

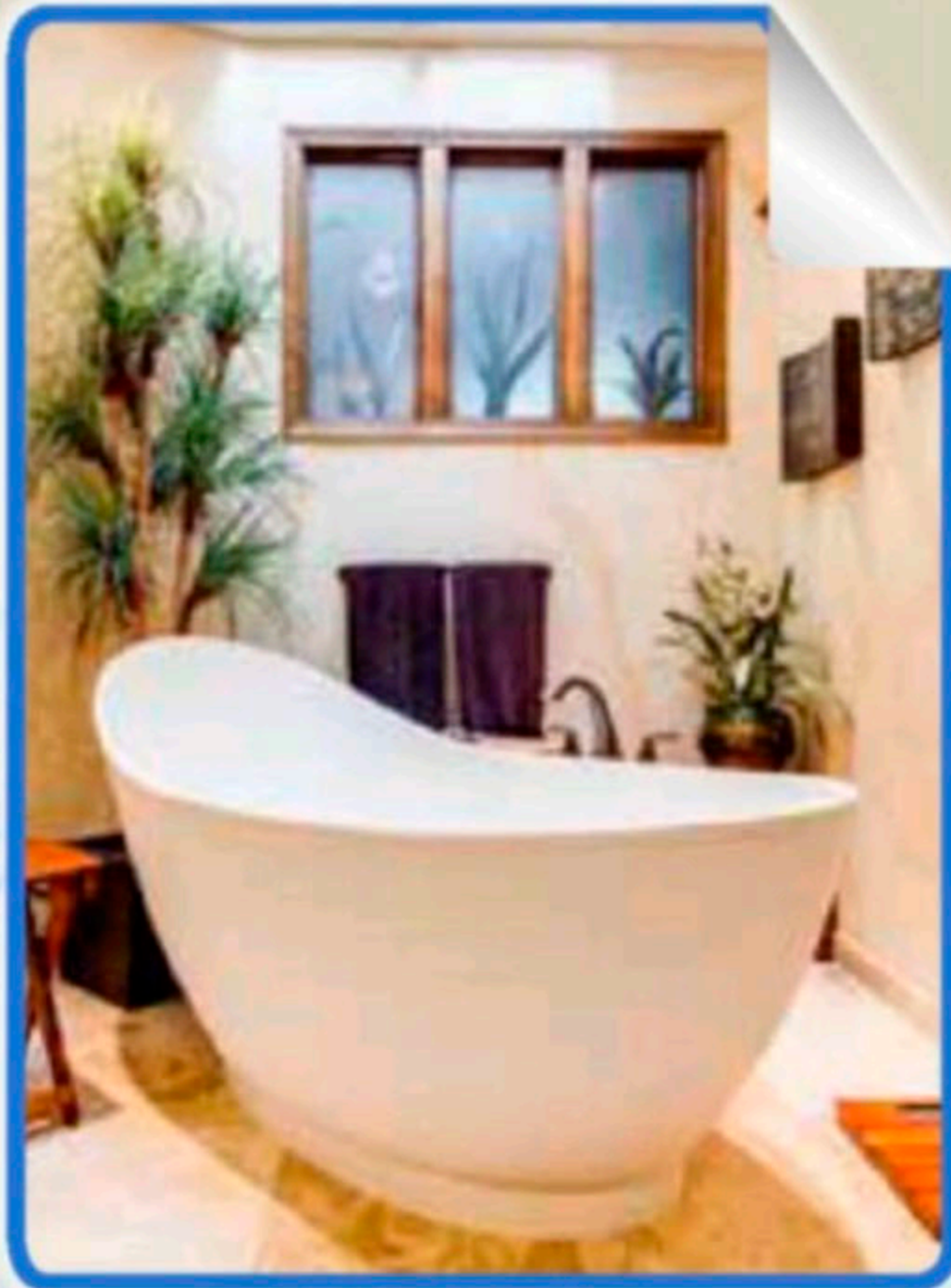
The Home HANDYMAN

September/October 2021 • Vol 31 No 9

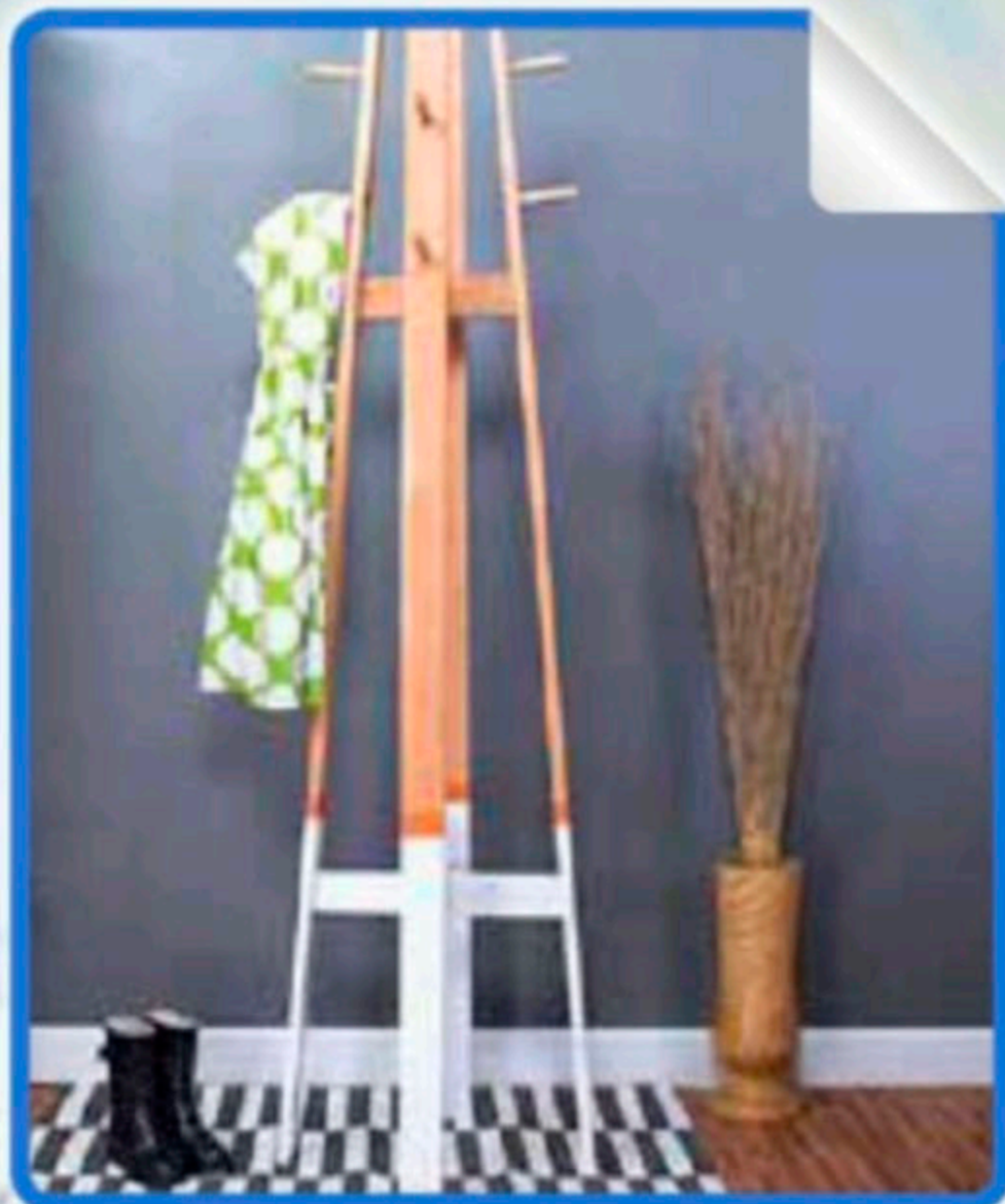


SA'S
ORIGINAL
DIY
MAGAZINE

Kid's room makeover by DIY influencer MumzLuv



HOW TO DIY YOUR
DREAM BATHROOM



MAKE A HANDY
COAT RACK



+plus

- Make an easy garden bench
- Spring outdoor maintenance checklist
- Woodworking: Mastering the Bridle Joint
- Turn a gas cylinder into a modern planter
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FROM THE WORKBENCH

The lost art of listening

As a DIY'er, sometimes the hardest thing to do is to listen to advice. "I have done this before, I know what I am doing," is the common retort. Does this sound familiar? During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln once found himself wanting to please a politician, so he issued a command to transfer certain Union Army regiments. When the secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, received the order, he refused to carry it out. He said that the president was a fool.

Lincoln was told what Stanton had said, and he replied: "If Stanton said I'm a fool, then I must be, for he is nearly always right. I'll see for myself." As the two men talked, the president quickly realised that his decision was a serious mistake, and without hesitation he withdrew it. Though Stanton had called Lincoln a fool, the president proved wise by not digging in his heels when Stanton disagreed with him. Instead, Lincoln listened to advice, considered it, and changed his mind.

If an acclaimed president can do it, surely a DIY'er can as well! Even if your ego takes a knock, sometimes really listening to the advice – not just nodding and pretending to listen – can be really helpful.

That makes me ponder another question. Do you ever wonder if people are really listening? Here's another story about a United States President, this time Franklin D. Roosevelt who often endured long receiving lines at the White House. As the story is told, he complained that no one paid attention to what was said, so he decided to experiment at one reception. To everyone who passed down the line and shook his hand, he said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvellous! Keep up the good work. God bless you, Sir." It wasn't until the end of the line, greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard. Nonplussed, the ambassador whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

As a father of three children, I often know how Roosevelt felt. Common questions such as, "Did you brush your teeth?" "Have you tidied your room?" "Did you unpack your schoolbag?" And, in the last year and half, "Have you got a mask?", are asked over and over again, often with the same reply: "No...sorry."

It can be exasperating, but there may be a reason behind it. If you're like most people, you probably don't give much thought to how many words you take in each day. Research, however, suggests that the average person hears between 20 000 and 30 000 words during the course of a 24-hour period. People spend between 70 and 80% of their day engaged in some form of communication, and about 55% of their time is devoted to listening. A lot of this time though, is devoted to our devices.

Escaping the constant barrage of background noise in our daily lives isn't always easy, and unless you're willing to take a vow of silence, you can't avoid it altogether. The key is to pay attention to what you're listening to, making it easier to filter out the static, and when taking in advice, to listen intently – you never know, that advice could save you time, money, and even an injury!

Gregg



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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher or its agents. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of

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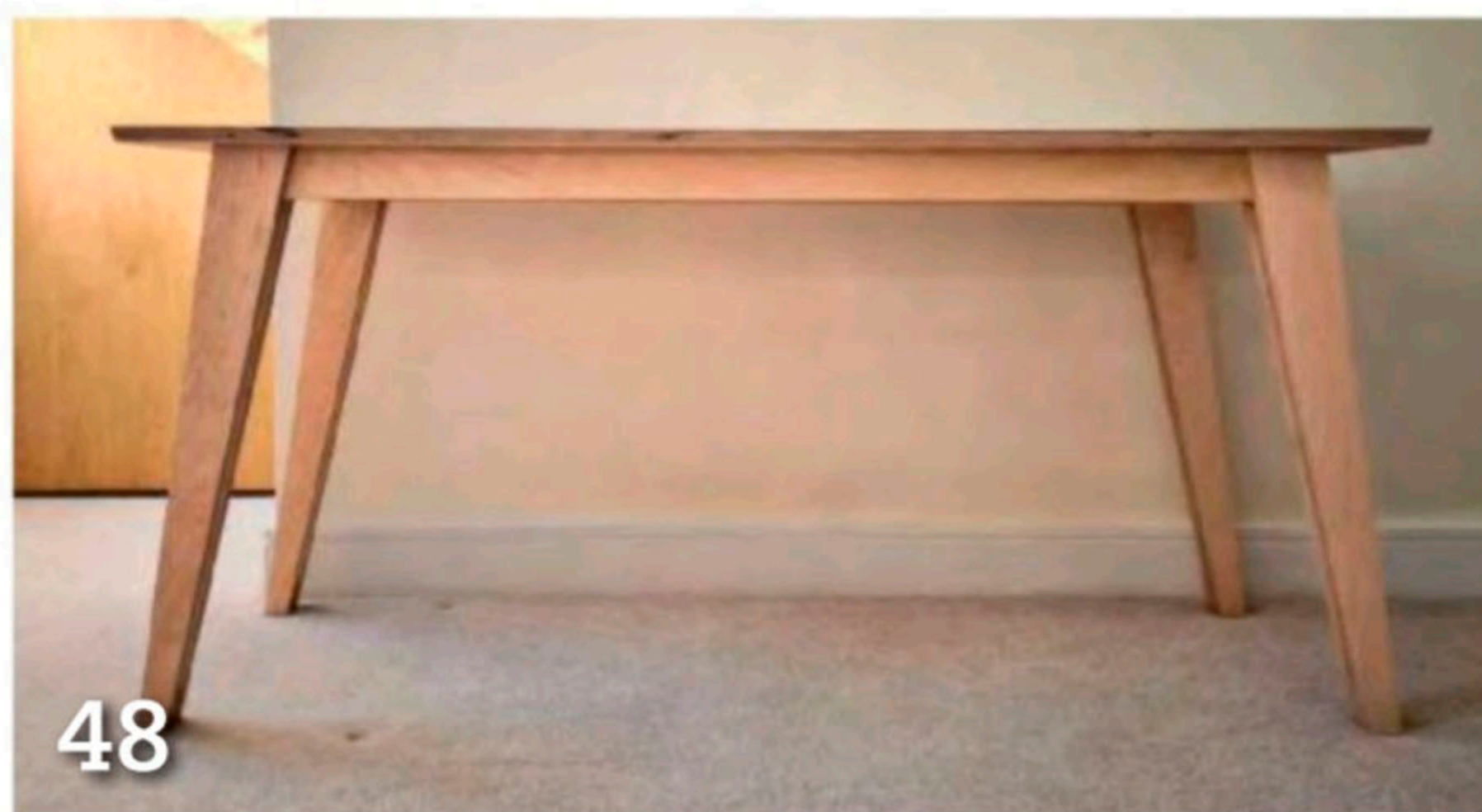
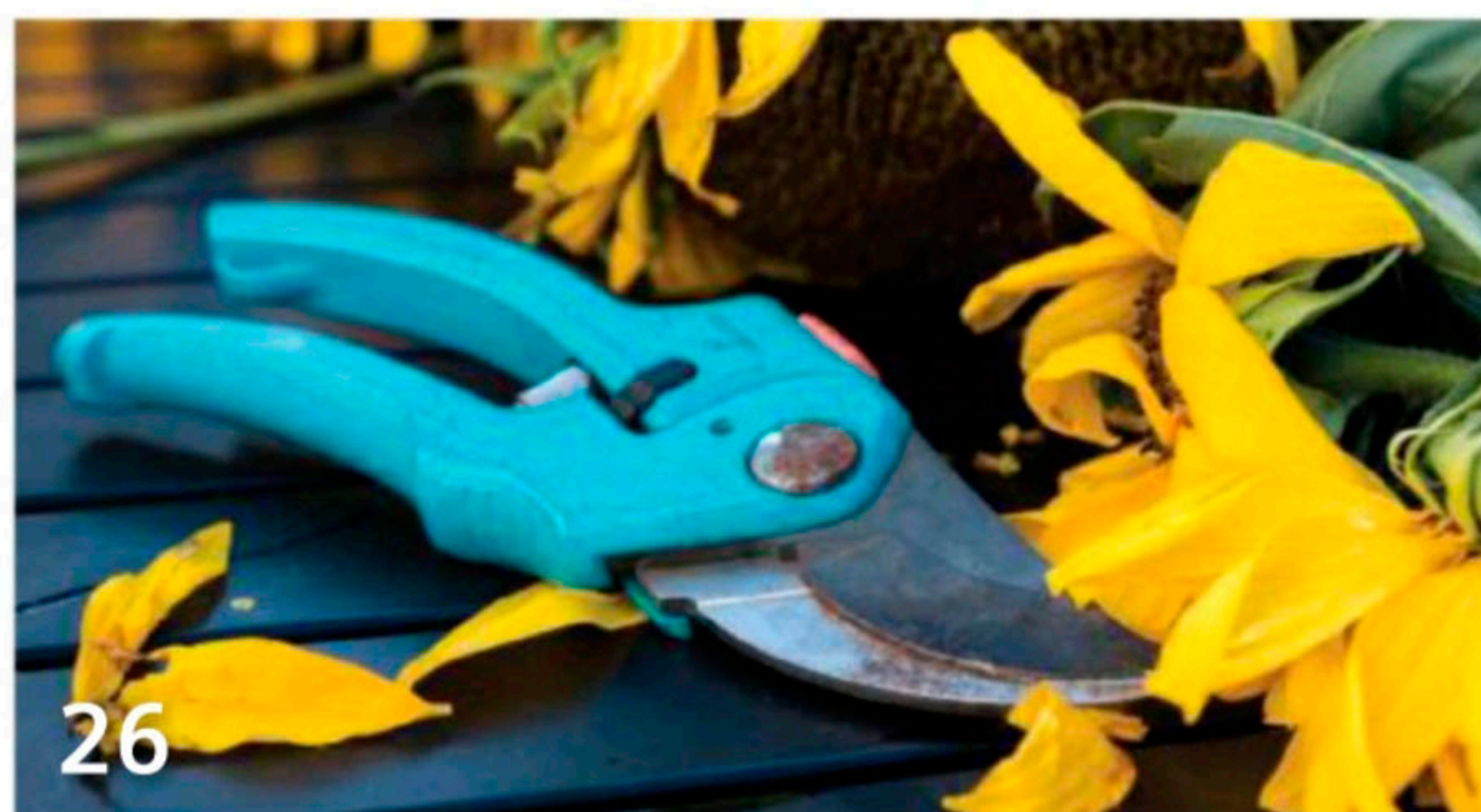
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OFF THE SHELF

