

The Home HANDYMAN

July/August 2019 • Vol 29 No 7



SA'S
ORIGINAL
DIY
MAGAZINE



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GRAND ENTRANCE**



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The Home Handyman is published bi-monthly
(6 issues per annum) by WJ Lindeque cc t/a BB Print
(CK99/23366/23)

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Distribution Republican News Agency | 011 248 3536

About *The Home Handyman* magazine:

The Home Handyman magazine is a specialized D.I.Y. publication and caters for a well-defined niche market since November 1993. The magazine equips its ever-growing readership with relevant D.I.Y. information, knowledge and skills.

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South Africa	Printed	Digital
Back Copy	R35.50	R27.95
6 issues	R209.00	R169.00

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FROM THE WORKBENCH

Back into the swing of things

Returning as editor of *The Home Handyman* magazine has come at a particularly good time for me; just as a car starts to rattle after a certain number of kilometres or your body starts to ache in new places once you reach a certain age, our home seems to have reached that time of its own life where whatever can go wrong with it, is going wrong with it...



While I look around the house and shake my head at the newest dilemma facing us, I am also excited at the prospect of tackling these projects (with a camera to document the process), and get our house back into the same shape it was in when we first fell in love with it. A tree's roots are disturbing the paving, the garage door is in desperate need of a refinish, the patio roof is showing signs of a big damp problem, and the kitchen ceiling leaks in one particular spot. That's not to mention the less essential yet no-less time-consuming projects of redecorating the kid's rooms as they get older and move on to the next phases in their lives.

At times it is overwhelming and seems like it will be a never-ending process, but it's also great to see the progress when you finish one project and cross it off the to-do-list. That sense of accomplishment when you collapse in a heap after a long Saturday of DIY'ing is particularly rewarding, as is getting the family involved and teaching the young ones a new skill. It obviously does take longer, but getting the children involved is a great way to bond as well as instil some passion for 'doing things themselves' in them from a young age. Talking of which, my 11-year-old daughter is the latest contributor to the magazine – she created and wrote the article on making your own slime in this issue for our 'Young DIY'er' section. If you are unaware of the slime-fad, that probably means that you do not have young children or grandchildren in the house!

Elsewhere this issue, we present a number of woodworking and metalworking projects and assist with décor and DIY solutions around the home, with a particular focus on the bathroom. Regular readers will notice that Denis Lock's popular Woodworker's Diary series is not included this issue – Denis recently said a sad goodbye to his wife of over 50 years. Everyone at *The Home Handyman*, and I am sure many in the woodworking fraternity, has Denis and his family in their thoughts at this time.

Gregg

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OFF THE SHELF

Your guide to the latest products in the world of DIY

New range of machines for woodworkers

Toolmate Pro will be launching to the market in June 2019

Toolmate Pro is a new and well thought out range for the woodworker that desires a little more refinement in his machine. These are good quality tools and are of a solid accurate construction.

Strand Hardware are very excited as they explore the possibilities and advantages of this new series of machinery. They will complement their existing range of Toolmate, Jet and Powermatic tools. Toolmate Pro will strategically slot in between the current Toolmate and the Jet ranges.

They will start this adventure with a good range. Just to whet your appetite, they will let customers in on a few of the machines the company are bringing in, such as four different lathes (from a Midi to a large 22-inch machine), a sliding table saw, an elaborate dust extraction unit, a new 250mm planer/thicknesser and some sanders.

For more information, visit www.strandhardware.co.za or call 041-585-6996



Quality silver polish

A product to clean all silver on antiques, plating and appliances

Howards Pine-Ola quickly and easily restores the beauty back to your fine silver by removing years of tarnish and oxidation. It cleans all silver on antiques, plating, appliances and chrome fittings and shines metal surfaces without using acids or harsh abrasives.

It protects with a special Pine-Ola blend that helps slow down tarnish for a long-lasting shine which safely and effectively polishes and restores all silver on antiques, jewellery and cookware. "The Howard Pine-Ola formula gives you instant action and is amazingly fast and easy to use," says Mindi Hunt, the SA agents for Howard and co-owner and founder of the Vermont Sales operation. "It not only cleans well but also removes scratches and marks bringing back the life of the newly cleaned item."

Since 1920, the USA Howard Pine-Ola brand of metal polishes has been the choice of leading silversmiths across the United States and Europe. This traditional formula easily restores the beauty back to fine silver. Pine-Ola also helps slow down tarnish for a long-lasting shine, keeping silver bright and lustrous.

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



New generation vacuum cleaners for DIYers

Range of vacuum cleaners offers the perfect tool for every application

Bosch is offering DIYers the perfect tool for every application – from the high performance wet/dry vacuum cleaner with 1200 watts through to the 700 watts dry Vac. What the corded AdvancedVac 20, UniversalVac 15, EasyVac 3 have in common: They are small and compact and therefore very handy. All three models can be used without a dust bag. The tools are provided with elastic bands, which can be used to secure the hose easily and conveniently, as well as an integrated accessory holder. They can be transported particularly easily and stored away without taking up much space, while the required accessories are always to hand. In addition, their scope of delivery includes a universal adapter, which enables connection to every Bosch power tool in the current DIY range. This allows DIYers to extract dust as it is produced during sanding, sawing and routing.

For more information, visit www.bosch.co.za or call 011-651-9830



Slow casting resin

UV stable and food safe resin for a multitude of uses

The two-part slow casting epoxy from Toolmate, available through Strand Hardware, is perfect for river tables, crack filling, chopping/bread boards, jewellery and much more. It is UV stable, food safe and allows you to pour high thickness without any colour change when pigments are added. Users are able to obtain high clarity, good brightness and a colourless form. It has excellent impact resistance and thermal shock and sets at room temperature.

Important to remember:

- It is slightly bluish in thickness
- Release agents are recommended in all moulds
- A digital scale is required

A large selection of pigments, is available i.e. black, white, violet and ultra-translucent blue. In addition, they have metal powder fillers and best of all, glow in the dark!

Professional tip: When adding pigments, use clear containers to ensure that you have mixed the pigment thoroughly. The less pigment you add, the more translucent and the more you add the more solid your mix will be.

For more information, visit www.strandhardware.co.za or call 041-585-6996



Wood finishes

Woodoc Colours and Stain Concentrates provide you with colourful decorating options

The contents of Woodoc's pre-measured bottles are simply added to the clear Woodoc Sealer of your choice. No longer need the natural colour of wood restrict you from expressing your creativity. Lighten and brighten your home with Woodoc Colours – from interior furniture to exterior garage doors – the possibilities are endless.

Woodoc Colours are available in wood shades, fashion shades and Brights. Woodoc Stain Concentrates, available in eight wood shades, will make inexpensive pine look like more expensive wood types, e.g. Imbuia. All Woodoc Products are safe as they are lead-free and non-toxic when dry.

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VOICE YOUR VIEWS

Do you have any thoughts or comments on DIY issues?



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Send us your views, ideas and opinions and you could win a Makita M5802B circular saw.



Send your queries to:
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P.O. Box 24938, Gezina, 0031

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



J.M. du Plooy

wins a Makita M9203B finishing sander

Prizes are not exchangeable

A water saving warrior

WINNER

I find the articles in *The Home Handyman* on water management, such as "Greywater systems for your home" (March/April 2019) and "Get it fixed: Leaking taps" (May/June 2019) very informative, indispensable and necessary. Great articles – it is a refreshing wake-up call also. You hit the nail on the head when you mention that each step, however small, makes a meaningful difference. It may be a small contribution to water management, but one drop of water by one may make a significant difference eventually... indeed, it's the last drop that over-fills the bucket!

I can only agree that all of us should adopt a more positive attitude and act more decisively to be instrumental in saving water. Be worried? No, be prepared. Worrying won't help. Let's face the whole problem: no measures, necessary as they are, will suffice to prevent a catastrophe in the long run unless everyone contributes to water conservation. Our actions may determine how long we will have fresh water. As much as we would like her to, indeed Mother Nature does not negotiate with us.

Thank you, for alerting us to earth's water predicament. You inspire people to believe we can effect positive change: "Dripping and leaking taps are a common household problem that is generally easy to repair". Thanks for showing us how to face challenges actively and creatively and get it fixed yourself! Finally, I could fix the leaking toilet my husband could not repair successfully in nearly twenty

years, thanks to the advice from *The Home Handyman*.

While we are here, let's seize the opportunities to conserve abundantly, also water, to live graciously by lending a helping DIY hand, to exercise passion for fixing things and thus leave a 'good taste' in the lives of the next generation.

J. M. du Plooy, Bloemfontein

That is wonderful to hear and we too believe that more needs to be done to protect our precious resources for generations to come. – Ed.



A solution for replacement roof tiles

Having been an avid reader of *The Home Handyman* for a good number of years, it was a pleasant surprise to see it resurrected as a hive of information and a forum for sharing ideas.

Having obtained a copy of the March/April 2019 edition, I could identify with Frits Vleggaar's disappointment in not being able to obtain replacement roof tiles, having experienced various areas where replacements are unavailable or price prohibitive.

I turned to AMT Composites who supply a host of products that will address a number of replacement needs. AMT Composites have branches in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. The staff are eager to assist with all queries and training is available at some branches. Literature, specification sheets and DVDs are also available to guide one through the various processes.

Some of the parts that have been successfully reproduced are a number

of pot handles, a replacement front end cap for a Dremel and a securing ring for a sanitation inspection eye.

An existing roof tile can be suspended in a container, slightly larger than the tile and a two part silicone rubber poured into the container (depending on the texture of the tile, a release agent may or may not be required). Once the silicone has cured, the tile can be extracted from the silicone. A two part product supplied by AMT Composites (F180) is then mixed and poured into the mould, which after a short curing period can be extracted and a replacement tile is available and the mould ready for reuse. The replacement will be an exact replica and profile of the original tile. A variety of pigments are available, which, with a little practice, should give you a colour match.

Gregory Hill, Johannesburg

Thanks for the information Gregory, we are sure it will come in handy for many readers. – 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 300kb) and a picture of the finished product.

Email projects and photographs to:

editorial@homehandyman.co.za



Our competitions – the fine print

Prizes may not be exchanged for cash. The closing date is stipulated by the competition box. If not stipulated, it closes on the last day of the issue. For example: Jan/Feb 2019. All competitions close on 28 February 2019. To enter simply e-mail your answer to: editorial@homehandyman.co.za and include your name, surname, address and a day time contact telephone number with your entry. Unless otherwise stipulated, competitions are lucky draws and the correct entry drawn on the closing date will be the winner. The prize may differ from the picture shown. By entering this competition you agree to all rules and accept that the decision of the publisher is final and that no correspondence thereto will be entertained. This competition is open to all readers of *The Home Handyman* except employees of THH, BB Print and employees who work for the company that sponsors the prizes and their immediate families.

Injecting excitement into DIY and hardware retail



Builders has developed a new store prototype which debuted at Builders Warehouse Boksburg in May. The store not only features a new layout and look and feel, it has been relocated from its previous site, adjacent to the new location, giving it a total overhaul.

Bringing 15 170m² of world-class retail floor and trade yard, the Boksburg store will be a benchmark for all new builds and renovations across South Africa and the continent moving forward. As an early implementer of an effective digital strategy in its sector, Builders continues to capitalise on the demands of customers who want a seamless, slick integrated shopping experience. The store is a hybrid of the latest technology with personable, helpful service to educate and inspire customers to make informed DIY, home improvement and construction choices.

Builders understands that customers are looking for solutions and value-for-money which has informed the layout and experiential factor. It starts with free WIFI and 44 high-definition screens peppered throughout the store that give customers the ability to order instore, within specific departments, and shop our extended range of products as well as view promotions and search for product information or inspirational DIY content.

Our changing digital landscape has brought dynamic changes to the residential market through automation. Builders, together with Vodacom, will become a player in this growing sector by offering a bespoke service for the digital integration requirements of homeowners. A Smart Home hub will offer

customers the flexibility to custom-make solutions for their homes and budgets.

One of the latest product innovations is the introduction of flatpack modular furniture. Builders will offer a comprehensive range of the latest trends in complete furniture solutions that will not only give customers quality and choice, but competitive pricing as well. Digital and physical displays will allow customers to find the perfect solution for their home and watch 'how-to' videos.

The vida e caffè, adjacent to a meeting hub, brings a new complementary offering that makes it convenient to host meetings with individuals or groups, offers a space to work, or if one wants to relax and surf the internet, have good quality coffee, beverages and snacks available. There is also a new design and installation service to assist with home improvement projects such as kitchen and bathroom remodelling that require a professional touch. Builders can also install many products sold such as air conditioners, ceiling fans and doors, to mention a few.

Builders is one of the first African retailers to introduce a 3D printing service making this fairly new technology accessible to the public. The Boksburg store will offer an extended range that opens a world of possibility for individuals and businesses as prototyping, domestic replacement parts and modelling requirements are just some of the examples of what is now within reach for Builders customers.

For more information, visit www.builders.co.za

Tips to get your ambient lighting right

The aim of ambient lighting is to provide a room with general illumination so that the occupants are comfortable and can move around safely. From recessed lights and sconces to chandeliers and pendants, ambient lighting acts as the base lighting in a room and is layered with task lighting and accent lighting.

1. Amplify the light

Sometimes smaller rooms require a little help when it comes to ambient lighting, especially if they only have one window limiting the amount of natural light coming in. If you're faced with this challenge then consider the paint you use on your walls. Lighter colours will reflect more light while darker colours will absorb the light.

