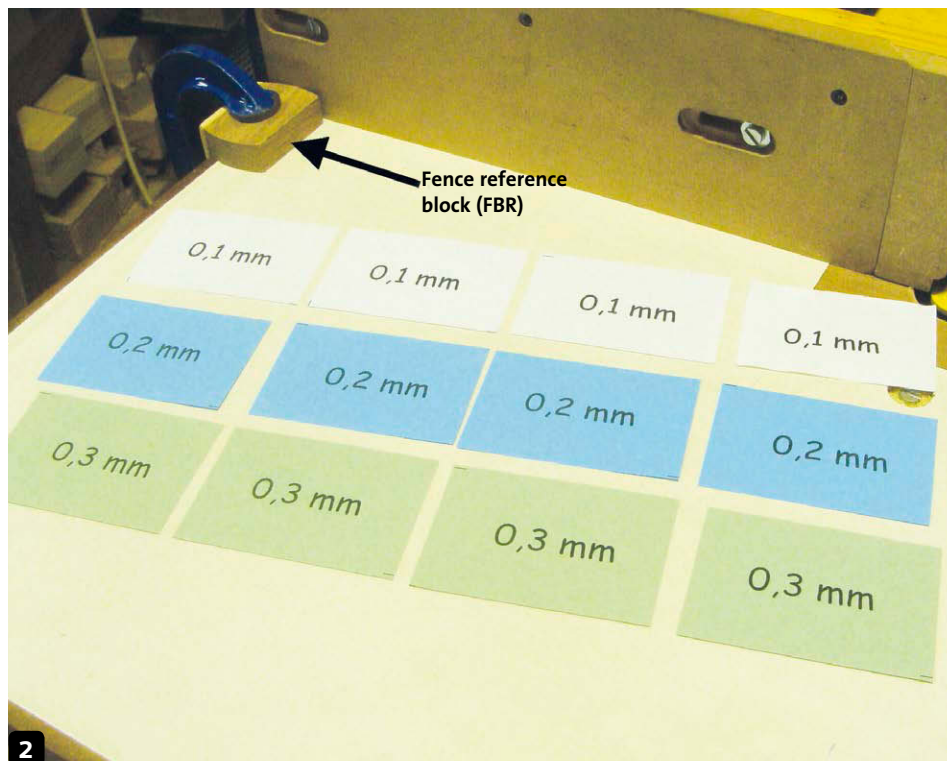
The first group is my set of twist bits. The shanks of these give a convenient set of gauges measuring from 1mm to 12mm.

Photo 1 shows the use of a twist bit to set the depth of cut on a handheld router. I end up with a setting that is far more accurate than that which can be obtained by using the router's depth scale. The second group is my spade bits. The blades of these provide gauges ranging from 10mm to 40mm. I use a 25mm or 30mm spade bit to set the plunge depth on my router when cutting mortices. The third group consists of squares (40mm x 40mm) of 3mm, 6mm, 9mm, 12mm and 16mm MDF. When I cut a 6mm slot (to take a M6 bolt), I observe the rule that a straight cutter should never cut deeper on one pass than its own diameter. I use three or four 6mm MDF gauges to set the bit height on my router table. I start with one gauge and then stack two, three... for subsequent passes.

The fourth group is pieces of plastic. An expired credit card cut in two gives a pair of 0.8mm gauges. Some offcuts from the local Mr Plastic provided some 1mm, 1.5mm and 2mm gauges. The final group has already been mentioned – pieces of 80gsm, 160gsm and 240gsm paper and card stock. These provide very accurate 0.1mm, 0.2mm and



1 Gauge, don't measure



2
A set of paper/card gauges

0.3mm gauges. I have placed the gauges I use into five categories for purposes of explanation. In practise, I will often combine gauges from two or more groups.

