

The Home HANDYMAN

July/August 2018 • Vol 28 No 7



SA'S
ORIGINAL
DIY
MAGAZINE



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FOOD BOWL STAND

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The Home HANDYMAN



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FROM THE WORKBENCH

Changing seasons

If one thinks of idioms and clichés in English that refer to time, you'll be astounded as to how many there really are – 'stand the test of time'; 'time waits for no man'; 'all in good time' and 'race against time', to mention just a handful. As I write this, my first note as the editor of *The Home Handyman*, I am stunned at how time has flown.



Those of you who know me, know that I have been a features writer for the magazine for a number of years. In fact, I started as a junior staff writer under the editorship of Gregg Cocking. One of my first features for the magazine was on how to care for your swimming pool in summer. Over time, I quickly learnt that writing in the DIY industry meant that I had to put down my pen and pick up a hammer. One of my first projects was helping to make a wishing well pot plant holder using reclaimed wood. My daughter, just a toddler at the time, was the model for the main photographs of the project. As I write this note, she will be turning 16 in a few short days.

The Home Handyman has been very much a part of our family for years. I have since worked under three editors – Warren, Johann and Gareth – all of whom I thank for the guidance and knowledge of the DIY industry which they have passed on. Not only to me, but to our loyal readers over the many years.

As time passes, so do the seasons. While change can sometimes be difficult, it brings with it the chance for a brand new start. We may be in the heart of winter now, but spring and summer are around the corner. Have you thought about your garden? Winter, especially for those living in the summer rainfall regions of the country, is a good time to make changes to the hard landscaping of your garden and possibly even install a water feature. We have covered both of these in features in this issue. On a wintry note, we also look at waterproofing your roof, vehicle maintenance as temperatures drop and pruning deciduous trees.

Lastly, in two of our features in this issue, Francois Lensley, 7de Laan's 'Marko' and woodworker, Jason Kobrowsky, both mentioned their dads as role models in teaching them many of the skills they have today. This has inspired a new regular feature in the magazine. We will include some simple DIY projects you can do with your youngsters to help pass on these vital skills. So whether you have young children at home or grandchildren to spoil, check out our DIY clock project. It not only teaches some good DIY skills, but can also be used to teach a child how to tell the time.

New publishers, Hannes and Wilma Lindeque, have facilitated the opportunity for *The Home Handyman* to enter a new spring season and I am thrilled to be part of the journey. I look forward to taking it with you, our readers. Please write to us at editorial@homehandyman.co.za so we can understand more of what you want to see in the magazine going forward.

Take care,

Gina





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OFF THE SHELF

Your guide to the latest products in the world of DIY

Power planer

The Makita MT Standard Duty Industrial M1901B planer is already field-proven and delivers reliable performance with a high planing capacity and a maximum planing depth of 2mm, easily adjusted by the turning depth adjustment knob. The long base design ensures very accurate planing and rebating for professional results. Featuring Makita's characteristic double installation against electric shock, the M1901B cuts a wide swath of 82mm and V-groove base has been designed for easy chamfering (a right angle edge or corner). The foot on the base plate is spring-loaded to protect the work-piece from blade scratches and damage when the tool is set down before the drum has completely come to a halt.

Specifications:

- Continuous rating input of 500W and a no-load speed of 16,000rpm
- Length - 285mm
- Weight - 2.7kg
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For more information:
Visit: www.makita.co.za, or
Tel: 011-878-2600



Electrical cable connectors

Joining 220-volt electrical cables is something everyone from homeowners to auto electricians and tradesmen need to do on a regular basis. Tork Craft now have a product that provides a quick and easy solution for joining all types of electrical cables, the Safe-T-Join Cable Joint. Simply join your wires using the heat shrink sleeves for the three or two inner core wires. Slide them into the correct Safe-T-Joint mould, close and clamp the case mould. Insert glue into the mould using a glue gun and allow to harden. The end result is a safe, strong and waterproof connection, suitable for both indoor and outdoor connections. Available for all three ply cable sizes from 2,5mm and up to 5mm. Cable join moulds come in three sizes. Available at leading stores countrywide.

For more information:
visit: www.vermontsales.co.za, or
Tel: 011-314-7711



Smart doors locks

The days of fussing about with keys are over! With a Smart Door Lock from Yale, you have the option to use a PIN code, RF-Tag, RF-Card, or even a smartphone to unlock your door. The latest technology in smart door locks provides a completely keyless solution with the ability to remotely monitor and control access to your home when a smart module has been added to your Keyless Connected Smart Door Lock and paired with the Yale Hub. Unlocking via PIN code, RF-ID, or simply by a couple of swipes on a smartphone screen, the Keyless Connected Smart Lock works equally well both as a stand-alone solution and when connected to a smart home system.

For more information:
Visit www.yalelock.co.za, or
Tel: 011-761-5000



Mobile project centre

Kreg's latest Mobile Project Centre provides a portable workspace that can be used for a wide variety of project tasks. In one mode, it's a sturdy sawhorse great for supporting long boards as you cut. Flip the large tables into position and the product offers features found in a stationary workbench. Additional tables can be added for more length and breath for longer work pieces or jobs. The Project Centre can also be used for Kreg Joinery and it's expandable – just pair two tables together.

Key features:

- Large 70x80cm work surface and 360° access
- Open tables – support up to 158kg
- Lower shelf – holds 11.3kg of supplies
- Locking table supports with easy-release tabs
- Hole pattern on tables accept Kreg Bench Dogs/other accessories
- Includes Kreg Bench Clamp with Automaxx® clamps vertically/horizontally
- Heavy-gauge steel legs
- Folds down - easy storage

For more information:
Visit: www.vermontsales.co.za, or
Tel: 011-314-7711



Cement and concrete additive

Do you need a screed or plaster to dry quickly? Drikon from A.Shak provides a solution. It can also be used for waterproofing applications and to plug a leaking dam or pond. Drikon will accelerate the setting time of, as well as waterproof, non-structural concrete and cement based renderings. You can adjust the setting time according to your needs by adding anything from one litre to 5,5 litres of Drikon per 50kg of cement. Prepare your dry mix, for example, cement, sand and stone. Measure out the water approximately and add the required amount of Drikon to the water. For example, if you need to add ten litres of water and want to add two litres of Drikon, then measure eight litres of water and add the two litres of Drikon to the water. The liquid mix is then added to the dry mix.

For more information:
Visit: www.ashak.co.za, or
Tel: 0861-127425 (ASHAK)



Cordless lawnmower

Tired of struggling with cords and fuel when you need to mow the lawn? Greenworks' 45cm lawnmower allows you to get the job done easier, with the liberty of cordless mowing. Thanks to its well thought out steel cutting blade with impact motor technology and security starter key; the G40LM45 has the functionality to meet all your gardening needs. In addition, you may conveniently carry and also store the product in your shed, with additional room for your other Greenworks products. The grass collector has a fifty litre capacity, which gives you more time for mowing and reduces the time spent emptying the container. There are seven different cutting heights. Greenworks products are designed to make garden and home chores simpler and easier, with one battery that fits all your tools, zero fumes and no maintenance - just clean, strong battery power.

For more information
Visit: www.greenworkstools.eu/za/en,
or Tel: 082-856-0188



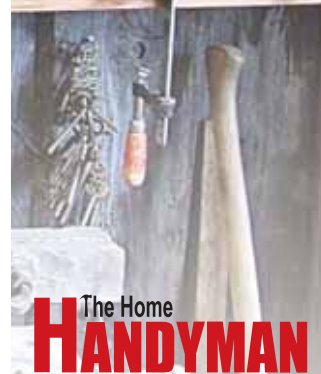
Strong adhesive

Instant grip Den Braven High Tack can be used without mechanical support for vertical bonding of up to 25kg in weight. Ideal for panels, natural stone, mirrors, skirting boards, windowsills, bathroom or kitchen fittings and metal. It is important to ensure when applying Den Braven High Tack that the area of application is clean and that 'V' nozzle is facing upward and the cartridge is held at a 90 degree angle. Extrude in vertical stripes, not blobs - between 10 and 20cm apart. Allow sufficient curing time. Den Braven High Tack is almost odourless, resistant to moisture and weather, and there is no shrinkage or bubbling.

For more information:
Visit www.denbraven.co.za, or
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Prizes are not exchangeable

Surprise, surprise!

What a surprise I received when I walked into the CNA at Killarney Mall and saw the magazine on the shelf. I phoned a long time ago to find out why it was no longer available and was told that it was no longer being printed - what a disappointment! I sincerely trust that this inspiring magazine will continue for a very

long time to come. I have missed reading all the interesting articles and following and making various projects as well as picking up so many valuable hints and tips.

Derek de Jongh, by email

Thank you, Derek. We look forward to many more years of The Home Handyman. – Ed.

Baie geluk

Ek was so bly om te sien dat *The Home Handyman* weer terug is op die rak. Baie geluk met 'n goeie tydskrif en mooi uitleg daarvan. Dit lees maklik, en ek hou veral van die stap-vir-stap verduidelikings – veral vir die vrouens wat hou van DIY. Ek sien baie uit na nog vele uitgawes en kan letterlik nie

wag vir volgende maand se tydskrif nie. Hou asseblief aan met die goeie werk. DIY groete.

Merinda Maritz, per epos

Baie dankie, Merinda. Ons verwelkom dit as almal "The Home Handyman" geniet: mans, vroue, kinders en selfs andertaliges soos Afrikaans. – Red.



Bright point noted

I have recently purchased the April 2018 issue and read with interest your article relating to *Measuring made simple*. There are two main concerns I have to this article.

1. At "Measuring DC Current"; you mention: "Now the test leads can be connected across the source and the reading will be displayed on the screen". Technically speaking I suppose this is correct, however seen in the light that this article is typically read by someone who does not have the required level of training I feel it is not correct to say this. When current is measured, (not using a 'clamp meter/tongs'), the circuit should be broken and the test meter inserted into the circuit (so that the meter forms part of the circuit). Measuring across a component is typically used for voltage readings, or volts drop across a component.

2. "Measuring Resistance". You do not go further and explain what are to measure and how. To measure resistance of a component or electrical element, the element or component must be isolated, or taken out of circuit. If you fail to do this you may end up by getting wrong resistance (Ω) readings, as you would not know if any other components are also being measured; possibly in parallel connection. You did however correctly mention that the power to this circuit should be switched off.

I think it may be a good idea if some knowledgeable person reads every article to check for correctness, before going to print. However, welcome back. I am looking forward to many more interesting magazines. Well done.

Jan Hamman, by email

Thank you, Jan for taking the time to write to us. You make a valid point and we take cognisance of your advice. – Ed.



Reader's projects



The Home HANDYMAN

www.homehandyman.co.za

Willing to share your latest project with our readers? Send a step-by-step write up of how to make the project, along with step-by-step photographs (at least 250kb) and a picture of the finished product.

Email your projects and photographs to:

editorial@homehandyman.co.za





25 years for Decorex

One of the country's most anticipated décor, design and lifestyle shows, Decorex Joburg, will celebrate 25 years with the 2018 show set for August at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand. The exhibition brings together the latest trends in colour, design, fabric and inspiration to open your creativity to create a dream home – your #rhythmolife.

The first instalment of the exhibition was held at Gallagher Estate in 1994 and featured one show hall and 144 exhibitors, with around 26,000 visitors. By 2017 the show spanned eight halls, more than 700 exhibitors and 54,000 visitors.

A prominent name associated with Decorex Joburg is exhibition patron, Stephen Falcke. As an award-winning interior designer, Falcke has showcased his talents at the event for the past 24 years. This year will see Falcke return, taking on another inspired project that keeps building the Decorex brand.

Decorex Joburg has received top prizes at the Association of African Exhibition Organisers' (AAXO) ROAR

Organiser and Exhibitor Awards, including the coveted Best Exhibition of the Year Award for 2016.



Decorex Joburg runs from 8 to 12 August at the Gallagher Convention Centre, 19 Richards Drive, Midrand.

Open: 10am to 6pm daily.

Tickets:

adults – R120;
students/pensioners – R100;
kids U12- R20;
trade/exhibitor – R100.

For more information email decorexinfo@reedexpoafrika.co.za or log on to www.decorex.co.za



Leroy Merlin arrives in South Africa

Home improvement multi-specialist Leroy Merlin will soon be opening its first store in Africa, located in Greenstone, close to Edenvale in Gauteng. The French-born company was established in Northern France in 1923 as the first self-service DIY retail outlet. Since then, it has branched out into over 13 countries, with more than 1,300 stores worldwide. When Leroy Merlin opens in a new country, it creates a company with its own autonomous management and recruitment, thereby creating local employment while adapting completely to local conditions.

The vision of Leroy Merlin for the South African landscape is to grow the home improvement market, based on the needs of the local markets, which enables every homeowner to make their dream home a reality and caters to a variety of markets from DIY hobbyists to contractors.

Leroy Merlin currently has a concept 'campus' store in the Stoneridge Centre in Greenstone. The objective of the Campus store has been to interact with customers to understand what their ideal home improvement store experience would be. Workshops have also been facilitated on Wednesdays and Saturdays to further engage with customers.

For more information visit the website: www.leroymerlin.co.za or call 010-493-5171. You can also follow Leroy Merlin on Facebook: [Leroy Merlin South Africa](https://www.facebook.com/LeroyMerlinSouthAfrica) and Instagram: [@LeroyMerlinSA](https://www.instagram.com/LeroyMerlinSA)



Use gas safely this winter

The use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) has significantly increased over the past few years due to the availability of cost-effective and reliable gas-powered appliances. LPG is used in both commercial and domestic settings, mainly for cooking, water heating and space heating. The use of LPG powered appliances has become a trend in South Africa as the need for alternative energy sources increase. The winter season is a peak time for gas consumption as the need to keep warm increases as temperatures drop. As a result, many residential fires occur at this time of the year. Take note of the following safety precautions when using gas heaters, as provided by the LP Gas Safety Association of South Africa (LPGSASA):

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's guidelines carefully when operating any gas appliance.
- Always turn your heater off at the cylinder valve before going to bed or leaving the room or your property – in fact, at any time when the heater is not in use.
- Ensure all the components of your unit are well maintained.
- When changing the cylinder, first close the cylinder valve and then remove the regulator.

Always check that the rubber "O-ring" (washer) on the end of

the regulator is not worn, brittle or damaged in any way. Replace if required.

- Test any gas appliance or heater for possible leaks by spraying a soap-water solution on all connections. Leaks will show in the form of bubbles and must be repaired immediately.
- Never place clothes or other items on or near your heater.
- Do not move your unit while it is in use.
- Educate children on the safe use of gas appliances and never leave them unsupervised around gas appliances.
- If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the gas cylinder immediately and, if possible, take the heater outside.
- Have your heater serviced regularly.
- Only use LP gas appliances that are permitted to be sold in South Africa. A complete list is available on www.lpgas.co.za. Click on the 'Safety' button and then on 'Find a Safe Appliance'.