Your guide to the latest products in the world of DIY

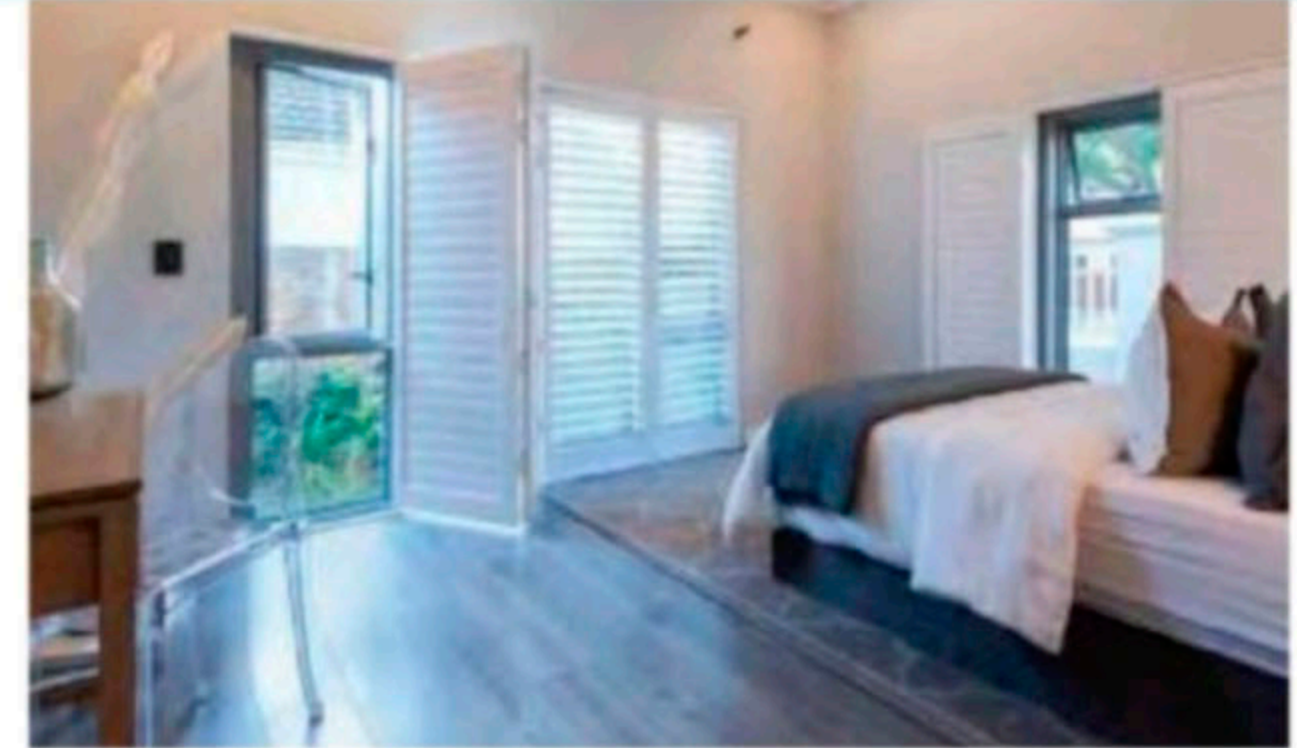
Flexible design in the home

Have you noticed that the home space as we knew it has evolved?

New home office spaces are being created in areas already allocated to another purpose, such as a guest bedroom or dining room. Nowadays, it makes less sense to have a space dedicated to a single purpose, and rooms have become multifunctional.

Intelligent positioning of workspaces such as:

- An unused area under the stairs.
- Enclosing the patio or balcony with stacking glass doors or Taylor Aluminium shutters, to double up as an office while creating flexibility of space.



Taylor Blinds & Shutters have a selection of beautiful Timber and Thermowood shutters that can be installed to fold, stack or slide and are ideal for providing this flexibility. When not in use, they stack away neatly and discreetly.

Furthermore, flexible rooms call for flexible, multi-use and transforming furniture. Creative space-saving storage solutions are becoming popular so that areas and rooms can double up as a home office or bedroom. Essentially the rise of adaptable design.

Some examples include:

- A desk that extends into a dining or coffee table.
- Desks that are portable or fold away into a cabinet or wall space.
- Standing desks or portable desks (better for concentration apparently) can be stowed neatly away when not in use.
- Sleeper couch: Couch by day, bed at night.
- Wall beds- fold away into a wall niche when not in use.
- Seating with built in storage – banquette or bay window.
- Make use of wall space.
- Install a corner desk from a floating shelf.
- A built-in cabinet with a fold away desk

There are so many options to make your space - no matter how small – work for you.

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

All the tools you will ever need

Just arrived is the latest Tork Craft 6 draw roller tool cabinet packed with 184 quality tools

The recently launched Tork Craft mobile tool cabinet includes 4 standard and 2 deep draws with a handy side cupboard bonus. All draws and side cupboard are lockable and it features a working tabletop. The total unit measures 900 x 850 x 450mm and is fitted with tough, durable castor wheels, two of which have lockable brakes.

The 184 quality tools are well selected, including every conceivable tool one would need for all professional industries, motor racing, all workshops and DIY'ers. The comprehensive range includes ratchets, all the socket sizes (inch and metric), T Bars, extensions, combination spanner sets, Allen key sets and deep wall sockets. There are also a number of hand tools, such as a full range of pliers and cutters, plus specialist pliers, wrenches and grip pliers, hammers, screw drivers, files, and a full range of bits.

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



New range of ceiling tiles

Saint-Gobain launches their new Gyproc Ceiling tiles

Saint-Gobain's Gyproc division has recently launched a new product in the ceilings category; the light-weight Gyproc L ceiling tile. Targeted primarily at commercial institutions including offices, education, healthcare and retail developments, the new Gyproc L tiles, locally manufactured in 6.4 mm thickness, are easy to handle and install.



"Gyproc South Africa's range of ceiling systems provide amongst the most versatile design and aesthetic options in the market, whilst incorporating the unique environmental properties of natural gypsum," says Paul Louw, Product Category Manager: Ceiling Solutions and Metals. "The new Gyproc L ceiling tiles are a great option for areas that require fit-for-purpose level vinyl ceiling tiles. Additionally, the tiles are available in two types of finishes, namely, white vinyl or fissured facing".

Using the new cost-effective lay-in solution, a Gyproc L ceiling tile will not sag when correctly installed and is robust enough to be scratch and dent resistant. Manufactured with a 100% recyclable gypsum core, the low maintenance tiles are easy to clean and provide a degree of sound insulation.

For more information, visit www.gyproc.co.za/products/ceilings

ASK FOR IT BY NAME

Den Braven Silicone-1001 Universal – The sealant with '1001' uses

Silicone-1001 Universal silicone is a versatile, ready to use silicone sealant which cures by form a durable elastic rubber seal. Because it both seals and bonds it's a favourite with builders, contractors and DIY'ers. It's a must-have for the tool box.

- It has a high elasticity.
- Very good adhesion to many surfaces.
- Seal and bond glass, ceramics, enamelled surfaces, kitchen assemblies and painted wood.

- Excellent UV and weather resistance.
- Easy to apply with an applicator gun.
- Contains anti-fungicide.

Colours available: clear, white, grey, black and bronze.

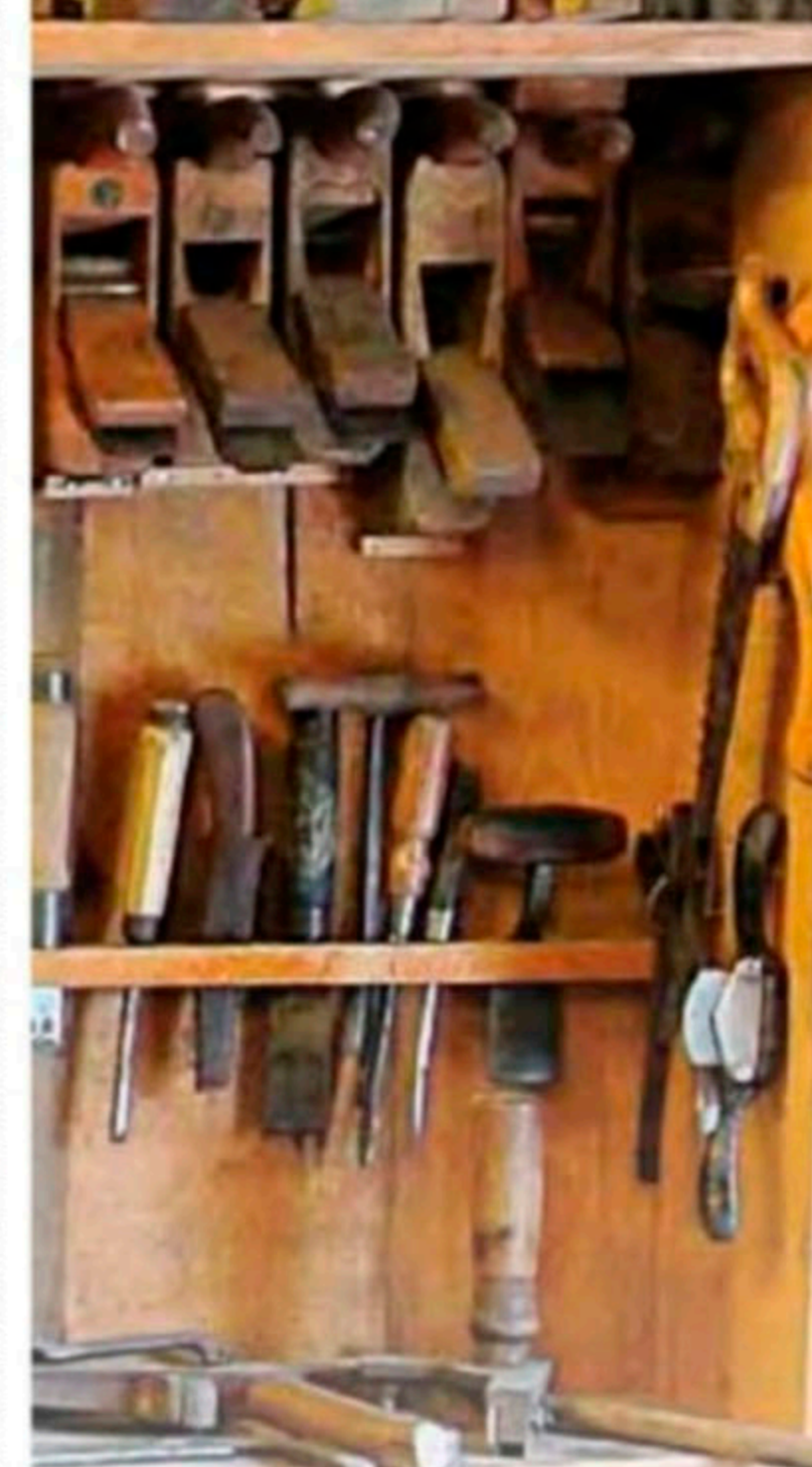
Available from hardware stores.

Visit the Den Braven Sealants South Africa FaceBook page to watch the How To videos and pick up all sorts of tips.

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VOICE YOUR VIEWS

Do you have any thoughts or comments on DIY issues?



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The Home HANDYMAN

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Nerissa Card

Wins a Makita
MT M400B Blower



Prizes are not exchangeable

A woodworking convert



How I wish woodworking had been offered as a subject to girls when I was at school. Had this been so 35 years ago, my life would have taken a completely different and utterly rewarding path. But I guess there is no use crying over a splintered education system, where boys got to play with hammers and nails and girls were dished up pots and needles. Not that I have anything against cooking and knitting, I'd just rather be sawing and screwing.

Fortunately, I learnt a few basics from my keen-carpenter father, but I was too distracted a teenager to truly learn. Silly me and what to do to hone, as I near retirement, the few skills I have picked up as I tinker in my beloved container workshop?

Enter *The Home Handyman*! I started subscribing to this magazine during lockdown and it's been a joy. I cannot

wait for it to arrive in my post box so I can nail down all the greatness it offers. It also inspired me to take the plunge and do a woodworking course at Cape Town's Mercury School of Woodworking this month, something I have been wanting to do for a decade.

So, thank you to *The Home Handyman* for the inspiration. You deserve all the support you get and so much more. As a journalist I know all too well the challenges facing print media and it is my heartfelt hope that you continue to arrive in my post box.

Nerissa Card, Nottingham Road, KwaZulu-Natal

Ed replies: Welcome to the family Nerissa, and we sincerely hope that you will get many years use out of the prize which you win for being our letter of the month! Please feel free to share your creations with us in the future.

I'm thwarted by Mother Nature in my DIY efforts

It can only happen to me, and I suspect other DIY master bodgers.

Having spent the best part of three days renovating some timberwork outside our home, it came to the final few hours, painting the white sections, and the sky looked quite murky. Her indoors, decided that, "Maybe you should leave it for a sunnier day, darling." It's the darling bit that got me, said in a rather sarcastic tone.

But as you well know lads, it's a decision that can only be taken by

he who holds the paintbrush. Up the ladder, splashing paint like a man possessed, the job finally finished, and like all good 'destroy it yourself' aficionados, the obligatory look of self-satisfaction, feet akimbo, hands on hips and looking up, absolutely chuffed, and thinking outside the box, with overalls still on, why not spray the drive with weed and killer? Why not? The expected storm hadn't hit this part of the Cape yet, and so the next 20 minutes saw two jobs finished in one afternoon.

As I was removing my work boots, it tipped it down, a deluge, rivers of murky water cascaded along the street gutters, the drive was submerged under a lake of swirling water, and then it hit me. The paintwork, it's only been on 30 minutes... The black gloss of the timber work underneath the newly painted panels, now took on the mantle of a Salvador Dali zebra, white runny stripes, dripping onto the plastic bins sitting silently underneath, morphing into a multi-coloured example of something that Jackson Pollock would be proud of.

The storm had kicked in with a vengeance, and in my arrogance, I thought I could beat the celestial system. The boss stifled a laugh, with that expression that says, I told you so.

It took but a few minutes to clean the black timber work of white paint, ditto the bins once the rain had stopped. I will have to paint it all again, which means up a double extension ladder with the boss giving directions from terra firma.

Tony Levy, Western Cape

DIY electrics

I am not sure if it has been covered before in another issue, but would it be possible for a write up to be done on the exact laws of electricity in terms of how much can a DIY person actually do before needing an electrician?

For example, I have a smart relay device that needs to go behind the light switch, can I do that myself or do I need an electrician to do it as it is sort of playing direct with the wiring installation?

Also, you can buy a DB board and breakers at builders, does that mean I can completely change my DB without an electrician? I would not as that is a bit much, but just another example.

Just curious as what is the boundary, in law, that a DIY person has in

regards to doing electrical work on their own property. I have Googled and read OHS on electricity but struggling to find the exact answer. Anyway, thought it may be a decent article if not done before.

Dylan Hawkins, by email

Ed replies: Thank you for the email Dylan. We actually featured an article titled 'Understanding Electricity' in our May/June issue of the magazine which I will happily forward to you.

However, it is an article which we feel could and should be covered regularly, so look out for an article in a future issue. In the meantime, I would advise that you get in touch with the Electrical Contractors Association of South Africa (ECASA). Their website, www.ecasa.co.za, is a great resource, and they are also very good at sharing information.



Reader's projects



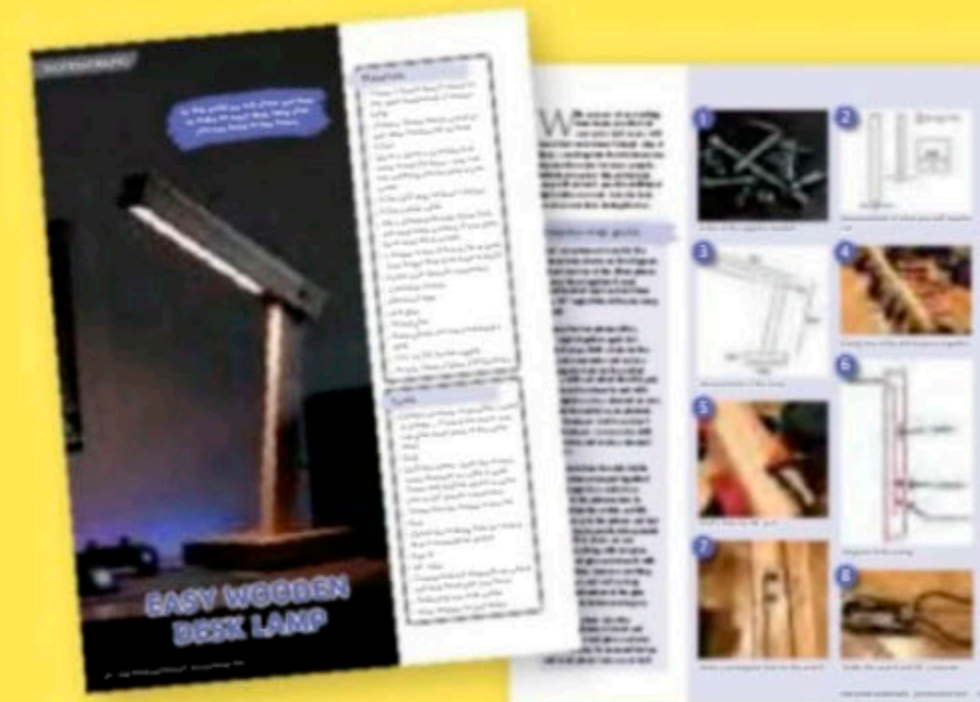
The Home HANDYMAN

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 edition. All competitions close on the last day of February. 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. Prizes not claimed within 60 days will be forfeited.