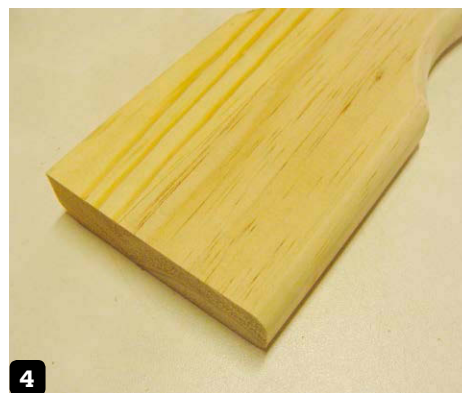
Before I go any further, let me answer the question: does woodworking require an accuracy of 0.1mm? Well, it depends. Nobody would notice if a dining room tabletop was 20mm shorter than the planned length. Nobody would notice if a side table or bar stool was 5mm lower than the planned height. When you come to joints used in such projects, it is a different story. Mortice and tenon joints must be cut to an accuracy of 0.1mm. The same is true of lap, bridle, housing, dovetail, finger, mitre and other joints. Photo 2 shows a set of paper/card gauges lying on my router tabletop. I print them eight per page and then guillotine them to size. If you would like to print yourself a set, send me an email (see end of article) and I will send you the pdf file.



3
Fine-tuning the fence to bit distance

Let me show you how I use gauges to accurately adjust the fence on my router table. A router table fence does not have to be parallel to the edge of the table. I take advantage of this fact when adjusting the fence distance from the bit. I only move one end of the fence. The distance that the fence moves from the bit is half of how much it is moved at the end. It is unlikely that one pass with a 16mm bit will cut the correct size groove for a piece of 16mm MDF. You will probably need to tweak it. Let's assume it needs to be half a millimetre wider. Here is how I do it. I clamp what I call a fence registration block (FRB) up tight (photo 2) against one end of the fence. This registers the current position of the fence. I then loosen the clamp holding the fence, move the fence back, insert 1mm worth of gauges (0.3 + 0.2 + 0.3 + 0.2), move the fence up tight against the gauges, re-clamp the fence and then remove the FRB (photo 3). A second pass will now give a 16.5mm groove – an exact fit. When widening a groove, you must always move the fence backwards (further away from the bit). If you move the fence forward, you will inadvertently climb cut, which can be very dangerous.

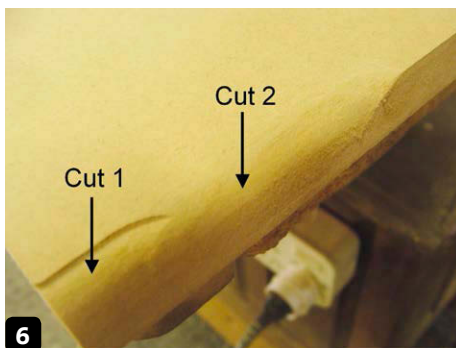
I make a lot of use of my round-over bits. A rounded edge looks and feels much better than a sharp edge. I will not settle for anything less than a perfect round over – one where the curve is tangential to both the edge and the face (photo 4).