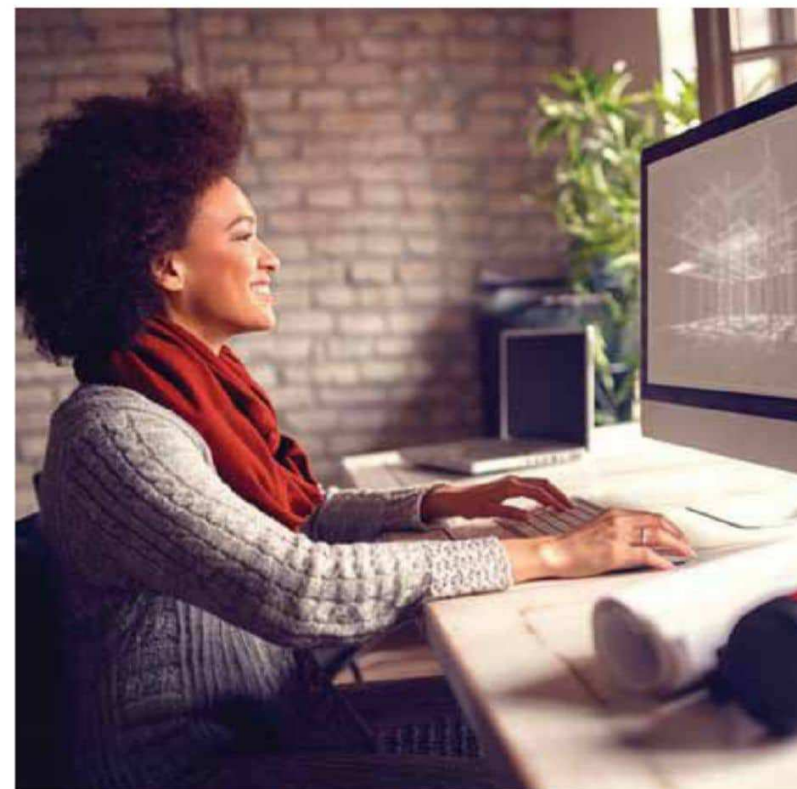
2. Factor in age and health

It's important to remember that the same level of illumination is not always suitable for everyone. Older family members and those with medical conditions such as epilepsy or photophobia will benefit from lighting that can be adjusted. This is where dimmers come in

3. Experiment with colours, shapes, and finishes

Finally, remember that ambient lighting can serve a decorative purpose during the day even when not switched on. When selecting decorative ambient lighting play around with different colours, designs, and finishes. Consider the space as a whole and think about the look and feel you're trying to achieve.

For more information, visit www.eurolux.co.za



ITC-SA Roof Estimator/Designer Courses open for registration

The Institute for Timber Construction South Africa (ITC-SA), South Africa's engineered timber construction industry body, offers estimators and designers in the nail-plated timber roof truss industry access to fundamental training through its Level 1 and 2 Estimator/Designer Courses. Registration for these courses is now open.

Engineering software for roof trusses has seen rapid advancement over recent years and has revolutionised the role of the timber roof truss designer and estimator. Even so, the product of software generation is only as good as its input, making it vital that the designer and estimator understand the basics of truss design and can easily detect errors in software output.

In order to address the need for training in this area, the ITC-SA hosts Level 1 and 2 Estimator/Designer Courses, which address the basic mathematics, calculations, general concepts and 3D visualisations that need to be fully grasped and correctly implemented in order to be a well-rounded, capable, confident and efficient timber roof truss designer or estimator. Course delivery is through self-study of professionally prepared content supplied by the ITC-SA. A certificate of completion is awarded based on the submission of two open-book assignments (submitted via email) as well as a final written exam, which will be facilitated in KwaZulu-Natal, Cape Town, the Southern Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and other areas as required. Entry into the examination will only be granted to students who have submitted both prior assignments for marking.

To enrol for the courses, visit www.itc-sa.org/designer-programme/



July highlights on the Home Channel: Room To Improve

Presented by leading architect Dermot Bannon, *Room to Improve* is about changing how we live through design and adaptation, in simple ways and without spending vast amounts of money.

In each episode, Dermot takes on a home renovation project for homeowners wishing to transform their existing home by reconfiguring it to better suit their needs. Whether it's a complete rebuild or just knocking down and erecting a few walls, an innovative approach to bringing more light into a home or bringing old charm and character into a modern home, Dermot's the man for the job.

As always, each build is fraught with human and financial drama: from having the perfect design and plan agreed to and approved on paper, to dealing with budget constraints and opinionated and indecisive homeowners, Dermot has definitely got his work cut out for him.



Fitting your own inbuilt bathtub requires some forward planning but is within reach of any competent DIYer

Tools needed

- Flat cold chisel
- Club hammer
- Claw hammer
- Electric drill
- Triangular building trowel
- Rectangular building trowel
- Philips and flat screwdrivers
- Shifting spanner
- Gas plier

It all came about unexpectedly. An ominous pool of water filtering upward from beneath the floor tiles. Alarming, after drying the puddle with a towel, the pool of water reappeared in defiance. I knew we had a problem! At first, a small inspection hole was made at the corner of the bath. This revealed a heap of sludgy mud and sand. There was no alternative but to break apart the inbuilt bath and find the source of

the leak... and so began a three-week unscheduled bathroom renovation.

This article guides you through the fitting of an inbuilt bathtub and some things I learnt along the way. Once I determined we had a burst pipe I had no alternative but to dismantle the entire bath, as the hot water pipe ran directly below. This involved hard, physical labour and painstakingly slow work. In order to minimise expenses and avoid having to redo the entire bathroom, I tried to salvage as much as possible. Therefore, breaking apart and removal of debris was carefully undertaken. Despite my best intentions, some chips and scuff marks on floor tiles and the bath itself did happen. In retrospect, the installation of a free-standing bathtub would have been a better option, but that would still have entailed a complete rework of the bathroom and I calculated that it would have cost much more.

Preparations

Once the bath was removed, it was a

matter of getting to the water pipe. This had to be dug up as it was covered over by concrete. On opening it up, the pipe was found to be severely corroded. The entire length was exposed. The mains water supply was turned off and temporary blanking stop ends were fitted to the open pipes. Beforehand, a pipe repair clamp (3/4-inch cascade clamp) was fitted around the main leak as a temporary measure so that we could still get hot water to the shower.

A new copper pipe was inserted. I called in a professional plumber for this particular job as I did not have the correct equipment such as a gas burner, solder and pipe cutter to do the copper work myself. I also wanted to make sure that the fittings between the galvanised pipe and new copper pipes were perfectly sealed so that we did not risk further leaks later. Once I was satisfied that the pipework was fine, I filled the small trench with a reasonably weak river sand and cement mix and allowed this to settle and dry. Then it was back to refitting the bath...

Trials and tribulations

There are different methods when it comes to fitting a built-in bathtub, but the method described below worked reasonably well. The most frustrating aspect was the very limited working space available which made getting into certain spots rather awkward.

Step 1: Measuring and levelling. I had noticed that the drainpipe beneath the bathtub was severely stretched and twisted which explained why our bath always took forever to drain. Therefore, the cavity where the 'P' trap was located needed to be widened and modified. New 50mm PVC pipe was purchased with a 45° elbow as well as a brand-new rubber bath trap. The precise position was measured from the bath plug hole and measured accordingly. I made a makeshift T-frame out of timber to be used as a guiding device in order to pinpoint the exact position of the plug drain once the bath was fitted.

Step 2: Large timber planks (SA pine 38mm x 152mm x 3m) were purchased in order to make the side support frames. As the bath was a corner fitting bathtub, two side support beams were needed. The hot and cold-water inlet pipes presented a problem as they were right in the middle of the frame, so the side frame was split in two sections in order to support the bathtub. Once the correct height was established (based on the P-trap below), the timber supports were secured securely in position and fastened using long, sturdy Eureka 100mm nail-in screws. Always use a spirit level to ensure that all sides are level.

Step 3: The bathtub can now be positioned in place in order to be built in. As only two sides were supported at this stage, a makeshift wooden support was made to prop up the bathtub until the brickwork could take over. However, the bathtub at this stage still needs to be movable as you will need to fill the base with river sand to support the base later.

Step 4: The first layers of brickwork can commence. I decided to build a larger platform at the one end of the bath as a shelf to keep soaps and other accessories. The brickwork was steadily built up except for the area near the drain and P-trap, as this still needed to be connected.

Step 5: Once the brickwork is nearing completion, the bathtub can be taken out and the base filled with river sand to support it when filled with water. This is easier said than done as it takes a lot of effort to level off the sand at the correct depth to create a firm base on which to rest the bath. Once the bath is firmly supported, then the drain outlet can be fitted firmly onto the P-trap. Generally, the plastic type screw clamp should be enough to create a watertight seal, as being a drainpipe, there won't be excessive water pressure. To be safe, I added a second clamp to create a firmer seal around the rubber pipe and steel outlet pipe. The sides around the bathtub can also be filled slightly with river sand to create a sturdier fit. At this point you can half fill the bathtub to check that it has seated correctly and that the water (and bathtub) are level. Check the drain connection below for any leaks when draining the bath. Once satisfied, you can complete the brickwork so that it surrounds the entire bath. The top layer of bricks should fit flush with the bathtub lip for support.

Step 6: I allowed a few days for the brickwork to dry. The taps, braided flexi-hose and other plumbing accessories were fitted, and the bath was functionally useable again. Tiles were selected and purchased, and the tiling operation commenced. I made a 45° profile on the one corner so that we didn't bash our knees against a sharp 90° corner, but in retrospect, this presented a challenge when fitting the tiles, especially on the top section.



Breaking out the bath to access the plumbing pipes



Always wear the appropriate safety gear when working – in this case sturdy gloves and eye protection to protect the eyes from flying concrete chips



A blanking stop cap is fitted to the hot and cold-water outlets. A gas plier is used to securely hold the copper pipe while a shifting spanner is used to tighten the end cap



The corroded water pipe



A cascade clamp can be used to seal the leaking pipe as a temporary measure

6



Complete removal of the bath

7



A wooden T-frame was made to measure the precise point of the drainage outlet

8



Measuring up to get the correct placement for the drainpipes

9



X marks the spot

10



Fitting the timber support beams on the two sides which will support the bathtub at the correct level

11



Throughout the installation, make sure that everything is level. This will benefit the installation process later

12



The timber support beams screwed and nailed in position

13



Fitting the rubber bath trap and 50mm PVC pipe with 45° elbow bend

14



Measuring and levelling the bath

15



Start of the surrounding brickwork

16



Fitting the bathtub in place to check that everything is in alignment

17



Concrete blocks were placed beneath the bathtub to protect the pipework below and the cavity filled with river sand

18



Spreading and levelling off the river sand before placing the bathtub

19



Brickwork complete with provision for a shelf at the one end

In conclusion

Over many years of DIY, I find that it is always easier to do a completely new renovation when it comes to bathrooms and kitchens. That way, the design can be planned from scratch and materials selected accordingly. Undertaking a partial renovation as was necessary in this case presents numerous problems, such as matching up tiles and trying not to damage existing fittings. Interestingly, we had to replace much of the plumbing as the old tap and shower fittings were not of a standard size and would not fit the braided flexi-hose connectors.

How to waterproof a shower

Step 1: Priming. The walls and floor of the shower must be in good condition, clean and dry. Prime rough, porous surfaces with TAL Floor Primer to increase the adhesion of the waterproofing compound onto the surface. The primer must be painted onto the surface, including into the floor waste, using a block brush, and allowed to dry completely.



If the walls are painted, they must be chipped with a chipping hammer, or abraded to remove at least 80% of the paint before priming or tiling.

Step 2: Internal corners and interfaces. To allow for movement, apply a 10mm silicone bead in all internal corners and joints, around the waste pipe or floor waste, and around the tap and rose plumbing. Once this has cured, apply the first coat of TAL Sureproof waterproofing compound and immediately bed the TAL Sureproof Membrane into the wet Sureproof liquid. Apply a second coat of TAL Sureproof

to completely saturate the membrane before the first coat dries.

Step 3: Walls and floors. Next, apply a coat of TAL Sureproof over the rest of the walls and floors not covered by the membrane, to ensure complete coverage of the shower space. Note that shower walls must be waterproofed to full rose height, for both a shower cubicle and for over-bath shower installations.

Leave the first coat to dry for 1-2 hours, then apply a second coat in a cross direction to ensure complete coverage. When both coats have been applied and the full shower is covered, to dry completely for 24-36 hours before walking on it, or starting to tile your shower. You don't need to prime again, you can tile directly onto the waterproofing.

To increase the water-resistance and flexibility of the tiling installation, modify the tile adhesive and grout with a latex additive such as TAL Bond.

1



To allow for movement, apply a 10mm silicone bead

2



Apply the first coat of waterproofing compound

3



Apply a coat of TAL Sureproof over the walls and floors not covered by the membrane



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TAL Floor Primer

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Easy ways to upgrade your bathroom

Small touches can make a big impact in a bathroom

You don't have to break the bank or replace the entire bathroom to make changes. New blinds, towels, taps and accessories can make a real difference. Here are a few quick and easy ways to make you bathroom that little bit better.

Upgrading your shower head

Upgrading your shower head may at first seem to be far too small a task to make a difference but that is rarely the case when it is done properly. For example, the installation of a waterfall head, which produces one long stream of water as opposed to individual needle-thin jets can make a dramatic difference to both the look of the shower and how well it works. Better yet, the installation of an LED shower head, whose lights change colour as the temperature does, can offer a dramatic change in the way your shower works and looks.

Paint refresher

When your existing vanity cabinet offers good storage, nice lines, and sturdy construction, renew the look with a fresh coat of paint or stain. For a previously stained cabinet, sand off the old finish and apply an updated stain colour. You should also sand the gloss off a previously painted cabinet and smooth out any damage with filler, and then apply a coat of primer. Finish with a topcoat of colour.

Refresh your grout

Grouting isn't sexy but it is one of the most effective, cheapest bathroom upgrades. You might be lucky and only need to scrub your grout clean. Using the scourer end of a damp kitchen sponge, rub away the dirt. If this improves the look, even a little, then you're off to a good start.

If you have rough patches or plan to regROUT the entire bathroom, your first step is removal. While you might be tempted to use a scourer or screwdriver, using a grout rake will make the job easier and protect your tiles. Push the rake in between the tiles. Stick to one direction as this will dig out the most grout, making applying the new grout easier. It's worth going over a second time to ensure the best finish. With the old grout gone, it's time to pick something new. Grout comes in a range of colours and finishes. With your new grout, you'll want to apply it using a small tiling trowel.