In order to receive maximum benefits from the efficiency of LPG appliances, it is important to ensure that all safety guidelines are closely followed. This will, in turn, warrant reliable and efficient energy supply.



Get ready for spring gardening

Two new programme offerings are on the cards for viewers of DStv's *The Home Channel* (176).

In July, join organic vegetable gardening specialist Linda Galvad as she guides you through the basics of *Gardening 101: Food Gardening*. From creating the perfect soil, to successfully germinating heirloom seeds and harvesting healthy fruit and vegetables, learn that growing your own food is fun and easy. The show starts on 24 July and runs through August. Times: Tuesdays at 9pm and Fridays at 5pm.

In August, garden guru and editor, Tanya Visser, is back with another season of *The Gardener*. This practical and informative show tackles everything that takes place in and around your garden. Join Tanya and be inspired to get creative in your garden with sustainable and practical advice on what to do, how to get it done and where to find inspiration for your gardening projects. The show starts on 21 August and runs through November. Times: Tuesdays at 9pm and Fridays at 5pm.

Pavers and pebbles make an attractive pathway

Design a garden

>> Gina Hartoog

From paved pathways to an arbour, a garden patio or trendy gabion baskets filled with pebbles, hard landscaping provides a backbone for the garden and links in elements of the design

“Hard landscaping in the garden can be broken down into two sections – features that are a necessity or are required for practical purposes in the garden, or those that are aesthetic”

Hard and soft landscaping both have important roles to play in the design of your garden. Hard landscaping refers to physical aspects like paving, pathways, retaining walls, raised flower beds, patios and gazebos which you may have in your garden. A clever design ties hard landscaping in with soft landscaping, the trees and plants that make up the living part of your garden.

Hard landscaping adds interest to the garden. It also provides a way to cut down on lawn space within the garden area to assist in areas where water restrictions limit or prevent the use of municipal water for irrigation.

Winter is the perfect time to make changes in the garden and prepare sections for spring planting. The ‘bare bones’ look of the winter garden, especially those with deciduous trees that have lost their leaves, provides a clear view on where possible changes can be made.

Hard landscaping in the garden can be broken down into two sections – features that are a necessity or are required for practical purposes in the garden, or those that are aesthetic. Some features are practical, but can be aesthetic too and part of the one’s enjoyment of the garden.

Before deciding on the hard landscaping features you want to include in your garden, consider what you want to achieve in your outdoor space. Do you entertain guests in your garden? Is it an extension of your home, the so-called ‘extra’ room of the house? Do you want to create a tranquil space for reading or bird watching or do you need an area for children and pets to play?

The answers to these questions will provide you with clues as to what areas of hard landscaping your garden is missing and where you can make changes this winter. Obviously cost is a major factor to consider. Whatever your

DIY Fire pits

A DIY friendly product – the rings are interlockable. A cement mix is used to fix the ring in place, and the next ring is placed on top. After the last ring, the cap is placed, with a steel insert. The fire pit should then be sealed with a natural stone sealer in a matt finish.



Source: Cemstone



Entertainment areas are practical in the garden – a place to rest and relax

How to fill a gabion basket

For good visual appearance, anything can be used to fill a gabion basket – from bottles to wood, sandstone or pebbles. Rock is used as filler for retaining walls. Filler material should not be smaller than the mesh size. Before filling, always follow the manufacturer's guidelines for installing the baskets. Once installed, they can be filled.

Step 1: Level and compact the soil at the base of the basket. Place the gabion, founding to a depth of 10% of wall height. No concrete foundation is required.

Step 2: Filling should take place in layers of 300mm. If you have a line of linked baskets, start at the left hand basket and fill 300mm of material in all baskets.

Step 3: Add the next 300mm to the baskets.

Step 4: Complete the last layer.

Step 5: Once filled, close the basket and fix with 2.7mm lacing wire.



Gabion baskets can be used as planters

Resource

Information supplied by Louis Cheyne, managing director at Gabion Baskets (www.gabionbaskets.com)



Grow climbing plants against an arbour or a gazebo

budget, proper consideration of your needs and proper planning will maximise what you get from the project, ultimately giving you bang for your buck.

When choosing and constructing hard landscaping features it is also important to take into account your home's style, to ensure that the features you want to include, suit your home. Where trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals can link in with the sense of touch (soft or textured plants), taste (tasty, edible plants), hearing (plants that rustle in the wind) and smell (fragrant plants), hard landscaping needs to please one's sense of sight. Colour and texture should be considered in all aspects to link the elements you choose. This may mean that you need to keep to a similar

material type or link areas with similar colours or tones. For example, tan paving with light brown pebbles or grey pavers with charcoal or grey crushed stone.

Patios

A patio is functional and provides a place for you to enjoy your outdoor space and entertain guests. Most patios are placed outside a sliding door, off a lounge or dining room or around your pool area. If you have an existing patio, consider its location in terms of the seasons and where you can best enjoy the sun in winter and a more shaded space in summer. There is no reason why two areas, for different seasons, and linked to an outdoor braai area or fire pit cannot be enjoyed in the garden.



A sunny spot is perfect for a winter patio



Hang a collection of containers against a vertical wall

Decks

Decks are trendy and provide a solution for a sloping property. They can be built alongside the home or around a pool area. Wooden decks need annual maintenance to ensure their longevity and for protection from moisture, sunlight and pests. Don't assume that a new wooden deck needs 'to weather' before treatment. This only damages the wood. Decks in the shade may be prone to mildew and staining and also need annual maintenance. Existing decks must be sanded properly before sealer is reapplied.

Pathways and steps

Every garden needs a pathway, possibly even several, depending on the size and various aspects of your garden. You may need a pathway leading from your home to your garage, or from the patio to the pool area. Pathways can be as simple as concrete stepping stones recessed into the lawn, or paved with brick pavers. International landscape designers have also introduced natural pathways into their show garden designs



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Succulents for a desert garden

Succulents look attractive when planted in rockeries alongside rocks, pebbles and gravel. Here are some popular species to include in your garden:

Aloes - From small to tall, there a number of beautiful indigenous aloes to choose from. They are hardy and able to withstand the heat in a rock garden.

Echeveria - They look like roses and come in a variety of different shapes, sizes and colours of green and grey, some with pinkish tones. Echeveria looks attractive when planted en masse in large pots where they are allowed to spill over the edges. They can also be used as groundcover.

Sedums - Tiny to bigger varieties. They can be planted in rockeries or pots. Some species produce attractive flowers in various seasons, creating a striking contrast between plant and flower colour.

“International landscape designers have also introduced natural pathways into their show garden designs – simple tracks of compacted soil, either left bare or covered with bark chips”

– simple tracks of compacted soil, either left bare or covered with bark chips. Pebbles and gravel walkways also make attractive pathways. Fine gravel is more comfortable underfoot than larger stones.

If you are considering a new paved pathway, use permeable paving. Where rainwater is often lost to the storm water system, permeable paving allows water to penetrate in the soil and also allows air to pass through the provided voids.

If your home is built on a slope, stairs are necessary to access various parts of the garden. These can be constructed from brick, sleepers or concrete blocks. Add some interest to stairs by placing pots filled with fragrant and colourful flowers at various intervals.

Walls

Walls are often functional, either blocking off an area of the garden for privacy or providing security for the property. Walls can also be a source of aggravation for the homeowner, for

example, the neighbour’s unsightly garage wall. Depending on its location in the garden, walls can be turned into an attractive focal point and create a unique look in the garden. For boundary walls along pathways, consider outdoor wall art – concrete or metal wall hangings, garden pots or bird feeders. You can also turn a wall into a ‘living wall’ with canvas pocket planters. These can be planted up with attractive annuals or used as a vegetable or herb garden.

Edging of flower beds

Creating a paved or brick edge along flower beds looks attractive but it also provides a number of benefits. The edges of beds are defined and their slightly raised height keeps soil, mulch and pebbles contained in the bed. It is also easier to trim lawn edges with a weed-eater against the hard edging, without cutting into the lawn. Edging is available in prefabricated concrete, cobble edging pavers or steel sections. DIY edging can be purchased at a local nursery and are



easy to lay. Depending on the product, the sections may clip together or laid on a bed of mortar.

Raised flower beds

Raised beds can be constructed as free standing beds for aesthetic appeal or they can be constructed as a retaining wall, either as terracing down a slope or at the base of a slope.

Raised beds can be constructed out of brick, stone or cement blocks or timber, often used in vegetable gardens. If wood is used, it will require some maintenance and may need to be replaced over time. Plantable concrete retaining blocks are dry-stacked or interlocked (depending on the product) and don't require any mortar during the construction phase.

If costs allow, consider the brick and mortar option for a more permanent solution. To save costs, build the outer wall of the raised bed with face bricks and use stock bricks on the inside wall. Don't throw a concrete slab, but leave the bed open to the soil below for drainage. You can include a layer of stones and a thin geotextile material at the base of the bed. Additional PVC piping can also be installed through

the wall. Once the raised bed has been constructed, add a good quality, well-draining soil mixed with potting soil and some compost before planting up your bed.

Archways, arbours and gazebos

These permanent structures in the garden add height interest and the means to support climbing plants. Arbours and gazebos are also functional, proving a shaded entertainment area. Archways can be used to 'frame a view' in the garden – to draw a visitor's attention to a particular area. Couple archways with pathways that lead to a secluded place in the garden – a bench to spend a quiet moment, for reading or watching the birds.

Gabion baskets

An attractive new trend in landscape design, gabion baskets can be used to construct retaining walls down a slope or they can be used aesthetically in the garden and filled with stone, pebbles, roof tiles or any other heavy, hard-wearing material. They can also be used as stands for containers. ■

Paint it up

Use paint to jazz up an existing wall, give old garden furniture a new lease on life or spruce up pots for a completely new look. Here are some tips to consider when using paint outdoors:

- Consider painting concrete boundary walls in hunter green, especially if they provide a backdrop for shrubs and perennials. This helps to camouflage the wall and create continuity between plants and the physical boundary structure.
- If a wall in your garden detracts from the space, consider painting it in an attractive colour and make it a feature rather than an eyesore. Create continuity by using the same colour in garden pots or a garden bench in an area close to the painted wall.
- Objects and structures outdoors are prone to weathering, but the type of paint you chose can help to protect it. Choose paint with built in UV protection to boost longevity and prevent fading.
- Textured paints look attractive on pillars, garden pots or even an old wheelbarrow filled with succulents.
- When restoring wood furniture, always prepare the surface properly by sanding the item to remove flaking or loose paint and prime before applying the top coat of paint.

Water features form part of the garden's landscaping. Read more in our article on page 22



Plant colourful annuals in your hanging baskets to brighten up the garden

Make a stand and hanging baskets to add vibrant colour to your garden



Project guide

Difficulty: Intermediate

Estimated cost: R475

Estimated time: 4.5 hours – day

Tools

- G-Clamp
- Square
- Tape measure
- Grinder
- Hacksaw
- Chalk

Materials

- 6m of 12mm round bar
- 3,5mm of 6mm round bar
- 1.5m chain
- 500mm of 10mm round bar

SPLASH OF COLOUR

>> André Gous

Hanging baskets provide vertical interest in the garden and draw the eye upwards. They can be planted up with annuals to provide instant colour interest to a particularly dull area of the garden and changed periodically to update the look. Hanging baskets are versatile and can even be used as containers for growing herbs.

Let's take a look at how to make your own plant stand and hanging baskets.

Step-by-step guide

Make the stand

Step 1: Cut three pieces of 12mm round bar: 2.3m, 2m and 1.8m. Next, bend a sharp hook on all three pieces followed by a curved bend with a diameter of about 230mm.

Step 2: Measure 500mm from the other end on the same three pieces and make a mark. Bend once again - a soft curve big enough to provide balance and stable feet for the stand. Tip on bending: get a professional company to do all your bending or you can make jigs for basic bending.

Step 3: Bend your 10mm round bar around your jig to form a coil (two rings of 75 diameter). You can also buy these rings from your local steel supplier. Cut coil (using a grinder) to make two rings and weld them up.

Step 4: Use your tape measure and mark out three equal parts, and carry the same measurement over to your second ring.

Step 5: Lay your 2,3m (longest) and 1,8m (shortest) pieces on top of one another. Make sure the bottom sections (legs) are level with one another. Measure from the bottom to determine where to place your first 75 diameter ring. I placed my top ring on 1.5m.

Step 6: Weld the second ring in, at your 500mm mark from the bottom. Weld all three pieces in place. I used a magnet as an extra pair of hands as this

can become awkward to weld in place. If you are not careful your project will be skew.

Step 7: Our stand is now complete and ready for grinding. Clean with a thinners rag and spray in your chosen colour.

Make a basket

We now proceed with the baskets. Our steps will carry on from the last step above.

Step 8: Cut one x 1150mm of 6mm round bar. Then bend a ring with a diameter of 360mm.

Step 9: Next cut eight pieces of 260mm of 6mm round bar and bend a curve of 300mm depth. Measure 135mm all around on the big ring which should give you eight marks.

Step 10: Start now to weld your eight curved pieces in place.

Step 11: Join your middle up and weld in place on both sides.

Step 12: Now cut three pieces of 500mm chain and weld onto the big ring to balance your basket. Measure three equal part once again.

Step 13: Make a small ring for your three pieces of chain. Hook in and close.

Step 14: Grind all welding and spray in your chosen colour. ■

1



Bend a sharp hook

2



Make a curved bend

3



The curve – stable feet for the stand

4



Make your own jig

5



Bend the ring

6a



Bend the bar to form a coil



6b



Cut the coil with a grinder (separate rings)

6c



Weld up

7



Measure the ring

8



Lay the pieces on top of one another

9



Weld rings in place

10



Use a magnet for extra help

11



Weld rings in place

12



Stand complete

13



Materials for the basket

14



Measure 135mm on the big ring

15



Weld up the curved sections

16



Weld the inside

17



Make the measurement and attach chain

18



Insert the rings

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From a simple barrel water feature in a small garden, to an elaborate fountain fit for a king, water features create a focal point in the garden, providing sound and attracting wildlife to your outdoor space

Just add water

Garden ponds create mini eco-systems in the garden

Pumps for fountains and ponds

Before you choose a pump for your water feature, you need to consider the reasons for the pump – either for circulating the water or powering a fountain or filter. Also consider the size of the pond (amount of water) and the best type of pump for your application. While there are a number of different types of pumps, three types are generally suitable for home water feature applications.

- Submersible pumps are placed in the deepest part of the pond or in a skimmer box. They are cost effective for small ponds. Smaller pumps are relatively inexpensive and suitable for small features. These pumps are easy to install and run quietly.
- External pumps are best used for features where a large volume of water needs to be moved. Although not as quiet as submersible pumps, they are energy efficient.
- Direct drive pumps provide the extra power you require for fountains or waterfalls as they push water instead of pulling it.

>> Gina Hartoog

If you don't already have a water feature, consider installing one this winter, so when summer comes you can enjoy a new aspect to your garden. The sound of running water is soothing, but a water source in your garden will also attract a number of wildlife species. This will help to establish a functional eco-system in your garden.