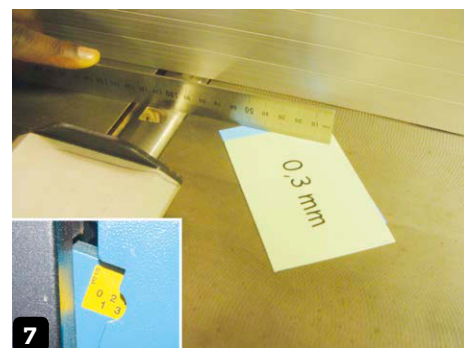
4
A perfect round over



5 The most accurate measuring tool



6 Adjust the router by the same amount



7 Test cuts



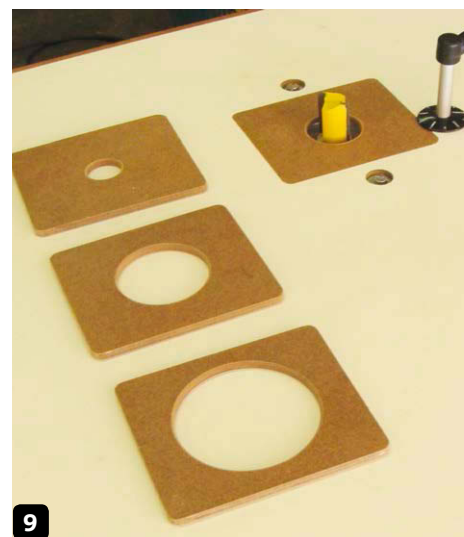
8 Setting jointer depth of cut

The bearing (if the bit is accurately ground) ensures that the curve is tangential to the edge. The bit depth has to be accurately set in order to get the curve tangential to the face. I start by setting the bit (by eye) a fraction too deep and make a short test cut in a piece of scrap MDF. I then decide how much the bit has to be raised by playing with different combinations of gauges as shown in photo 5. Your fingertip is the most sensitive and accurate measuring device in your workshop and judging to within 0.1mm is no challenge. The same combination of gauges is used to raise the router bit (photo 6). Photo 7 shows the test piece of MDF used. Cut 1 was the initial test cut – the one that was gauged. Cut 2 was the second test cut – after adjusting the router as shown in photo 6. Most times I

get it right on the second cut. If necessary, I will repeat the steps and make a third cut. If this is not right, it is because I am not concentrating and it is time to take a break.

It is not only the router and router table that get the gauge treatment. I need to set the depth of cut on my jointer accurately. The inset in photo 8 shows the scale to adjust the infeed table (and hence the depth of cut) on my jointer. It is a joke! The parallax error on this set-up is huge. Gauges to the rescue as shown in the main part of photo 8 – all set up to plane 0.5mm off the edge. Need to take off 0.2mm, need to take off 1mm, need to take off 2mm – simply stack the right combination of gauges.

Most owners of a radial arm saw say that it is not a very accurate machine. Mine is: I keep it well tuned and use a good quality 80-tooth crosscut blade. I can crosscut repetitively to an accuracy of 0.1mm. Photo 9 shows the 'reducing ring' I use on my router table. They need to cut very accurately to ensure a 'press fit'. I transfer the required size (photo 10) and then set a stop on my radial arm saw to cut a fraction oversize. Instead of trying to move the stop a fraction by fraction to home in on the final size, I add a gauge (photo 11). I had already tried a 0.2mm gauge and found that it was still a shade tight. Move up to the next size and try again. Once you have got it right, use the same gauge or combinations of gauges to cut the rest of the pieces.



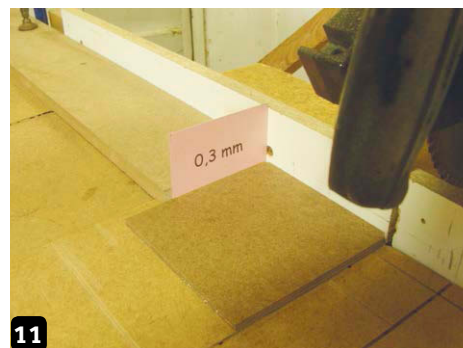
9 Reducing rings

Are your finger joints a little loose (photo 12)? Determine the extent of the error with a gauge. Study the geometry of your jig and determine the multiplier needed to correct the joint. The multiplier is three for my jig. Photo 13 shows the fence on my finger jig being moved by 0.6mm – three times the error in photo 12.