When in doubt, add plants

A window with a beautiful garden view can score major bonus points for a bathroom, but so can a few light floral touches. Apart from adding colour and texture, plants also breathe life into a bathroom suite. A bathroom environment is suitable for many plants, but the best ones for a space prone to wetness and humidity are orchids, peace lily, fern, and ivy.

Try new taps

Updating taps can be a brilliant way of improving the form and function of your bathroom. A massive range is available, from budget taps to luxury taps which suit basins, baths and showers. Sparkling chrome hardware adds lustre and shine, while decorative bath fixtures are easy to install and provide a look of luxury. Buy the best taps and valves that you can afford. Spending a bit more now saves money in the long term because cheap fittings will deteriorate as the installation ages meaning you're more likely to need to call out a plumber.

Change the seat

Yes, it is a simple toilet seat, but buying a new one – which is relatively inexpensive – can tie the whole look of your bathroom together. Toilet seats come in a broad range of styles which are designed to fit the numerous types of toilet pans available. You'll need to ensure that the toilet seat you choose will be the right one for your toilet.

There are plenty of affordable ideas that can instantly and effortlessly elevate your bathroom and these cheap bathroom upgrades tend to require more time and effort than money. So whether you decide to paint your tiles and cupboards or simply add new hardware, there is plenty you can do to refresh your bathroom.

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The exterior of your home can draw your attention away from the entrance, so ensure that it is up to scratch

Your entrance gives visitors their first impression of your home, yet it is often an overlooked area which, with a little DIY and TLC, could not only raise the value of your home, but also provide a grand first impression

10 TIPS

TO MAKE A GRAND ENTRANCE



Once you move inside, define the space with a bold colour such as red



Maintain order in your entrance with a host of storage options

1: Spruce up a tired façade

The exterior of your home can draw your attention away from the entrance, so ensure that it is up to scratch by repainting or plastering over ugly brickwork. Don't go too crazy: paint colours should be more sensible than on the front door, and in keeping with the architectural style of the house.

2: The approach to the front door

Guide guests from the street or driveway to the front door with a clearly marked and well-maintained path that is wide enough for two people to walk side by side. Your steps, path and/or a driveway should be free of leaves, and free from other obstructions. Sandstone or other stones from a garden centre can be used for steps and paths, and newly painted railings can make an instant difference.

3: Don't neglect the door

A grand entrance to your home can be accomplished simply by changing your current door. There are numerous ranges of luxurious entrance doors made from a variety of materials. Comfort and convenience are also qualities that people really look for, and there are even now doors on the market that do not require keys but instead rely on fingerprints or even face recognition.

Another popular option is a double door entryway. These have gained in popularity in recent years and provide your home with a regal and elegant ambiance. Provided your entryway wall is large enough to accommodate this type of door, these can radically modify the look and feel of your home.

Regardless of the type of front door entrance you select for your home, always remember that it's the first impression people will have of your home when they come to visit. Don't be afraid to splurge a little and invest in a quality home entrance that you can be proud to display to your guests.

4: Invest in quality door furniture

Cheap generally looks cheap, so try to choose door handles, knockers or hinges which both complement the style of your home, and improve the look of your front door. If your door is in good condition, new door hardware may be just what you need to add the finishing touch to your entrance.

5: Light the way

Lighting is another fundamental aspect of your home. It is a good idea to have adequate light on both sides of your front door (inside and outside). If you're illuminating your entrance garden make sure to use trees to hide the lights brightening the way. Place lights either side of the front door to add symmetry, or a lantern in a portico entrance. Don't be afraid to try out lights in situ before you commit; if they're too big or too ornate they can look brash. If your property is approached via a garden, light it sensitively. Good garden lighting is unseen; hide lights in the trees or conceal them in the garden path or drive.

6: However small the space is, add some greenery

You don't need a big garden to plant a creeper, and entrances look good with plants trailing up them on both sides. You can easily make window boxes yourself; just paint a plastic planter and plant it with some draping ivy. Landscaped beds with colourful planting and box hedges set off the front of a house; or for smaller spaces, such as either side of the front door, planters with box topiary. Remember though that some creepers are not good for brickwork as they can pull the mortar out of the wall.

7: Don't be afraid of colour

Once you move inside, define the space with a bold colour such as red, which exudes a warm welcome. More neutral colours can be added as you enter further into the home to soften the effect.

8: A space for everything

If you have a little nook in your entrance hall, tuck in a table and a chair (or even just a chair) to give it a cosier feel. Give the chair a bit of pop by covering it with fabric in a lively pattern. Maintain order in your entrance with a host of storage options to keep the multitude of belongings that seem to accumulate in a hallway in check with a variety of hooks, racks, and bins. Assign each family member one of the latter for notes or school papers. If you have space, a dresser specifically devoted to storing school bags, keys, hats and shoes will ensure a tidy entrance at all times.

9: Mirror mirror...

Position a mirror to catch the light and bring the sun into a dark entrance hallway. You can paint the mirror frame a clean, crisp white for added brightness. A mirror also works to create the illusion of extra space by visually expanding a contained area. Just make sure that it is in proportion to the dimensions of the space.

10: Get in the picture

Bring a personal touch into the entrance of your home and engage visitors immediately by creating an eye-catching wall display of family photos or art works. Creativity is key; the colours, sizes, shapes and materials of the frames needn't match – you are aiming to catch people's attention.



A mirror to catch the light and bring the sun into a dark entrance hallway

All drivers will need to change a fuse on their vehicles at some stage. We show you how

Changing a fuse

>> Gina Hartoog

What to do in the event of a road accident

Stop as quickly as possible. Turn on your hazards (if you are able to). If you are not injured, ascertain if anyone in your vehicle and those in the other vehicle (or vehicles) are injured. If anyone needs medical attention, call emergency services immediately before moving any of the cars (if they are drivable); take photos of the scene, the placing of both cars and all body damage. Move the cars off the road where applicable.

Get full details of the other driver – make, model and vehicle registration as well as the driver's name, address and contact details. Take as many photos as you can of the cars, accident scene, the other driver's license and the licence disc of the vehicle.

The accident must be reported to the South African Police Services by both drivers within 24 hours of the crash. You will also need a case number to claim from your insurance company.



Handy tip

Keep contact numbers of the tow company used by your insurance and your emergency roadside assistance in your cell phone and on paper in your cubbyhole. A hardcopy is important should your phone be damaged in the crash, or you are unresponsive and rescue personnel are unable to unlock your phone due to the password. Include contact details only. For security reasons, do not write your home address in your car's operation manual. Keep chalk in your car. You can use this to draw the placement of the cars on the road before any vehicles are moved.



A fuse is a small device that performs an important job. It is a safety device used on a circuit to protect it from a short circuit or over current. If too much current flows through the electrical circuit, the fuse blows and breaks the current flow. Fuses have a current and voltage range. The 'current rating' refers to the maximum current that can flow through the fuse in normal conditions and the 'voltage rating' must be equal or greater than the circuit voltage.

Vehicle, or automotive fuses, are those fuses used to protect your car's

electronics systems from a short circuit or over current. When a fuse 'blows' it means that the wire that runs through the fuse has melted. When this happens the circuit is broken and current can no longer run through it and you will need to replace the fuse.

Blade fuses are flat metal prongs fitted inside a plastic housing. These are the most common fuses found in cars and trucks. There are three main types according to size – mini, regular and maxi. A standard colour coding system specifies the current rate for the fuse and this makes it easy to replace.

How to change a fuse in your car

Anything from your air conditioner, power steering or electric windows to electric side mirrors, windscreen wipers or the radio circuitry may be protected by fuses. If the fuse blows, any one of the vehicle's electrical components will not work. Should this occur, check the condition of the fuses.

1. Always read the instruction manual to locate your fuse panel as vehicle makes and various models do differ. It is usually under the steering wheel, alongside or behind the cubbyhole and inside the engine compartment. A diagram in the manual will show you which fuses power which parts of your car.
2. Remove the cover. Some will unclip, but others are fixed in place with screws and you will need a screwdriver to remove it.
3. Find and remove the blown fuse. You'll have to check them – the inside wire of the blown fuse will be black and broken. Remove the fuse. You should be able to remove it using your fingers, or some vehicles have a fuse removal tool inside the fuse box. You can also use pliers.
4. Check the amperage and replace the fuse using the same amperage! If you use an incorrect fuse, you can cause damage to the electrical circuit of your car. If you don't have a spare fuse (it is worth keeping some in your car emergency kit or cubbyhole) you can remove a fuse of the same amperage from something which isn't essential and place it in the spot where it is immediately needed. Replace the fuse and close the panel.
5. Start the ignition and check if the problem is resolved. If the same fuse keeps blowing, you should take your car to the agents or an auto-electrician for inspection.



Next to the cubbyhole



Inside the engine compartment



TOP TIP!

Stains on driveways

Older vehicles may leak oil, creating an unsightly stain on your driveway paving. If the stain is attended to promptly, it should not be too difficult to remove. Mop up as much of the oil as you can. Apply very hot water and dishwashing liquid. Scrub with a stiff bristle broom and rinse well.

We speak to industry experts about the differences between adhesives and sealants and explain how to select the right one for your job

All about adhesives and sealants

>> Warren Schmidt

Have you ever started a DIY job and realised you need some strong bonding agent, glue or perhaps a sealant to seal that gaping wound at the side of your newly installed cupboard? As you rush into the nearest hardware retailer you are suddenly confronted by hundreds of different products and brands. Where do you begin? And what product will work for you?

There is an entire science behind adhesives and sealants, and it is important to select the correct type for your application. Equally important, *read the instructions carefully*. Ad hoc application of any adhesive or sealant may end in disappointment, especially after a few weeks when your prized mirror comes crashing down or the silicone around your bath starts to flake and crack.

The spectrum of adhesives and sealants are manufactured with a particular end use and desired outcome in mind. Bonding properties, thermal qualities, expansion and contraction and durability are all factors that must be taken into account. Each manufacturer therefore will indicate its use and application and these instructions must be followed precisely. Also, the bonding or binding period must be followed. In other words, the time it takes for the adhesive to properly bind and set between the various materials.

What's the difference?

Firstly, an understanding between adhesives and sealants is required. Den Braven offers the following explanation:

The main difference between adhesives and sealants is that sealants typically have lower strength and higher elongation than adhesives. The main objective of a sealant is to seal assemblies and joints or gaps. Sealants need to have sufficient adhesion to the substrates and resistance to environmental conditions to remain bonded over the required life of the assembly.

When sealants are used between substrates or surfaces having different thermal coefficients of expansion or differing elongation under stress, they need to have adequate flexibility and elongation (movement capability). Sealants generally contain inert filler material and are usually formulated with an elastomeric to give the required flexibility and elongation. Sealants usually have a paste consistency to allow filling of gaps between substrates. These sealant pastes normally cure (RTV-room temperature vulcanization) to form a durable and tough rubbery seal. Low shrinkage after application is usually required.

Durability, good weather resistance as well as UV and ozone resistance is also required in most cases. The adhesive's main purpose on the other hand is to bind one surface to another, not to seal the space between the objects.

Selecting the right product

When it comes down to selecting the right product, the first step is to ask whether you require an adhesive (glue) or a sealant. As in the explanation provided above, if you need to fill a crack or hollow cavity, or seal a join, you need a sealant. If you need to bond materials together, you need an adhesive.

Because there are so many different products designed for different applications, you need to decide on which product will be suitable. For example, some adhesives can be used across a spectrum of different materials, whereas others are designed specifically for wood, plastic, Perspex, aluminium, cloth or other materials. Each product is clearly labelled and the application instructions given. Always follow these precisely. Be aware of the thermal requirements as temperature will have a strong influence on the bonding quality and lifespan. Some adhesives may quickly disintegrate when exposed to high temperatures. Likewise, certain sealants may crack and peel when exposed to high temperatures and/or ultraviolet light.

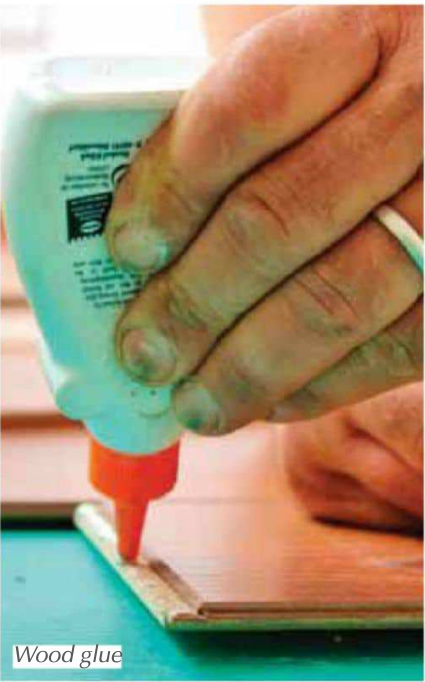
Mechanical bonding versus adhesive bonding

Mechanical bonding is the process whereby two separate materials are joined together using rivets, screws, nails or bolts and nuts. The product is easy to dismantle later, especially where bolts or screws are used (rust may however influence this). Mechanical fasteners can be used together with adhesives or sealants in certain circumstances.