Always consider a pump for your feature. Running water prevents stagnation and will also limit mosquito activity. If you plan to keep fish, a filter is required to introduce oxygen into the water and to keep the pond clean. You can also choose to run a filter in a feature without fish – for the same benefits.

First decisions

Before selecting a water feature, consider the size of the garden. Larger features are overpowering in small gardens, while smaller features may be lost in a big area. In larger gardens, smaller features can work, provided they form part of a dedicated garden room.

The type of water feature you choose should suite the style of your home and garden. Square ponds and fountains are better suited to more formal gardens, while tubs and rustic features made from recycled materials are better suited to informal or cottage gardens.

Once you have an idea as to the size of the feature suitable for your garden and the type of water feature you want to install, you need to consider where to place it. If the feature is to be a major focal point in the garden, consider a place where it will provide the biggest impact – along a walkway, at the end of a path or near an entrance. If you are installing the water feature as a means to attract wildlife to your garden, consider an area close to your patio or deck,



Larger water features look attractive in a big garden

where you can watch the garden visitors from a good vantage point, but still away from direct foot traffic.

Avoid placing water features, especially larger ponds or wetland gardens under deciduous trees where maintenance will be high in autumn. If you live in an area

with severe water restrictions, choose a feature that uses very little water as you will need to harvest rain water to top it up. Also consider the need for pumps and filters and an electrical power point nearby. You can use solar power for smaller features.

Types of water features

Tubs and barrels

Simple water features can be both attractive and eye-catching. Old steel drums, washing tubs, or half wine barrels can be easily converted into an attractive water feature. The barrel can be a standalone feature, or several can be placed next to each other to create a rustic waterfall. Consider an old hand pump or bath tap as a spout. You can grow water lilies in a barrel water feature.

Rain chains

A simple way to create the effect of a water feature, with minimal expense. Remove a gutter downspout and replace it with a chain. Rainwater is washed down the gutter channel and trickles down the rain chain for a

stunning effect. You can also include a small rainwater butt or half wine barrel at the base of the chain to harvest the rainwater.

Bog gardens

If you have a particularly low area of the garden, where water naturally pools, consider a mini wetland or bog garden. You can also create the mini wetland alongside an existing garden pond. Harvest rainwater from your roof and channel it into the pond. As the pond fills up, it will spill over into the wetland alongside. Also consider installing a means to divert water away from the pond or bog garden, during periods of very heavy rain.

When using a pond liner to create the depression for the bog or wetland,

make small holes in the sides, about half way up, to allow water to drain into the surrounding soil. Add rocks and pebbles alongside the bog, to create a natural look. Take care when selecting plants - some need to be permanently submerged in water, while others can be planted along the outer edges of the bog. These plants should be able to withstand the dry periods.

Rain gardens

A rain garden is not a bog garden, although the principle is the same. To create a rain garden, channel or direct rainwater into a flower bed. For example, build a low brick or concrete berm along one side of your driveway to direct water into a flowerbed on the other side. Choose plants that are able to withstand wet periods and



Grow aquatic plants in a half wine barrel water feature



Frogs are a sign of a healthy garden eco-system



Fountains are suitable for a formal garden

the dry season. The rain garden is a water saving garden. Instead of losing rainwater to the storm water system, you allow it to percolate slowly in the ground, thus creating an underground sponge from which the garden draws water.

Fountains

These suit more formal spaces and are fairly easy to install. From rustic faux rock features to more formal fountains, there are a myriad of sizes and shapes to choose from.

If you a construct a concrete or paving base for the fountain, ensure that the surface is completely level. Tall fountains must be properly secured

to ensure they cannot be accidentally pulled over or blown over in wind. Once installed, check the flow or jet of water to make sure it does not splash unnecessarily onto surrounding paving or lawns as this wastes water. You can still achieve a pleasing water sound without the splash.

Garden pond

Ponds are the gold standard of garden water features and attract a number of birds, insects, frogs, lizards and even small mammals to the garden, depending on where you live. You will need to decide on the type of pond you want to install – concrete, hard-shell or soft liner. Hard-shell fibreglass

pond liners come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Soft liners are generally manufactured from thick PVC and are durable and able to withstand the damaging effects of the sun's UV rays. They can be positioned to fit any shape of pond.

Add plants, stones and pebbles alongside the pond to create a natural effect. Aquatic plants also help to cut down on evaporation from the water surface. Include flat stones along the edge of water, to allow wildlife a place to drink and sunbathe. Fish add another element to the garden pond. Goldfish are easy to care for, but if you are considering koi, get expert advice on the construction of the pond. 🐟



Feed the birds

Provide tasty snacks for the birds this winter

Trees and shrubs provide both shelter and food for seed and fruit-eating birds

If you provide food and shelter for the birds in your garden, they'll reward you with a visit and maybe even make a home there. Birds bring sound and colour to the garden and also provide a way for you to get your youngsters interested in nature.

Birds have simple needs. If you provide shelter, food and water, they'll definitely fly in. Trees and shrubs provide both shelter and food for seed and fruit-eating birds. Those with fruit, berries and flowers will also attract insects that

in turn attract insect eating birds. Nectar-rich shrubs like azaleas, trumpet vines, bougainvillea, strelitzia, Cape honey

suckle and plumbago may attract sunbirds and sugar birds, depending on where in the country you stay.

Practical tips

- If you want to attract birds to your garden, consider your garden's eco system and avoid the use of chemical pesticides.
- Don't remove autumn leaves that fall into garden beds. Leave them to decompose over time. This creates a mini habitat for beneficial garden insects and worms in the soil, which in turn attract birds who feed on these insects.
- In the summer rainfall regions in the north of the country, winters are dry and water can be scarce during this period. A birdbath is both practical for water and attractive, often providing a focal point in the garden. Don't place the birdbath too low if you have pets. If your birdbath is quite deep, add some pebbles for perching around the edges. Top up with fresh water every day.
- Place a birdfeeder or bird table away from garden foot traffic but in a place where you can still view it from your patio or a window in your home.
- Commercial wild bird seed will attract a number of seed-eaters to the feeder.
- On the bird table you can place some fruit, crushed maize, hard cheese, bone meal (ask your local butcher for the offcuts) and suet blocks can be added during winter.
- Mealworms are also available at some hardware and pet stores and these attract a number of interesting insect eaters to the table.
- Nectar feeders filled with a sugar mixture will attract nectar feeders to visit your garden. Never use xylitol in the feeder as it is toxic to birds. Add a red cap to attract the birds. 🐦

Make a peanut butter bird treat

Attract birds to your garden with this simple birdfeeder:

Materials: pinecone; peanut butter; garden birdseed; string or fishing gut.

Method:

Wash the pinecone and cover with peanut butter, then roll in bird seed. Tie the string or gut to the top of the pinecone. Hang in a tree and wait for the birds to arrive.

Gutters should be checked, cleaned and flushed annually to prevent overflow and leaks at the joints



Waterproof your roof

Don't get caught in a downpour – make sure your roof is properly sealed

Safety

- All roof work involves some degree of risk and can result in serious injury or even death.
- Place the stepladder on stable ground.
- Be careful where you lean the ladder against the roof as this can damage gutters and tiles.
- Make sure that the roof is sturdy enough to take your weight.
- Wear shoes with a good grip and stop regularly for breaks during the job.
- Never attempt any roof maintenance or repairs in wet weather or if rain is forecast.

The best time to work on your roof is between the seasons, when it's not too wet, hot, or cold. Autumn is the best time if you live in coastal regions that receive winter rainfall, while early spring is better in places that receive summer rainfall.

Maintenance and preparation

Proper maintenance of your roof is of utmost importance if you want to stay dry when it rains. Blocked gutters are a leading cause of roof leaks and insurance companies may question whether annual maintenance has been kept up before they even consider a household claim. Gutters are there to direct water away from your roof and walls. If they are full of debris and seldom cleaned out, water will spill over your eaves causing them to rot. Gutters should be checked, cleaned and flushed annually to prevent overflow and leaks at the joints. While

>> Gareth Greathead

you're up there cut away over hanging trees and branches and remove all debris from the roof.

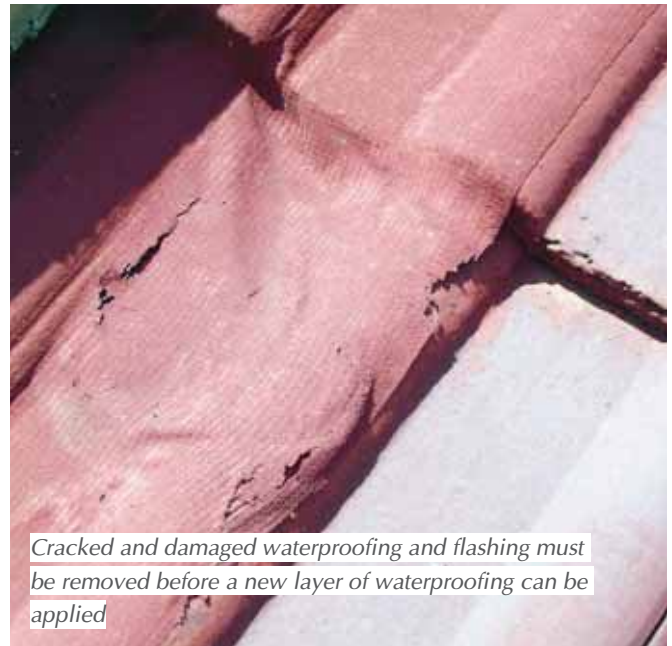
Waterproofing products must be applied to a sound surface in order to work effectively. No amount of waterproofing has the ability to mend structural damage or bridge large gaps and cracks. When on the roof check for cracks and gaps and fill them in with a flexible sealant or filler. Always prepare the surface well before attempting any waterproofing. Remove all traces of flaking paint and prime first with a quality plaster primer before going ahead with the waterproofing.

Where to look for leaks

Before climbing a ladder have a look inside your home for water damage on ceilings or water runs down your walls. Treat water run marks, mould growth



Blocked gutters are a leading cause of roof leaks - cut away overhanging branches, clear gutters and sweep away debris annually



Cracked and damaged waterproofing and flashing must be removed before a new layer of waterproofing can be applied

and flaky paint as a warning sign. While this provides a clue that there is a leak, the actual leak may not be close to the inside stain as water has a tendency to run along structural beams. If you have access to your roof cavity climb in and look for any beams of light shining through. This may assist you in honing in on the leak.

Chimneys: Check the metal flashing around the base of the chimney. Is it bent, buckled or ripped? Also check the tiles in the surrounding area. There may be a gap if the tiles have slipped away from the flashing. Also check the shroud on top of the chimney stack as this prevents water cascading into your fireplace.

Parapets: Parapet walls form a barrier at the edge of the roof and usually extend above the roofline. There are two places on parapets that can cause a problem. First, check the flashing at the base of parapets to make sure it is correctly sealed. Second, look for loose or flaking paint on the parapets. Cracks on the top surface of the wall will allow water to enter the brickwork and mould may start to develop. Waterproofing paint with a membrane can be laid on top of the wall to create a waterproof barrier.

Balconies: Check balconies for signs of efflorescence, cracks or mould. Also

check the ceiling below the balcony for signs of water damage. Balconies should have adequate drainage points to allow for quick drainage during a rain storm. Water that sits on the balcony in a puddle for too long may seep into the concrete and cause damp problems in the home. The balcony should also be slightly angled so that the flow of water is away from the house and not towards it.

Flashing: The strips that surround the base of your chimney stack are also used in roof valleys and elsewhere. Flashings create a channel that directs water away from intersections and junctions and down and away from the roof. If flashings are buckled or cracked, water will penetrate and cause a leak.

Bargeboards: Facia and barge boards protect timber rafters from water ingress and can take a beating from the weather. They may end up cracked or split. After being secured, damaged boards may be sealed with a flexible sealant. Remember to sand your fascias well and use enamel paint to coat them.

Skylights: Check to make sure that the problem isn't a result of condensation inside your home although this isn't likely to leave a puddle. Check weather seals around the skylight and replace these if necessary. Damaged flashing

around the unit is a common culprit for leaks.

Metal roofs: Loose roof sheets are a common problem on corrugated roofing. Although it seems unlikely, water is able to move between these gaps using capillary action. Also check for loose lap joints and screws or washers that are loose or missing. Water will trickle under loose lap joints or drip through missing screws, perished washers or loose roofing screws holes on corrugated iron or steel roofs. Screws must be tightened and over-coated with a suitable waterproofing product. It is advisable to use a membrane system for sealing lap joints.

Tiled roofs: The tiles on your roof are your first barrier of defence against the elements. Newer roofs may have an extra line of defence in the form of thick plastic sheeting under the tiles. If water is making its way through both you must first secure the sheeting properly before applying a suitable waterproofing product to the tiles above. If someone has been working on your roof do an inspection before and after their installation has been completed to ensure they have not left you with a problem. The tiles on the ridge of the roof may also work loose over the years or if they are not cemented in properly.



Check the flashing around chimneys and overcoat with waterproofing paint annually if necessary



Water tends to sit on top of parapets causing paint to chip and flake

Tiles may also shift away from the rafters that prevent them from slipping out of position.

Waterproofing products

Product 1: Waterproofing roof paint is best if you're painting a roof for purely aesthetic reasons or there are no apparent issues with your roof. It is generally cheaper and application is much like a regular painting job. You can use a brush roller or even a

compressor and spray gun to cover the area faster with this paint. Advancements in paint technology have lead to the development of a variety of membrane-less products some of which are thicker, more flexible and promise better UV protection than regular roof paint.

Product 2: Weatherproofing paints with a built-in membrane are normally fibrous and appear thicker than other paints. It's a good product to use when you have a large number of small cracks

to cover. The disadvantage is that it is best applied with a brush, meaning the job will take longer.

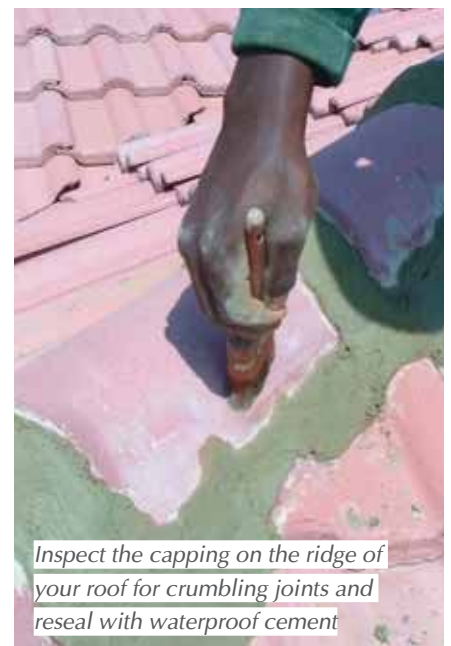
Product 3: Many waterproofing systems are dual-component systems that are sold in conjunction with a woven membrane. This type of product offers the most effective DIY roof waterproofing. It has the capacity to bridge small cracks in IBR sheeting or overlapping roof tiles. 