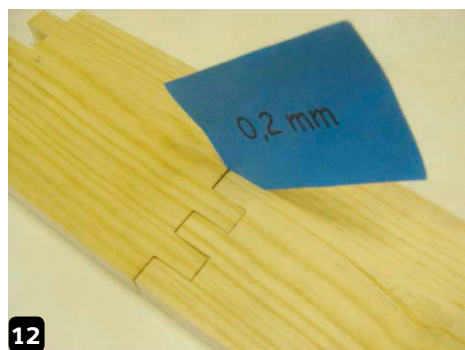
Do you regularly use paper/card/plastic gauges in your woodworking? Please send me an email describing the application. ✂



10
Transfer the size



11
Don't adjust the stop



12
Too loose

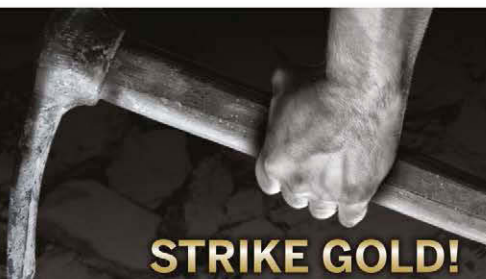


13
Adjust the finger joint jig



Contact

Denis Lock runs a router school and shop in Bedfordview, Gauteng. He can be contacted at denis.lock@worldonline.co.za or 082-267-5948. Visit his website at www.routingwithdenis.co.za



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The Woodworker's Corner is a woodworking showcase

Beautiful turned pieces

Owner of Barenesta Furniture Restorers and member of the Port Elizabeth Woodturners Guild, Nico Swart turned these pieces using his Jet JWL 1642 lathe.



▲ Jimmy's Bowl is a big and heavy bowl turned with avocado. It has the largest diameter, being 480mm, and is 250mm high. This bowl was turned on a dedicated bowl-turning lathe. It was turned with half an avocado, after the pip was removed. While turning he was faced with many surprises, such as big voids, cracks and decayed wood. Nico says that with sculptural pieces like this, it is best not to remove all imperfections or you will have nothing left. Since the photo was taken, he has replaced the handles with rope, wood and copper

▲ The Greek Vase, which is 220mm in diameter and 270mm high. It is turned from cypress wood and the dark-stained rim has a wire-brushed finish. The two handles were created by carving away a wider intermediate rim



◀ The Kirkwood Vase is also turned from an old sneezewood fence post. It has a diameter of 125mm and is 450mm high. He provided a turned base stained almost black for the vase to stand on. He then introduced a brace made from old English oak to hold the vase. The rivets are also turned from old English oak. Both the rivets and brace are stained



◀ The Addo Vase stands 350mm high and is 185mm in diameter. The wood used is sneezewood, obtained from an old fence post found in the Addo district in the Eastern Cape. The dark, contrasting rim and sling handles are turned from panga panga. The red copper base complements the colour of the sneezewood



Woodworking associations

Woodworking associations' details are available on our website at www.homehandyman.co.za

BOOKSHELF

General manager at Hardware Centre Marius Ackerman reviews the latest in woodworking literature

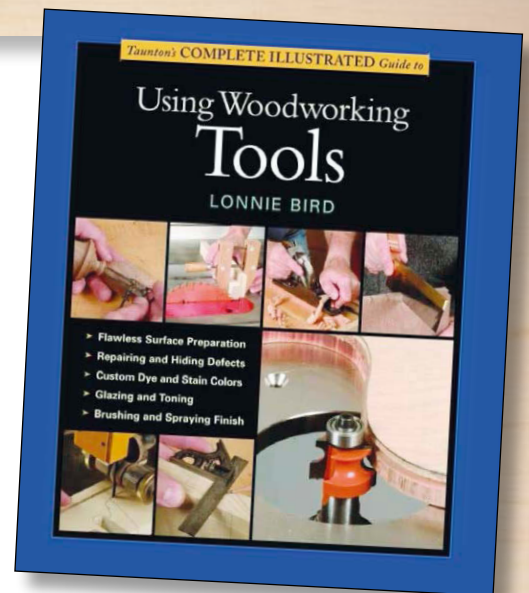
Taunton's Complete Illustrated Guide to Using Woodworking Tools

Author: Lonnie Bird

Publisher: Taunton Press

Working with wood must be one of the most satisfying hobbies to take up. Much of the pleasure comes from seeing the transformation of a rough piece of timber into a masterpiece. The tools used to machine the wood usually combine hand and power tools and the techniques used are mastered over time.