Safety

The following are safety guidelines from www.adhesives.org recommended for adhesives and sealants commonly used in industrial and household environments:

Physically hardening adhesives	The active components are mainly solid polymers and resins. For application these must be converted to a liquid form. This can either be carried out by users by means of heating (hot melts) or can be carried out by adhesive manufacturers by dissolving the components in organic solvents or dispersing the components in water. The dry, fully-aired adhesive is generally unreactive and biologically inert. There is therefore usually no health hazard. In contrast, there is a potential health hazard from auxiliary components, such as organic solvents, that are present in some of these adhesives. These can make up as much as 80% of the weight of the adhesive product.
Hot melts	These adhesives contain largely polymers and resins and only small amounts of auxiliary materials. There is virtually never a health hazard. When applying these adhesives manually, there is the risk of burns and users must protect themselves against this. During heating, small amounts of auxiliary materials, contaminants and cleavage products can be liberated, but these are insignificant when small amounts of adhesive are being processed. In an industrial or commercial environment, a ventilation system is recommended due to the larger quantities being used and the longer working times with the adhesives.
Organic solvent (e.g. contact adhesives)	In these adhesives the polymers and resins are dissolved in organic solvents. The hazard potential is determined by the nature of the solvent (e.g. flammability, irritation potential). Due to the high volatility of the solvents, exposure by inhalation of the vapours is the biggest problem. For most solvents the maximum concentration at the workplace and limiting factors are laid down. Due to the small amounts of adhesive used by private users, these limit values are generally not reached or are only exceeded for a very short time.



Wood glue

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Application Tip: It is important to ensure when applying Den Braven High Tack that the 'v' nozzle is facing upward, the cartridge is held at a 90° angle, and is extruded in vertical stripes, not blobs – between 10-20cm apart. Allow sufficient curing time. Available from hardware stores.



For more information, visit www.denbraven.co.za or call 011-792-3830

Water-based (e.g. PVA wood adhesives)	In the adhesives the organic solvents are replaced by water and suitable polymers are dispersed in the water. There are hence no potential health hazards from organic solvents. However, water-based adhesives are sensitive to attack by micro-organisms (e.g. mould formation). For that reason dispersion adhesives contain small amounts of preservatives for protection purposes. The potential health hazard is the triggering of allergic skin reactions, for example allergic reactions triggered by natural polymers such as natural rubber and non-modified colophony resins. The risk of sensitisation in non-allergic people is generally extremely low due to the very small amounts of preservatives in the adhesives. Skin contact here is the exposure issue. Depending on the mode of application, skin contact may be unavoidable, as for example when using wallpaper pastes. However, here the concentration of preservatives is reduced as a result of mixing with water.
Chemically curing	The chemically reactive monomers/oligomers and hardeners and crosslinking agents determine the potential health hazard of these products. Once fully cured, the adhesive polymers are in general non-hazardous. Exposure and risk considerations only apply for the time period up until the adhesives have fully cured.
Heat Curing (e.g. epoxies, phenol-formaldehyde)	When applying these adhesives manually, there is the risk of burns and users must protect themselves against this. During heating, small amounts of auxiliary materials, contaminants and cleavage products can be liberated, but these are insignificant when small amounts of adhesive are being processed.
Moisture curing (e.g. polyurethanes)	This group of adhesives reacts with water from the surroundings or water on the substrate. When applying these materials, it is suggested to wear gloves, and eye protection. These materials cure over a period of hours or even days, however, contact with the skin should be minimised as they can cause some skin irritation/dermatitis. Vapours can cause eye irritation and direct contact to the eyes with rubbing may cause some abrasion to them. In limited use, no additional protection is needed, however, an open area is recommended for production use. As with any moisture curing product, increasing the ambient humidity level will decrease cure time.
Silicones	Single component silicones have very similar handling and use concerns as the single component polyurethanes. This group of adhesives reacts with water from the surroundings or water on the substrate. When applying silicone, it is suggested to wear gloves and eye protection. These materials cure over a period of hours or even days, however, contact with the skin should be minimised as they can cause some skin irritation/dermatitis. Vapours can cause eye irritation and direct contact to the eyes will cause irritation. In limited use, no additional protection is needed, however, an open area is recommended. As with any moisture curing product, increasing the ambient humidity level will decrease cure time.

Cold glue or hot glue

A cold glue is an adhesive that requires no preheating in order to bond to the surface of the materials. A hot glue is an adhesive that requires prior heating before its adhesive qualities can be activated. Hot glues are usually purchased as solid glue sticks and used with a heat gun or applicator. The advantage of using a hot glue is that it usually bonds and solidifies rapidly, but this can also work against you if you take too long to apply the two bonding surfaces together, as the adhesive can quickly dry, therefore affecting the bonding quality.



Caution!

Using the wrong adhesive can weaken the bonding strength and lifespan resulting in your project breaking apart. At the other extreme, some adhesives may bond so strongly that should you want to dismantle the project later, the materials are liable to break outside of the join line.

Frequently asked questions about super glue
How do I remove super glue from skin?
You can use either acetone or nail polish remover, alternatively soak the bonded area in warm soapy water, or allow the glue to naturally exfoliate from your skin which will take a day or two. Never pull super glue off your skin, and if your fingers are glued together, don't pull the area apart as this will damage your skin. Alcolin recommends the use of latex or rubber gloves when working with super glue.
How do I remove super glue from clothing/table top?
Use acetone (alternatively, use nail polish remover, which is acetone). However, acetone is not suitable for non-colour fast fibres, certain synthetic fibres, or painted surfaces. Wherever you intend using it, you must test first on an inconspicuous place for surface damage. If surface damage is an issue, warm soapy water is the next best thing to use. If you find traditional super glue messy to work with, try switching to Blitz Stick Superglue Gel, in a red tube – which does not run or drip like a normal super glue. Alternatively, Bostik supplies a blue mini pack of single use/one-application tubes. This also cuts down on spills.
What adhesive can I use to bond hard plastics such as polyethylene and polycarbonate?
These are very difficult surfaces to glue and it is difficult to achieve a long-lasting, durable bond. Epoxies and super glues may give a temporary bond to small parts. The best adhesive to use is Bostik Hard Plastics, which is a 2-part super glue, consisting of super glue and special surface primer which is applied to the plastic surface just prior to gluing to enhance adhesion of the super glue.
How do I use super glue?
Super glue is easy to use. It dries in 30-60 seconds and no clamps are needed. Clean the surfaces of the items you wish to bond, getting rid of any dust, dirt and grease. Apply a small drop of super glue, then put your pieces together and hold for 30-60 seconds. You can handle the glued object after 1-5 minutes.
What surfaces does a super glue bond to?
Wood, metals, glass, ceramics, and many plastics, e.g. polycarbonate, hard PVC, fibreglass, etc.
How does the bond of an epoxy adhesive compare to that of a super glue?
An epoxy adhesive forms a much stronger and more durable bond compared to a super glue. A super glue, however, is ideal to use when an instant bond is required.
Can I use super glue on paper?
No, super glue does not work on paper and other very porous surfaces. Super glue works best on non-porous surfaces such as metal and glass.
Is super glue heat and water resistant?
Super glue works well up to temperatures as high as 90°C and has good water resistance, however, too much exposure to extreme heat will cause the strength of the bond to weaken and similarly, exposure to too much water, especially warm water, will also cause the bond to weaken.
How do I extend the shelf life of my super glue?
Storage of your super glue in a fridge is the best way to extend the shelf life. Be careful, however, to ensure that the super glue is out of reach of small children, and do not store next to a bottle of eye ointment! There have been many incidents of people squirting super glue into their eyes as the containers often look very similar. Super glue used straight out of the fridge will take a little longer to set due to its low temperature.
To find out which adhesive is the best to use between two substrates, visit www.stickyquestions.co.za



The table can be a useful and stylish addition to your lounge suite

Project guide

Cost: Less than R500

Skill level: Basic to moderate

Time: 5 hours

Tools and materials

- Cold wood glue and sandpaper
- Paper, pencil
- Wood
- Marble for tabletop (optional)
- Screws
- Silicone
- Router and bits
- Table saw (optional)
- Chisel

Cutting list

- Marble tabletop: 330 x 240 x 20mm;
- Wood (excluding tenons of about 25mm each)
- 2 x frame uprights: 500 x 30 x 30mm;
- 2 x floor supports: 490 x 20mm, tapering from 70 to 30mm;
- 2 x under-tabletop corner braces: 75 x 45 x 45 x 20mm;
- 2 x under-tabletop side frame supports: 270 x 20mm, tapering from 60 to 30mm;
- Top upright link 160 x 20mm, arched between 60 and 45mm;
- Bottom upright link 160 x 20mm, arched between 50 and 33mm.
- Floor support link: 170 x 30 x 15mm

Do you hate stretching for your drinks or peanuts on the coffee table? Here's the answer: a side-table that fits your couch. This style of 'couch-table' has increasingly appeared on the pages of décor magazines, perhaps emerging in tandem with the apparent popularity of broad, multi-seater couches.

Make your own COUCH-TABLE

There's a new trend in side-tables for your lounge. Clifford Roberts and woodworker Andries Eygelaar show how you can make this practical and fashionable piece

The success of the nifty piece is its u-shaped frame and extended foot, that slides underneath the couch and allows a stable and snug fit.

When plotting your design, you'll need to consider the colour scheme of the furniture and other feature pieces in the room. Keep in mind you can stain wood to match your requirements. You can further improve the integration of the piece by emulating an ornamental element in the room's other woodwork. In our case, we used the same wood as our coffee table

and defining arches that appear in its construction.

We recycled pieces of teak from an old doorframe and the offcut from a marble slab for the table top, but we've also worked with offcuts of a quartz countertop that works well too. You might even just opt for a beautiful piece of lacquer-protected wood. We found the most suitable height to have the table's surface just above and clear of the seat of the couch. This makes it free of any movement on the couch, but also low enough not to become an armrest.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: As with cooking a dish from a recipe, the job is best undertaken by first preparing the components before putting them all together. It is always advisable to make a sketch of the project so you can keep track of where you are and where you're headed.

At its most basic, the project requires getting wood in required sizes, neatening and joining them to make the frame and fixing the table top in place. The work can be accomplished in various ways, depending on your skill, time and enthusiasm. The arches and joining methods described here are a personal preference that suited our design.

Step 2: We used a table circular saw to cut the wood as needed. It's a good idea to sand down each segment, smoothing them down as much as you can. To assemble the frame, we decided on mortise and tenon joints because they're strong, neat and within our skill and toolset. As part of the preparation, we also cut the arches in our two upright links and curved profiles by first tracing them using a pencil and compass.

Step 3: All in all, there are 10 mortise and tenon joints in this project. Connecting the uprights are

two pairs. Cut the first mortise pair in the uprights to take the 25mm tenon in the connectors at about 100mm from the floor. The second is located at the top, as part of the frame that supports the table top.

Another pair houses the floor support link, its centre located some 30mm from the end.

At the opposite end, there are two where the floor supports meet the uprights. They should be flush on the floor. In a similar way, the supports on the underside of the table top are also joined by tenon inserted in the mortise cut in the upright. Again, they should all be flush to provide a stable and strong table top.

We opted to use two triangular corner braces for added strength in case someone accidentally leans on the table. These are simply cut from wood and fixed with screws to where the table top frame connects with the uprights. You'll need to shave away at the corner to allow for a snug fit.

To cut a mortise, mark the location and shape with a pencil. Extend the lines around the side of the wood so they'll be visible when you cut into the wood and direct you where to start and end. Remember to use a bit that



Cut the mortise using a plunge cutting router. The table saw can be used for cutting the tenon



It's a good idea to prepare your components before the final assembly. We used marble and teak

matches the size of the mortise (and the tenon). Apply cutting in several passes, adjusting your bit each time until you get to the depth required. To cut a tenon, determine its location according to the corresponding mortise and mark it on the wood to be cut. Set the table saw or router accordingly. For a perfect fit, make small adjustments using a wood chisel.

Step 4: Use cold wood glue to fix the joints in place. We also used screws, countersunk and rounded off with a dowel plug, to lock the tenons. Now



When you've assembled the construction and glued the joints in place, use a clamp to hold it all together while it dries

once this is all dry and ready for the table top, you might want to add your lacquer or varnish. Of course, this depends on the table top material. If, like us, you used granite or marble, it's just easier to do it before fixing the table top in place.

Step 5: To attach the table top, run a bead of silicone gel around the top of the frame and place the top in place, making sure it is aligned as desired. All that remains is to wait for the silicone to dry and you're done.



Seal the wood after it has been sanded and assembled in the frame



We used silicone to fix the marble to the wood frame



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Goodbye DStv... hello projector

>> Hannes Lindeque

With many people making the move from satellite to streaming or downloading, a customised projector cabinet could be just what you need to tidy up your TV room

Project guide

Difficulty: Easy

Estimated cost: R150 (excluding the chipboard)

Estimated time: one day

Tools

- Measuring tape
- Square
- Pencil
- Awl
- Screw driver
- Drill
- Circle saw



Materials

- 16mm chipboard
- 10x Plastic corner blocks with caps
- 2x wide angle hinge with plate
- 1x 30mm knob
- 2x tee hinges
- 4x butt hinges
- 2x drawer runners
- 2x folding stays
- 2x plastic bun foot 65 x 55 x 55mm
- 2x 40mm twin castors with square plate
- 6x 40mm screws
- PVC electric wire channel



Extras

- Electrical extension cord
- Multi adaptor
- Plastic tray
- RCA audio cable

My children are now all grown up and when they come to visit we enjoy watching movies on our own self-made 'big screen' by projecting the image against the wall and play the sound through the 'hi-fi'.

We used to place the overhead projector on a bar stool chair but it looked very untidy so I was motivated to create a customised projector cabinet.

The cabinet should fit in with the rest of the furniture in the room and be quick to setup. The overhead projector, external hard drive (or DVD's) and electrical extension cord should be at hand. The projector rests on a tilting shelf that is kept in position by two folding stays. The projector and external hard drive are already plugged in. The only things needed are getting the family together, >>



Luckily I had enough off-cut chipboard to complete the project



The off-cut sheets were cut to size and edge trimmed



Attaching the corner blocks



Positioning the base panel



The hole for the power cables



Attach the tilting projector shelf to the back panel using two butt hinges



We used two tee hinges between the projector shelf and the cabinet lid



Determine the maximum height to fit the drawer runners

fetch the laptop and make popcorn. The cabinet has a drawer for the laptop to rest on and a bottom shelf to store the external hard drive and DVD's. The extension cord and multi plug is stored at the bottom of the cabinet.