Tighten roof screws and overcoat with an appropriate sealant



Flashing in valleys direct water away from the roof and must not be buckled or bent



Inspect the capping on the ridge of your roof for crumbling joints and reseal with waterproof cement

Remove all traces of flaking paint and prime first with a quality plaster primer before going ahead with the waterproofing

Waterproofing with membrane step-by-step

You will need: a sturdy step ladder, safety boots, safety harness, respirator, hard hat, large paint brushes, paint roller designed for use on roofs, wire brush, hard bristle broom, industrial scissors

Step 1: Cut a length of membrane no longer than half a metre to start with. Remember you will have to apply a coat of paint and position the membrane before the paint dries.

Step 2: Begin by painting the area (that requires the membrane) generously with a paint brush.

Step 3: Now place the membrane over the wet paint.

Step 4: Start at one side and press the membrane into the paint using a brush. The membrane must be fully

saturated by the paint coming through from underneath.

Step 5: Paint another coat of waterproofing over the membrane as it becomes immersed in paint.

Step 6: Move to the next area and use the same technique. When overlapping lengths of membrane, ensure that the ends overlap by approximately 200mm.

Step 7: Allow five hours for the paint to dry and apply another coat of paint over the membrane.

Step 8: After two weeks climb your roof again and apply a final coat and remember to recoat annually.

To note: always read the instructions as the method of application may differ slightly.

Tips for using a membrane

- Choose the membrane suggested by the manufacturer of the product you intend to use.
- Full saturation from underneath the membrane is the key to getting the job right. Apply the first coat liberally and make sure that it is still wet when you embed the membrane. This will ensure good saturation through the membrane.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines as to how many coats you need to apply on top of the membrane. Over applying won't guarantee a good result.
- Remember to apply second and subsequent coats at different angles to the previous coat.

Inspect

- Broken or cracked roof tiles
- Capping (the peak of the roof)
- Flashing (the joins between roof tiles and parapet walls)
- Parapet walls
- Chimneys
- Gutters (remove all debris as poor drainage can cause leaks)
- Overlapping of IBR sheeting
- Buckled IBR sheeting
- Dusty spots on your roof where water may have been pooling
- Roof screws and washers

1

Lay your roll of membrane over the area you wish to waterproof and cut to length

2

Paint the area with a generous coat of waterproofing paint

3&4

Lay your length of membrane over the wet paint and use your brush to press it down into the wet paint

5

Apply another coat over the membrane – avoid the creation of creases and folds

6

Insure that your lengths of membrane overlap each other by 200mm

7

Allow five hours to dry and apply another layer



Pruning encourages the growth of healthy foliage, flowers and fruit

A cut above

It is best to prune live branches in late winter, or early spring, while the tree is still dormant and before the onset of the new growing season

Signs that your tree needs pruning

- crossing branches or stems
- notable signs of disease or pests
- dead or dying branches
- hazardous branches that may fall, causing damage
- broken or damaged limbs
- a tree that has outgrown its space in the garden

Deciduous trees shed their leaves in winter. The bare branches open up the tree to allow the gardener to inspect the tree for possible pruning. Because pruning places stress on a tree, only prune when it is necessary.

Before starting any pruning job, ensure that you have the correct tools, as referenced in the box on tools and materials. Also ensure that your tools are sharp. Blunt tools make the job at hand more difficult and may also cause damage to the tree with a longer healing period.

Evaluate your tree. Prune to improve the plant and maintain its health. If you are concerned about pruning larger trees

>> Kim Roberts

and thick heavy branches, rather call in a professional. Extensive damage and injury may be caused by a falling branch that has not been properly secured. Always consider your own safety when climbing trees to cut branches.

Pruning cuts

Heading cuts remove only part of a branch, to alter the shape of a plant and induce sprouting of side buds. Pointing in the direction you want a branch to grow, make the cut just above a healthy bud.

Thinning cuts remove entire branches at a junction with the trunk or another branch. The inner branches are reduced to allow more sunshine and air to



Use secateurs to prune smaller branches up to 25mm thick

circulate. Aim for a natural style by using a combination of thinning and heading cuts.

For plants with soft stems, simply 'pinch back.' You can use your thumb and forefinger to pinch off and stimulate side shoot development. Use this technique for young perennials and annuals to encourage bushy growth and shape the plant in the desired form.

On large branches follow the 3-step method to take the main weight of the limb off before the final cut to prevent the bark from stripping.

Cut 1: Make a small cut at bottom of the branch, about 30cm away from where you want to remove the limb (this will also depend on the length of the branch to be cut). Cut about a quarter of the way through the branch.

Cut 2: The second cut is a relief cut - make the cut all the way through the branch until the joint snaps. It should be made about 10 to 20cm away from the first cut in the direction away from the tree trunk.

Cut 3: The final cut is made just outside the branch collar, the thickened bark area at the base of the branch. Make the cut with the slant of the collar to aid in healing. Some gardeners still follow the

practice of sealing wounds with a wound sealing compound, but others prefer to allow the wound to heal naturally.

Pruning of dead branches can be done at any time because no live tissue is cut. It is best to prune live branches in late winter, or early spring, while the tree is still dormant and before the onset of the new growing season. Wounds will seal and heal faster as the tree puts out new growth for the next season. Always make slanted cuts to prevent water collection on stem tip and to promote healing.

Each tree species has a characteristic shape. Pruning only changes the appearance temporarily so when you do prune, try to enhance the natural growth of the tree. Follow these steps:

- Stand back and assess the tree.
- Cut off all broken and dead limbs.
- Look for branches that rub or cross over other branches.
- Remove suckers/water sprouts.
- Never take off more than a quarter of the living volume of an older, larger tree, or in younger plants only one third of the growth for that year.
- Lastly, shape the tree, aim for a symmetrical and natural shape. 🌳

Other pruning methods

Side pruning

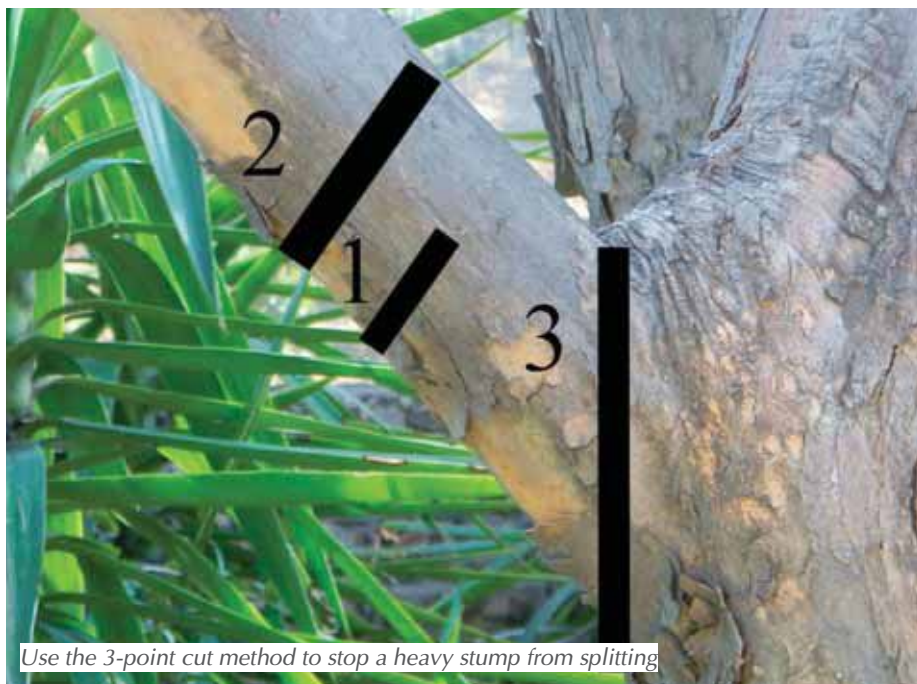
This method is used to shorten or to remove large, lateral or side branches from the trunk.

Under pruning

This method removes lower limbs (beneath the tree crown) on opposite sides of the tree to keep symmetry and clear space for planting below the tree.

Shearing

This method is used to shape formal hedges or to shape shrubs. Use a hedge shears to trim off new growth. Shearing encourages thick, bushy growth on the exterior of the plant, but interior foliage will thin considerably and may even die back, leaving a leafless, twiggy centre.



Use the 3-point cut method to stop a heavy stump from splitting

Tools & equipment

- For thin branches/twigs - hand shears or secateurs (up to 25mm)
- For thicker branches - up to 30mm - Pruning saw; up to 50mm - loppers; bow saw for branches thicker than 60mm
- Hedge clipper - essential if you have hedges in your garden
- A chainsaw is a 'nice to have' tool if you have large trees in your garden. Always follow safety guidelines when operating one.
- Garden gloves
- Rubbing alcohol to sterilise tools

Bowls for Wilson

Jason Kobrowsky shows you how to make a table for your dog's food and water dishes using pallet timber



Upcycle project



Jason Kobrowsky

Johannesburg carpenter Jason Kobrowsky is taking timber pallets to a new level and turning them into functional items for his customers. Jason got involved with pallets through his father and brother, who started making them for personal use and later started a company.

Jason says his father is his mentor and taught him to work with his hands and helped to hone many of the woodworking skills he has today. A number of the items produced at Jason's company are custom pieces that he makes to order, along with other popular stock items like herb boxes and treasure

chests. The company also uses pallet timber in shop fitting.

Writing a book may have been the last thing on Jason's mind, but when LAPA Publishers approached him with the idea to share his woodworking knowledge, he jumped at the opportunity. "I thought we could share a bit of knowledge and inspire others to manufacture some pretty cool items at the same time," says Jason. "I thought this could be a win-win situation for everybody and we immediately started manufacturing the projects found in the book. The name of our company is Beyounique this is what we aspire to be - unique."

Why upcycle pallets?

Jason says he uses re-claimed pallets for a number of reasons:

- It's more environmentally conscience – no new wood is used.
- The character of the re-claimed wood being used can add to the look and feel of the item being created. There may be paint or scuff marks on the wood which adds to the character.
- There is history behind the item manufactured. Some pallets travel thousands of kilometres – across sea and land – and finally end up in your home as something functional.

Tools & materials

- 3 planks of 465mm for the table top (A)
- 2 planks of 275mm for the bottom of the table top (B)
- 2 planks of 465mm for the long sides of the table top (C)
- 2 planks of 315mm for the short sides of the table top (D)
- 1 bearer of 1200mm (cut into 4 legs)
- 2 shop bought pet food bowls
- Wood glue
- Screws
- Screwdriver
- Electric dill
- Jigsaw



Assemble the planks



Fasten the planks



Attach C and D planks



Fast the legs



Mark the bowls



Drill a hole



Cut the hole



Position the bowls



Decorate as desired

Dog bowl project

Jason shares with us one of the projects from his book – how to make a handy table for your dog's food and water bowls using recycled pallet timber.

Step 1: Lay three planks (A) on a flat surface. Place two of the legs (E) and one of the planks for the bottom of the table top (B) as pictured. Tip: The size of B could vary due to the width of A. Measure to ensure that your table-top fits together as per the instructions.

Step 2: Fasten the B plank with glue and screws, but do not attach the legs yet. Repeat the steps for the other side of the table top.

Step 3: Position planks C and D on the outside of the table top, ensuring that you have the correct fit. Fasten with glue and screws.

Step 4: Flip the table top over and fasten the legs (E) with glue and screws to the table top and sides.

Step 5: Place the bowls on the table top and mark the diameter. Remember to draw a second circle (5mm smaller) on the inside of the first circle so that the bowl will not fall through. Tip: measure the circumference of your bowl and draw a circle slightly smaller on your computer to print out as guide for the second circle. Alternatively use a compass drawing tool.

Step 6: Drill a hole on the inside of the inner circle as this will enable you to get your jigsaw blade in.

Step 7: Repeat step 6 for the second bowl. Cut out the holes.

Step 8: Place the bowls in the holes to check if your fit is correct and adjust the size of the holes if necessary.

Step 9: Decorate with a paint marker if desired. ■

Win a copy of the book

WIN

Five lucky readers can win a copy of Jason's book: *Pallets: Upcycling Projects*, published by LAPA Publishers.



Send your entries to:
editorial@homehandyman.co.za.
Please put "PALLET BOOK COMPETITION" in the subject line. Include your name, surname, physical address and a contact telephone number (office hours) in the body of the email.

Resource

Project and images supplied courtesy of LAPA Publishers (www.lapa.co.za) and Jason Kobrowsky (www.beyouuniquepalletfurniture.co.za)

BRIGHT IDEAS

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

2010

Mirror, mirror off the wall



A mirror that has been stuck onto a wall with double-sided tape can sometimes be really difficult to remove without causing damage to it or the wall. For a quick solution, use a piece of fishing line. Wrap it around both your hands (use gloves if needed). Then use the string as a saw and cut through the double sided tape. This will dislodge the mirror neatly off the wall. Then use Q20 to remove the remaining tape off the back of the mirror or wall.

M. Ramsaroop

2012

How to check if a drill bit is straight

A bent bit is likely to break and damage your workpiece. Drill bits bend easily, especially thinner ones - 6mm and smaller. Always test for straightness before use and discard any bent ones. To test whether a drill bit is straight, roll the bit slowly with your fingertips on a flat surface, like a wooden block. If the drill bit wobbles, it is bent. Because the tip of a masonry

drill bit is thicker than the rest of the bit, test for straightness with a square.

André Gous



2016

Shave time off your clean up

I do a lot of DIY projects at home and when I drill into wood all the shavings and wood chips fly over a wide area, making a huge mess. There is always a lot of cleaning to do afterwards. I found a solution to my problem and it works 100%.

I cut away the bottom of a 1kg margarine container. I place this container over the area to be drilled and position the drill inside the container. Then there is only a very small area to clean as all the shavings and chips are

contained in the container. I use the method with my pedestal drill as well as my hand drill and believe it will prove to be particularly useful for kitchen contractors

Joel van Staden



One of *The Home Handyman's* most popular reader columns over the years was the Bright Ideas pages. Readers could send in their tried and tested ideas, tips and tricks of the trade. In this issue we re-visit some old bright ideas that still have that winning spark today.

Rejuvenate old files



2014

To revive your old, dirty or paint-stained files, take any spent rifle cartridge and clamp the neck flat in a vice. Grip it tight, hold it at about a 45° angle and work into and in the direction of the file grooves. The brass is softer and forms teeth corresponding to the grooves of the file. By working your way down the length of the file, all the dirt and grime is removed, leaving you will a usable file in no time.

Johann Mendelsohn

Share your ideas!

WIN A Tork Craft Mini Rotary Tool with 72-pc Accessory Kit and Flexible Shaft from Vermont Sales



Send your bright ideas to:
editorial@homehandyman.co.za
with 'Bright Ideas' in the subject line or PO Box 24938, Gezina, 0031

Please include your name, physical address and a contact number (office hours). You may also include a photograph (300kb) of your bright idea (where applicable).