This 280-page book is written to assist the novice woodworker in getting the best from his or her tools. The book starts by explaining the structure of wood, the grain and how to process raw logs into usable pieces of timber. The guide makes it easy to find the tools and associated techniques you need. There are over 850 photos and drawings to illustrate the use of hand and power tools. It also includes tips to help you choose and set up the tools correctly.



For more information, contact Hardware Centre on 011-791-0844 (Randburg) or 021-421-7358 (Cape Town)



Step-by-step success

Johan and Tamryn Massyn followed a step-by-step guide published in the October 2014 issue of *The Home Handyman* to make the headboard seen here. They adjusted the design a little but the outcome is contemporary and stylish. Tamryn and Johan say they do their best to complete at least one DIY project per month.

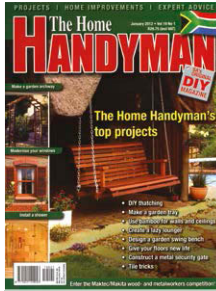


▲ Wayne Lewis also found inspiration from a project seen in *The Home Handyman*. After his wife decided it was time to get him some good tools, he promptly began his first DIY project. We believe he did a better job than us by using recycled cable spools found on a property he was renting.

Please send us pictures of your projects.
Write a caption with your name, inspiration,
type of wood, etc. and send it to
editorial@homehandyman.co.za

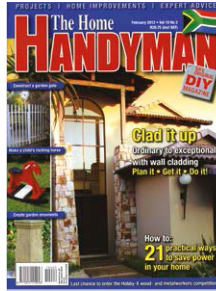
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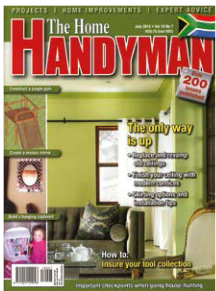
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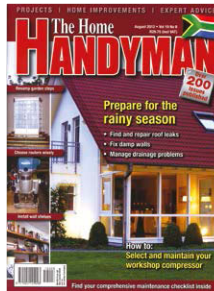
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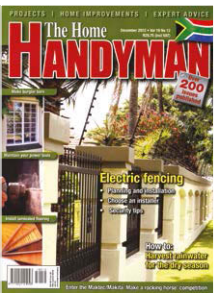
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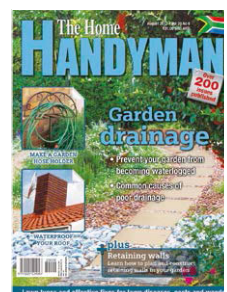
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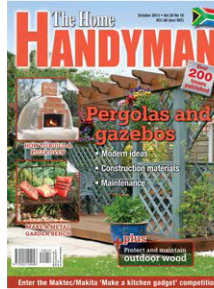
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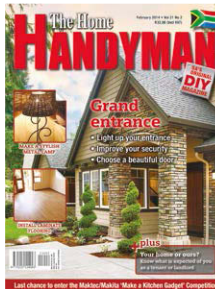
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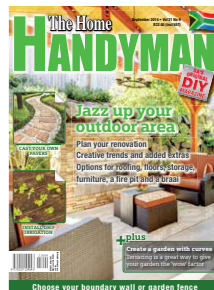
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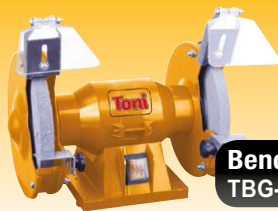




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Let's get social

DIY has a social media side as well. Here are some of the tweets that graced the @HomeHandymanmag Twitter page this past month



@ProToolReviews

Would you use galvanized pipe to make shelves? #DIY #projects



@HeatKingSA

Dump wax on cotton pads and use them as fire starters later. #campinhack #rvhack "Firelighters"



@HouseofPaintSA

A high sheen paint can transform dull bathroom cabinets into modern and classy ones! #Decor #Tip



@simplystairs

Tip: Avoid loose-fitting dowels; an inexpensive flat bit can be ground narrower to ensure a snug fit.