The cabinet is fitted with two castors so that the projector can be easily moved by one person for various reasons: adjusting the distance between the cabinet and the "big screen" wall and sweeping the floor underneath the cabinet.

Luckily I had some laminated off-cut chipboard at hand and carefully

drew up my plans according to what I had. The measurements of each panel was written down on masking tape and pasted on the off-cut sheets, also indicating which sides should be edged.

The local wood centre was kind enough (at a cost) to professionally cut the off-cuts to size and edge trim the sides; saving me a lot of frustration trying to do it myself.

When my brother-in-law came to visit we tackled the project. Fortunately Corrie is also an enthusiastic DIY'er and posed for the pictures.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: We started and worked from the back panel, attaching the side and front panels using plastic corner blocks. Corrie used an awl to make pilot holes to ensure that the screw actually grip where it is suppose to.

Step 2: We positioned and fitted the cabinet box to the base panel.

Step 3: We drilled a hole at the back in the bottom shelf through where we fed the power cables, hidden in PVC electric wire channel, going to the projector and laptop charger. (The PVC channel was painted matt black).

Step 4:

- Attach the tilting projector shelf to the back panel using two butt hinges.
- Use two butt hinges and attach the cabinet lid to the back panel.
- We used two tee hinges between the projector shelf and the cabinet lid. (You may have a better idea).
- Fit the folding stays to keep the lid open.



For a first timer the most difficult part was to determine the position where to place the folding stays. (Apply trigonometry basics.)

Step 5: Close the lid to determine the maximum height where to fit the drawer runners and shelf for the laptop.

Step 6: Turn the cabinet upside down onto a towel not to scratch the lid and fit the two plastic bun feet and twin castors. *Note: The castors must be fitted at the front end of the cabinet.*

Step 7: Attach the cabinet door using two hinges that open wide enough for the laptop drawer to slide out.

In hindsight

I didn't want to screw the projector onto the projector shelf and used PVC channel to prevent the projector from sliding off when we close the lid.



We used PVC channel to prevent the projector from sliding

Please share and send your step-by-step DIY-project to the editor at editorial@homehandyman.co.za



Fit the two plastic bun feet and twin castors



Attach the cabinet door



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"Carpentry is the Illusion of Perfection"

On a roll

Learn how to use your metalworking skills to make your own toilet roll holder

Project guide

Difficulty: Easy

Estimated cost: R150

Estimated time: Half a day

Tools

- Bolt cutter
- Welder
- Chalk
- Tape measure
- Bender
- Grinder

Materials

- 1 x 6m x 6mm round bar
- 1,6m x 4mm round bar
- 3 x 25mm cast iron balls

>> André Gous

This project was inspired on my recent holiday when I realised that toilet paper storage can become a big problem. This holder, however, will be ideal for any bathroom.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: Cut one x 1350mm of 6mm round bar. Determine the centre and bend 180°. This will form the spine of your project.

Step 2: Measure the inner and outer dimensions of a toilet roll (35mm, 110mm) as well as the height (100mm).

Step 3: Cut two 350mm of 6mm round bar and bend a 135mm diameter circle. We need a horse shoe shape and therefore measure 95mm from the back of the circle and cut to form a shoe.

Step 4: Weld one horse shoe to the bottom of the spine. Measure 400mm upwards and make a mark and weld the second horse shoe in place.

Step 5: Cut two 450mm of 6mm round bar and bend 90° on both sides. Make sure that both ends are the same length. Cut shorter with a bolt cutter or small grinder if need be and weld in place.

Step 6: Cut two 350mm of 4mm round bar and bend two circles. Cut both circles in half, thus you will end up with four pieces. Cut them smaller to fit the space and weld in place.

Step 7: Bend four small scrolls for decoration and hit them over a pipe to create a curve. Remember to bend two to the left hand side and the other two to the right.

Step 8: Weld the scrolls in place.

Step 9: Cut 600mm of 6mm round bar. Measure 50mm and make a mark. Bend 180°. Next measure 160mm

and bend 180° once again and cut the excess round bar off. Bend 45° to prevent the toilet roll from slipping off.

Step 10: Weld two pieces of 120mm of 4mm round bar in place on the base of the project to avoid the toilet paper from falling through. Weld the three cast iron balls on to form the feet.

Step 11: Cut four 260mm of 4mm round bar for the uprights and weld in place.

Step 12: Grind all the welding spots smooth and paint.



TOP TIP! Take any two pieces off cut round bar and clamp them together. The spacing in between the two pieces will determine the thickness of the metal you want to bend. Weld a cross over onto the two pieces. Place in a vice and bend small scrolls.



Determine the centre and bend



Measure the inner and outer dimensions of a toilet roll



Cut two 350mm of 6mm round bar and bend a 135mm diameter circle



Weld the 'horse shoes' in place





Cut the 6mm round bar and bend 90° on both sides



Cut two 350mm of 4mm round bar and bend two circles



Cut both circles in half



Weld



Bend four small scrolls for decoration



The end result



Weld the scrolls in place



Bend 45° to prevent the toilet roll from slipping off



Measure 160mm



Measure 50mm



Weld



Weld the three cast iron balls on to form the feet



ABOUT ANDRÉ:



After a period of unemployment, André turned his 20 year hobby into a business. He later suffered a setback when his tools were stolen but the tide turned when he won *The Home Handyman's* wine rack competition and became a regular contributor.

ASK FOR IT BY NAME

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CONCRETE CANDLE HOLDERS FOR YOUR BATHROOM

Who doesn't love a long hot bubble bath surrounded by loads of candles?

Tools and materials

- Cement
- Container for mixing
- Plastic or polystyrene cups or containers (disposable)
- Tea light candles
- 80 and 220 grit sandpaper
- Paint for finishing (optional)
- Vaseline
- Dust mask

Many candle holders don't have a steady base and are quite pricy. What's great about the concrete bases is the sturdy weight, and of course they're great in a moist room as concrete will only cure more with more moisture.

This is also an extremely cheap DIY project as you can use all sorts of disposable plastic containers such as old butter containers or even paper cups.

>> Catherine Reimers

Step-by-step guide

Set up a good level table outside or somewhere where you can make a good old mess. Lay out all your containers and make sure before you pour out cement that you are wearing a dust mask. Cement dust is very fine and you don't want to be breathing it in.

Usually concrete is made with a mixture of water, cement and building sand/plaster sand /gravel.

For casting the candle holders we are only using cement and water. There are, however, a few rules to follow with cement. If you add too much or too little water the cement strength will be affected, and may have dry lumps of cement in the mix which will alter the final finish.

First add cement to the container and then slowly add water, just a little at a time. I would recommend only mixing small amounts at a time as it takes quite a bit of strength to get rid of the dry mix.

If you add extra water it will definitely be easier to mix and fill your container, but it will also take a lot longer to cure before removing from the mould. A thick consistency will need about a day and a half before removing from mould. For a more watery mix I would recommend leaving for three days before removing from the mould.

Now that the mix is ready, wipe the inside of the moulds (plastic cups) with Vaseline. This will assist with removal after the cement mix has cured. I used a paint scraper to fill my containers as I had a rather thick consistency. Don't fill all the way to the top as the tea light candle will displace the mix and fill it up further.



What you will need for this project

You will also want the aluminium part of the tea light candle to be smothered with Vaseline as cement sticks unusually well to aluminium. And of course, the tea light candles have to be replaceable.

Before pushing the tea light into the mix, remove as many air bubbles as possible. This is usually done with the assistance of consistent vibration which pushes the bubbles to the top. All I did was bang the container repeatedly down on a firm surface and you will see the bubbles rising to the top. But don't stress if there are a few bubbles, they may just add to your finish!

I also experimented a bit with some leaves I picked from the garden. All I did was smear them with Vaseline and line the inside of the cup and the leaf and stick it to the side of the container before pouring in the mix. Once the containers are filled, pop in the tea light candles, making sure they don't sink or stand out too much. And now leave to cure.

After exercising a great deal of patience I removed the set candleholders from the containers. Polystyrene simply peels away and other plastic containers simply have to be turned upside down and the candleholder will simply slip out. Before sanding down, remove all traces of Vaseline. I found using some benzene seemed to work particularly well.

Now to finish off, just add a few swishes of paint and you're done!



Vaseline inside the containers with the leaf



Vaseline inside the containers



Cement mixed with the tea light pressed in



Apply Vaseline to tea light aluminium



Sand down for a smoother finish



The completed candle holders

Choosing a neutral colour scheme is a wise way to make male and female, young and old all feel relaxed and very welcome

BE MY GUEST

Decorating your guest room

Create a welcoming guest room, make it a home away from home

For most families, there is always a visiting family member or friend who pops in for a brief time on very short notice. Whether the visit is work related or a bit of a holiday, a guest zone is the answer. A well planned, comfortable and easy to keep clean guest room is an ideal way to be ever at the ready. This is a room where you can have fun and get creative, using all sorts of resources and talents to make it feel a like a mini holiday resort right in your home! Keep the decor simple and tasteful, whether or not you choose to follow a specific theme.

Furniture

Usually guest rooms are not large and so clever management of space is essential. Sometimes all the rooms are all already taken and only an attic room is left available. Any space, with a bit of planning, can be magically transformed.

Choose basic furniture pieces that all work for the guest in the room. Have at least one comfortable sitting chair or an upholstered storage bench. It is important to have a comfortable bed and a nightstand next to it as a catchall for

>> Kim Roberts
any cell phone, book, reading glasses, jewellery or glass of water.

Matching woods and furniture style all contribute to creating a serene or striking atmosphere. If you are handy with wood, there is the choice to build many of the practical furniture pieces yourself, giving the room a uniform, sleek look. Aim to keep this a clutter free room. The headboard, side table and even bed base can all be built from scratch. A window seat, or a fold away or static work desk can also be designed and built at home too. The final plan all depends on your

time available, your ability; and the size of the room you have to work with.

Available cupboard space for clothing to be hung or folded away keeps your guest feeling at home. A bed base which includes drawer space in it is also a great space making idea. Try to keep all cupboard and drawer space empty and available for your guest to use.

Designing and installing a clever fold out ironing board and supplying an iron can be an added extra if your budget allows. By providing a few of these everyday extras, you will be granting the guest an independence that will be less disruptive to your normal routine.

As a luxury, if there is enough wall space available, a television can be mounted to the wall to save on floor space as well, unless you would prefer your guest to spend time with the family, rather than mostly in your guest room.

Always choose easy to clean finishes in the room and bathroom (if there is an ensuite) so that you can have an easier time maintaining a fresh, neat look. Safety is also of utmost importance; there should be no loose wiring, sharp edges or trip dangers. Make a non-slip shower or bath mat available if necessary for your older guests.

Your guest room is really up to you. Any efforts you have made to make someone feel welcome in your home will be appreciated, no matter how plush or plain it is. It should be a zone that anyone can call a home away from home.

Go the extra mile

Stock up on travel size toiletries for forgetful guests. These can be placed in a basket or decorated wooden box in the bedroom or bathroom. Providing a snack or two will go a long way toward welcoming a hungry traveller.

Add a simple tray with a kettle and basic tea and coffee sachets, rusks and sugar sticks and you will be the best host. Milk can be delivered in a covered jug outside their door at an agreed time if there is no space or budget for a small bar fridge.

Matching woods and furniture style all contribute to creating a serene or striking atmosphere

A towel rail, hooks behind the doors, and a key hook rack are also helpful and practical. Depending on the season, provide a fan to cool the room if there is no air conditioner, and in winter, provide a cosy heater. Every item in the guest room completes the whole ambiance, so put careful thought into each one.

Provide a desk for work space and a digital clock for alarm purposes for those that have a busy work schedule to follow while staying. It will definitely be appreciated. Remember to have a decent sized waste basket too. A good reading/bedside lamp, or reading lights installed in the bed headboard and adequate lighting in the room is important.

Remember to make an extra cosy blanket available for chilly nights and have that warm soft foot rug to step onto from the bed in the morning.

Try to make any plug points easily accessible, with at least one adapter for different plug types, and a universal cell phone charger. Putting thought into creating convenience in every way will make your guest's stay a balm to their soul.

If your guest bedroom happens to have an en-suite bathroom, fairy lights on a

separate switch to the main bathroom lights are an enchanting and soothing choice for any stressed out traveller. Don't forget the bubble bath!

In a visible spot provide your wi-fi access code so that they can enjoy a good communication link with home. It is the little thoughtfully added touches that make a guest feel pampered while in your home, making your home a warm hospitality zone.

Style

Choose a memorable or unique style that fits both your budget and the room size. Creative stencilled wall accents also add a bit of charm. Visit a few sites and brainstorm for ideas with friends before settling on your final idea or colour scheme. By deciding on a timeless theme, you will be able to use the room for years and it will never become outdated.

A large or full length mirror can make the world of difference, not only enhancing light in the room, but also giving the impression of more space. Alternatively, install sliding mirror doors onto the clothing cupboards, which is not only stylish, but saves on the door opening space too.



Choose basic furniture pieces that all work for the guest in the room

Visit a few sites and brainstorm for ideas with friends before settling on your final idea or colour scheme.

Tips: Space saving ideas

- Choose furniture that can be multifunctional
- Smaller furniture pieces
- Less chunky furniture styles
- Use space available up until the ceiling, but be careful not to 'crowd' the room
- Use blinds
- Choose sliding doors rather than opening doors

Focus on colours

Choosing a neutral colour scheme is a wise way to make male and female, young and old all feel relaxed and very welcome. By using a colour wheel you can blend shades of a specific colour choice to work in harmony and create a great chill zone. If you wish to make the room an invigorating space, then brighter, vibrant decor will be the answer. Flashes of colour can be added into the room with your linen choices, a cushion or a dirt bin, a lamp or any other useful item.

Mix and match linen, blankets and towels all add to the atmosphere of the room. Prettily arranged or simply rolled up on the bed, a blanket or towels add that extra zing to the colourful finishes of your room.

A new coat of paint, a different shade accent wall, or simple changes to lamp shades and curtains can transform your existing room into something special. Use a darker coloured, thickly lined curtain set so that your guest can enjoy good restful hours. This will prevent them awakening with the light of dawn.