Please note: Winners' prizes may take up to six weeks for delivery and are sent by the prize sponsor. Prizes are not exchangeable.

Trying new things is the best way to learn

7de Laan's Francois Lensley shares his DIY snaps with The Home Handyman

Even if you're going for the rustic look, there is a difference between rustic and well-made and rustic and rickety

>> Gina Hartoog

From resident lady's man to top notch businessman and the owner of a favourite drinking hole, *7de Laan's* 'Marko' has made it big in the popular SABC2 soap opera. Francois Lensley, the actor who breathes life into Marko's character every day, was featured on *The Home Handyman's* cover some twelve years ago when he was just starting out as an actor on the country's then up and coming soapie.

Francois is a seasoned DIY'er and he is as comfortable behind any power tool as he is in front of the cameras on the *7de Laan* set. He grew up in Evander on the Highveld and after matric, enrolled at Tukkie's in Pretoria for a B.Sc in Construction Management. Francois credits his late father as his mentor, the person who got him involved in DIY and woodwork and helped lay a good foundation for the sound knowledge and skills he continues to build on today.

The creativity Francois puts into his acting, coupled with some serious out-of-the-box thinking is what puts him ahead of the pack when it comes to DIY projects. With a keen willingness to try new things, both to hone his current skills and build new ones, Francois will take on pretty much any challenge. From home renovations and

Down memory *laan*

garden landscaping projects, to building and restoring wood furniture, knives, lawnmowers and anything that comes his way.

"Trying new things is the best way to learn," says Francois. "You can learn new ways of doing things and learn how to use different tools. With every project you do, you build your skills and sometimes you do make a costly mistake. That's okay, as long as you learn from it for next time."

Francois is definitely the Laan's go-to guy when it comes to innovative requests. Even the show's props department ropes him in. When the character of Hilda (Annelisa Weiland) had to make a cake spin on a Lazy Susan – and spin and spin until it spins into a huge mess, it was Francois's idea to use marbles and petroleum jelly to create the bearing that brought this one-of-kind cake stand to life on the small screen. His latest challenge is one handed down by a cameramen at *7de Laan*. Pierre sports a full beard and has challenged Francois to turn a table knife into a straight razor so he can shave with it. He promised to keep us posted on the outcome.

Always on the lookout for items he can restore, you may find Francois rummaging in a second hand furniture shop, at salvage yards or any place that sells reclaimed wood. Depending on the piece he picks up, he may upcycle it into something new or restore it to its former glory. He says he often gets a picture in his mind of what he wants to do next, then keeps a lookout for the right material for the project.

One of his latest projects – and a mammoth task – was turning a burnt and borer invaded marula tree stump into a fabulous coffee table. He picked up the stump and set about getting the top completely level. "It was a huge, heavy piece of wood and was not able to fit into any CNC machine that I had access to," he laughs. "So I basically built my own one. I built two tracks for a wooden box which housed my router and I was able to get a perfectly level finish."



An old push lawnmower



Restored to its former glory



Building a hairdressing stand



The finished product



Pine stained with UV resistant mahogany varnish

Francois opted not to fill the wood borer holes with resin, but rather recessed the inside, over the holes, and placed a thick piece of glass into the recess. The glass was cut by a professional glazer based in Pretoria. They made a template using MDF board before cutting - and the end result was a perfect fit. Francois also added casters to the base of the table to enable it to be moved out of the way for ease of cleaning.

So what advice does he have for DIY'ers? "Always do your homework," he says. "Before starting any project, read up on it, look on the internet and see what tools are required and the skills you need. I believe in doing things properly so the end result looks good. Even if you're going for the rustic look, there is a difference between rustic and well-made and rustic and rickety. Whether I make something for myself or do a job for someone else, I always make sure that I am 100% happy before I finish and hand over the project." 📌



A bird feeder



Welded hifi stand

Shelves made from sleeper skins



Speaker stands for the 7th laan set



Francois tries his hand at leather work



Old Puma knife



Good as new



Marula stump



The finished coffee table with the glass fitted



Building a set for a stage production





Laboria

Arma Iuris (Pty) Ltd (established in 2005), inter alia renders the following labour law services. Our services, known as Laboria, include the following nationally:

- A comprehensive **audit** of your business after commencement to ensure that you have all the standard documentation ie. disciplinary code, grievance procedures, charge sheets, etc. Revision of current documentation and/or drafting of all the required documents form part of our presentation.
- **Training** on a national base to all your managers or nominees to ensure the overall understanding of the process to be followed when compiling a charge sheet, serving of the charge sheet to the accused, and if necessary, with the accompanying explanation of his rights and witnesses needed.
- Conducting of **disciplinary hearings** at your designated workplace.
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- The arbitration is represented by us because both parties become a member of an employer organization the **GDPEO**.

• Union Negotiations.

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In addition to the above services we also support you with regard to the following administrative and logistical matters:

- We are available for advice **24 hours a day**.
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- Should it happen that an award is made against you, we will claim from our underwriters, who will pay the claim **on your behalf** on the following basic terms:
 1. We should have been involved from the beginning/start of the case.
 2. You followed our recommendation regarding guilty/innocent as well as the sanction we proposed to be imposed on the accused by you as the employer.

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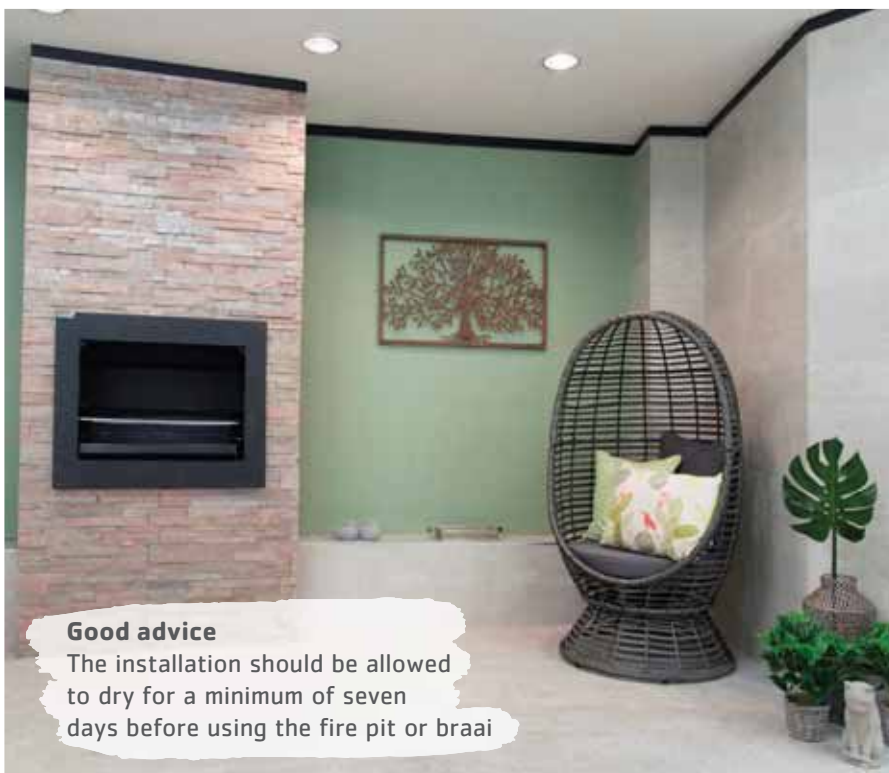
Tile a fire pit

or braai area



A stylish outdoor entertainment area is an asset to your home. Let's take a closer look at how you can use tiles to update your look

Use a modified adhesive and grout system which can withstand exposure to high temperatures for prolonged periods



Good advice

The installation should be allowed to dry for a minimum of seven days before using the fire pit or braai

A well thought out and welcoming outdoor entertainment area is not only a much-loved and popular gathering place in a home but can also add value to your property. The right advice will ensure that you get the best results from a tiled fire pit or braai area.

Choosing the right tile

There are a number of tile choices for creating a timeless outdoor entertainment area. Natural stone tiles are all unique in appearance and provide a one-of-a-kind floor and wall area thanks to the distinctive colours, patterns and character of the tiles. These tiles should be sealed as they are porous.

Wood-look tiles are also a great option, creating a warm natural look without the maintenance normally required of wooden products. Alternatively, for a modern industrial look, consider concrete look tiles which come in a range of hues to choose from. Always check with the tile manufacturer/supplier



that the tile is suitable for this type of installation as not all tiles should be used outdoors.

Don't tile inside the fire pit

It is important to note that only the outside and/or around the fire pit or braai should be tiled, and not inside, as the elevated temperatures will most certainly result in degradation of the adhesive and damage to the tiles over time. Essentially, if the installation area is too hot to touch, it is too hot to tile with tile adhesives.

Getting started with the project

Before beginning your installation, ensure that the substrate is firm, clean, dry and free from dust and contaminants. This is to ensure a good bond between the substrate and tile adhesive.

Prime the surface to ensure better adhesion onto the substrate before tiling, particularly if the surface has a smooth and dense finish. Use a primer slurry coat consisting of one part TAL Keycoat mixed with two parts TAL Keymix powder primer (by volume) and apply with a block brush. Allow the slurry coat to dry before installing the tiles.

Adhesive systems that can handle the heat

Modified adhesive and grout systems, which can handle the heat and resultant thermal expansion and contraction of the tiles, are important for this type of installation.

Use a high-strength adhesive system, such as TAL Goldstar 6, and use TAL Bond as a total water replacement in the adhesive and grout mix for enhanced flexibility. This adhesive system will withstand exposure to temperatures up to 65 C – 70 C for prolonged periods. If higher temperatures are anticipated, it would be best to use a special heat-resistant, or high alumina cement. 🏠

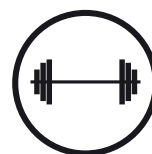
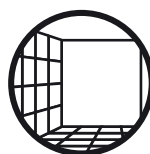
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A NEW LOOK



With very few tools and limited financial outlay you can re-upholster or up-cycle dining room chairs

Like new again

Over time the fabric covering on your dining room chairs may begin to look a bit worse for wear but the frames remain in reasonably good shape. We bought these dining room chairs over ten years ago and some showed a few signs of hasty on-the-spot repairs. For example, one chair was missing a base and another occasionally poked the leg of the person sitting on it. Perhaps you have a dining room table but no chairs and this presents a great opportunity to salvage some old frames from a second hand furniture shop and cover them in a fabric of your choice.

Before you get started on the project, head along to your local fabric shop and choose some new fabric for your chairs.

>> Gareth Greathead

Before you go, you need to work out exactly how much fabric to purchase and check if your upholstery padding needs replacing. Once you remove the base of the chair, it's fairly easy to work out how much fabric you require. Remember to check the fabric width per metre before you ask the attendant to cut the length.

Perhaps you have a dining room table but no chairs and this presents a great opportunity to salvage some old frames from a second hand furniture shop and cover them in a fabric of your choice

Project guide

Project difficulty: easy

Estimated cost: +/-R400

Estimated time: one day

Tools

- Small flat screwdriver
- Utility knife
- Small claw hammer
- Staple gun
- Dressmaker scissors
- Stub nose pliers

Materials

- Staples
- Upholstery fabric
- Upholstery padding

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: The easiest way to get started is to remove the base from the frame. With the base removed you will be able to inspect the frame and have access to the staples on the underside of the base. Use a Phillips screwdriver to unscrew the base from the frame of the chair. Ours had four screws, two in the front and two at the rear (picture 1). It was at this time that we discovered that the chair that ruined more than one pair of jeans had been repaired with the incorrect length screw (picture 2).

Step 2: Stop now and jump ahead if your cushion is still plump and there are no creases or folds in the fabric covering it. If you don't remove the cover you will need to figure out how much fabric is needed for each chair without a sample. As a general rule of thumb you measure the height of the cushion, times this number by three



BEFORE



AFTER

and add this measurement to the length and breadth of the base. Let's say your cushion is approximately 50mm thick and 50mm multiplied by three gives you 150mm. Now add 150mm to the length (450mm) and breadth (450mm) of the base and you will need to get 600x600mm of fabric for each chair.

Step 3: Leaving the fabric covering in place saves time because to remove the staples you would need to force a small flat screwdriver in between the material covering and the staples (picture 3). After that a pair of snub nose pliers can be used to pull the staples from the wood (picture 4). After all the staples are removed, the material will come loose from the base.

Step 4: With the fabric pulled away it became clear that our foam padding had become soft and spongy and needed to be replaced (picture 5). Measure the size of the base (450x450mm) and fabric removed (600x600mm), or use it as a template to work out how much fabric is needed. Throughout the entire process very little measuring was done as it was easier to gauge things against one another. It is better to have excess material that can be trimmed away if necessary.

Step 5: We bought two lengths of upholstery padding each measuring approximately 1500x500x50mm. To replicate the shape of the base, which had cut outs to make space for the legs on each corner, we placed each base on top of the padding and used a utility knife with an extendable blade to cut around the edges (picture 6). It was quite difficult to cut the foam neatly. Go slowly and allow the blade to make its way through, cutting with an up and down action.

Step 6: We got in the car and visited our local material shop and found something we liked but you can get creative here too... Maybe you have some tired workshop stools that would benefit from being covered with some old denim jeans or a used overall. Otherwise, old curtains or some other robust fabric can be reused. The pattern on our fabric is truly South African with proteas, butterflies and a RSA ten cent stamp in the middle. We bought strong fabric, but there is enough stretch making the job a bit easier.

Step 7: When you have the foam padding cut to shape, place your fabric face down onto a flat surface – be aware of the pattern and where the front of the cushion will be (picture 7). Now place the base on top of the



Remove the base from the frame of the chair



An earlier repair with an incorrect length screw ruined more than one pair of jeans



Loosen the staples on the underside of the base by forcing a small flat screwdriver in between the fabric cover and the base

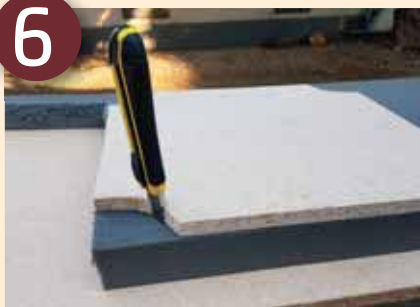


Use snub nose pliers to pull stubborn staples from the wood



Over the years our cushion padding began to disintegrate and needed to be replaced

6



Cut your padding to shape by placing a base on top and using it as a stencil to cut around the edges using an extendable blade utility knife

7



It can be difficult to cut the foam neatly but proceed slowly

8



Place your fabric on a flat surface and position the padding along with the base on top

9



Fold the opposite side over the base and pull the fabric taught before positioning more staples starting in the middle and moving to the sides



"Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working" – Pablo Picasso

foam for the last time and fold one side of the fabric over the base and hold it in place with your fingers (picture 8). Start with a staple in the middle and a few more on each side to create a straight line. Move to the opposite side and pull the fabric taught while stapling the fabric, again starting from the middle (picture 9). Staple the other two sides in the same way pulling the fabric taught as you go. With the sides secured to the base you can now pull on the excess material found on each corner and pin these to the base with the staple gun (picture 10). Flip the cushion over and check for creases and folds in the fabric – add more staples to

tighten up these areas and create nice rounded corners in the cushion.