Family-owned hardware chain celebrates 50 years of operation

To mark the 50th birthday of their family-owned hardware chain, Brights Hardware is celebrating by giving back to various organisations within Western Cape communities, including The Fathers Heart, an NGO that is in desperate need of a new community centre in Fisantekraal.

“It is hard to believe that half a century has gone by since my late husband and I started this family business in 1971,” says Brights co-founder Nita Luis. “From humble beginnings Brights has grown from strength to strength and now consists of nine stores in the Western Cape, as well as an online store shopping experience. “We are so thankful for this success and feel that there is no better way to mark our Jubilee birthday than by giving back.”

According to Luis, The Fathers Heart has been working in the community of Fisantekraal since early 2019 from leased premises where they run after school programs, talent development interventions and parent workshops, as well as utilizing it as a safe space for social workers to engage with the community. However, the premises they use is too small and lacks necessary infrastructure and resources, which has severely constrained the number of children they can assist. Brights is joining several other organisations to assist The Fathers Heart in developing a brand-new multi-purpose community centre

at Fisantekraal, and will be supplying much needed building materials for the construction of this centre.

“This is an exceptional organisation doing essential work in the marginalised communities of Cape Town,” says Luis. “We are all responsible for the wellbeing of the next generation and to make this world a better place for everyone. Brights believes that an essential way forward is to create facilities where the children and youth can discover their self-worth and develop their God given talent – such as that planned by The Fathers Heart in Fisantekraal.”

Looking forward, Orlando Luis says that he is excited for the future. “Our directors and staff work together to support, build-up, and enhance the quality of life for our employees and our communities, thus maintaining our motto that “Brights is more than just a hardware store”. In all of this, Brights’ mission is to glorify God as good stewards of everything that has been entrusted to us.”

Brights will be running a series of exciting in-store promotions over the course of their birthday – offering customers additional discounts, double points for cardholders, instant prizes to be won and product demos and activations.

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

New look for SA's no.1 plaster brand

South African plaster manufacturer, Saint-Gobain Gyproc, is rebooting their entire range of Rhino Plasters! Regarded as the official benchmark in the industry, Gyproc’s fresh, new look and streamlined packaging aims to reflect the brands commitment to innovation and sustainability.

“Whilst the packaging on the outside reflects change, the high quality and trusted product that our customers have come to know and expect remains the same,” says Anton Marais, Head of Product of Saint-Gobain Gyproc. “We are constantly innovating to make living spaces more comfortable, cost-effective and sustainable, and are confident that our new packaging aligns with these ideals, as well as with our overall purpose – Making the world a better home.”

As South Africa’s number one plaster brand, the RhinoLite range, is GreenTag Certified and achieves a smooth finish when applied. The new look will be rolled out over the full range of products, including their multipurpose plasters,

skimming plasters, jointing compounds, moulding plaster and setting adhesives.

Celebrating over 90 years of rich history and local heritage, Gyproc products are manufactured locally in Cape Town and Germiston, and the brand supplies both the local and international markets with trusted products such as RhinoLite and RhinoGlide registered as trademarks in 1979.

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



Five ways cleaning can improve your mental health

When we discuss Health Awareness Month, mental health is an important element of overall health that is often overlooked. 2017 study on clutter and overconsumption found that cleaning

Psychologist and Life Coach Dr Tshepiso Matentjie outlines five ways cleaning can be beneficial to our health and wellbeing:

1. When we clean, we get our bodies moving, which helps to release endorphins and feel-good hormones into the blood and reduce cortisol levels, which cause stress. Overall, this helps to relieve tension and anxiety, allowing the body and mind to unwind.
2. Cleaning can create a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction by increasing our mind's feelings of control. The achievement of a goal, like a clean space, can give us the motivation to tackle other challenges in our lives, beginning with the belief that we are capable and can overcome any obstacles we come across along the way.
3. A clean and tidy environment can help to create a positive attitude and the resilience to keep going, no matter what. The discipline and habit of cleaning and tidying on a regular basis can also lay a foundation for developing positive habits like discipline, focus and motivation.
4. When we clean with others, it can be a bonding activity that can improve intimacy and strengthen relationships. Untidy and chaotic home environments have been found to be related to parental stress and to negatively impact parenting behaviour and children's problem behaviours. But, when cleaning becomes a positive group activity, it creates cohesion, helps everyone to feel like they play their part and relieves the pressure from being shouldered by one individual, which often creates tension in the home.
5. Your home is an extension of your how you feel about and see yourself, so cleaning is a form of self-care that can help with developing and maintaining self-esteem. People who struggle with depression and anxiety in particular often find cleaning difficult but report feeling safer, calmer and happier when their space is clean and tidy.

helps our minds feel more in control and elevates feel-good hormones in the body – which means cleaning is good for the mind and the body!

Cleanipedia, South Africa's first online, one-stop hub for easy cleaning and organising tips for a happier home suggests the following quick tips:

- **Reduce clutter:** Getting rid of packaging, gadgets, old clothes and anything that is no longer needed will make rooms look tidier and make it easier to keep them that way.
- **For thick dust:** wipe with a damp microfibre cloth that traps grime and allows you to get rid of it, rather than spreading it around.
- **Storage:** Hooks are a great way for efficiently dealing with coats, bathrobes and shopping bags when storage space is limited.
- **Rubbish:** Make sure there are always bin liners and recycling bags available so there is no need for rubbish to accumulate. Putting it outside promptly will prevent odours.
- **Ironing:** An effective hack is putting wrinkled clothes in the tumble dryer on a high heat with a handful of ice cubes for 15 minutes, so the melting ice can steam away creases.
- **Stains:** These vary a lot, but in general, a good approach with spills is to blot up any liquid with a clean cloth or paper towel immediately.
- **Floors:** Make cleaning floors easier by buying a powerful, cordless vacuum cleaner that is simple to use and empty.

From stubborn stains to home hygiene, laundry hacks to DIY basics, gardening tips and more, visit www.cleanipedia.com for easy cleaning expert tips.



Even if it's a small space, a bathroom remodel calls for decisions in virtually all aspects of home improvement. You'll be considering structural design, plumbing, heating, ventilation and electricity.

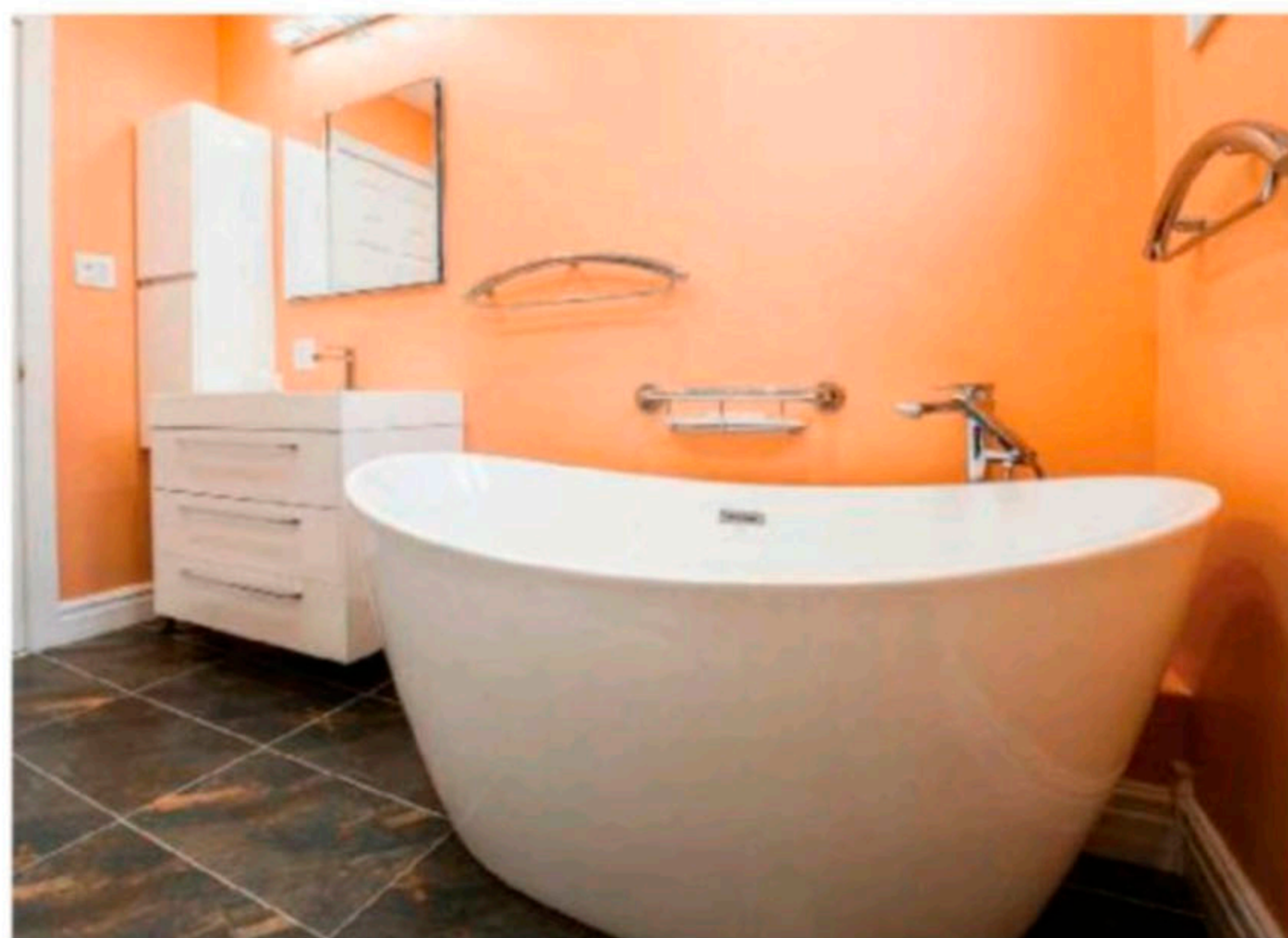
You'll also be making aesthetic considerations when choosing floor and wall coverings, bathroom cabinets, paint colours and incidentals like bathroom mirrors, shelving and medicine cabinets.

HOW TO DIY YOUR DREAM BATHROOM

>> Chris Deziel

Bathroom design starts with evaluating the space you have, and in many ways, it's best if the space is empty.

However, that doesn't mean that you can't turn your existing bathroom into one that more closely matches your aesthetic ideals. If you love your bathtub or bathroom vanity, there's no need to discard it because there's always a way to work it into an updated design.



The bathroom isn't the best place for flooring materials that can be damaged by water, such as solid hardwood or laminate

A list of remodelling considerations

- **The people who will be using the bathroom:** Elderly users, people with disabilities and children require specific design considerations. Moreover, the design for a guest bathroom is usually simpler and less elegant than that for a master bathroom.
- **The amount of available space:** If you don't have to cram all that a bathroom needs into a tight space, you have more design flexibility.
- **Building code and comfort requirements:** Each bathroom fixture must have enough space in front, to the side and above to allow for comfortable and safe use, and all the wiring and plumbing must adhere to applicable codes.
- **Trending styles:** Modern bathrooms tend to combine functionality with current design ideas, and there's no reason not to take advantage of some of them.
- **Budget:** Your budget may not allow you to implement your entire wish list for a dream bathroom, but in many cases, less expensive alternatives (or replacing small fixtures instead of doing a complete gut job) are just as good.

Bathroom remodelling process and levels of remodelling

Bathroom remodels run the gamut from small changes, such as replacing the sink cabinet, to gutting the room and starting over. Permits are not usually required for projects that don't require you to move plumbing pipes, alter electrical circuitry or make major structural changes.

In an effort to minimise inspections and save money, you might decide to keep the parts of the bathroom that are functioning as they are and work around them. If you leave the plumbing and electrical systems intact and don't alter the walls, you could potentially complete the project in a few days to a week and do all the work yourself. There are a lot of possibilities in such a limited approach, including:

- Changing the toilet, sink and sink cabinet.
- Installing new flooring.
- Replacing old light fixtures and fans with new ones.
- Updating the shower door or shower curtains, towel racks and shelving.
- Painting the walls or installing new wall coverings over the old ones.

You get maximum design flexibility if you demolish everything, uncover the walls and start over. You can install brand-new fixtures in different places, and you also get a chance to address problematic issues, such as out-of-date wiring and plumbing or water damage in the walls, floor or ceiling.

When you go this route, you should be prepared for the project to last at least a month or even more if you order materials from overseas. The price tag will obviously be higher, and you may want to DIY it to keep costs down, but a contractor's help in scheduling the different phases of the job, including plumbing and electrical, is worth every penny you pay for it.

Bathroom plumbing and drains

All of the existing fixtures in your bathroom connect to stubouts in the walls, which are the visible parts of the plumbing networks behind the walls, and all fixtures, including the bathtub and shower, can be disconnected from the stubouts and replaced with new ones. Changing the location of a sink or toilet or adding one in a new location calls for changes to the plumbing.

Alterations to the plumbing pipes necessarily requires removal of part of a wall or the floor, so if you've been thinking of updating the wall or floor covering, this is a good time to do it.

Bathroom wiring and lighting

Your bathroom may be 'grandfathered in' with wiring that passed code when it was installed, but as soon as you make changes, current codes apply to all the work you do, and that may mean changes to wiring in other rooms. For example, your bathroom receptacles may be connected to a circuit that powers lights in another room, and since that's no longer allowed, you may have to rewire the other room.



When it comes to the wall coverings themselves, many people choose tiles because they are reliably waterproof

Choosing bathroom flooring

The bathroom isn't the best place for flooring materials that can be damaged by water, such as solid hardwood or laminate, but engineered hardwood flooring is much less vulnerable to warping than solid hardwood and is the best option if you want the look of wood. There are much safer choices, though, including porcelain, ceramic or stone tiles, which are the most popular bathroom flooring options, and luxury vinyl planks or tiles, which, unlike engineered hardwood, are waterproof and not just water-resistant. If you choose luxury vinyl, you have the additional advantage of being able to install it over existing flooring.

Bathroom walls and ceilings

When it comes to the wall coverings themselves, many people choose tiles because they are reliably waterproof, but there are several moisture-resistant options that are easier to install, including vinyl wallpaper or paint. Keep in mind that any good bathroom paint should have additives to resist mould and mildew.

Choosing bathroom vanities

You can always build your own vanity, of course (or have one custom built), but if you purchase one, you'll find models that vary in length from 45 to 180cm and some that fit in corners. The least expensive vanities are made of laminated particleboard, and while serviceable, they don't hold up well in moist conditions and aren't the best choice for a master bathroom. Laminated plywood is a more reliable material that's worth the extra cost, performing even better than solid wood because it doesn't warp.

Countertops are arguably even more important than the vanities themselves for establishing the bathroom décor theme, and although they often come supplied with vanities, purchasing them separately gives you more design options. Granite, marble and other stone countertops offer the ultimate in luxury, and they are the most durable options available that will likely outlast the bathroom. Quartz, cultured marble and other solid surface materials are trendier, less costly choices that look almost as appealing as real stone, and although they may wear out faster, they often come with a built-in backsplash as a bonus so you don't have to worry about installing one. Laminates are even less expensive, they offer a wide range of design options and, if you care for them, they'll last as long as solid surface materials.

Whether you choose a stone, composite, solid surface or laminate countertop, it's a good idea to hold off on purchasing it until you've installed the plumbing stubouts and you know where the sink will go. That way, you can have sink cut-out done at the factory so you don't have to worry about doing it yourself.

Providing sufficient bathroom storage

The vanity provides a limited amount of storage space, but a typical bathroom usually needs more, and there are several ways to incorporate it in the bathroom design. One common trick is to design the bathtub enclosure or shower stall with a separate wall for the plumbing that is separate from the main wall, providing an alcove in which you can install shelving. This also allows for access to the tub or shower plumbing. You can also buy or build a bathroom storage cabinet or as a true space-saving option, build a storage shelf for towels over the bathroom door.

Bathroom sink and sink taps

No bathroom is complete without a sink and a tap, and there are numerous options for both of these features. The three types of sinks that work best as a bathroom sink are a standard self-rimming (top-mount) sink, an undermount sink or a vessel sink, which sits atop the vanity countertop rather than inside or underneath it and adds class to a powder room or an ultra-modern bathroom. You can even install a vessel sink on a repurposed dresser to complete a non-traditional bathroom design. Top-mounts and undermounts can be porcelain, enamelled steel, copper or a number of other materials, while vessel sinks are typically glass or porcelain.

The bathroom tap style that works best largely depends on the sink type and style. Bathroom taps typically have a 10cm spread as opposed to kitchen taps, which have an 20cm spread. Taps can mount on the sink deck (which is appropriate for top-mount sinks with predrilled holes), on the countertop (which suits undermount sinks) or on the wall (which is a common configuration for vessel sinks). Whether you install a budget tap or a top-of-the-line model with electronic controls, it connects to the shutoff valves on the water supply pipes with flexible hoses.

Bath and shower taps

Unlike sink taps, bathtub and shower taps consist of two parts. The valve, which is the part that controls water flow, must be installed as part of the plumbing rough-in and gets covered over by the wall material, so a canny bathroom design incorporates a removable panel to access it. This can be in a storage cabinet behind the plumbing, or it can be built into a closet in an adjacent room. Without this panel, you often have to remove the tub or shower wall covering to service or replace the tap, and that could mean breaking through tile.

Once the valve is in place, you cover and finish the wall, leaving the valve stems and water outlets onto which you install the handles, spout and showerhead, collectively known as the tap trim. Valves can be basic mixing valves, but it's better to choose a pressure-compensating valve for more reliable temperature control. Showerheads are interchangeable, so if you don't like the one that came with the tap, you can always replace it.