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How to fix skew doors

Whether it is your built-in bedroom cupboard doors or your kitchen cupboards, skew and unaligned doors are enough to drive you mad. Read on to see how to fix this common problem

Unaligned bedroom cupboard doors look unsightly, and the task of lining them up can have you pulling your hair out

Are the doors on your built-in cupboards or kitchen cabinets a bit out of line so the gaps between them are uneven? The only tool you'll need to solve this problem is a screwdriver. Most cupboards these days use concealed steel hinges which are sprung so the door stays closed without the need for any catch. They are fairly easy to adjust if you understand how they work.

Whilst various brands will vary slightly, essentially they come in two parts, one screws to the door with two door holding screws. The other part screws to the cupboard frame with two cupboard holding screws.

They slot together and are held in place with a locking screw which tightens up to hold the door in place. Some more modern hinges also have a sprung loaded quick release catch so you can remove the door simply by pulling back the catch. Finally there is an adjusting bolt which is used to move the door left and right, or change the angle.

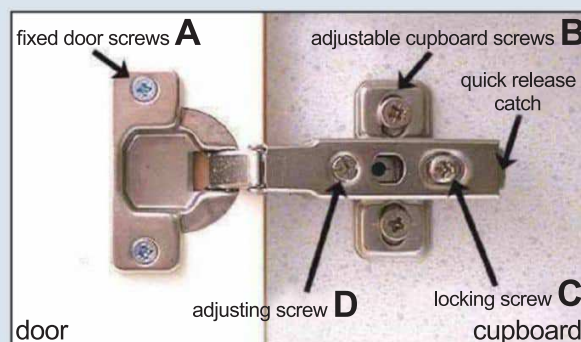
Adjusting loose doors

Step 1: Make sure the *locking screw C* is tight. If this has come loose the door may have slid in or out from its original position as the two parts of the hinge slide against each other. When the door is open aim for approx. a 1mm gap between the door and the cupboard.

Step 2: If this doesn't fix the looseness check the *fixed door screws A* and the *adjustable cupboard screws B*, tighten these up. If they won't tighten you may need to discard the original screws and replace them with fatter or longer ones. Make sure longer ones aren't so long that they

go right through the wood. Sometimes you may need to fill the holes with good quality two part wood filler to get a good tight connection. (If using filler drill a pilot hole before screwing back in to the filler).

Having made sure the doors aren't loose you can, if necessary, then make small adjustments if they aren't properly aligned.



Adjusting badly aligned doors

Step 1: To change the vertical height, undo the two *adjustable cupboard screws B* on both hinges. They are usually in slotted holes which mean that you can adjust up or down by a few millimetres. Then tighten back up.

Step 2: Adjust the doors side to side slightly by turning the *adjusting screw D* on both hinges on each door. You may have to slightly release the *locking screw C* to do this. Make sure it's tight afterwards.

Step 3: Adjust the angle of a cabinet door with the *adjusting screw D* but this time only screw either the top or bottom screw.

For a bigger adjustment screw the top one way and the bottom the other! You may need to slightly release the *locking screw C* to do this. Make sure it's tight afterwards.

Binding door

If the door is not closing properly or is making creaking sounds it may be binding on the cupboard frame. Look on the side where the hinges are as you close the door. The door may be touching the cupboard frame as it closes (binding). To stop this you need to adjust the door out towards you slightly. Unscrew the *locking screw C* on both hinges. The door can now slide in and out a little. Pull it towards you slightly and re-tighten. The ideal gap need not be any more than 1mm.

TIP: If you can't get the hinge secured, back the screws all the way out, take off the hinge, and look at the wood beneath it. If the hole is too large or has been stripped, you need to fill it in and then drill a new hole. You need a drill, a screwdriver, toothpicks, and liquid white glue. Here's what to do:

1. Squirt some liquid glue into the hole.
2. Stuff the hole with toothpicks until it

won't take any more, and then cut or break them off flush.

You can repair surface marks or dents with wood filler, but filler won't hold screws. They need to be inserted in wood, and if the hole is too large, it should be filled with toothpicks first.

3. Drill a pilot hole through the toothpicks, using a bit that's much smaller than the circumference of the screw.
4. With a screwdriver, put the screw back in. If the screw is stripped, put in a replacement that's the same size.
5. Let the glue dry.

TIP: After your hinges are secure, keep them that way. Periodically tighten the screws, but don't overdo it. And lubricate the hinge. A drop or two of Q-20 on each is sufficient. You don't want the lubricant dripping down the doorframe.

What to do if the hinge damages the wood

A common door problem is the hinge ripping out of the cabinet, usually taking a fair chunk of the cabinet with it. The result is a door that won't close and is left hanging. The good news? Repairing the damage and rehanging the door is easier than you think! What you will need: Screwdriver; 2-part filler; spatula; sandpaper; pair of replacement hinges; drill and various bits; paint.

Step 1: Remove the door from the cabinet and also remove the remaining hinge block.

Step 2: Mix a small amount of filler and patch the damage. Make the filler slightly proud of the cabinet. Leave to set.

Step 3: Sand back the filler flush with the face of the cabinet, being careful not to sand through the melamine. Disguise the patch by painting it to blend with the cabinet.

Step 4: It is generally easier to use new hinges rather than trying to refit old ones. Hinges are pretty standard, so new hinges should fit into the holes in the door. Use the template supplied with the hinges to mark the positions of new hinge blocks on the cabinet and drill the required holes.

Step 5: Screw the hinge blocks to the cabinet then attach the hinges to the blocks. Adjust the door with the adjusting screws on the hinge.



A common scenario in many household cupboards and cabinets

There are a number of ways to save on your electrical bill each month. The methods discussed in this article are just a few of a wide variety of ways that you can implement in and around the house to reduce the amount of power that is used on a daily basis

How to save power in and around the house

The easiest way to save power is to replace the light globes in your home with LED light globes

The first method is the most simple one of all and can be done by the home handyman; the rest of the methods need to be done by a qualified electrician to ensure safety and are, most of the time, required by the manufacturer to uphold the warranty of the product.

The first method and the easiest one to do is to replace the light globes in all the light fittings in and around the house with LED light globes. Most of the globes normally used in and around the house are available in LED. Be it a normal bed side lamp that uses Edison screw (E27) or the bayonet (B22) globe, the fluorescent

light in the kitchen and even the spot light outside your house, all these globes are replaceable with LED globes. Make sure that when you replace globes that can dim, that you buy dimmable globes; often the dimmer module needs to be changed by a qualified electrician to be able to work with LED globes

The second method is by putting a day/night switch on your outside lights. There are houses that manually need to switch on the outside lights at night and people often forget to switch them off in the morning, wasting energy during the day. By adding a day/night switch the lights

will automatically switch on at night, and switch off in the morning.

Inside the house an occupancy sensor can be installed in areas that aren't often used during the evening, for example the hallway and bathrooms. An occupancy sensor detects when a person walks into a room and switches the lights on; once the person leaves the room, it switches the lights off after a set period of time

Thirdly, replace your stove and even your oven with a gas unit. Any appliance that has an element to heat, uses a lot of power. Examples of such appliances that

>> Reynier Coenen



Supplementing your electricity needs with solar power is a great way to save money



Consider replacing your electric geyser with a solar one

can be replaced by more power efficient variants include kettles; a plug in version is less efficient than a normal steel kettle that you heat up on your gas stove or an induction plate. If that is not possible then only fill the kettle with enough water for what you want to use.

The geyser also uses a lot of power. A timer can be installed to regulate the times for the geyser to switch on and off. A geyser is very well insulated and the

water takes a long time to get cold once the water is hot and not used for a while. You can also consider replacing the geyser with a solar or gas geyser.

In winter time almost everyone uses heaters to warm up the house, yet a lot of people still use the oil fin heater or a

variant thereof that uses an element to heat up the area. There are more power efficient heaters available to buy, or go old school with a good old wood burner.

Fourthly, and the one you hear about mostly these days, is going solar. The wonderful thing about solar power is that it can be done modularly. You can start by running only your lights and some plugs on a solar system first and then putting the rest of the house on at a later time when the funds allow for it.

By combining most or all of these methods above you will save a lot of power each month and therefore, a lot of money on your power bill. Always consult a qualified electrician to get the best results on saving power in and around the house.

ABOUT REYNIER:

Coenen Electrical Services is an independent, privately owned electrical contracting business which offers a full range of domestic, commercial and industrial electrification services along with electric fence and gate automation services. For more information, visit www.coenenelectric.co.za or call 082-852-4931.



Replace your stove and even your oven with a gas unit; any appliance that has an element to heat, uses a lot of power

How to make YOUR HOME WARMER THIS WINTER

As winter bites across South Africa, suddenly all those little home maintenance jobs that you didn't get to fixing start haunting you.

A leak here and a draft there can make your home uncomfortable at a time when you want to be enjoying the warm indoor spaces.

Not only are these problems irritating, but, when left unattended, they can create bigger problems which are costly. A faulty gutter can create a serious damp issue and a leaking roof can ruin your wooden flooring.

In addition to essential maintenance, there are some minor cosmetic changes that can instantly make your home a cosier. There are many ways that you can make your home more comfortable in the colder season, and you can do it cheaply by buying almost anything you need online.

1. Check all windows for gaps allowing draughts in. Use rubber self-adhesive weatherproofing to block those spaces and, if the putty or sealant around your window is failing, replace it.
2. For openings at the bottom of doors, buy a stopper or make your own stuffed roll.
3. Clean the gutters around your home to allow water to run away effectively.
4. Maximise the warming sunlight during the day by clearing any obstructions near windows like bushes and trees.
5. Fit thick curtains to lock in warmth.
6. Put rugs over any tiled floor areas.
7. Call in a roofing expert to check your roof for leaks and patch any areas that need fixing or replace any tiles that may be damaged.
8. Install ceiling insulation – it's estimated that a building loses a third of its heat through an uninsulated roof. A standard roll of insulation can cost as little as R100 and the average home needs six rolls for thorough insulation.
9. Wrap your geyser to keep electricity usage down while maintaining a decent supply of hot water. You can buy a geyser blanket for around R160 upwards.
10. Invest in an electric blanket to ensure you have a snug bed on a cold night.

Resource

For more information, visit www.gumtree.co.za

BRIGHT IDEAS

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

Mason jar organiser

WINNER



Do you always struggle to keep things organised in your workshop or in your craft room? By simply attaching mason jars to the underneath of a shelf, you will have plenty of ways to store bits and pieces neatly which are easy at hand.

First hammer a few nail holes through the mason jar lids, then screw them in place underneath the shelves. Fill the glass jars with whatever you need to store and then simply screw it into the lid. I have used this system in my garage for all my screws and nails, and my wife asked me to do the same thing in her craft area for all her buttons and ribbons.

Wilhelm Venter, by email

Simple bike rack

After struggling to find a cheap, easy way to store the family's bikes neatly, I stumbled across this idea online. We had a few wooden pallets lying around, and strategically placed, they offer a safe, stable area to store the bicycles in one spot without the chance of them getting accidentally knocked over. First I sanded them down so that we didn't get any nasty splinters while taking out and putting the bikes in, and I have since painted them black.

Andrew Burlinson, Germiston



Clever mitre saw stand

I used to cut something at my mitre saw stand, and then take my tape measure and pencil elsewhere in the shop. Then, when I went back to the stand, I would forget where I left my tape measure and pencil. So, I came up with a couple hacks so that I always have my tape measure and pencil handy. I cut about 10cm of some PVC pipe for my pencils and put a cap on the end,



forming a cup. I mounted it to the side of my stand with a pipe bracket. On the opposite side of the stand, I mounted a picture frame hanger as a holder for my tape measure. Now, it's always at hand and in the same spot, so that I don't have to look around for it.

Steve Christakis, by email



WIN!

Tork Craft
Power Tool Accessories

A Tork Craft 900W biscuit joiner

This is a unique woodworking tool used to join two pieces of wood together. Quickly and professionally, the small circular saw blade cuts a perfect crescent-shaped hole in the opposite edges of two pieces of wood or wood composite panels.



valued at R1812

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.

Congratulations to Wilhelm Venter who wins a Tork Craft 172 Piece rotary mini tool kit including a 135W Rotary tool with a speed range of 8000-32500 rpm



A SLIME of the times

For the youngsters, slime is the latest fad, yet unlike most of the others that come and go in a matter of months, slime seems to be here to stay

>> Mackenzie Cocking

What you need

- Wood/cold glue
- Hand/body cream
- Borax (or any other activator, such as saline solution)
- Water
- Acrylic paint/food colouring

What is slime? Slime flows like a liquid, but unlike normal liquids such as oil and water, its ability to flow is not constant. So, it's a fluid, but not a regular liquid. Scientists call a material that changes viscosity a non-Newtonian fluid. The technical explanation is that slime is a fluid that changes its ability to resist deformation according to shear or tensile stress. What this means is, when you pour slime or let it ooze through your fingers, it has a low viscosity and flows like a thick liquid. Now it's time to make your own slime!

The science behind slime

The specifics of how a type of slime works depends on its chemical composition, but the basic explanation is that chemicals are mixed to form polymers. The polymers act as a net, with molecules sliding against each other.

For example, consider the chemical reactions that produce classic glue and borax slime such as the one described in the step-by-step process. Two solutions are combined to make classic slime. One is diluted glue or polyvinyl alcohol in water. The other solution is borax ($\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$) in water. Borax dissolves in water into sodium ions, Na^+ , and tetraborate ions.

The tetraborate ions react with water to produce the OH^- ion and boric acid: $\text{B}_4\text{O}_7^{2-}(\text{aq}) + 7\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons 4\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3(\text{aq}) + 2\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$. Boric acid reacts with water to form borate ions: $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3(\text{aq}) + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq})$. Hydrogen bonds form between the borate ion and the OH groups of the polyvinyl alcohol molecules from the glue, linking them together to form a new polymer (slime).