Step 8: Remember to make repairs to your frame if necessary. I had to replace the incorrect screws removed in step 1 and cut out a new base from a piece of chipboard that I had lying around. I used a handsaw to cut the straight lines and a wood rasp to craft the corners (picture 11). The only thing that remains is to reattach the base to the frame of the chair and brag to your friends. Tip: When gluing broken legs back onto chairs a two part epoxy works well because it has gap filling properties. 📌

10



Once all the sides are secured pull on the corners, pin these to the base using more staples and use dressmaker's scissors to cut away excess fabric

11



We replace the base and some odd sized screws to complete our project



Display photographs

A quality photograph can make a bold statement in your living or dining room

Solution

If your picture hangs from a wire or cord, it may slide along and hang slightly skew. To prevent this, wrap a piece of sticky tape around the cord, on either side of the centre point and hang the picture.

Art for your home isn't only those expensive investment pieces. Photographs provide a savvy solution for adding colour and interest to an otherwise plain wall. You can choose to display photos of your family or group a special collection of prints together. For example, black and white photographs, wildlife prints or a collection of landscapes, boats or lighthouses. Choose prints or photographs according to the colours in your décor.

Placing and groupings

Look around your room and find the right spot for your picture. A small photograph will seem lost over a big sofa and a large print will look cramped in a small room. For a long, empty wall, select several smaller pieces. If you have stairs in your home, consider a staircase gallery.

Pictures should hang slightly above eye-level when you are standing (for an adult of average height). The top part of all frames on the wall in a room should be at the same level. You should also line up a collection of pictures at both sides and the bottom edge for a more attractive finish. If you do hang pictures above furniture, don't leave a large gap between the top of the piece and the bottom of the frame.

Before you attempt to hang your pictures, work out an arrangement on a table or the floor. If there are quite a few frames that you want to group, cut out templates to the sizes of the frames and tape them to the wall to get a better look.

The four-square grouping is trendy. You need four frames of the same size and you hang the pictures in a square. If you have frames of different sizes, start with a larger picture in the centre and work outwards. Try to match up sizes for better symmetry. Longer frames can be stepped or placed directly under one another.

Fasteners

Lightweight pictures can be hung from nails, pins or picture hooks that are driven into the wall with a hammer

or picture hanging tool, provided the plaster is sound. Heavier or larger pictures must hang from two fasteners, close to the edges of the picture or from a centre screw fitted into a plastic wall plug.

Correct positioning

If your frame has a cord, it is more challenging to find exactly where to place your centre nail or screw. Here's how:

Step 1: Place the picture in position and mark the top of the frame and left and right and corners. Measure and make a mark for the centre. Example: 30cm length – mark in the centre at 15cm.

Step 2: Turn over the frame. Hold the wire or cord taut and measure from the centre of the taut wire (and the hook if there is one) to the top of the frame. Example: 5cm.

Step 3: Back at the wall, measure this same distance from your original centre pencil mark down. Example: from the 15cm centre mark, measure 5cm down. Make a mark and insert your fastener here. ■


 FAMILY
PROJECT


Make something fun with your child and pass on some valuable skills as you spend quality time together

Tell the time

>> Gina Hartoog

Do you have a youngster in your life? Take time to upskill your young charge on how to use tools and complete certain DIY tasks. In this first article, we make a simple clock using a decoupage blank, wooden numbers, paint and craft paper.

The end product is attractive enough to put up in your child's bedroom, but it can also be used as an educational tool

to learn to tell time. Remove the battery and you can manipulate the clock hands freely.

Before you head out to the store to purchase the items you need, consider where the clock will be placed. If you want to display the clock in your child's bedroom, consider the colouring for the scrapbooking paper and match it up to suit the room's décor. 📌

The end product is attractive enough to put up in your child's bedroom, but it can also be used as an educational tool to learn to tell time

Step-by-step guide

Preparations

Step 1: Purchase everything you need for the project.

Step 2: Practice safety and ensure that your young DIY'er is old enough to use the tools indicated in the list. As you follow the steps, let your child do the work and assist where needed.

Step 3: Paint the outside edge of the clock and the back (if desired).

Step 4: Paint all the numbers and allow to dry.

Step 5: Place the decoupage blank onto the craft board and draw a circle. Cut out and set aside. We will use this to make a template to mark the clock face (pic 3).

Step 6: Use a craft knife and cut out the shape of the clock in your chosen scrapbooking paper. Assist your child with this step. It requires a steady hand but let him or her proceed slowly.

Step 7: Our decoupage blank (a clock) had the centre hole already drilled. If yours does not have the centre hole drilled, you will need to use a compass to find the centre (see steps 9 and 10). Once marked, drill the hole.

Step 8: Squeeze some craft glue on a paper plate. Apply the glue (using a small sponge) to the wood first. Place the paper cut out over the glue and press down firmly, taking care to get into the edges. Use a small plastic squeegee (or an old credit card) to ease out bubbles. You can also glue down the paper with modge podge.

Additional step: You can stop the project now and apply modge podge to your clock face in order to make it shiny and smooth. Your child will need to apply the modge podge in smooth brush strokes (using a foam brush). Allow each coat to dry completely before applying the

next coat - follow the manufacturer's guidelines. Alternate directions to get good coverage. Three or four layers will be sufficient. While you are waiting for the modge podge to dry, go ahead and make your clock face template.

Clock face template

We are going to use the coloured board to create a template to mark exactly where the numbers on the face of the clock with go. This prevents us from having to mark the clock face.

Step 9: Use the compass to find the centre of the circle on the craft board template (our yellow board). Place the point of the compass at the edge of the paper and draw a semi-circle. Complete this at approximately 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock (pic 6).

Step 10: Use a ruler to rule lines through the intersection points made by the compass. The centre is where these ruled lines cross. Extend one of the lines across the circle (12 o'clock).

Step 11: Place the protractor on this line and at centre and locate 90°. Make a mark (pic 7).

Step 12: Make marks at 30° and 60° on the right and 120° and 150° on the left.

Step 13: Use a ruler to rule lines through the centre and marked points across the template.

Step 14: Position the number for the 12 on the template and find the centre point of the number. Mark this on the template and use the compass to draw a circle (on the template) at this mark (pic 8). Cut along the line. The template is now smaller than the clock face.

Step 15: Make a hole through the scrapbook board.

Step 16: Place the template on your clock face, taking care to find the centre point and ensure that it is centre by measuring at 12, 3, 6 and 9 (pic 9).



Paint the outer edge and back of the clock



Paint the numbers



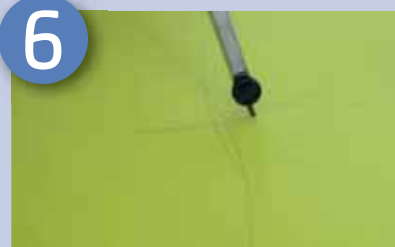
Make a template



Cut the board to size



Glue the board to the clock face



Find the centre of the circle (template)

7



Accurately calculate where the numbers will be placed

8



Calculate position of the template on the clock face

9



Position the template on the clock face

10



Glue the numbers down

11



Place mechanism and attach hands

Assembling the face and placing the hands

Step 17: Glue down the numbers (pic 10).

Step 18: Remove the nut and washer from the mechanism and place at the back of the clock. Push through.

Step 19: Attach nut and washer and tighten (use pliers).

Step 20: Place the hour hand first, followed by the minute hand and lastly the second hand.

Step 21: Add a battery and set the time.

Step 22: You can add picture hooks to hang the clock or place on an easel.

Project guide

Difficulty: Easy

Estimate cost: R150

Estimated time: 1 to 2 hours, plus additional drying time

Tools & materials

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Small pliers
- Power drill (if required)
- Compass

- Pencil
- Protractor
- Ruler
- Decoupage blank (circle)
- Scrapbooking board
- Coloured board
- Wooden number cut-outs
- Craft paint
- Craft glue
- Clock mechanism
- Clock hands
- Small paint roller
- Small paint brush
- Small sponge
- Modge podge (also called mod podge)
- Foam brush
- Small easel/picture hook
- AA battery

Skills

Learn how to...

- Glue craft board onto wood
- Paint on wood
- Find the centre of a circle
- Cut with a craft knife
- Divide a circle into 12 equal sections
- Fit a clock mechanism





Boskoors Adventure Camp

08 - 14 July 2018

We at BosKoors are inviting all avid young anglers between the ages of 7-16 years to join us for loads of fun and adventure.

Venue: Boskoors Farm, 30km North of Pretoria on the Moloto Road.

Bookings are essential!

We have limited spots available as we like to keep the number of campers at a minimum, to ensure that every child gets the necessary individual attention and guidance.

Please call Wilma on 065 849 3264 or 083 306 2718 to book your spot. For more information visit www.sabass.com or e-mail wilma@sabass.com



Electric hand plane



Produce top quality wood finishes with speed and ease



This timesaving tool can also be used in a variety of tasks such as chamfering hand rails and posts, edge smoothing and levelling framing lumber

An electric hand planer, or electric plane, as it is also called, is a power tool that saves time and effort. It is similar to a hand planer in that it rides on a sole plate (or shoe). Blades are either mounted on a drum that spins at around 20 000rpm or mounted on a cutter head. These blades remove wood equal to the difference in elevation between the front and rear plates.

The depth-adjustment gauge doubles as the front hand grip. The gauge has built-in scale settings that move the front planer shoe up or down (turn it back and forth) to set the depth of the cut. It can either remove a little wood, much like a belt sander, or it can remove a lot more wood. The depth at which you set the planer shoe will determine this.

Electric hand planers have blades that can be re-sharpened or disposable blades. Care must be taken to install the blades correctly. The bevel must be towards the back of the machine. The front tip cuts, the bevel must trail the wood already cut.

An electric plane is usually used on large workpieces, where a smooth surface is required on the whole project (all sides of the timber) – to produce smooth vertical, inclined and horizontal flat surfaces. The tool uses electrical power to force the cutting blade through the rough wood surface to shape the wood where more removal is necessary. It is designed to shape, flatten and finish larger boards off to a good quality, smooth timber surface. This timesaving tool can also be used

>> Kim Roberts
in a variety of tasks such as chamfering hand rails and posts, edge smoothing and levelling framing lumber.

Used with high skill and some accessories, this tool can be your task buddy for wood scribing, bevelling door edges or tapering and shaping wood trim. There are special types of planes that are designed to cut decorative mouldings or joints.

There are corded and cordless varieties on the market. This remains a personal choice according to the work you do. For heavy duty workshop use, consider the corded variety. The cordless tool is perfect for smaller jobs or jobs in situ where an electrical outlet may not be readily available. ■

About blades

- The blades are usually dull when the planer seems more difficult to push. It may also start smoking and sound noisy. Instead of wood shavings, sawdust may be thrown out.
- If grooves appear in the smoothed workpiece, a blade is likely nicked and will need to be replaced.
- Unplug the tool and follow the manufacturer's instructions for changing the blades.
- Have the blades sharpened or replace both blades at the same time.
- Install the blades squarely in the set plate and bolt the plate firmly to the cutter head.

Brief history

The earliest known examples of woodworking planes were discovered in Pompeii. These were made of wood, with a rectangular slot cut across the centre of the main body. A wooden wedge held the cutting iron/blade in place. A small mallet, a piece of scrap wood, or the heel of the hand was used to tap the wedge into place, and to adjust the wedge.

To reduce shipbuilding labour during 1918 during World War I, an air-powered hand held planing tool was developed. It allowed a single man to do the equivalent work of up to fifteen men who used manual planers. The air-driven cutter was able to spin at 8000 to 15000rpm.

Tool care

After turning the planer off, rest the front shoe up on a block of wood (or elevated surface) to allow the spinning cutter heads to stop without damaging your project, the blades or yourself! This also saves the blades from becoming dull or chipped.

How to use an electric hand planer

Each pass of the planer requires hand pressure and good balance. Stand with your feet slightly apart in a position that will be safe and comfortable for the movement you make with the plane. The workpiece must be properly secured.

1. Rest the front shoe of the planer flat on the wood without the blade making contact with the wood surface.
2. Start the motor.
3. Allow the motor to reach full speed.
4. Ease the plane into contact with the wood and push it forward steadily.
5. As your planer starts on the wood, keep your initial pressure on the front grip.
6. As both the planer soles contact the wood, balance your hand pressure between the front knob and tool handle.
7. Apply greater pressure to the rear handle as you push the tool off the workpiece.

To avoid an uneven bite off at the end of the surface, do not overreach the end pass. Do not let the front shoe drop off the wood. The final finish of your work will be determined by the depth setting you choose and the speed at which you make your passes. To shape post edges, centre the V-notch (chamfer slot) in the front shoe onto the timber corner or ridge. Make long continuous smooth passes until you reach your desired effect.

Recommended safety gear

- safety glasses
- dust mask
- ear plugs



Important vehicle maintenance checkpoints to consider as the winter weather sets in

Car ready for the cold?

As dawn breaks later and the sun sets earlier, you can expect to drive more in changing light, or even darkness

A flat battery is a common problem on a cold winter's morning

>> Gareth Greathead

Winter driving

Winter requires a change in driving habits. Eugene Herbert, managing director of MasterDrive, provides tips on how to adjust your driving to best handle winter conditions:

- On misty mornings, remember not to switch on your brights as the beams will reflect off the mist. Rather use low-beams or fog lights.
- On very cold mornings be prepared for frost. This will make the roads more slippery and require larger following distances, gentler braking

and more caution when going around corners.

- As dawn breaks later and the sun sets earlier, you can expect to drive more in changing light or even darkness. If you do not already automatically switch your headlights on as soon as you get in the car, take care to do so now.
- To avoid the glare shining into your eyes change your usual routine and routes. Leave earlier in the morning or take alternative routes where the

glare is not as bad.

- Polarised night vision sunglasses can assist with glare (and driving in mist).
- Keep your windscreen clean inside and out.
- Avoid glare by raising your seat position so you are higher up.
- Lower your visor before you leave so you are not blinded suddenly as you round a corner.
- Do not use high-gloss vinyl cleaners on your dashboard.

While we have a relatively moderate climate, making sure your vehicle continues to perform safely and efficiently in winter requires some preparation.

Antifreeze

As always, it is important to check your fluid levels regularly. When topping up your coolant system, no matter the season, you should top up with antifreeze only. If the temperature drops below freezing and the ratio of antifreeze to water is insufficient, the coolant inside your engine can freeze. Since water expands when frozen, engine damage is a very real possibility. Also, despite the cold weather outside, the lack of water circulation will cause the engine to overheat in a short period of time.