Choosing functional toilets

The porcelain throne is arguably the most important fixture in the bathroom, and it's hard to go wrong with toilet choices. Modern toilets are all low-flush models using a maximum of four litres per flush, and some pressure-assisted models use even less. When designing the bathroom, be sure to leave enough clearance for the toilet: 60cm of clear space in front and 40cm inches on either side as measured from the centre of the bowl.

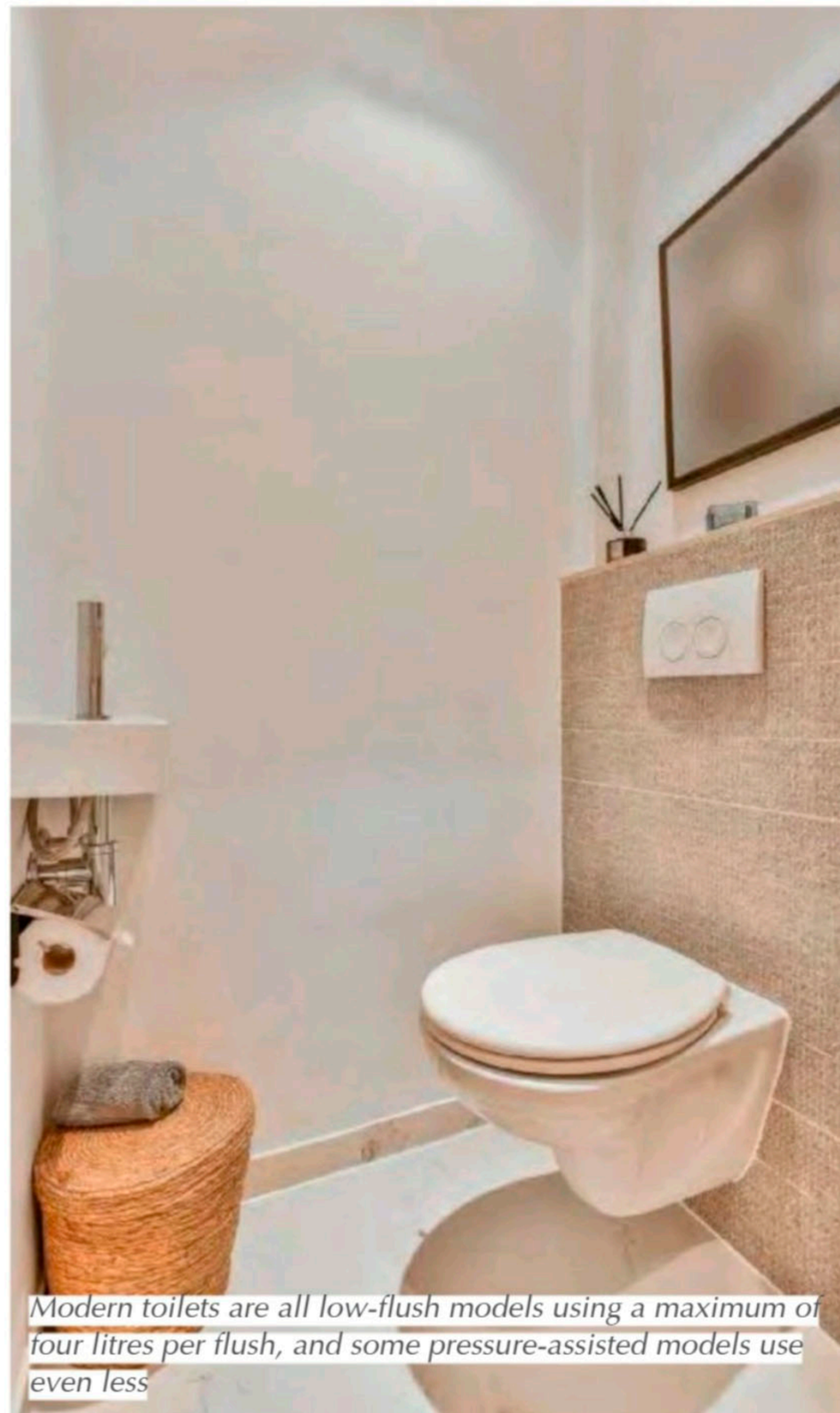
Types of bathtubs and showers

If you plan to install a standard alcove-style bathtub, you need to design and build the alcove according to the specifications for that tub. That isn't the only kind of tub you can find, of course. An enclosure for a drop-in tub can be built adjacent to a wall or in the middle of the bathroom, and a freestanding tub can sit anywhere in the bathroom without an enclosure. Common tub materials include lightweight acrylic, heavy-duty enamelled steel and porcelain, which is probably the most elegant material.

Premade shower stalls are usually made of acrylic or fibreglass, and they often come with pre-fitted shower doors. If you aren't on a tight budget, you may want to build a shower stall from scratch and cover the walls and floor with tile or stone.

Adding bathroom accessories

The finishing touch in your bathroom remodel is to install towel racks, one or more wall-hung bathroom shelves, soap and shampoo dispensers and any other accessories a modern bathroom needs. Don't forget the grab bars in the tub and shower and next to the toilet if you're designing the bathroom for use by anyone with limited abilities or mobility. Once you've finished these simple home improvement tasks, all that's left to do is throw bath mats on the floor, and your bathroom is ready for use.



Modern toilets are all low-flush models using a maximum of four litres per flush, and some pressure-assisted models use even less



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This issue, Kreg show you how to make a handy coat rack for the entrance of your home.

RACK IT UP



Tools

- Drill/Driver
- Pocket Hole Jig
- Mitre Saw
- Sander



Wood products

- 4 x 19mm x 64mm x 2400mm board
- 1 x 19mm-diameter dowel



Hardware and supplies

- 24 x Kreg 32mm pocket-hole screws
- 19mm Forstner-style drill bit
- Stain or paint

Not everyone has space for a mudroom, but everyone does need a place to hang coats and hats when they come in the door. With this coat rack, you'll get that hanging space without taking up floor space. At less than 60cm wide and about 180cm tall, its compact size makes it easy to fit almost anywhere.

PARTS LIST

4 x Leg	19 x 64 x 1830mm
8 x Pegs	19mm diameter x 100mm
1 x Long Top Brace	19 x 64 x 255mm
2 x Short Top Brace	19 x 64 x 155mm
1 x Long Bottom Brace	19 x 64 x 405mm
2 x Short Bottom Brace	19 x 64 x 195mm



Bevel Cuts vs. Mitre Cuts

This project requires two types of angled cuts: bevels and mitres. The bottom end of each leg is beveled, meaning you cut at an angle through the thickness of the board. The braces are mitred, meaning you cut at an angle across the width of the board.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: Cut four Legs from 19 x 64mm boards, as shown in the cutting diagram. To do this, first bevel one end of each board at 5°. Then measure 1830mm on the long face of the board, reset your saw for a square cut, and then cut the Leg to final length. Also cut eight Pegs to length from a 19mm dowel, as shown in the cutting diagram.

Step 2: Now you can lay out and drill the recesses in the outer face (the longer face) of each Leg to receive the pegs. Note that you'll have two Legs with Pegs mounted higher, and two Legs with the Pegs mounted lower. Locate the centre of the Legs at these locations, and then drill recesses 13mm deep using a 19mm-diameter Forstner bit. Take care to keep the holes perpendicular to the face of each leg, and don't drill all the way through.

Step 3: After sanding the Legs, glue the Pegs into the recesses. Make sure that they're perpendicular to the face of each Leg before the glue dries.

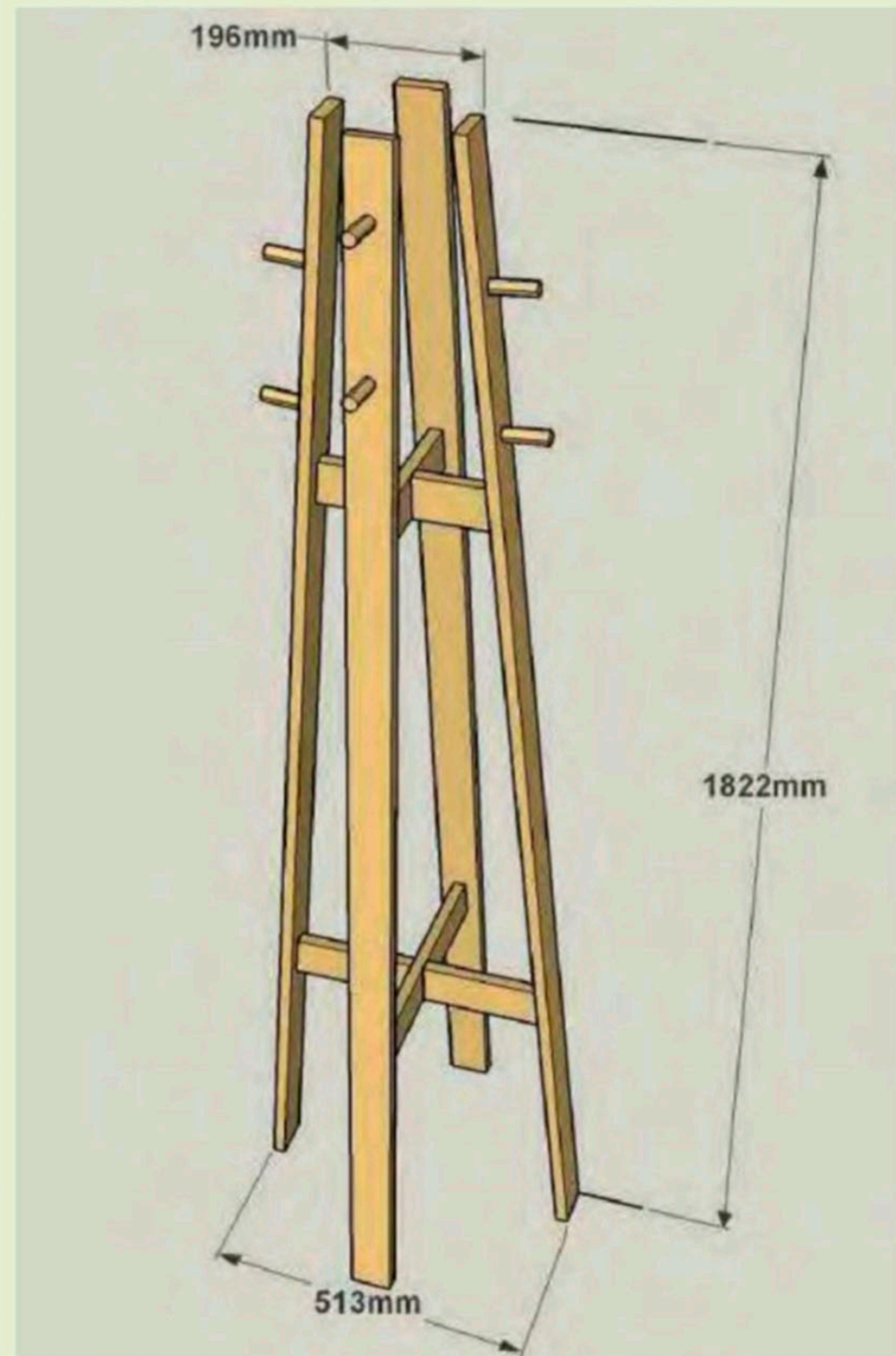
Step 4: Now you can cut the Braces that attach the legs together. Study the cutting diagram before you cut, and note that the Long Top Brace and Long Bottom Brace are cut at a 5° angle on each end. The Short Top Braces and the Short Bottom Braces are cut square on one end, and at a 5° angle on the other end. Once you have it all figured out, cut one Long Top Brace, two Short Top Braces, one Long Bottom Brace, and two Short Bottom Braces to length from your 19 x 64mm boards.

Step 5: The Braces need pocket holes to allow them to be attached. With your pocket-hole jig set up for 19mm material, drill the pocket holes as shown. Note that on the mitered ends the pockets are drilled so they are perpendicular to the end. When you've drilled all the holes, sand all of the Braces smooth.

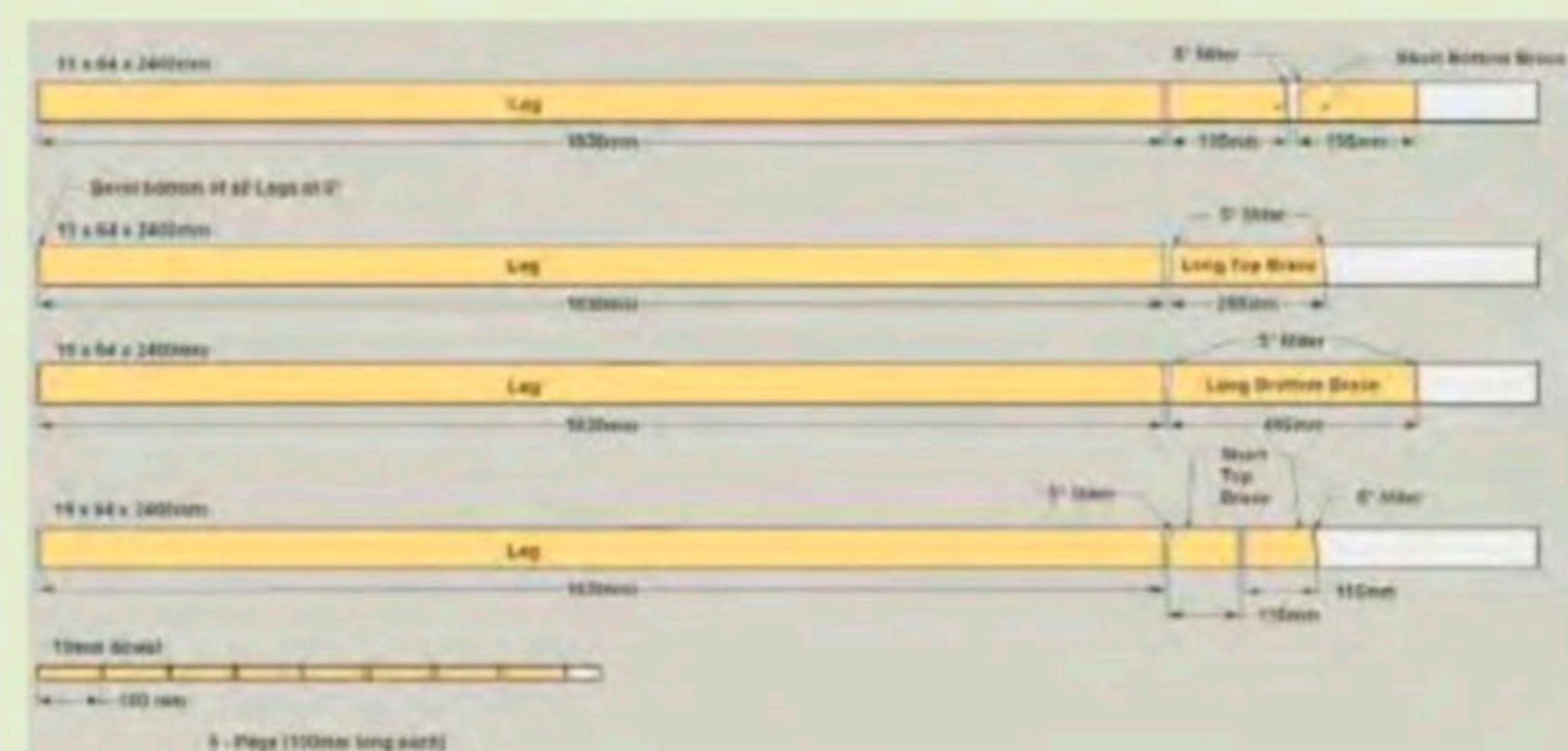
Step 6: Attach the Long Bottom Brace and the Long Top Brace to one of the Legs that has high-mounted Pegs. Use 32mm pocket-hole screws (fine thread for hardwoods like oak, coarse thread for softwoods like pine). Make sure the Braces are centered on the width of the Leg, and that the Pegs are at the appropriate end.

Step 7: Now align and attach the other leg with high-mounted Pegs the same way.