The cross-linked polyvinyl alcohol traps a lot of water, so slime is wet. You can adjust the consistency of slime by controlling the ratio of glue to borax. If you have an excess of diluted glue, compared with a borax solution, you'll limit the number of cross-links that can form and get a more fluid slime. You can also adjust the recipe by limiting the amount of water that you use. For example, you could mix the borax solution directly with glue. This produces a very stiff slime.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: Add a teaspoon of borax into 250ml of warm water. Mix until it is fully dissolved and then set aside.

Step 2: Pour one cup of glue (250ml) into a bowl. Add a third of a cup of room temperature water into the bowl and mix until combined.

Step 3: Now it is time to add one tablespoon of any thick hand or body cream into the bowl and mix until smooth.

Step 4: Slowly pour a little bit of the borax mixture into the bowl and mix. Keep on adding the borax mixture, a little at a time, until your glue starts to pull away from the bowl. Be careful though not to add too much or your slime will fall apart.

Step 5: It is now time for the fun. Pour a little bit of the borax on your hands and rub them together. This will stop the slime from sticking to your hands. Take your slime out of the bowl and knead it to make it smooth and to get out all the lumps.

Step 6: Choose a paint or food colouring of your choice and add three drops to the slime. Mix until fully combined.

Step 7: You are almost done; now you can add some glitter or foam beads to give your slime a different texture.

Step 8: Once you are done playing with your slime, store it in an air tight container to avoid it drying out.



Everything you will need to make your slime



Add borax to warm water



Mix until fully dissolved



Pour the glue into a bowl



Add the cream



Add the activator to the mix



Knead your slime until all the lumps are out



Add your paint or food colouring



If you want a darker slime, add more paint



For a different texture, add foam balls or glitter



Mix the foam balls in

ASK OUR EXPERTS

Our panel of experts answer your questions on DIY problems

Staining chipboard

WINNER

I would like to stain plain chipboard. Is there a way to use Powafix cement oxide and create my own grains and finish it off with clear varnish? If so what will the ratio of the different colour powders be?

Francis Volkwyn, by email

Joel Poilly, national sales manager at Powafix advises: Unfortunately the cement oxides can only be used on cementitious surfaces. I believe there is a painting technique called wood grain where you apply a coat of paint over the timber and, while wet, you use a wood grain tool that can be purchased at a paint store.

For more information, call 031-452-3800 or visit www.powafix.co.za.



Damp issues on a balcony

We are in the process of tiling our balcony, and the previous owners mentioned that they had experienced damp issues before. Is there a product that can be used to help waterproof the balcony, and what is the process?

Lynne Koch, Hoedspruit

Cindy Engels, sales and marketing director from A-Shak advises: The easiest

and probably the most cost effective way would be to use a waterproofing additive mixed with cement to create a waterproof membrane before tiling. We have a product called TILELOC, which when mixed with two parts cement and one part TILELOC into a paintable consistency can be applied to an existing concrete screed. Apply two coats and allow to dry. Tile over the membrane in a regular manner.

If the balcony has an upstand or wall, the TILELOC slurry can be painted up and over the wall to create a waterproof coating which can be painted over with a PVA paint when dry. TILELOC can also be added to the tile adhesive to increase the structural bond of the adhesive.

For more information, call 011-822-2320 or visit www.ashak.co.za.



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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.



Our winning query comes from Francis Volkwyn who wins a subscription to *The Home Handyman* Magazine for a year.

Sealing solar panels

I have been advised to seal around the solar panels which are installed on my tiled roof – my question is, which sealant would offer the best performance as it is exposed to the elements 24/7, and how often is it recommended that the sealant is checked or reapplied? Any other tips would be greatly appreciated.

Bret Middleton, Fourways

Michael Berg, business manager at Den Braven advises: A suitable product

would be the Den Braven NO Silicone. It is amongst other applications, suitable for perimeter and weather sealing applications. The product has excellent UV, temperature and weather resistance. It is very durable once fully cured. As with most projects, some interval inspections from time to time is suggested as a matter of good practice. The product is available from most Builders Warehouse or Chamberlain stores.

For more information, call 011-792-3830 or visit www.denbraven.co.za.



Which wall plug?

I recently went to the hardware store to buy some wall plugs to hang floating shelves, mount a TV and hang a few frames. I was overwhelmed by the selection and was wondering where and when to use which plug (there were plastic ones, steel ones etc). Does it all come down to the weight of what you are hanging or is it down to the material you will be drilling into? Thanks in advance!

Belinda du Plessis, by email

Kerry Kuhlmann, UPAT director advises: That is a great question and both the building substrate and the weight that the fixing will need to hold are important factors. When selecting a fixing your first step is always identifying the building material your fixing will be fixed into. For example, you will make use of different fixings in masonry versus concrete. In terms of your specified applications mentioned you will, in all likelihood, be fixing into brickwork. Unfortunately, the quality of brickwork ranges from extremely hard, to brittle and could also be perforated.

If you are fixing into a good, solid brick we would recommend the SX plug, and if you are unsure of the building material our universal UX and DuoPower plugs are ideal as they can be used in virtually all building substrates. The weight which the fixing must be capable of holding determines the size of the plug you will need to use. All our

fischer products have a guide on the back of the packaging to assist in selecting the correctly sized plug, bearing in mind that 1kN is roughly equivalent to 100kg. fischer offers a wide range of product which can be viewed on our website. For more information, call 011-624-6700 or visit www.upat.co.za.



Will you have enough time to accomplish all your career goals? Will you have time for hobbies outside of your career? These were questions which woodworker and blogger, Edwards Smith pondered in his earlier years

LEARN HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH TIME

Could I share with you how I found my answers to these questions? My ideas of career were shaped by the Victorian mentality which was still pervasive in my youth. You worked hard, stayed at the same job and when you retired you got a gold watch and that was it.

The first inkling I had that this was not so was as an employer. I was always having to hire personnel to work in my office. I found that forever was about five years and a long time was about three years. Some only lasted weeks or months.

Transcending time and becoming more productive

In 1975 I had an eye-opening experience. I learned the transcendental meditation (TM) technique. I was dubious about the time commitment it required. I was a very busy practicing medical specialist and I was already too busy. Where would I ever find twenty minutes twice a day to sit quietly and meditate? Yet I was so curious about the benefits that I decided to try it, if only for a few days.

Six months later, as I began to use my intelligence more creatively, I made some changes in my work schedule and immediately started doing 20% more work each day in less time that it had taken formerly. That means that every day I made 20% more income in less time.

Enough time for hobbies

That increase in creativity took another direction as well. I had always liked to carve on wood with a pocket knife but had never done anything significant other than win a model airplane contest. I found my interest and my skills beginning to explode in the area of woodworking. Several years later I found myself making 18th century museum reproductions without any apprenticeship or study other than what was available in books.

I can't tell you how much satisfaction my interest outside of my career brought me. After using my deductive and analytic powers all day, it was pure bliss to let the creative aspect of my nature loose in the wood shop in the evenings.

Looking back at all this from my current perspective I realise that what hems us in is boundaries. I am busy with my career, I have no time for outside interests. This is a boundary. I have to stay in the same career until I retire or die. This is a boundary. Well, if we create boundaries, we can uncreate them. I have learned that at our centre we are unbounded. We represent all possibilities. That is how some can accomplish so much.

Letting go of boundaries

As I began to let go of boundaries, I found a wonderful field of health care that I had overlooked. It used natural means to recreate balance in the body and mind and was not only effective but free of harmful side effects. So I embarked on a second career in my chosen field of health care.

The more I learned about this the more I wanted to share it with others. I always had a fondness for learning and the academic life so at age 47 I left the private practice of medicine and became a university professor, researcher and



director of an alternative medicine clinic for the faculty and staff.

Eventually I left the university to teach in the field and then was asked to start an alternative medical school. As I approached retirement age I decided to return to my native city and just teach the TM technique and do my woodworking. After a year of this I decided to turn my passionate hobby of woodworking into a small business. Now, whenever I am not busy with one thing I love doing, I am doing the other.

Your true nature is free of boundaries

My point with all of this is that there is great value to getting to know the

unbounded nature of the inner self. Without the technique for quieting the mind, I was completely unaware of my inner nature. Had you told me at age 26, the year I finished my academic training, that I would have so many careers and do so many different things, I would have laughed at you.

So, if you feel that you don't have enough time for what you want to do, if you feel trapped in a career path that is no longer in your best interest, then I suggest you get a technique for becoming unbounded. TM is that technique which worked for me. The important thing is that you find one that works for you. Otherwise you will be absolutely correct. You will not escape from your self-created boundaries and time will run out.





Resource

Read more of Edwards Smith's woodworking adventures at www.edwardssmithfinewoodworking.com

Workshop safety tips for woodturners

Over the years you come across titbits of information that become a part of your routine. Woodturning is a hazardous hobby or profession. When I attend my woodturning club meetings I am constantly seeing members who have managed to injure themselves. If you have tried to get insurance to cover your woodturning activities you know that the insurers realise that injury is common and they may be severe and the insurance premiums reflect that. So here are some pointers to file away in your mind.

Most would agree that it is not good to be between a rock and a hard place. A tool rest does not have much give to it. When a finger is caught between a spinning block of wood or a four jawed chuck and the tool rest it is a formula for pain at the least and a disaster at worst. So learn to rotate your workpiece by hand before you turn the power on and keep fingers clear of the gap between the tool rest and the spinning wood.

One of the conditions which can encourage such a mishap is an ornery banjo. The banjo slides on steel ways. Into it is fitted the tool rest post. There is little tolerance between the banjo and the lathe bed (or ways) when the lock released. So just a small amount of dust or wood chips can cause it to seize as you try to slide it up or back. So you wiggle on the lock down handle and push with the other hand. Often it will stick and then when heft is applied it suddenly gives way and slides into the moving work with unpleasant repercussions.

We all know that we are supposed to turn the lathe off when we adjust the banjo holding the tool rest. Yet I doubt there is one in a hundred turners who regularly does this. The reason is that time is money. It takes extra time to do this step. What may help is to make sure that the banjo slides easily on the ways of the lathe. It is steel on steel and friction is a problem, especially when dust or chips are on the ways to

reduce the clearance. It is not original with me but I read somewhere that if you take an ordinary piece of wax paper and rub the ways frequently, it makes the banjo slide easily.

The first time I tried it I was surprised at how well it worked. The wax leaves no sticky residue. It just reduces friction by transferring a minute amount of wax to the steel surface of the ways. Now I keep all my used wax paper sandwich wrappers just for this purpose. I had tried grease but that just attracts dust and chips.

Just bear in mind that the banjo may slide so easily that it flies further than you intended and can run into the spinning headstock if you are one of those who refuses to turn the lathe off when adjusting the banjo. Wax paper really makes the banjo slide on the ways. It has to be repeated frequently but will reduce the swearing you do when it sticks and it saves time and is much safer.

Another point I want to make is that a sharp piece of spinning wood will cut you just like a scalpel. Someone in our club recently cut a tendon on a finger. This is no trivial injury. So I make it an absolute rule to sand off any sharp spinning edge of wood that I have created, with my gouge preferably before I cut myself. When I ignore this rule I get blood on my lathe and tools. So, really, sand that sharp edge down as soon as you create it.

As a physician who has taken care of patients with chronic lung disease I know the dangers of breathing particulates. Thus I have made it my rule to don a dust mask as soon as I enter my shop and don't remove it until I leave. It makes conversation difficult but I don't do a lot of talking in my shop for that reason. Enough dust will make anyone wheeze. It is a sign from nature that something is wrong that you need to correct. I want to be turning for a long time and breathing easily for a long time as well. Prevention is better than cure.

Why woodworking is good for you

Woodworking can mean something different to everyone. For some it's an opportunity to stretch the creative muscles. For others it's a source of stress relief

Woodwork alleviates the mind from any life challenge you may experience. The moment you are able to see some of your designs within your home which your family and friends appreciate, then you are motivated to think and create more designs.

The Woodworkers Guild of America asked the questions on its Facebook page, what makes woodworking meaningful for you? How has it impacted your life? Here are a few of the answers, some of which you may be able to relate to:

"Woodworking is good for me because it keeps me close to my father and reminds me of the projects we worked on together over the years. He always told me, "Once you get sawdust in your hair, you'll never get it out." – *Ken B.*

"I suffer from chronic depression. I find that when I am in my shed, working on a project for myself or for others, it puts me at peace with my world. I find that I look forward to getting back there to continue whatever woodworking project I'm doing!" – *Dave B.*

"Woodworking is good for me because it allows me to create something useful and lasting." – *James W.*

"There is nothing like taking a pile of wood and turning it in to something. Then having your family say how beautiful it is. Plus, sawdust is good for the soul." – *Scott E.*

"Woodworking is who I am. It makes the world go away for a while and I can express what is going through my mind at the time. When I close my doors and put on some classical music, my mind stops to think and everything goes to my hands with no influence from the everyday stuff. I have no plans or diagrams of anything in my shop – I just do what feels right. Sometimes I feel like a blind man feeling his way through the world." – *Brian R.*

"I love woodworking because it teaches my children that you don't have to rely on others to build something for you to buy in a store. They appreciate the furniture I build and tell people with pride that I built it. I love that my children are seeing a world outside of what they can buy in a store." – *Tabitha B.*

"I'm an artist and an over-50-something. Woodworking helps me create better-made wall art pieces through the understanding of wood joinery and assembly techniques, and learning a completely new skillset at my age is good for the brain, too!" – *Valerie H.*

"Woodworking is good for me because it means a lot to me to build pieces that other people will enjoy. It's also a great way to spend time with my wife who enjoys it as well." – *Dan S.*

"I too suffer from depression and anxiety. Woodworking definitely helps calm the nerves and allows me to forget about everything else for a while. Also, I am a carpenter by trade and we don't cut too many dovetails these days, so letting the creative juices flow after work is fun" – *Kevin W.*

The Home Handyman would love to know what inspires you when working with wood.
Send us your thoughts to editorial@homehandyman.co.za

WOODWORKER'S CORNER

Sharing techniques, ideas and a love of wood

Woodworking associations

Formed in June 2003 the East Rand Woodworkers' Association (ERWA) has gone from strength to strength. Today it boasts over 100 members drawn from all spheres of woodworking activity.