@MyFixitUpLife

Create an art gallery that's easy for your kid to curate. <http://ow.ly/YNGSU> #HossColor



@blackanddecker

See our #DIY on how to build your own storage ottoman. <http://pco.lt/24fBuvT>



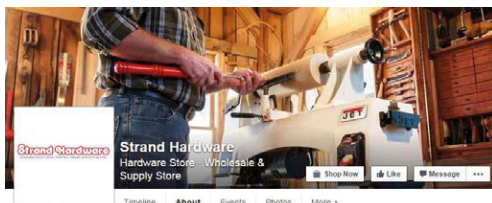
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Facebook page of the month

The Facebook page for this month is Strand Hardware with more than 700 page likes. The Port Elizabeth-based company keeps its audience informed

about tools, new product launches, DIY tips, prize giveaways as well as specials on the social media platforms. Strand Hardware specialises in woodworking machines, power tools, paint products and offers servicing and repair of machinery too.



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At the polls

The results are in for the below poll:

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Yes: 90%

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Reuben the Screwman receives a 'beating' after scoring an own goal during an SANDF sports day

A smack on the bum

Going back to a time, light years ago on a planet far, far away, and long forgotten, I found myself in the army. Now, make no mistake about it, I was no Rommel or Napoleon. In fact, I hated each and every moment of it. But, looking back, it was probably not all that bad.

Every so often I have a flashback of what I would call 'a fun-time memory'. Such as the time when I actually volunteered to play in a soccer match on sports day. This was the start of a very bizarre experience. I had never partaken in any form of sport or games whatsoever, not even as much as snakes-and-ladders, and have not since then.

Not having the foggiest idea of what to do or what the rules were, I was after the ball like someone at a Black Friday sale at Walmart

For those of you who know something about the old South African National Defence Force (SANDF) of the 1970s, the rule was, never volunteer for anything, and the rule probably still applies. Be that as it may, I was in a team. The method of making it into the team was simple. A captain was nominated for each team; they selected a player from a bunch of volunteers until everyone was divided into two

teams. It also came as no surprise that I was the last man chosen, in fact, the two captains were arguing over who would have to put me in their team – a real confidence booster that was.

The whistle blew and off we went. Not having the foggiest idea of what to do or what the rules were, I was after the ball like someone at a Black Friday sale at Walmart. "Stay in your position bones!" shouted the 'cauliflower ear' camp bully (Bones was my nickname and for obvious reasons - I weighed only 48kg at the time and looked like a bag of bones in my oversized wardrobe as there were no smaller sizes provided back then). "Where would that position be?" I wondered. Sitting on the side in the shade with an ice-cold beer would not be a bad position... But, alas, there was another position he wanted me in, only I had no idea where it was. At that time, I was not even sure which side my goal net was. I mustered up all the 'macho' in me and made a desperate attempt to get to the ball.

Not long after that, I found the ball at my feet. I could see the net and I kicked the ball with my bare foot (and felt the pain). To my surprise, the goalie made no attempt to stop the ball. How could he have missed it, I asked myself? There was a loud cheer, from the small crowd, followed by a roar of laughter. I was running with my arms in the air and pulling my t-shirt over my head like a real champ; I had done it – I had scored my very first goal!

The glory was short-lived as it was an own goal and I had endure the obligatory 'Takkie Parade' (the team stood in a row with their legs spread, and I had to crawl through, being whacked on the backside with a takkie by each team member). ✖

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