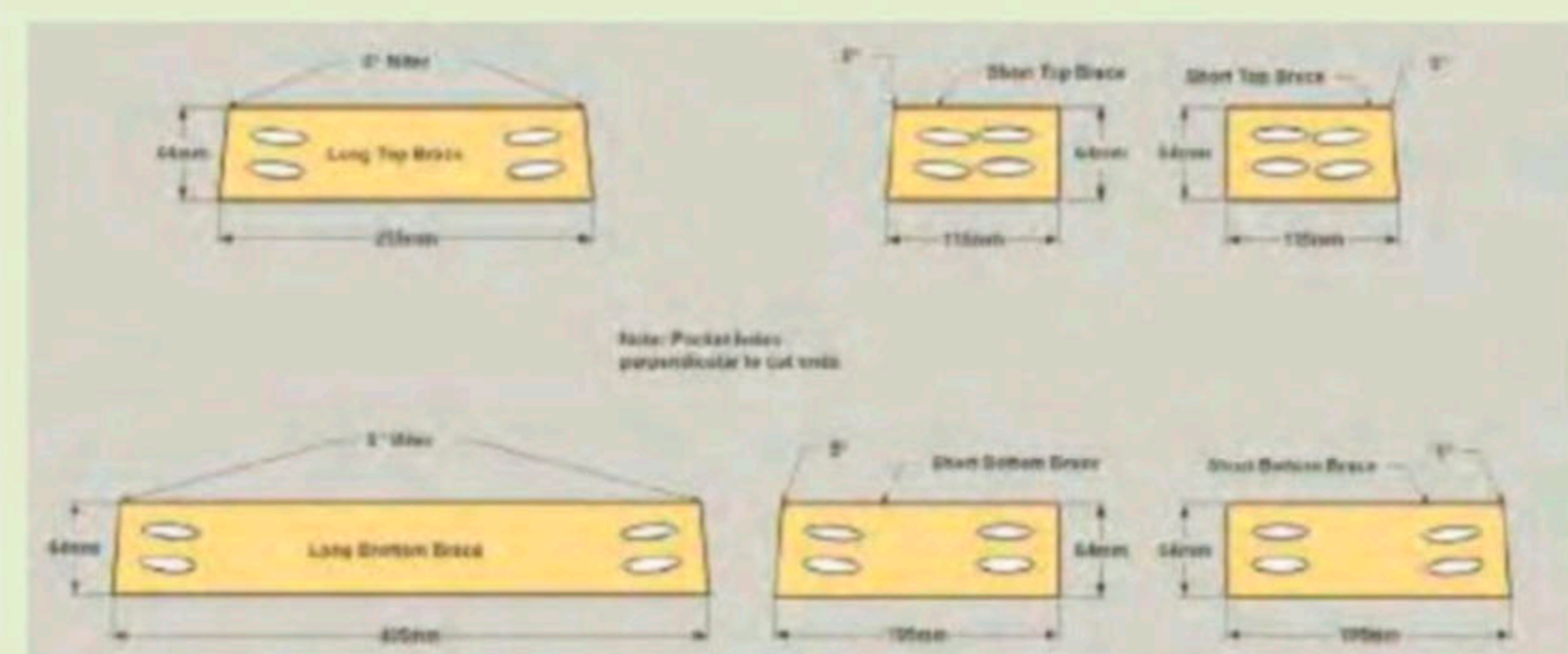
Step 8: Now you can attach a Short Bottom Brace and a Short Top Brace to each of the other Legs (with the low-mounted Pegs) using 32mm pocket-hole screws. Make sure you have the Braces positioned accurately, and that you are screwing the mitered end of each Brace to the Legs.