Skilled members, some with over 50 years of woodworking experience, are only too happy to share their knowledge and help other members improve their woodworking skills. Whether you are a raw beginner or experienced woodworker you will feel at home at

ERWA. Modern tools and accessories bring woodworking into the reach of the whole family. ERWA encourages family membership.

ERWA's motto is – Enjoy – Learn – Share. ERWA Club Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Northfield Methodist Church Hall, corner Aerodrome and Webb Roads in Northmead, Benoni at 6pm. Visitors are welcome.



A table made by ERWA member Theo Pieterse

For more information, visit www.erwa.org.za or call 011-326-6906.

Spruce (*Picea* species)



This beautiful softwood is represented by about 35 different species of *Picea*. Of these, the two most important are *Picea abies* (Norway spruce from Europe) and *P. sitchensis* (Sitka spruce from the United States of America), and timber of both are imported into South Africa.

Spruce grows naturally in the northern temperate and boreal (taiga) forests of the world. The trees are large (20 to 60m in height, although Sitka spruce can grow up to 95m tall) and have a typical conical form, like most members of the pine family. A Norwegian spruce tree, nicknamed Old Tjikko, was recently analysed by scientists to be 9 950 years old and is claimed to be the world's oldest known living tree! Both *P. abies* and *P. sitchensis* are listed in the IUCN list of threatened species as "least concern".

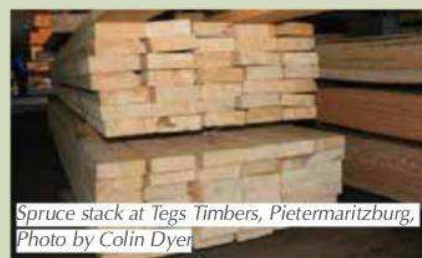
But what about the wood produced by these trees? There is no difference

between the colour of the sap and heartwood of spruce. Freshly planed wood has a creamy white to light golden brown colour, turning golden brown with exposure to light and air. The wood has a beautiful lustre and a fine and uniform texture (finer than that of pine (*Pinus*) species). Spruce trees grow much slower, producing distinct, narrow and fine growth rings. The grain is generally very straight. The density of air-dried wood ranges from 300 to 620 kg/m³ for Norway spruce and 400 to 450 kg/m³ for Sitka spruce.

The wood is stable and has one of the highest strength-to-weight ratios. It is used typically for indoor and outdoor construction applications. Its most demanding application, in the past, was for aircraft construction during WWII, which continues on a smaller scale today. The Wright brothers' first aircraft, the Flyer, was also built of spruce. European spruce is the most important



Spruce, photo by Colin Dyer



Spruce stack at Tegs Timbers, Pietermaritzburg, Photo by Colin Dyer



Helicopter Hangar by Swissline Design

building and construction timber in Europe. In South Africa spruce has become popular for the construction of eco homes. The long, strong fibres of the wood makes excellent pulp for the manufacture of high grade printing paper. Its natural resonance makes it ideal for the soundboards of musical instruments. Other uses include ladders, oars, masts and boards for boats

and turbine blades for wind energy conversion systems (windmills). The wood is not insect or decay resistant and should be treated when used outdoors.

Spruce is one of the easiest woods to cut by hand or machine. This is especially true for old-growth material that is knot-free. It has good gluing properties and takes most finishes well.

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Woodturning tips

Knowing the right woodturning tips to use at the right time can save time, money, and potential injury.

As humans, we have amazing skills over other species. We can remember, visualise, plan, and communicate. Because of who came before us and communicated their experiences, we are where we are today. This is true of almost every aspect of our lives, even woodturning.

Many people came before us and learned how to do things better, faster, smarter and safer. We get to benefit from

their findings if we take the time to learn from this knowledge base. Learning the nuances of woodturning wood bowls can help you to ultimately produce better work.

Shifting body weight is what makes the smooth, continuous cuts on either the exterior or interior of a wood bowl. Reduced hand and arm motions and increased leaning or shifting of body weight are what is needed for the most exceptional passes. Pay attention to how your body moves while you turn. Allow your body weight to play the critical role it must in your wood bowl turning.



Woodworker's humour

A woodworker had a neighbour that always borrowed his tools and never returned them. One day, frustrated with this he phoned him. "Could I put my tablesaw and drill press in your garage?" he inquired. "Sure," his neighbour replied, "But why?" "Just to have all my tools in one place," he retorted.



Woodworking
Association of Pretoria

Wood Expo and Craft Festival

5 October 2019 – 08:00–15:00
6 October 2019 – 08:00–14:00

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WOODWORKER'S SHOWCASE

Showcase your woodwork projects

South Africa marries Brazil in a classic wood look

Furniture made out of yellow wood and imbuia offers a distinctive feel. SA's national tree provides a hard, lighter wood which contrasts with the softer dark decorative appeal of Brazil's imbuia which can be stained and polished to an excellent finish.

The combination has been popular for years and is having a resurgence among collectors. Gumtree SA's Estelle Nagel says there are more than fifty pieces available on the online trading site at the moment from both dealers and private sellers.

The yellowwood family is primeval and has been present in South Africa for more than 100 million years. The species is widespread and is found from Table Mountain, along the southern and Eastern Cape coast, in the ravines of the Drakensberg up to the Soutpansberg and the Blouberg in Limpopo.

In forests, they can grow up to 40 metres in height with the base of the trunk sometimes up to 3 metres in diameter. In contrast, trees that grow in unsheltered places like mountain-slopes, are often short, bushy and gnarled. The bark of the real yellowwood is khaki-coloured to grey when it is old, deeply split and peels off in strips. The crown is relatively small in relation to its height and is often covered with grey lichen. Male and female cones resemble pine cones and are white, light green or pink. The female cone has a fleshy podocarpium on which the seed, which takes on the shape and colour of a cherry, develops. The leaves are strap-shaped, 25–40mm. long on mature trees, larger, to 100mm. long, on vigorous young trees, and 6–12mm. broad, with a bluntly pointed tip.

It is a slow-growing tree. The wood is hard and is used for furniture, panelling, etc. Due to past over-exploitation, little is now cut.



Write to us

The Home HANDYMAN
www.homehandyman.co.za

Please send us pictures of your project.

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

COFFEE CORNER

From our workshop to yours

Meet the team

Hannes Lindeque is the publisher of *The Home Handyman* magazine. He's been married for 30 years and has two children, three dogs and a ringneck parakeet.

Tell us about your career

I would have liked to have been a geological engineer and it never was my intention to go into printing or publishing. After my compulsory national military service I started off as an estimator at a big commercial printer in Pretoria. The experience gave me a solid foundation on how various printing processes work, from printing continuous computer forms, magazines, newspapers, hard- and soft-cover books to general jobbing.

In 1998 I decided to set an example to my children by becoming independent and started my own business as a 'print broker'. At that time we published our first hard-cover coffee table book, "*VeldFocus – Ten Years of Nature's Wonders*" in conjunction with the SABC and Ronnie Watt, the producer of the popular television programme. It was a learning curve!

In the late 90s, while on holiday in the Lowveld, I got hooked on bass fishing and since then I've been looking for that big one that got away. I started studying the art of bass fishing and wanted to share my newfound passion with the world. In April 2001 we published our first issue of SA BASS magazine. Our mission is still to promote bass angling as a socially acceptable and popular outdoor recreational activity, and in addition, to encourage acceptable angling ethics.

In August 2001 we started the first monthly bass angling money tournament in South Africa, and today 'Cast-for-Cash' is the biggest money tournament trial in the country. It grew in such a way that in 2017 South Africa became the fifth international partner to present FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) sanctioned bass angling tournaments. In our first year South Africa made history when Michael Matthee became the first international angler to finish in the top ten in the USA on day three. He qualified to fish the Forrest Wood Cup in 2018 and was the first South African angler to compete at an international level. The prize money at this event for the first place was a staggering US\$300,000! Today



What a privilege! Hannes Lindeque (right), meeting Forrest L. Wood in person

Michael is a full time professional bass angler in the USA. Have I achieved anything? Definitely. I've helped people to live their dreams and since 2017 our FLW RSA anglers have dominated the international division at the annual Costa FLW Series Championships in the USA.

In the process I've travelled the world and met people from all walks of life... From the very famous to those people few take note of, such as handicapped anglers stuck in wheel chairs and orphans.

What are your hobbies?

I like listening to music, going walking with my family and pets, collecting rocks and, of course, bass fishing. Whenever I find time I like to tackle DIY-jobs and create things.

How did you become the publisher of *The Home Handyman* magazine?

It would have been a sad day to see the title disappear after 26 years, but fortunately Dorothy le Roux from the House of Print introduced us to the previous publisher. Allan Swart retired in 2016 and the title was available. Because I'm a DIY-enthusiast myself, I decided to take over the title.

Today, thanks to a great editorial team, we are able to have *The Home Handyman* back on the shelves... and we intend to stay.

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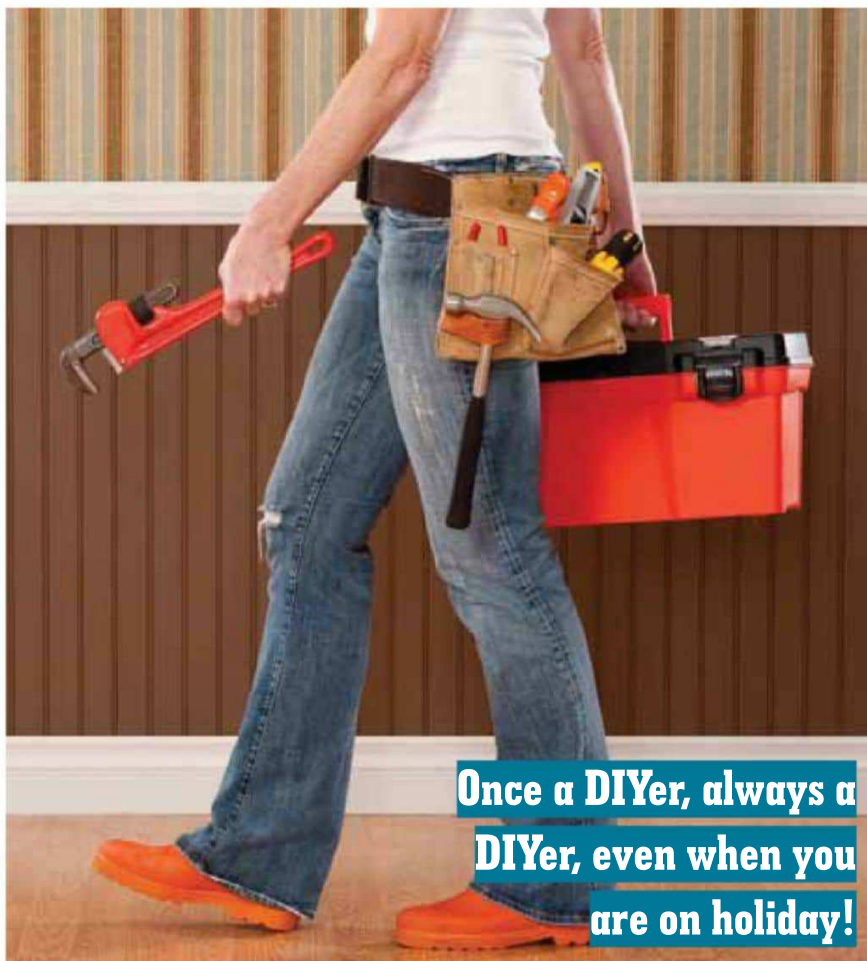
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The DIY spirit runs deep

About Annalien:



Annalien started her career at the *SABC* on *50/50* before moving to Germany after she met her husband. Later, they returned to South Africa and she took on various freelance projects, eventually getting hooked on DIY. Annalien is part of the team on *The Home Channel's Get It Done!* series.



Once a DIYer, always a DIYer, even when you are on holiday!

Why does it happen that when you are having the worst hair-day ever that you run into your hairdresser at the mall? I immediately feel the judgement burning through my scalp and I wish that I was wearing a hat. Whether my hairdresser is having those sentiments or not, is not important. I put it all on myself... I wish I could always wear a hat, in both summer and winter. The young ones can rock a beanie but it doesn't help my case in any way. I look even worse and my nose looks huge. Lately I have even considered a wig!

Now what does my hair have to do with DIY? As a DIYer I am like a hairdresser seeing sad looking hair needing assistance and, in my case, a dilapidated piece of furniture with possibilities.

I have a favourite retreat somewhere in the Dullstroom area. It is a gem of a

place where you can hide away from all the daily technological harassments. It is also a detox from Netflix, which is my happy place. Here you find yourself again and you can breathe freely.

The cows come in the morning to check in at the river for a drink and it awakens the farm girl deep inside me. At night you can see the stars in 3D and you start realising that you have to change some values in your life.

Here, we as a family, really talk to one another and even play games such as charades, which I last did when I was a child. We laugh ourselves silly and fall asleep dead tired at 9pm.

However, after knitting for ages, reading a book or sitting on the stoep looking in awe at the most beautiful sunsets, I begin noticing the coffee table in dire need of some glue, screws, and a dash of varnish to protect it from the weather. I lie in bed looking up at the roof and see how I could easily repair some things quite quickly; there is an easy fix for the shower; during the day I see the wood pulling loose in places on the porch. My hands start to itch and I miss my tools! Don't get me wrong, the place is beautiful and well looked after, but the DIY spirit runs deep and detoxing from my favourite leisure time is not helping. I see possibilities everywhere.

My dog rolled in the cow dung, again, and it distracts me for a while as I clean her. Later I make a decision; next time we come here I am packing my cordless tools. And strangely enough, what feels like work at home, feels like fun here on the farm.



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