Some leaks may go unnoticed during the summer months but may manifest during the winter months. When you turn your heater on it diverts coolant through a valve into your heater radiator which heats the cabin inside. The first thing to do is to check that your fan and heater are working correctly. If you are topping up fluid regularly you should get your vehicle checked for leaks and make repairs where necessary. Finally, antifreeze does not last indefinitely and it loses effectiveness over time and no longer lubricates components such as the water pump. Antifreeze is also an anticorrosive and a lack of antifreeze can cause blockages and premature failure of parts. Most manufacturers recommend that you drain and renew your coolant system every three years.

Battery

One of the most common problems drivers experience with their car on a cold, winter's morning is a flat battery. There are several reasons for this but normally it takes more than cold to destroy a battery. Think back to the summer months and you may remember leaving your headlights on and having to jump start your vehicle in order to get to work on time.

It only takes a single discharge to permanently affect the internal circuitry of the battery, lowering its charge capacity. All batteries 'self discharge' when not in use and when exposed to extreme cold or hot temperatures, self discharge occurs at a faster rate. This combined with a reduction in storage capacity and increased draw from components like your starter on a cold morning can send it over the edge. To avoid being stranded on the coldest of cold days you can get your battery load tested at a battery shop to ensure the battery is still operating as designed. If a vehicle is not used regularly it is recommended that you place it on a smart charger that charges and discharges the battery (cycles) within set limits to keep it working at its best.

Tyres

In cold northern climates car owners may need to fit winter tyres when driving in snow or icy conditions. In South Africa there is no such requirement but changes in temperature can affect the pressure in your tyres. New cars come with tyre pressure monitoring systems which let you know if your tyres are underinflated and a cold winter's morning is enough to light up the indicator on your instrument cluster. To avoid this happening when you are running late you should schedule a stop at the petrol station on a cold morning when the tyres are at their coldest.

Windows

Frosted windows are common in many parts of the country and can severely impair your vision. An ice scraper can be used to remove the ice but this takes time. On the other hand a kettle of hot water may turn a small crack into an unsafe windscreen. First, check that all your window

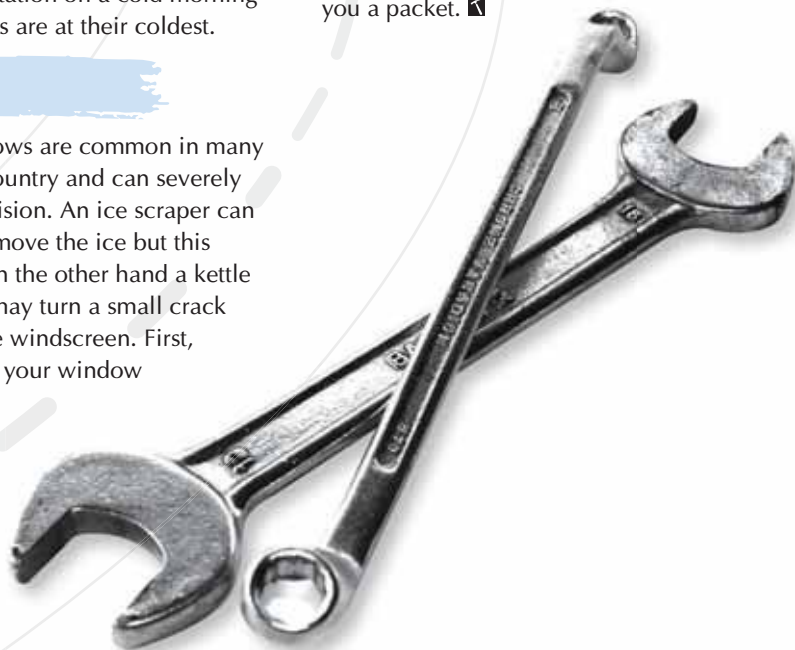
demisters are working. A pull over car cover can be used to prevent the build-up of ice overnight. If you don't have a car cover or don't have the time to pack it into your boot each morning, a blanket or bath towels work well too.

For a makeshift cover, try a painters' drop sheet and sew in a few magnets on each side to ensure it stays in place. Another solution may be to make your own de-icing fluid by mixing some isopropyl alcohol and a few drops of carwash into your washer bottle. Remember to check the condition of your wipers because these will need to be in good condition in order to rub the ice from windows.

Cabin filters

Often overlooked is the importance of changing the pollen filter fitted in the interior of your vehicle. This component ensures that the air inside the car is filtered helping to prevent allergies that may be distracting to the driver. You can buy a can of A/C cleaner from your local motor spares shop or change the pollen filter which is normally located behind your cubby hole.

Avoid the cost and even tragedy that can happen if you do not adapt your vehicle and your driving when the seasons change. It only takes a few changes to be ready and it can save you a packet. 🚗



ASK OUR EXPERTS

Our panel of experts answer your questions on DIY problems

Saw blade heats up

WINNER

I am converting logs into planks using a Lumber Pro Band saw machine and also converting blocks of teak into planks. The band saw blade heats up and resin and sap build up on the blade. The blade becomes blunt quite quickly. What can I use to clean it while sawing planks?

Roy Hungwe, Zimbabwe

Master woodworker Denis Lock replies: An overheating blade can result from many things. The most common cause is the failure to adequately clear the sawdust from the cut. The blade must be the correct profile and the correct number of teeth per inch for the type of cuts being made. Blade speed, amount of tooth set, blade sharpness and blade guide settings

are also critical factors. This machine may well have a blade-cleaning function as standard. Is it correctly installed? Is it worn and in need of replacement? My first step would be to have the machine inspected and serviced by a qualified service person.

Esser Vorster from Norwood Sawmills replies: Firstly, I have to say, well done to Denis Lock as he has responded brilliantly. I would like to respond a bit more focused on specifics to the machine and our blades. Roy has the HD36 unit from us with the ceramic blade guide and automatic water regulating system. These are both upgrades from the standard versions and designed for cooler blade running. However, even with the water assisting with a cleaner blade, the main function is in heat reduction as that is the

main factor for the blade going blunt. We normally suggest that the customer add some dishwasher detergent to the water to assist with the sap build up. The other factors would be, as Denis mentioned, has the ceramic guides been set properly? The correct clearance would be 0.5mm on the top and bottom. Is the water flowing correctly through the feeding system? Are the blades sharp and set properly? The setting of the blade plays a major role, especially on sharpened blades. The teeth of the blade lose their set over time and we suggest setting the teeth after every three sharpenings to prevent the blade from overheating and sap build up. In short there are a few factors that can contribute and we will be in touch with Roy to optimise his blade life.

WIN

3 product gift hampers from A.Shak

valued at R250 each

Send us your DIY queries and you could be a winner!

Send your queries to:

The Home Handyman DIY Queries
editorial@homehandyman.co.za or
P.O. Box 24938, Gezina, 0031

Please include your name, physical address and contact number (office hours)

Please note: Queries will only be answered in the magazine. Winners' prizes may take up to six weeks for delivery and are sent by the prize sponsor. Prizes are not exchangeable.



Leaking ground dam

I live on a smallholding and my ground dam seems to be losing water. Is there a solution?

Jeff, by email

Fritz Schultz from Aqua Plastech answers:

Aqua Plastech's Dam and Pond Sealer provides a simple and quick solution to seal ground dams. The product is a non-toxic polymer powder that is applied to the surface of the leaking dam or pond without having to empty the water or risk animal and plant life. The powder is scattered on the water surface and is designed with a positive charge which draws it downwards through the water to the bottom of the pond or dam. Water pressure, called hydrostatic pressure, which causes the dam or pond to leak, forces the polymer down into cracks and crevices as it sinks to the bottom. The polymer is activated with water and expands exponentially, binding to other polymers to form larger groups. It is also safe for dams that supply potable water and works for most soil types, from sandy and loam soils to clay soils. For more information, visit www.aquaplastech.co.za.



Ants move in



The ants seem to like my gate motor and take up residence there. The first time only the remote didn't work. On closer inspection, I found a nest and destroyed it – the ants were in the receiver. The second time, both the remote and the manual button inside the house did not work. Why does their presence in the housing stop the gate from working? How can I keep them out?

Bram from Kempton Park

Ouma Mahawani of Centurion

Systems replies: The motor stops working because the moisture that the ants produce causes dry joints on electronic components and will not make enough contact in order to work properly. Place moth balls inside the motor housing and the ants will stay out!



Winning query

This month's winning query comes from

Roy Hungwe

of Zimbabwe. Roy wins a waterproofing product hamper to the value of R950 from A.Shak.



Dress the deck

I suppose winter is the time to 'service' a wooden deck. I used an oil base treatment the first time, but the supplier closed down. What is the best sealant to use?

Gary, by email

Frikkie Greef, managing director at

Woodoc replies: "It is good practice to do yearly maintenance of all exterior wood, especially a timber deck. Exterior wood and woodwork is exposed to severe weathering in the South African climate and no exterior sealer or varnish will last forever. As we do not know what was applied to the deck originally, we will assume that the product applied was a solvent based, film forming sealer or varnish. We suggest that all the old coating should be sanded or stripped off the wood, right down to bare wood. This rather onerous task is essential for two reasons: (a) to ensure compatibility of the new sealer applied and (b) to ensure that the new sealer can bind with the wood and not be lost due to an old

coating delaminating. If the timber surface is ribbed, preventing sanding, it may be a good idea to turn the deck planks over, so the smooth side is on top, facilitating surface preparation. This will also give you the opportunity to inspect and replace the decking screws as necessary.

We recommend Woodoc Deck Dressing for hard, dense wood types like teak and Woodoc Deck Sealer for softer wood types, like SA Pine and Meranti. Woodoc Deck Dressing is a sealer designed for hard, dense wood types where penetration of the sealer is limited by the nature of the wood. The product remains flexible to match the movement of the wood beneath and does not become brittle like conventional varnishes and it will not peel and flake. It is also formulated to be extremely easy to

maintain. Woodoc Deck Sealer offers the same benefits but was designed to also protect the surface of the softer wood types against abrasion and scratching. Softer wood types used as decking material need a harder, more abrasion resistant surface coating to protect the wood against wear.

Proper surface preparation is essential. It is important that the wood be deep sanded to remove all traces of any previous coating. Once the sanding is done, the wood should be scrubbed very well with steel wool and mineral turpentine to remove all traces of oil or wax from the wood. The wood should then be allowed to dry before applying the product of your choice.

For more information, contact 0800 411 200.



Moulded edges

Denis Lock takes closer look at moulded edges



At the start of a project all of the pieces of wood are (or should be) straight and square. Either the supplier does this machining as part of your order or you do it as the first step. Each piece of wood has two faces, two edges, two ends and twelve arrises (figure 1). An arris is defined as the sharp edge at the meeting of two surfaces at an angle with one another. These arrises are uncomfortable to the touch: I have cut my finger tip on a number of occasions. They are prone to splintering and do not take kindly to knocks. They also do not paint or varnish well. In simple projects the arrises are often simply eased with a sanding block. More often the arrises

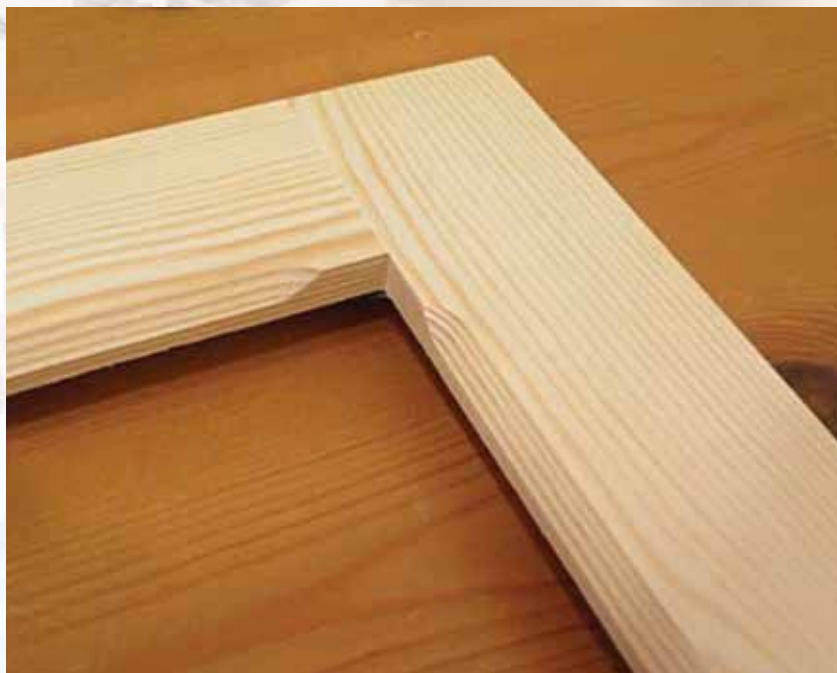
are moulded (shaped or profiled are alternative terms). Such treatments have a huge and definite impact on the appearance of wooden items. The phrase I like to use is 'from boring to beautiful'.

The bookcase (photo 1 - taken in a small town in the Karoo) has no moulded edges. It looks amateurish and heavy. The wall unit (built by the author – photo 2) has lots of moulding. The plinth and counter top are both finished with a round-over plus quirk. The door stiles, rails, and raised panels have Roman ogee profiles. The shelf edges have a small cove top and bottom: this makes them appear lighter. The twelve columns

>> Denis Lock*

have triple round-bottom grooves cut on their visible faces. This decoration is called fluting. Finally a 70mm by 70mm crown moulding that gives closure as your eyes move upwards assimilating the details of the unit.

The old-time cabinet maker had a collection of wooden moulding planes: each with a profiled wooden body and a matching profiled steel blade (photo 3 shows one of many shapes). The blades of these planes were kept razor sharp and in the hands of a skilled craftsman created the type of mouldings seen in photo 2. I don't have a collection of antique planes. I don't have the skill



to use these hand-tools. What I do have is a hand-held router (photo 4) and some 1/4" shank tungsten carbide tipped profile router bits such as the one shown in the photo 4 insert. I also have a router table and some 1/2" shank profile bits. With these I can (and you can) achieve the same result as the old-time craftsman achieved with his wooden moulding planes.

Profile router bits

My early profile router bits (top half of photo 5) were one-piece bits made of high speed steel (HSS). There was a pilot at the tip of the bit. This is simply a small cylinder that rubs against and follows the edge of the work. The solid pilots had two problems. If you don't keep the bit moving the spinning pilot generates enough heat to cause burn marks on the edge of the stock. Scorching is evident on the bit in photo 5. Because of its small diameter the pilot could score the edge of the wood being moulded. This was particularly true on soft woods. Today's profile bits (bottom half of photo 5) have a steel body with tungsten carbide cutting tips brazed to the body. Tungsten carbide holds its cutting edge ten times longer than HSS. Tungsten carbide is very

brittle and care must be taken to prevent knocks against hard surfaces. The solid pilot is replaced by a ball bearing held to the tip of the bit with a grub screw. Burning is eliminated because the bearing rolls along the edge of the work instead of rubbing. Scoring can still be a problem on softer woods: particularly with budget bits that have very small bearings.