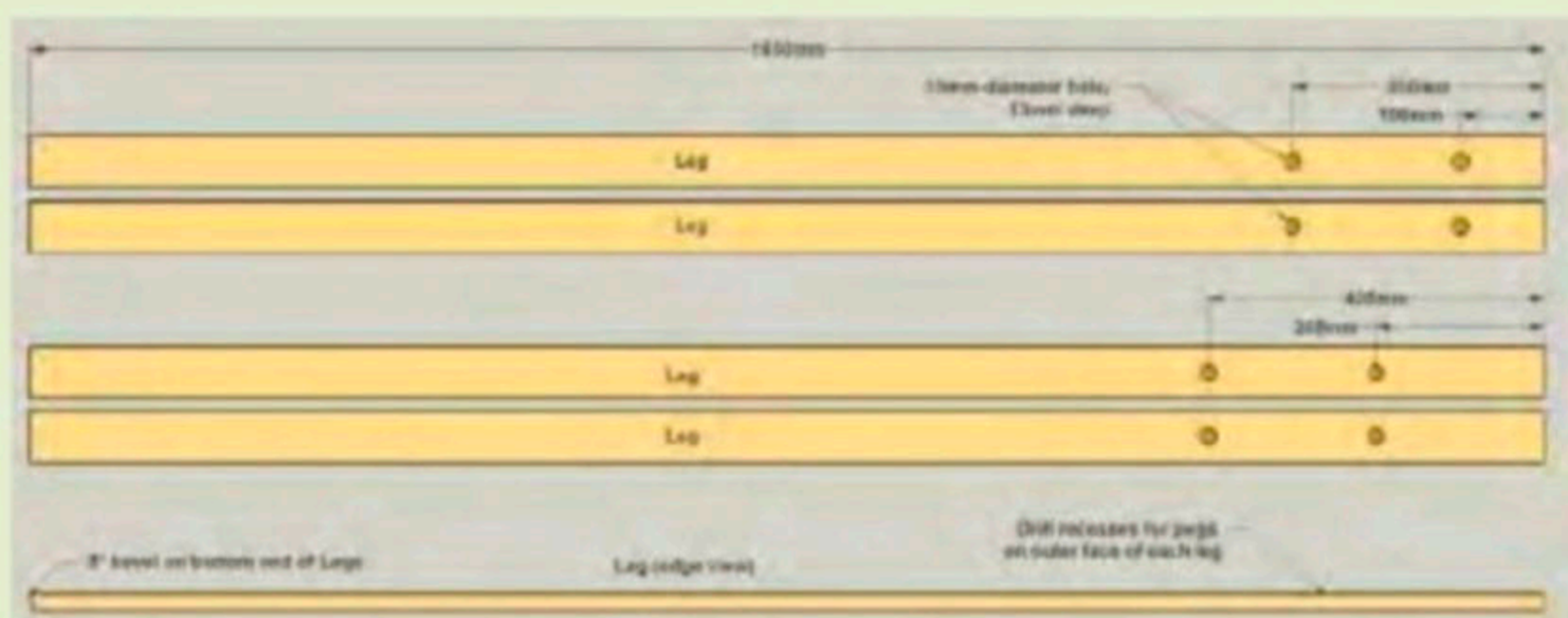
Overall with dimensions



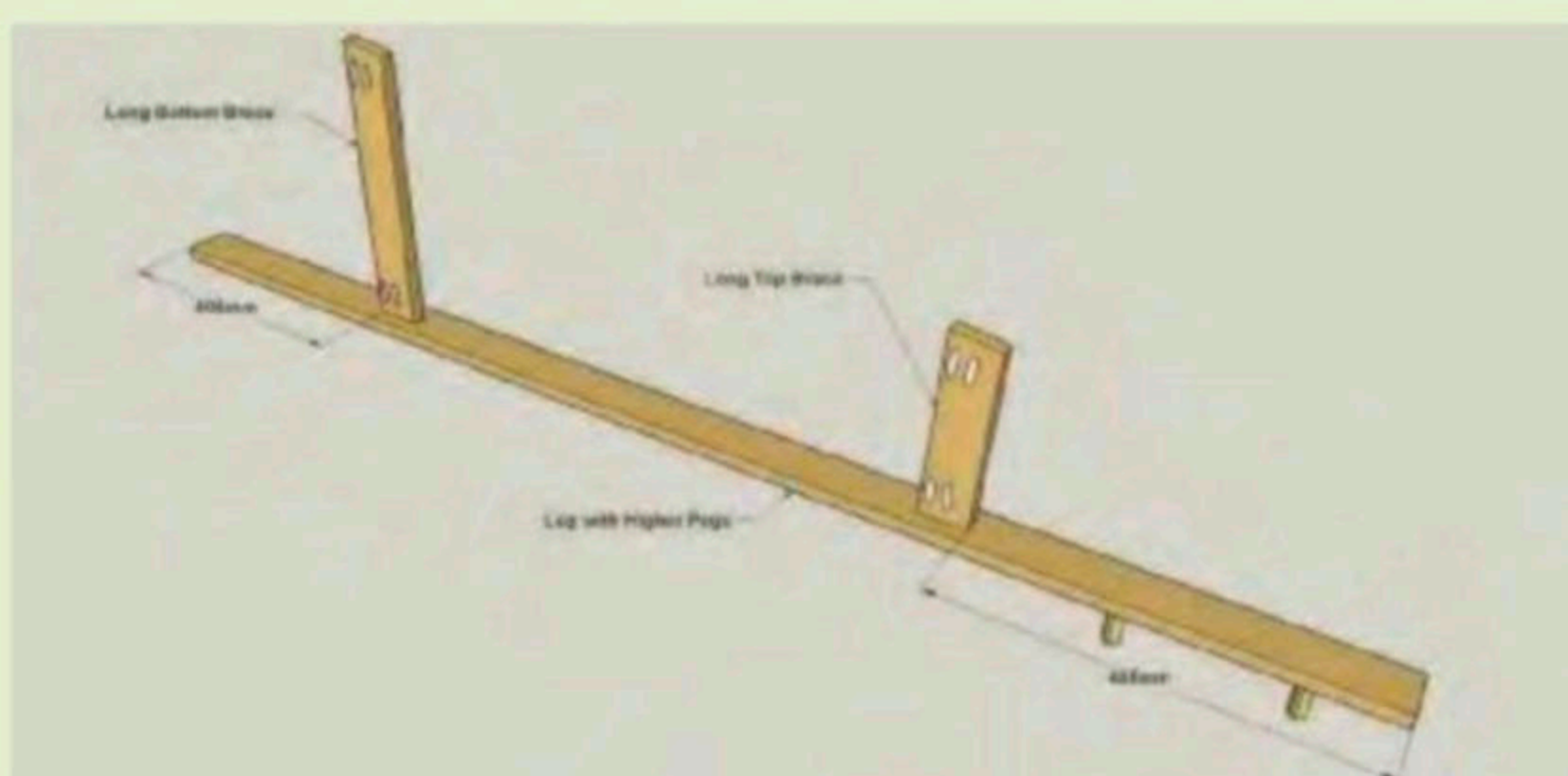
The cuts you need to make



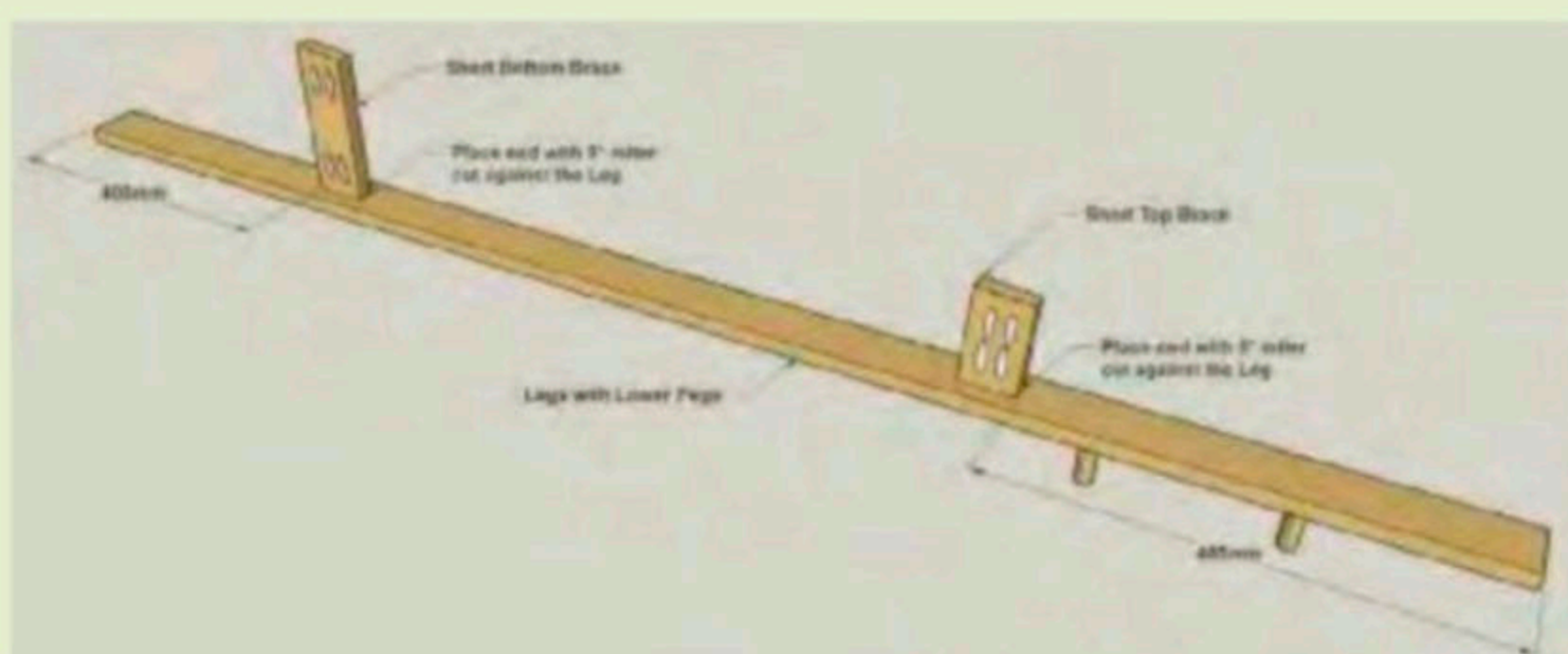
The parts you will need for the braces



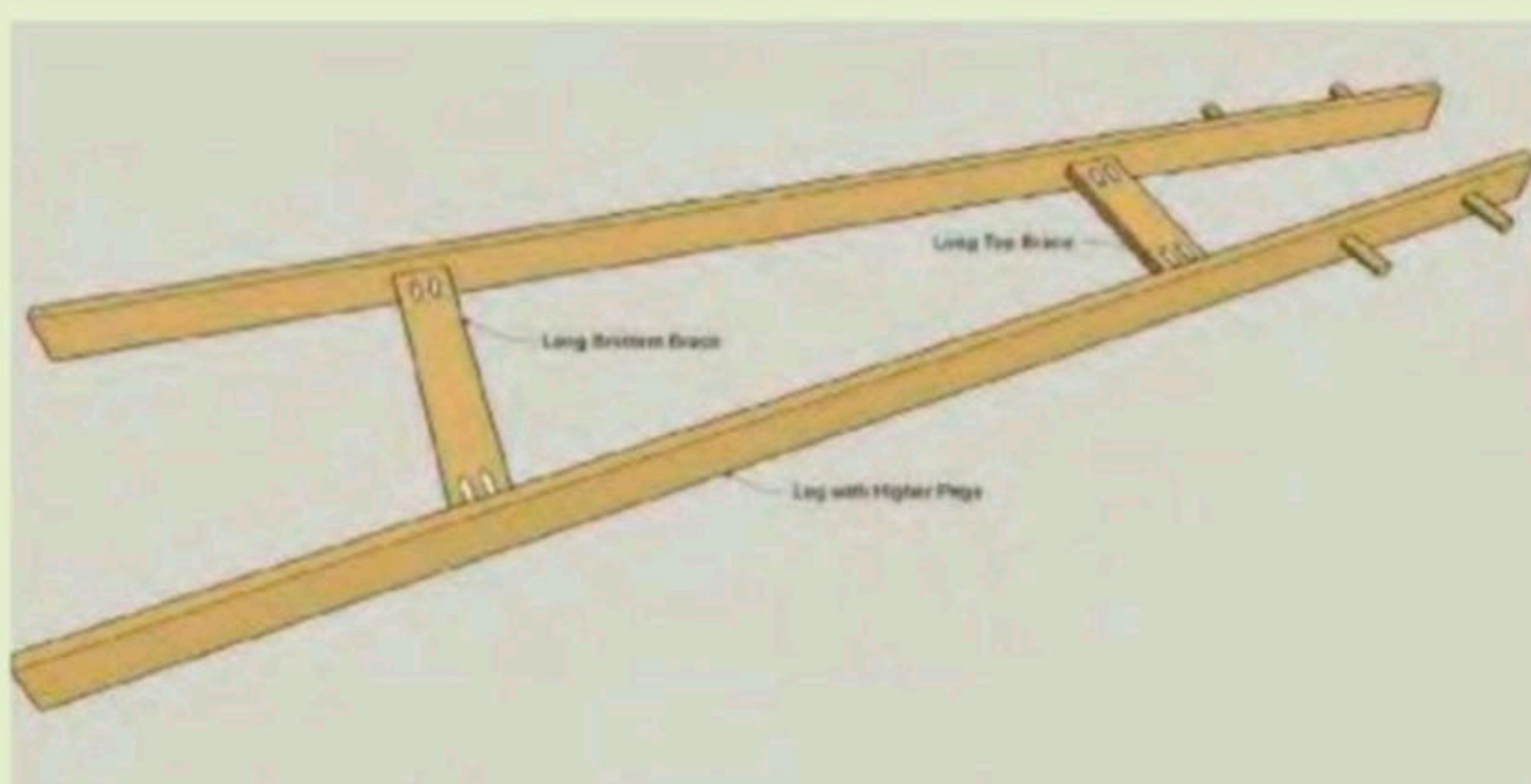
The parts you will need for the legs



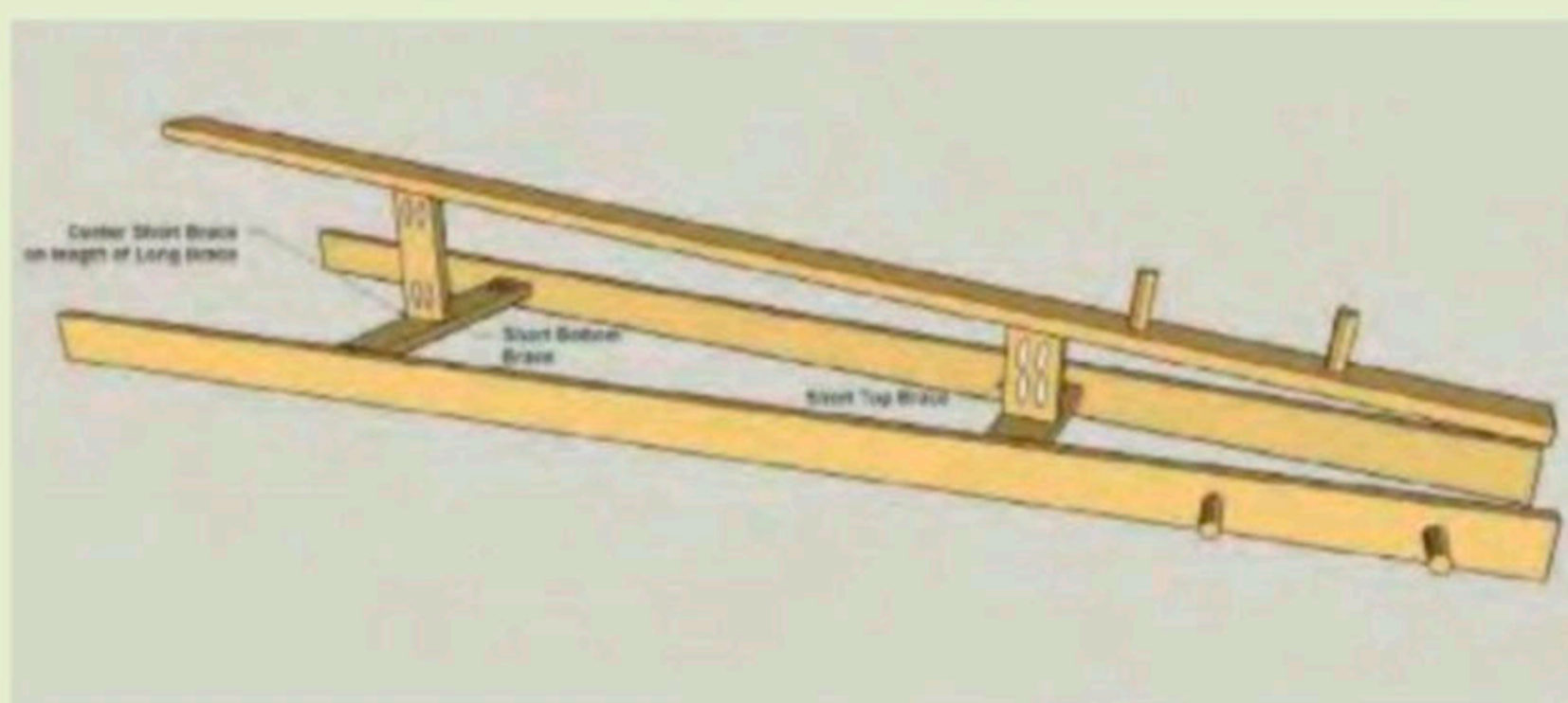
Assembly of the long brace



Assembly of the short brace

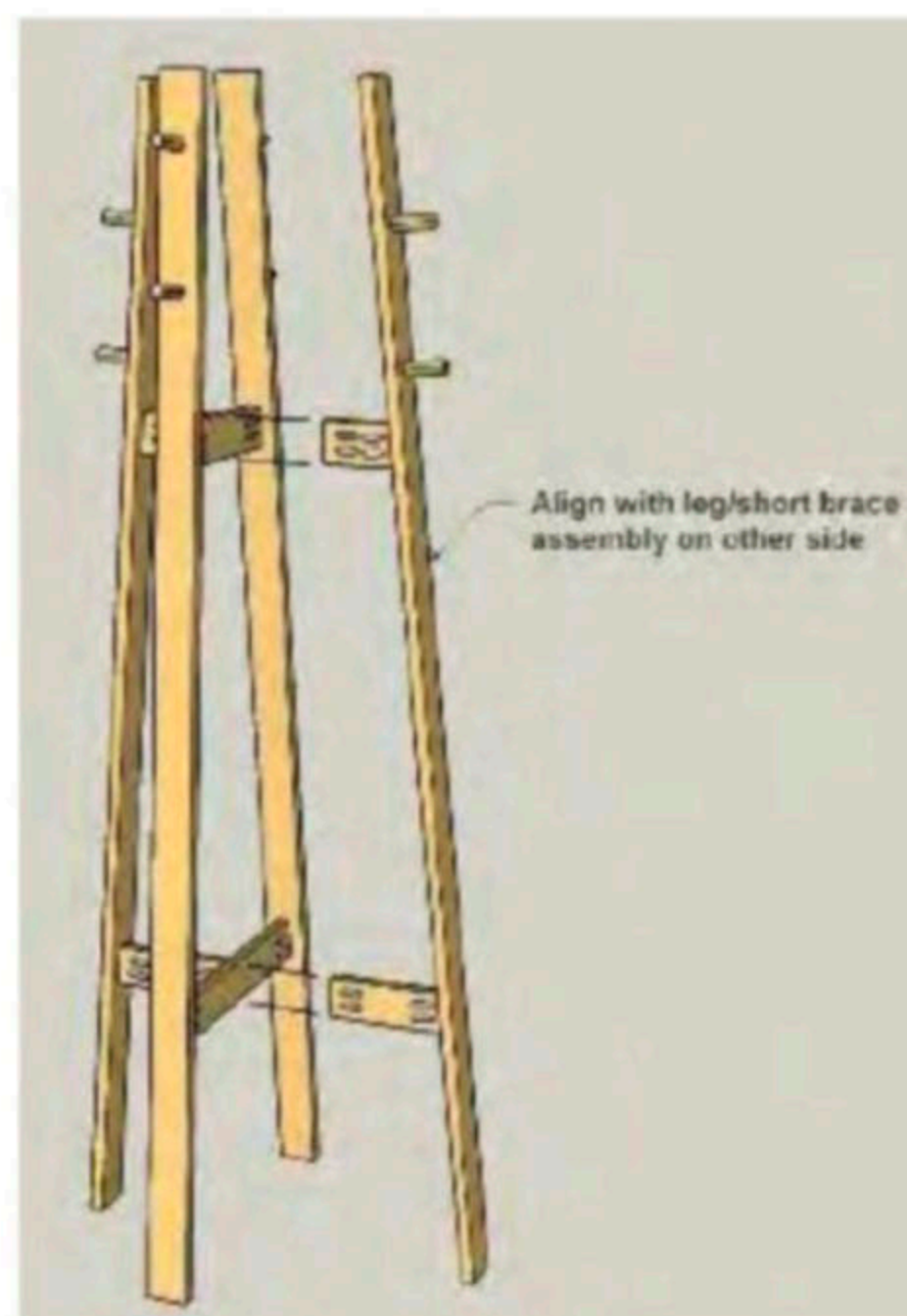


Adding the second leg



Assembly of the third leg

Step 9: Attaching these leg assemblies to the others is easy. Just center the Short Brace on the length of the Long Brace, and then drive in 32mm pocket-hole screws. If you wish, you can plug the pocket holes, though the tight spaces do make this a bit challenging. Then stain or paint (or do both) to give your coat rack the look you want.



Adding the fourth leg



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For a high res version of the drawings and the cutting list of this project, email editorial@homehandyman.co.za

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DIY bedroom bliss

From Law Graduate to inspiring DIY handy mom and designer, Aamirah from Mumzluv, also known as Aamz, is no stranger to home DIY renovations and hacks. Mom of two, Aamz has a serious passion for interior design.

Witness her handy mom journey from painting to kids' décor, as a DIY mom.

As a young child, I always had a creative passion for arts and crafts. The funny thing is I never realised it growing up; it just was how things were. I always made useful and creative things from scratch and really enjoyed painting. My own journey officially started when my husband and I purchased our first home. Then lockdown happened... It allowed my passion to grow as I was then cooped up at home so I found myself finally having a little time to indulge my design interest on the side. I immediately tackled the nursery (having a new born during Covid is hectic) as well as a Big

Boy Room for my 4-year-old son. I must admit though that it took way longer than anticipated.

I slowly started my power tool collection which was liberating to finally be able to create things properly myself and to see how the ideas that had been in my head could manifest in reality.

If something I post or create can bring inspiration or help someone else to discover their interest or make something they want into reality, then I feel like my work has purpose and I have been able to give back a little of what I have received.

>> Aamirah Jano from MumzLuv



DIY Mom Tip

As a mom of two boys at home, no matter what anyone says, time management is unpredictable. If they are old enough, let the kids help! It keeps them busy while you are busy. Allow them to feel helpful and know that they are doing something important (even if you just pretend to give them an 'important task' to help you finish).

Tips for my DIY Big Boy Room makeover

Kids rooms are so much fun to design. Their imaginations are so big, and their minds are so open, they really don't have many limits when it comes to how many colours to use or even what style they want. However, kids are fickle – they might like ninja turtle green today and Minecraft dirt brown tomorrow. And that princess mural that your 9-year-old loved isn't so cool once they turn 13.

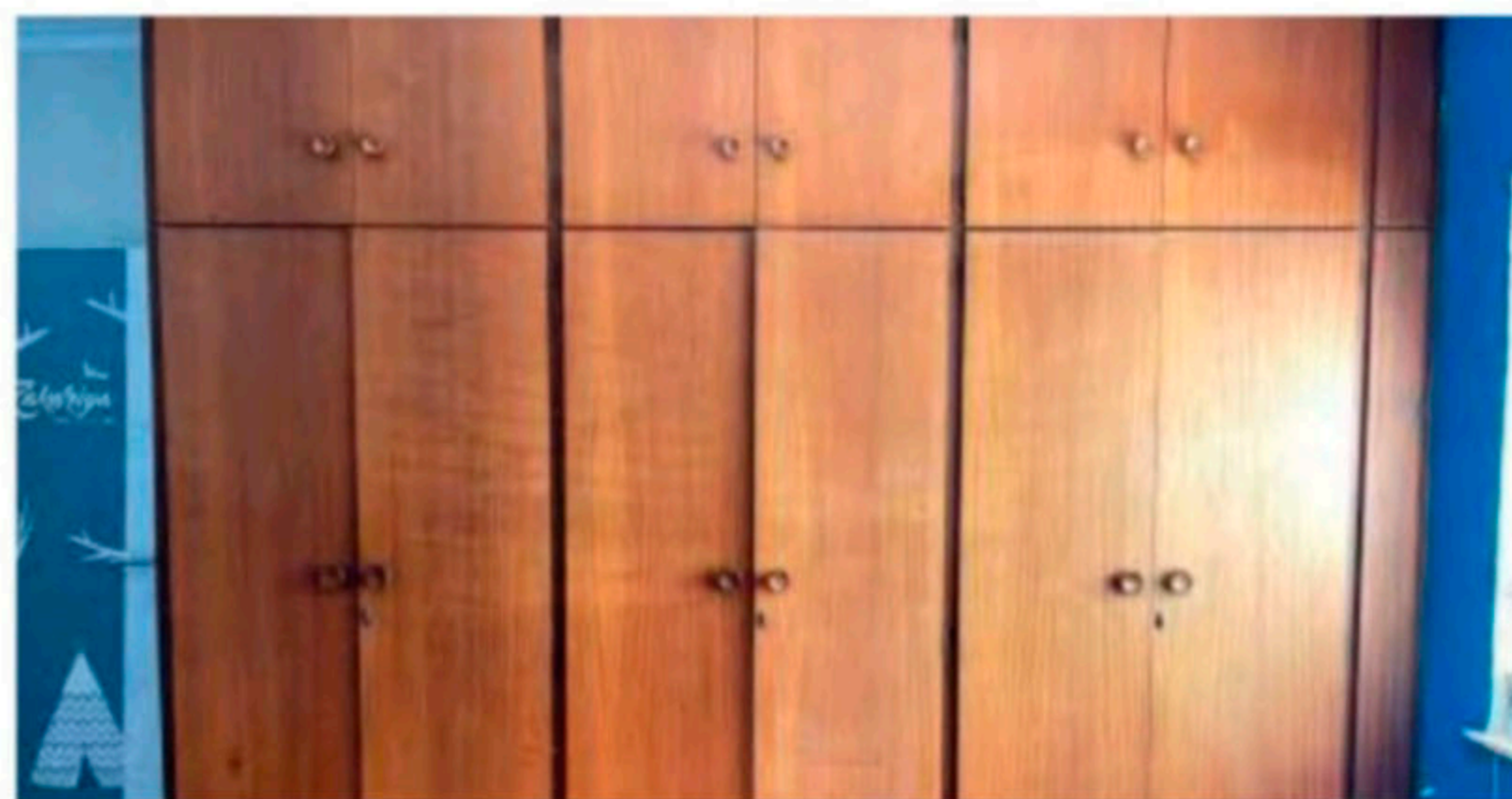
Making over a child's room is fun and exciting and doesn't have to be expensive with cost-cutting measures like painting the furniture, adding some DIY wooden book shelving whilst getting rid of clutter at the same time, themed wall painting and some extra touches. That's what I did with my son's old but solid wooden cupboards, freshly coating it with a Coastal Blue chalked finish paint from Rustoleum. Rustoleum is definitely a must-have in any DIY project and has been my go-to for all furniture makeovers and creations.

Blackboard paint is a great inexpensive way to make your child's bedroom both fun and practical thanks to Rustoleum Chalkboard spray, which is available in both black and clear. It can give your child the possibility to get creative whilst also serving as a wall organiser for their homework or chores.

Giving a room a fresh lick of paint is a great way to redecorate without spending a fortune. Get creative with paint ideas and designs using your child's two or three favourite colours. Another way to choose paint colours for your child's room is to take their personality into consideration. If they are active or easily agitated, then a red room isn't going to suit them no matter how much they love the colour. Paint in more calming hues of blue and green would be perfect for the kiddo who has difficulty calming down or even sleeping. I used blues for my son, mixing different shades of blue for more depth. I also just tried to get his room as 'boyish' as possible. By selecting their favourite paint colours they can get a design that's unique and meaningful to them. Also allow them to join in on the fun and let them take pride in their room. I chose a theme of aeroplanes and houses for him; I outlined some houses on his wall with masking tape and painted them – the only limit is your imagination with what type of bedroom wall design you can paint.

A themed bedroom such as this design can harness your child's creativity. I also painted an ombre wall using three shades of the same blue, giving a 'sky' effect. All you have to do is divide your wall in to two or three parts, paint each section first and then blend the colours together.

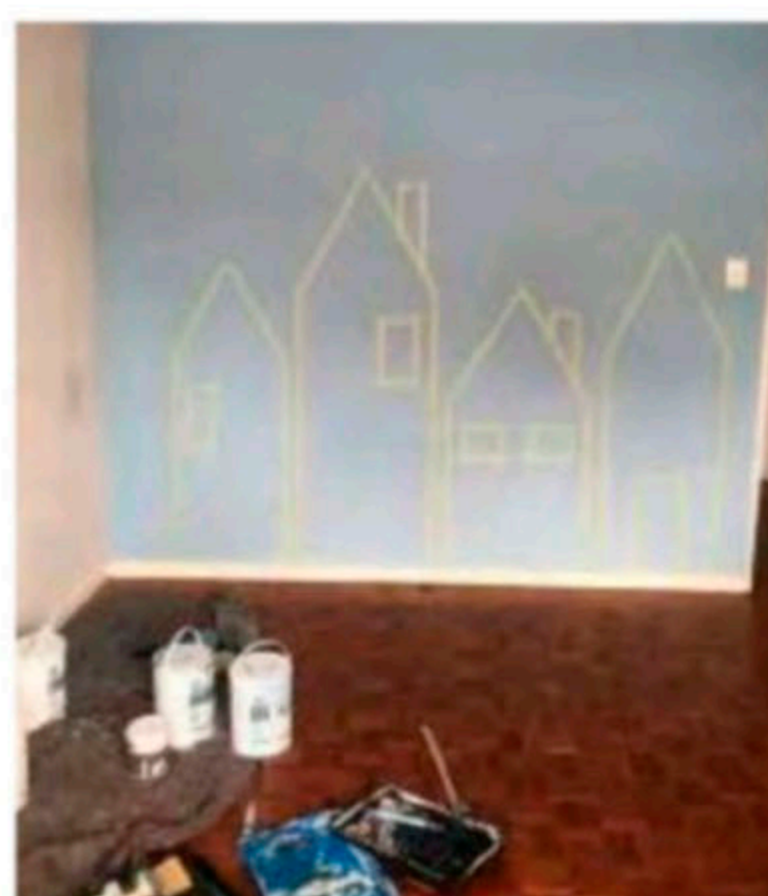
Adding some decal stickers on the wall also gives a great effect. Even having your child's name painted on the wall is a fun way to provide them with their own space and allow them to let their own creativity shine through.



Before: The old but solid wooden cupboards



Freshly coating the cupboards with a Coastal Blue chalked finish paint



I outlined some houses on the wall with masking tape



Then painted them in different shades of blue



The big boy wall complete



Partnering with DIY brands

My go-to brands are Rustoleum for the best furniture paint, Hamilton's for the most amazing and affordable brushes and utensils for painting, Col Timbers for the most creative woodwork projects, and last but not least, Builders SA.

My current projects are all kid friendly. You can get yourself an affordable, quick and easy DIY coffee table from Col Timbers. It is raw pine wood, which comes in separate pieces that you can assemble yourself and create your own desired finish. It is so easy and straight forward to assemble, even the little ones can help which is always an added bonus for me. You are provided with screws and an Allan key and it took me about 15-20 minutes to assemble.

The best part about Col Timbers is that you can create your perfect finish the way you want to. I used a wood stain from Builders SA (colour: antique pine) which immediately gave my raw pine wood a beautiful chestnut antique rusted finish which matched my living room amazingly! For the wood stain, apply 3 thin even coats, allowing 20-30min in between each coat. Its best to apply it with a foam roller.

The DIY coffee table is available at Takealot for as little as R1399. PS: You could even get the matching side table to match.



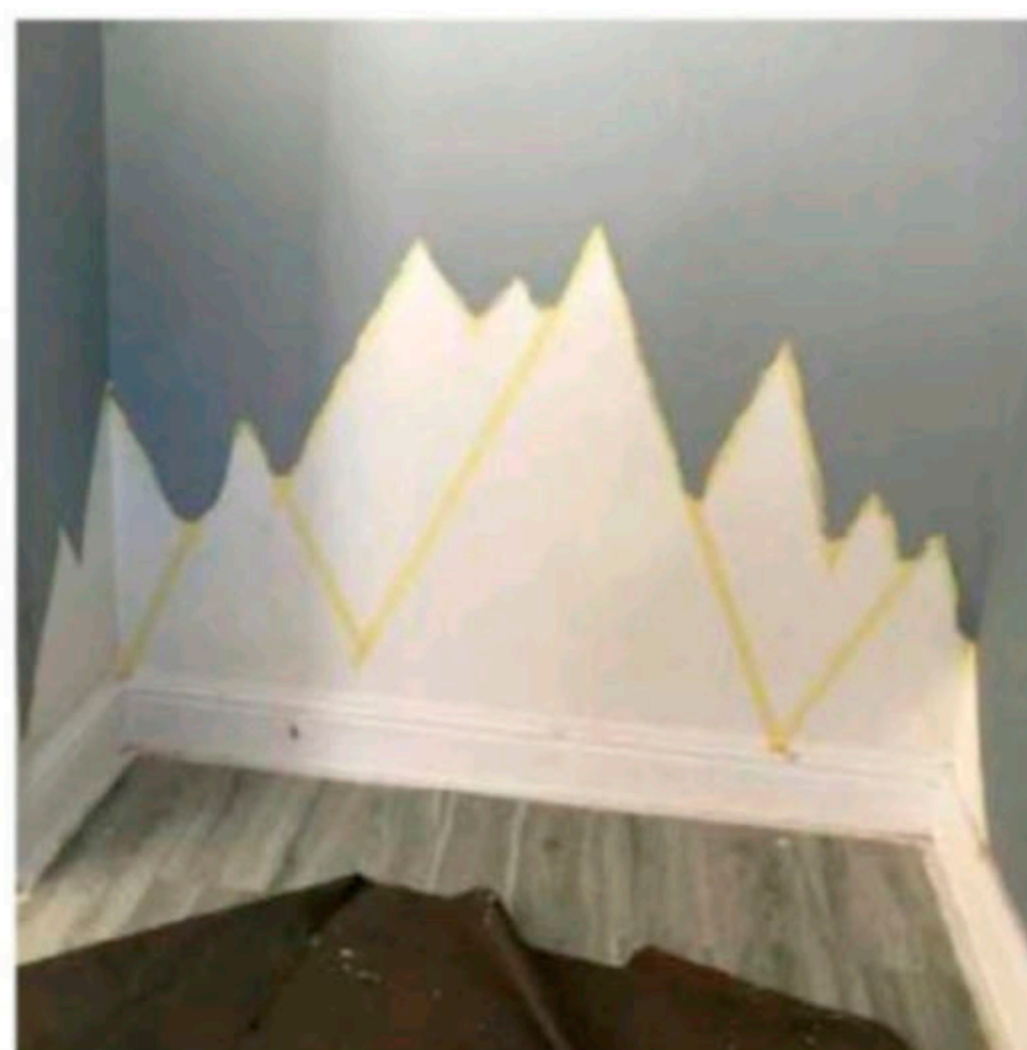
Wood Stain Tip: Use a small piece of foam to get into the unreachable corners.

DIY Small Baby Nursery

Are you short of space but would like to give your baby their own nursery? While being pregnant with my second baby, I started planning a baby nursery, however, our home did not have another spare room, besides our office which I definitely needed! I then decided to do an en-suite nursery from our main bedroom, which lucky for us was big enough.

We broke through our wall, which formed part of our garage and stole about 1,5m space from our garage to accommodate a small nursery leading into our bedroom.

I chose greys and whites, with a touch of pine for this space. A wall mural can be a great way to set the scene of your child's bedroom space. Bring



The nursery walls before

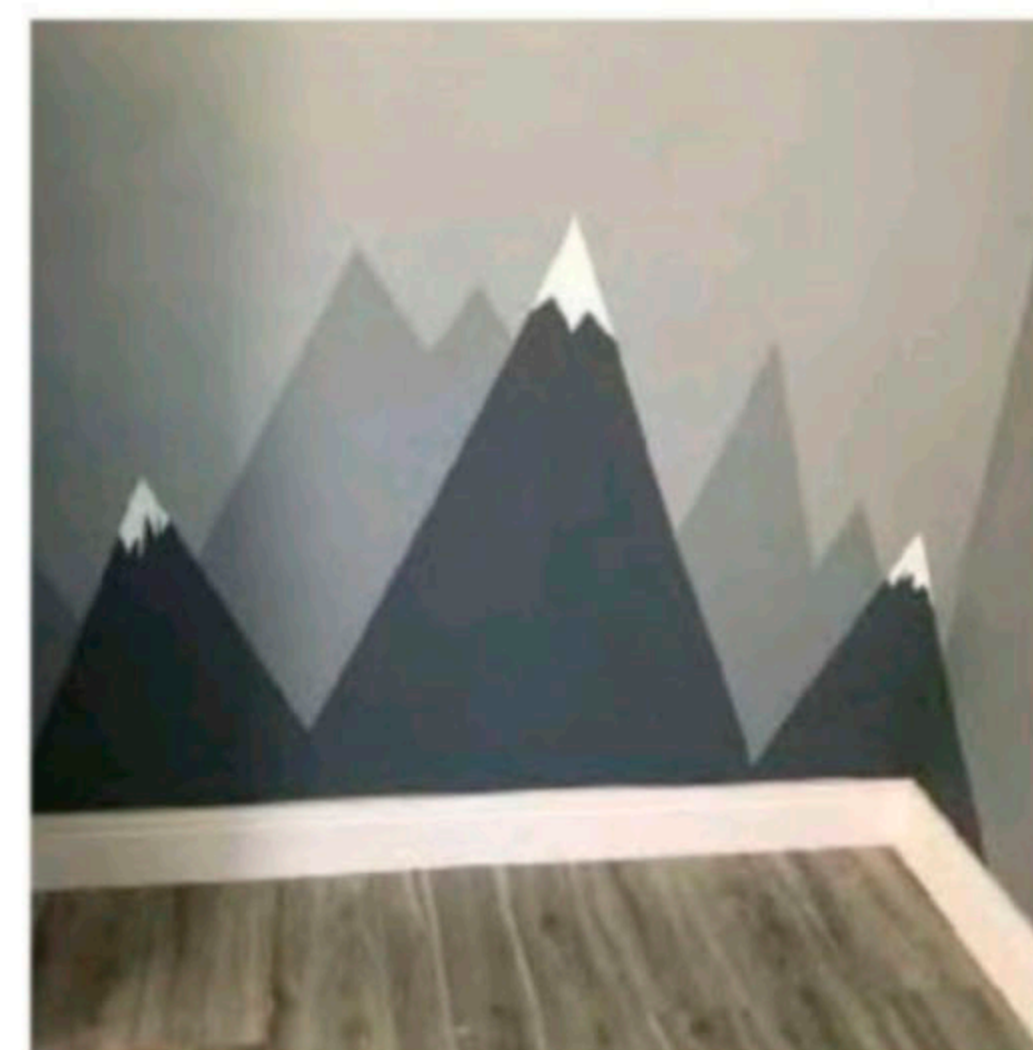
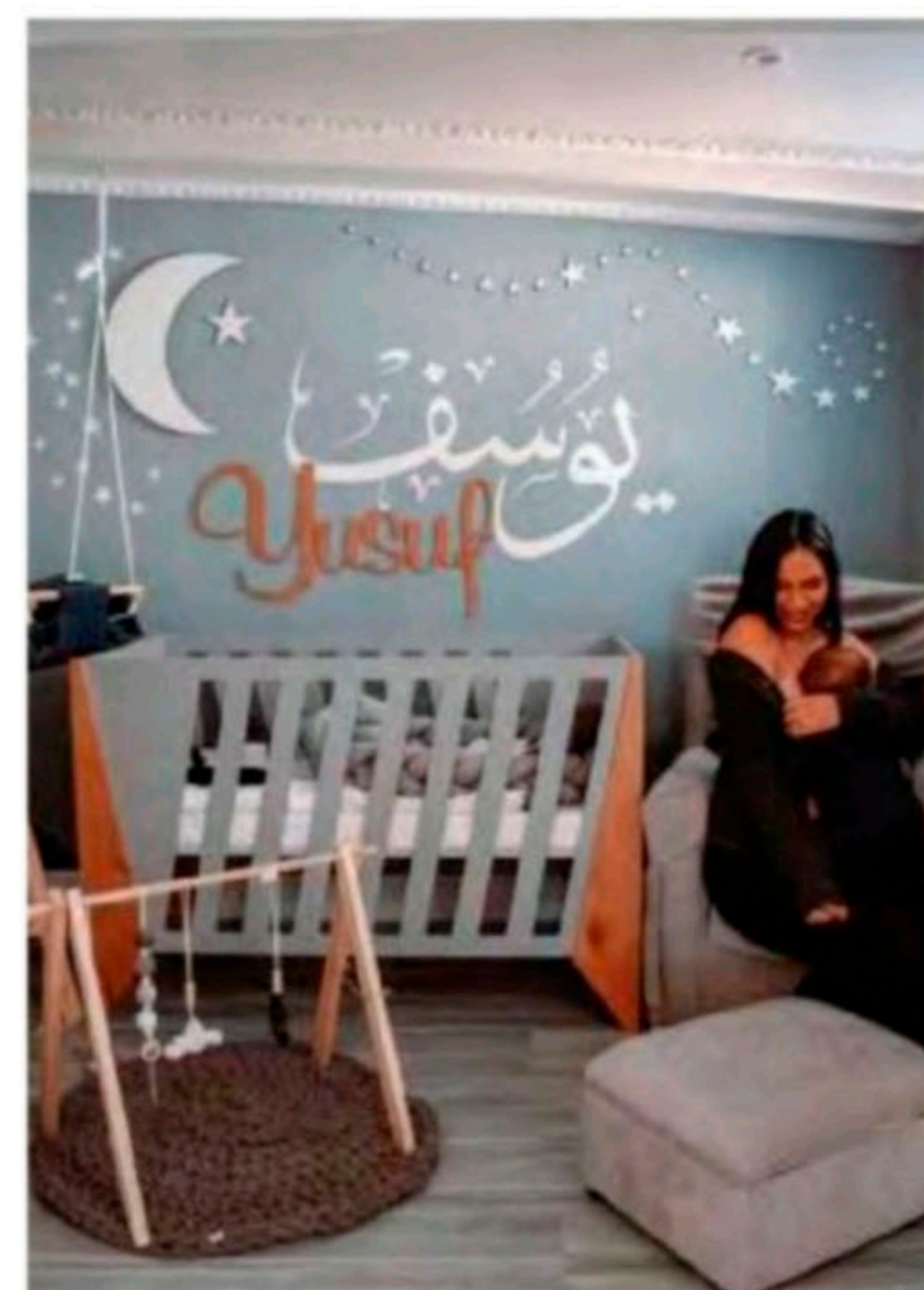
the outside in by adding elements from nature such as trees, mountains or rivers. I chose to paint a mountain range with white snow tips, and I was impressed by the outcome and how easy it was to create. (Mask your front mountains first, and then mask your shadow mountains).

Because the nursery is small, we added a little glass window for extra light, and outlined it with wooden skirtings from Builders as a frame, which I had painted white. I created my own DIY mountain shelves for wall storage and sprayed the tips white.



Small Nursery Tip

Make use of the walls! Floating shelves, floating shelves, floating shelves! They are a great for DIYs.



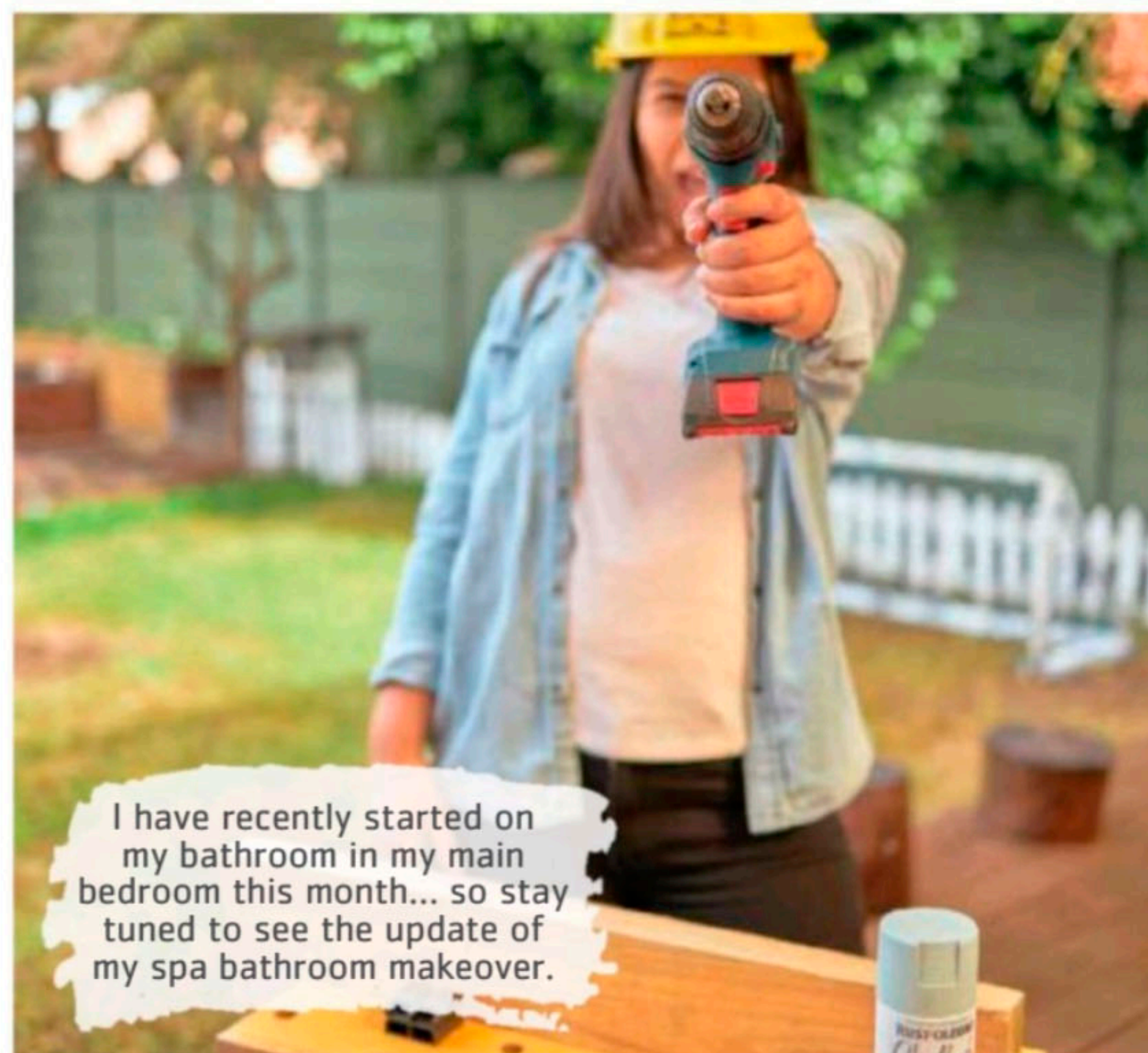
The nursery walls after



When painting in a child's room, and If you have kids who love painting like mine do, you should get yourself zero VOC paint. It's safe to use around the kids and it's also eco-friendly. All my paint comes from Midas Tygervally and they are zero VOC!



DIY projects around the home are a great way to help kids express their creativity



I have recently started on my bathroom in my main bedroom this month... so stay tuned to see the update of my spa bathroom makeover.

Aamirah Jano, also known as Aamz or MumzLuv, is a DIY handy mom and social media influencer

ABOUT MUMZLUV:

MumzLuv follows the journey of a full-time mom who works from home striving to empower women and moms through her DIY projects, Brand reviews and mom support groups. My goal as a DIY Mom is to bring inspiration to all women, especially moms, to make custom builds in budget friendly ways using quick and easy products that inspire joy and laughter among families. You can find DIY tutorials and renovation tips that will inspire any mom to pick up a power tool on my Instagram feed or on my Blog Site. With a loyal audience following, MumzLuv's videos and posts can be seen on both Instagram, Pinterest and her blog site: www.Aamz.co.za | #DIYwithAamz | Instagram Personal: @Aamz_aj | Instagram Mom Blog: @mumz_luv

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EASY-TO-MAKE GARDEN BENCH

>> Carl Hattingh



Timber

(Treated timber for external use)

- 45 x 95 x 1700mm (x6)
- 45 x 95 x 360mm (x12)
- 22 x 47 x 460mm (x10)



Tools

- Sander
- Drill
- Biscuit joiner
- Mitre saw
- Clamps



Other

- Wood stain
- Wood glue
- Wood filler
- Biscuits
- Screws

If you're after a little wood project (like I was), then hopefully you'll find some inspiration in my little garden bench build. I'm no expert so wanted to keep things simple and cheap. It can be easily customised to fit your needs, but my goal was to build a bench big enough for three people.

Before cutting anything to size, I took the ends off each piece of timber as they're always a little rough and damaged. I then used my mitre saw to cut all the main beams (x 6), six pairs of legs and the smaller joining pieces (x 10). Once everything was cut to size, I sanded everything with P80 grit, as it would be difficult when everything is joined together. It didn't need to be perfect as we will be sanding the exposed pieces of wood again later on.

Once all the parts have been cut to size and sanded it's time to see how everything fits together. My main aim here is to make sure all the good pieces of wood are facing out and the 'not so good' pieces are hidden in the centre of the bench. I also noticed some imperfections in my cuts but most of this can be corrected during assembly.

The next step was to attach a pair of legs to each beam. I decided to use biscuits and wood glue as I did not want any screws to be seen once the bench had been assembled together. I would then clamp each side and let the glue set before moving on. To keep things square I cut another piece of wood to stop the legs bending in or out during clamping, this allowed me to keep everything square (or at least that was the plan).

You should now have six beams each with a pair of legs that are ready to be joined together using the smaller piece of wood. Lay down your first beam and mark where the joining pieces will go. I joined these together with three wood screws (pre-drilling first) on each side, making sure I used a counter-sink to keep the screw heads below the surface of the wood – this will allow for a more flush join for the next beam. These screws won't be seen once everything is joined together. Be careful not to hit a screw below when moving onto the next beam by alternating screw positions.