Figure 2 shows three common profile bits. The Pro-Tech router bit catalogue features eighteen different profile bits. Most shapes are available in both 1/4" shank and 1/2" shank variants. Most shapes are also available in multiple sizes. In total you could buy 72 different profile bits from Pro-Tech. Add the other brands and the number is greater than 100. A common design point for all of these bits is that the outer diameter of the bearing is equal to the smallest diameter of the cutter. This is obvious when you look at the picture of the round-over and chamfer bits (Figure 2). This design point is not always met and some cheaper bits are badly ground. The smallest diameter of the cutter is a fraction larger than the diameter of the bearing and a small ridge is left by the cutter. This is most annoying and requires laborious hand sanding to remove.

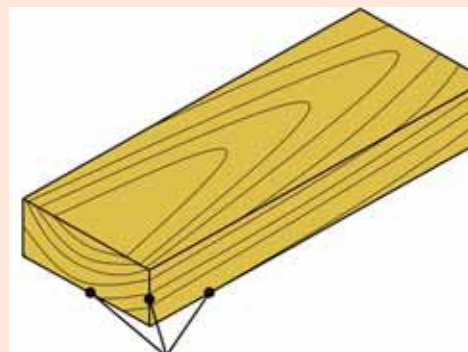


Figure 1: Arrises

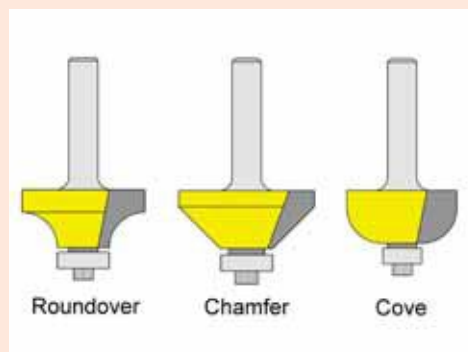


Figure 2: Three common profile bits

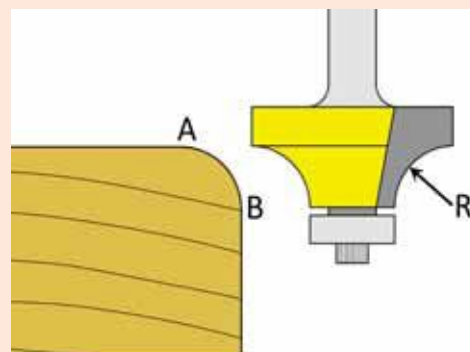


Figure 3: A perfect roundover

1



Amateurish and bulky

2



Effective use of mouldings

3



Wooden body and a matching profiled steel blade

4



Today's equivalent – the router

The roundover, chamfer and cove profiles

Figure 3 shows the profile bit that is used most often: the roundover bit or corner rounding bit. I have roundover bits ranging from a radius (R) of 1/8" (3mm) to 1-1/4" (32mm). The one I use most often is a 1/4" (6mm) radius bit. I strive for what I call a perfect roundover: that is one where the curve is tangential to the face (at point A) and edge (point B) of the board being moulded. If the bit is accurately ground a tangent at point B is guaranteed. A tangent at point A requires an accurate depth setting. I set the bit depth by eye, make a test cut and check. Minor adjustments using the router's micro depth adjustment allow me to be spot on after another one or two test cuts. A rounded edge feels good, is not prone to splintering, takes kindly to life's knocks and allows finishes to flow evenly. It also looks good. When light falls on an object the various facets on the surface reflect it in different ways. A curved surface allows the light to fade to a shadow.

Another bit that is used often is the 45 degree chamfer bit (middle of figure 2). The size of a chamfer bit is measured at 45 degrees along the cutting edge. My advice is to buy the largest one in the catalogue. A large chamfer bit can cut small chamfers. A small chamfer bit can't cut big chamfers. This is an interesting bit: the size of cut can be infinitely varied up to the maximum cut. I generally cut chamfers varying from 2mm to 8mm (measured along the diagonal). A chamfered edge creates a definite surface that reflects light in such a way as to help define the outline of component. This can be seen in Photo 6 – a simple bathroom mirror frame. The chamfer on the frame echoes the bevelling on the mirror: a synergistic combination.

Another regular use for a 45 degree chamfer bit is to chamfer the bottom edges of furniture legs. This greatly

reduces the chance of splintering if a piece of furniture is dragged across a rough floor surface.

The study unit seen in photo 7 features two sizes of cove moulding. The crown moulding is a simple strip with a 1/2" (13mm) cove moulding on the bottom edge. Books are heavy and the shelves have been strengthened by adding a 38mm x 20 mm strip back and front (see Photo 7 insert). A 1/4" (6mm) cove moulding on the top and bottom of these strengthening strips reduces their apparent weight.

Curved edges and straight edges

Profile bits with a bearing on the tip are classed as self-guided bits. Gentle pressure from the operator keeps the bearing rolling against a pre-formed edge thus guiding the router. Both curved and straight edges (a straight line is a curve of infinite radius) can be followed and moulded. Careful control of the router is needed at the start and end of a cut. I tell my students to pause for a moment before starting a cut and to commit the shape of the edge being profiled to memory. If your brain knows the shape it will do a better job of instructing your hands.

Often the moulding being done is on straight pieces only. I watch





many internet videos where straight edges are being moulded using the bearing as the guidance. "Wrong!" I shout at the computer screen. Use the parallel fence to guide the router. Attach a strip of wood to the parallel fence (photo 7) with a cut-out to clear the bit being used. Adjust the fence so that a steel rule rubbed against just 'kisses' the bearing (photo 7 insert). There are a number of advantages to using the parallel fence instead of the bearing. The sideways pressure is taken off the router bearing and is transferred via the fence to the router body. The start and end of the cuts is much easier and the chance of kickback is eliminated. The bearing cannot score soft wood and if the cutter is badly ground the ridge mentioned

earlier can be avoided by a slight adjustment of the fence.

In the next issue I will show you, that by making multiple cuts with the same or different cutters, you can create a large number of unique profiles. You will be surprised at how many profiles you can cut with only four bits. I will show you how to make a 70mm x 70mm crown moulding such as seen in photo 2 using built-up moulding techniques. 📐

ABOUT DENIS:

Denis Lock runs a woodworking school and shop in Midrand, 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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5



Yesterday's bits vs. today's

6



Chamfers and bevels

7



Cove mouldings

8



The correct way

Talking hand tools

Woodworkers should select their hand tools as carefully as their power tools



Always buy hand tools from a retailer that offers you the opportunity to first try them in store

My list of essential hand tools:

>> Tobias Lochner

I am passionately interested in making classic furniture, some call it "The Golden Age of Cabinetmaking", others call it Sheraton, Chippendale, Hepplewhite, Adams, Queen Anne, Shaker, Federal, Victorian or Phyfe and many call it ugly, old, boring stuff that great-grandma used.

Where I can, I make use of hand tools; where I absolutely need to, I use the noisy dangerous kit. Over the years, I have reduced my reliance on machines, mainly because I believe I have reached the stage in my woodcraft where I properly understand my tools.

I take immense pleasure in shaping and jointing wood by hand. There are quite a few positives to this approach, my coffee is not enhanced with a porridge of sawdust, I can listen to music or have a conversation whilst I work and I gain a wonderful sense of personal achievement in the process.

Whatever style of furniture we make, we all use the same methods and tools to

differing degrees. My everyday reality is that I continue to learn an immense amount from early furniture makers.

Think about it: Whether you were a furniture maker in 1764, or are making furniture in July 2018, a hand saw is still a hand saw, a chisel still performs exactly the same purpose that it did hundreds of years ago, a hand plane is still a chisel held in a controllable position in a jig, 90° has been 90° since the dawn of time and flat still means flat!

Every year there is a plethora of new tools entering the SA market, all promising to turn us into incredible woodworkers overnight, sometimes sooner. I admit that I cannot do without certain basic tools; however these tend to be those that have stood the test of centuries.

Excellent hand tools are available from woodworking specialist stores in South Africa, and everything you need, we have right here in SA! 🇿🇦

- 4" double square
- #62-1/2 low angle adjustable mouth jack plane
- Set of chisels (Bench/Mortise/Paring/Dovetail)
- Wheel marking gauge
- Set of various profile cabinet scrapers
- Set of Spokeshaves
- 8" Fretsaw
- Dovetail saw (20 TPI Rip Cut)
- Carcass saw
- Large router plane with cutters
- #4-1/2 adjustable mouth smoothing plane
- 1" shoulder plane
- Set of ceramic water stones
- Shooting plane
- Low angle adjustable mouth block plane

Resource

Article and images supplied by BPM Toolcraft (Pty) Ltd. www.toolcraft.co.za
Questions for Tobias can be directed through the "Ask our Experts" page.

WOODWORKER'S CORNER Showcase

A handy gift

If you don't have a salad serving set, just use your hands! Chris Erasmus of De Doorns made two salad serving sets, one in teak (kiaat) and the other in yellowwood. Chris says that there are no shortcuts to getting the wood shining smooth – it's sanding, sanding and simply more sanding! He used a band saw for the rough cut, a chisel to work it down and the rest – sand until you are satisfied (and tired of sanding). Technical oil brings out the colour.



Table for a coffee aficionado

Hentie van Loggerenberg from Pretoria made this coffee table from a pepper tree stump and a mix of sleeper wood and African mahogany for the table top. He was inspired to make it while in the process of renovating his lounge. The tree stump was lying in the garden and inspiration hit for a coffee corner to be included in the lounge renovations. It was a fun weekend project, with satisfying results. The perfect spot for a hot cup of coffee on a cold winter's evening.



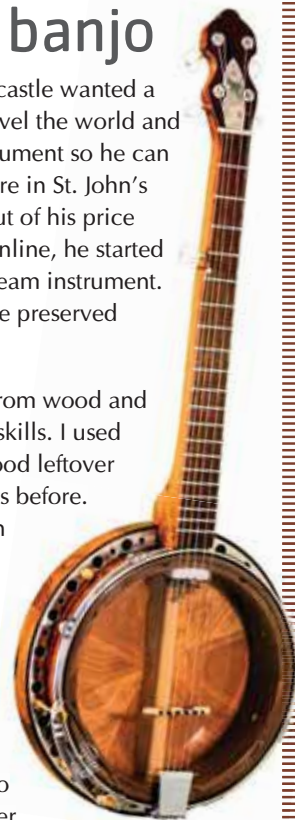
Breathtaking banjo

For years Etienne Claassen of Newcastle wanted a banjo. He has been fortunate to travel the world and continued to look for the right instrument so he can learn to play. He found a music store in St. John's in Canada – but the banjos were out of his price range. After doing some research online, he started a three year journey to build his dream instrument. At times the going was rough but he persevered through the project.

Says Etienne: "The banjo is made from wood and metal; testing my metal and wood skills. I used brass and stainless steel and the wood leftover from the Model T Ford I made years before. The Model T Ford was published in this magazine two years ago.

I also used maple, imbuia, walnut, cherry, purple heart and African padauk wood. I did a lot of gluing and combining woods. I used West epoxy to glue everything together as it is much stronger than conventional wood glue. I also had to join metal and wood together and that alone drove me up the wall!

Regarding cost, well the banjos in St John's were cheaper. It cost me about R2500 to make. Luckily, I learnt a lot and had fun along the way. I did it as a challenge, but I can tell you this, for me it is easier to build a banjo than to play it!"



Showcase your work



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Write a caption with your name, surname, inspiration, type of wood, etc. and send to editorial@homehandyman.co.za

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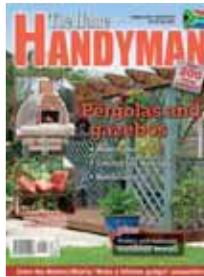
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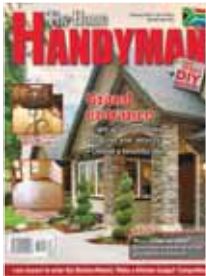
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Reuben the Screwman shares his version of a 'near death experience'

Meat on the menu

The only thing that can pull me from the clutches of this dreadful state is to declare a Meat Day

>> Reuben Hart

My 'almost' vegetarian existence for the past 37 years, courtesy of my wife Kaeren, has its merits as well as some nasty side effects.

I have a thing called 'The Man Cycle' and it has no chauvinistic connotations at all. It happens when I've not had meat for more than ten days. I get a little grumpy, I'm a little touchy and misunderstood most of the time. The only thing that can pull me from the clutches of this dreadful state is to declare a Meat Day.

The day starts off with crispy bacon and eggs. Lunch, a burger and for dinner, lamb chops (and I live in the heart of lamb chop country). Now this day itself brings on another side effect. Because the body is not used to digesting animal fat, it chooses to demonstrate its discontent at the most inopportune moments and in a vile manner.

A while ago, I went for my usual morning stroll up the hill. Having indulged myself in rather decadent Meat Day the day before, my stomach gave me one or two warning shots early that morning, but I threw caution to the wind and shouldered on like a true trooper.

I was about halfway into the expedition when disaster struck. As the earlier

warning shots had no effect on me, the stomach fired another volley and this time a rubber bullet struck me. The shock and panic sent shock waves through my body and made me clench muscles I did not know I had.

In the distance down below, I could see Zac opening his restaurant. As in battle, I stood frozen weighing up my options. None of which really filled me with confidence. I estimated my arrival time at Zac's... If I bundu bash downhill and cross country, I could make it in fifteen minutes. In my condition, fifteen minutes seemed like a lifetime.

And so the torturous race against time in order to save my dignity had begun. Bear in mind, I then recently had knee surgery and was still walking with a stick – an action that placed the race right up there with the Comrades and the Two Oceans. With my knees tight together like an Irish dancer and my buttocks clenched to twelve bar, I started my decent in baby steps.

The tummy onslaught carried on unabated. By the time I reached the stream, a second 'rubber bullet' struck me as I was trying to get a footing on a loose rock. I dropped all formalities and just waded knee deep through the water like a regular Bear Grylls. In my mind I thought I'd give just a little as to relieve

the pressure, but I gave more than I could afford!

As I approached the back of the restaurant, the staff could see by my wet pants and shoes - I was not a contestant in a sack race that had lost his sack. My bewildered and pleading eyes cut straight to the chase. A "quick, where is the loo?", "a table for one?" or "water for the table?" was not required, and I was promptly directed to the best seat in the house. As I sat down I could see a white light in the distance and a heard a harp playing *Hallelujah*. The storm eventually abated and no real damage was caused. Peace fell upon me and my body turned into a relaxed and restful state. As I was about to leave, I caught a glimpse of my reflection in the mirror. With water (mixed with most of my dignity) still seeping out of my wet shoes, I classed this as a near death experience! 🍖

ABOUT REUBEN:



With 40 years of his life in the hardware business and 12 years on radio as 702's DIY guru, behind his belt, Reuben 'The Screwman' Hart decided to pack it up and run for the hills. After traveling 7000km, he and his wife found their hill in Barrydale in the Western Cape.

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