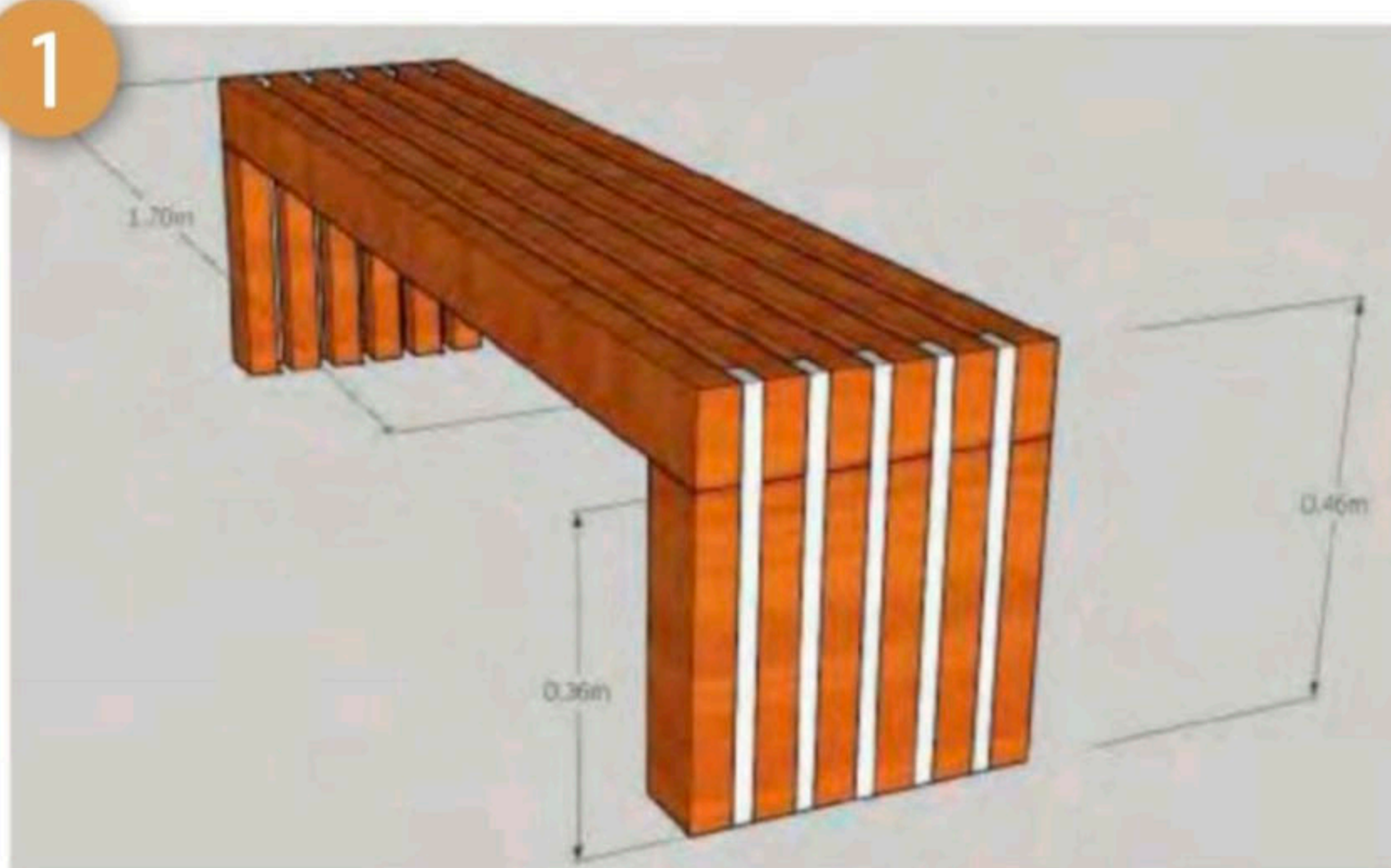
This is where some of the imperfect cuts started to show up with some legs not lining up. To get around this I clamped two pieces of wood (as per picture) around the legs to make sure they were aligned before screwing.

Once everything was joined together I filled the six screw holes on the final beam (I knew the back of this bench would have to have some screw holes that needed covering). I then sanded again with grit P80 working up to P120 for a smooth finish (I don't think this has to be perfect, the bench is going to get some knocks in its life, but nobody wants splinters). Once sanded, I used some exterior wood stain to darken the wood and give it an extra layer of protection from the elements.

I was really pleased with how this bench turned out. It's very strong and has a fair bit of weight to it, so it's not going anywhere. If I was to make another one, I would probably consider the following:

- You could easily get away with having five beams instead of six, but I quite like the wideness it has.
- I would join the legs and beams with a nice 45 degree mitre cut (I didn't trust myself or my 20-year-old mitre saw to do this), as this would create a better flow and look to the bench.
- When joining the beams to each other I just screwed them together; in hindsight I would have added some glue to fill any gaps and prevent water from seeping between them, giving your bench some extra protection.

I enjoyed this build and even though it's far from perfect its spot on for my garden.



Project dimensions



The wood used for this project



Before cutting anything to size, take the ends off each piece of timber



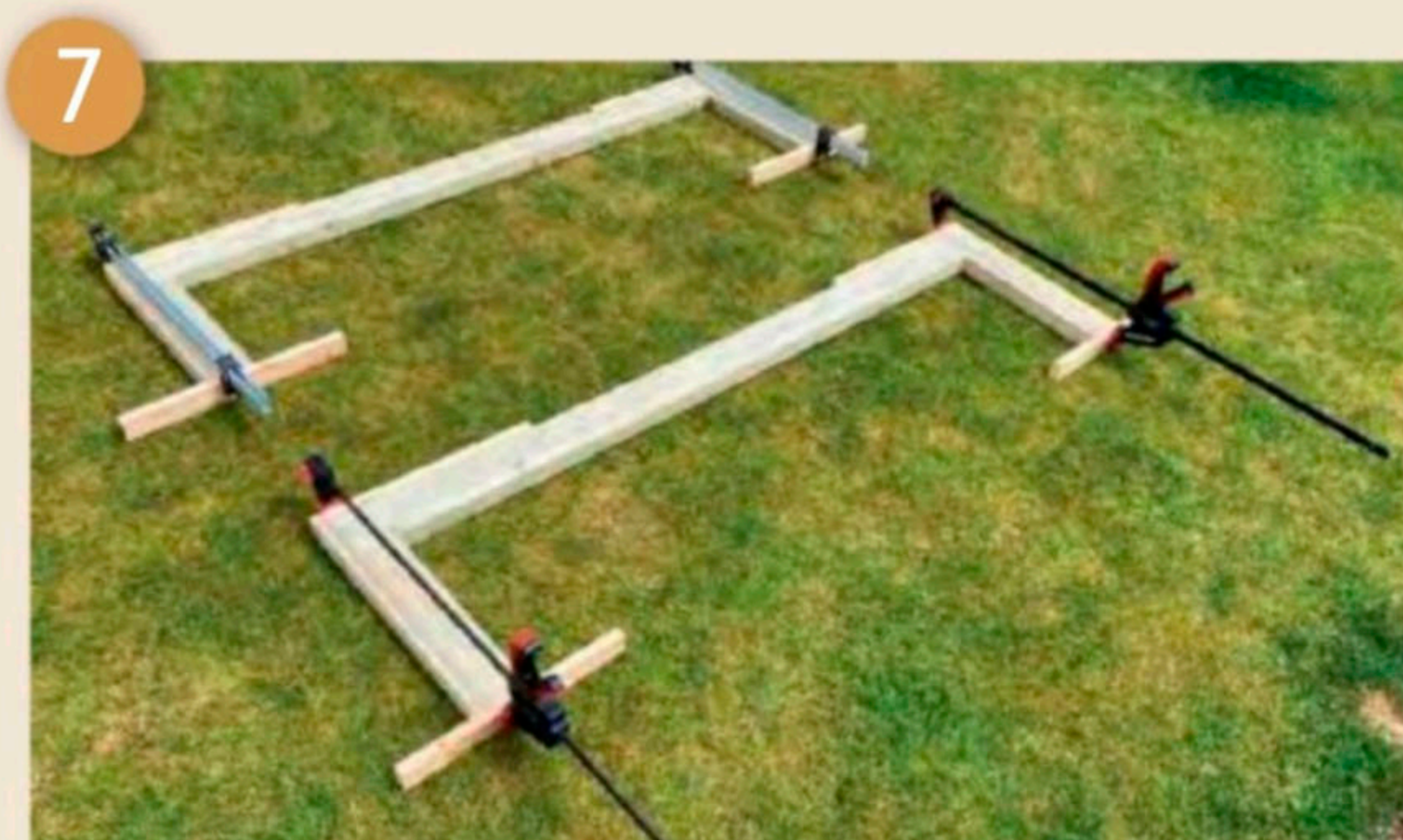
Once it is cut to size, sand everything with P80 grit



Dry fit the pieces together



Biscuits and glue were used to attach the legs and beams



Clamp and let dry



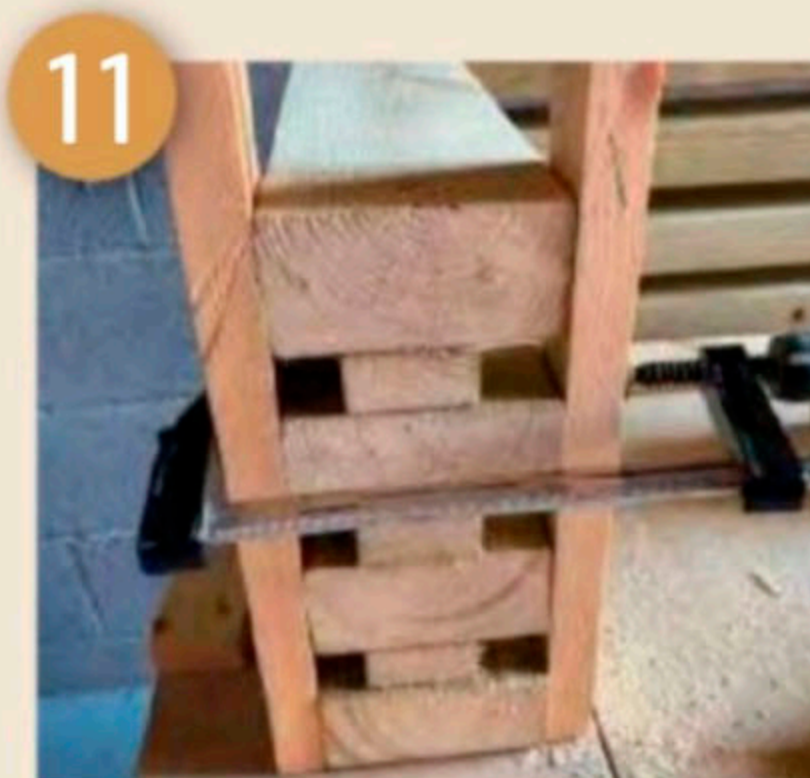
To keep things square, cut another piece of wood to stop the legs bending in or out during clamping



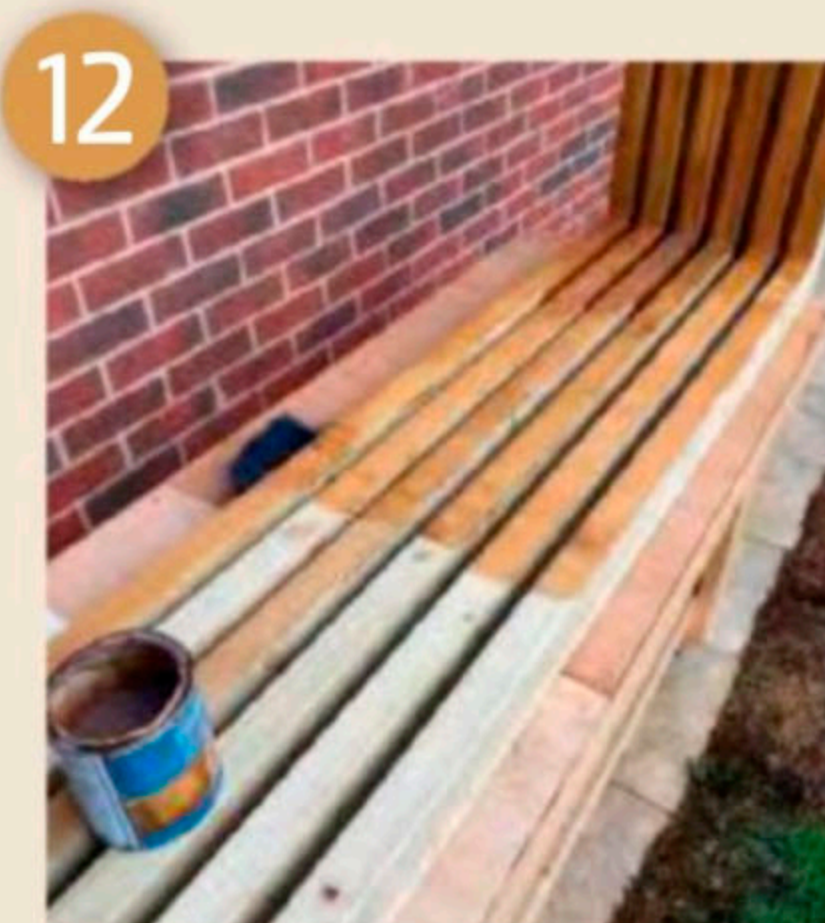
You should now have six beams each with a pair of legs that are ready to be joined together using the smaller piece of wood



Join these together with three wood screws



Clamp two pieces of wood around the legs to make sure they are aligned before screwing



Treat with exterior wood stain

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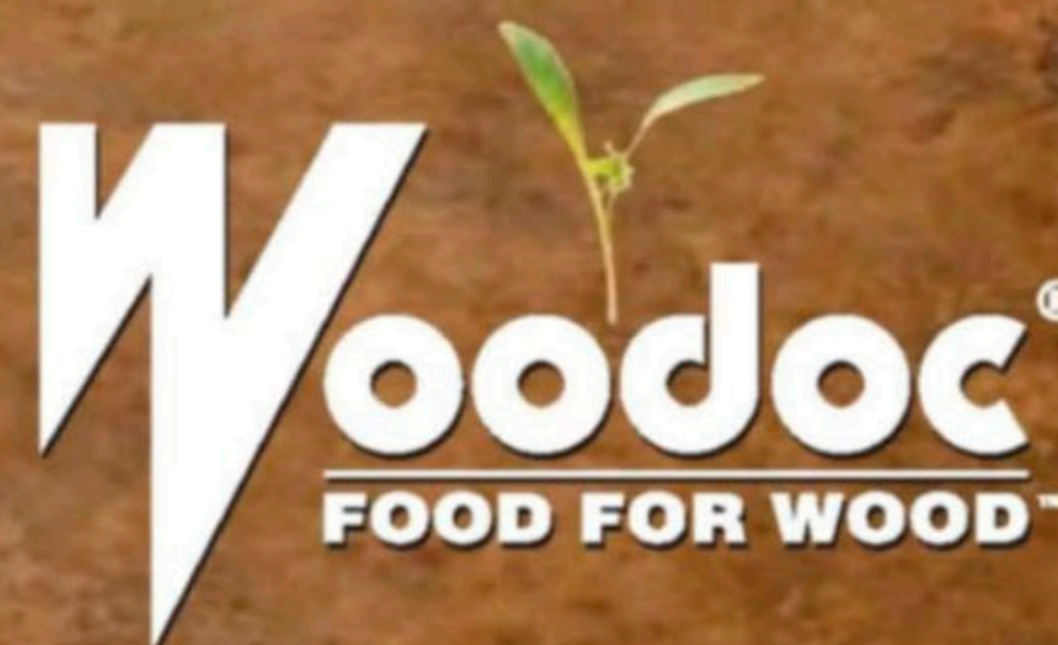
Easy to apply, Woodoc 45 is water-repellent and stain- and oil-resistant too.

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When the winter frost begins to melt away and the warm weather arrives, it's time to get your outdoor space looking beautiful again.

OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE THIS SPRING

It's been a long winter, and chances are your outdoor oasis is in need of a pick-me-up after months of harsh weather. As you prepare your yard for spring and summer, don't forget to clean and brighten your cedar deck, make any needed fence/wall repairs and plan improvements to your outdoor living space. Here are some areas that may need attention around your home.

Decking

Do you pay as much attention to your outdoor structures as you do your main home? You should – they require just as much maintenance as the rest of the home. Exposure to the elements, without the proper care can make them break down much more quickly – or become a danger. A deck is a structure, just like your foundation, your walls and floors. But your home's structure is protected by a building envelope (i.e., a roof, exterior siding, strapping, house wrap, etc.).

Your deck's structure doesn't have the same amount of protection. It's exposed to the elements and day-in and day-out, therefore it's more prone to wear and tear. Regular inspection and maintenance can extend your wood deck's life by 10-15 years. Here are some simple tips you can follow when inspecting your deck:

TIP #1: Clear it off

Before you do anything else, clear your deck of dirt, leaves, and other debris. It's a simple process, but it's an important one. Clearing your deck is the best way to keep a deck healthy and prevent mold and mildew from building up. It's also a great way to assess the condition of your deck before you start using it. Use this time to check for any signs of mold.

TIP #2: Thoroughly wash it

After you've cleared your deck, then it's time to give it a good wash. If you are properly trained, use a power washer to blast all of the harmful stuff off your deck. If you aren't trained, hire a power washer to wash your deck for you. Improper use of a power washer can result in damages to your wooden deck. If your deck is made out of synthetic material, such as composite, you can get away with cleaning it with water, soap detergent, and warm water.

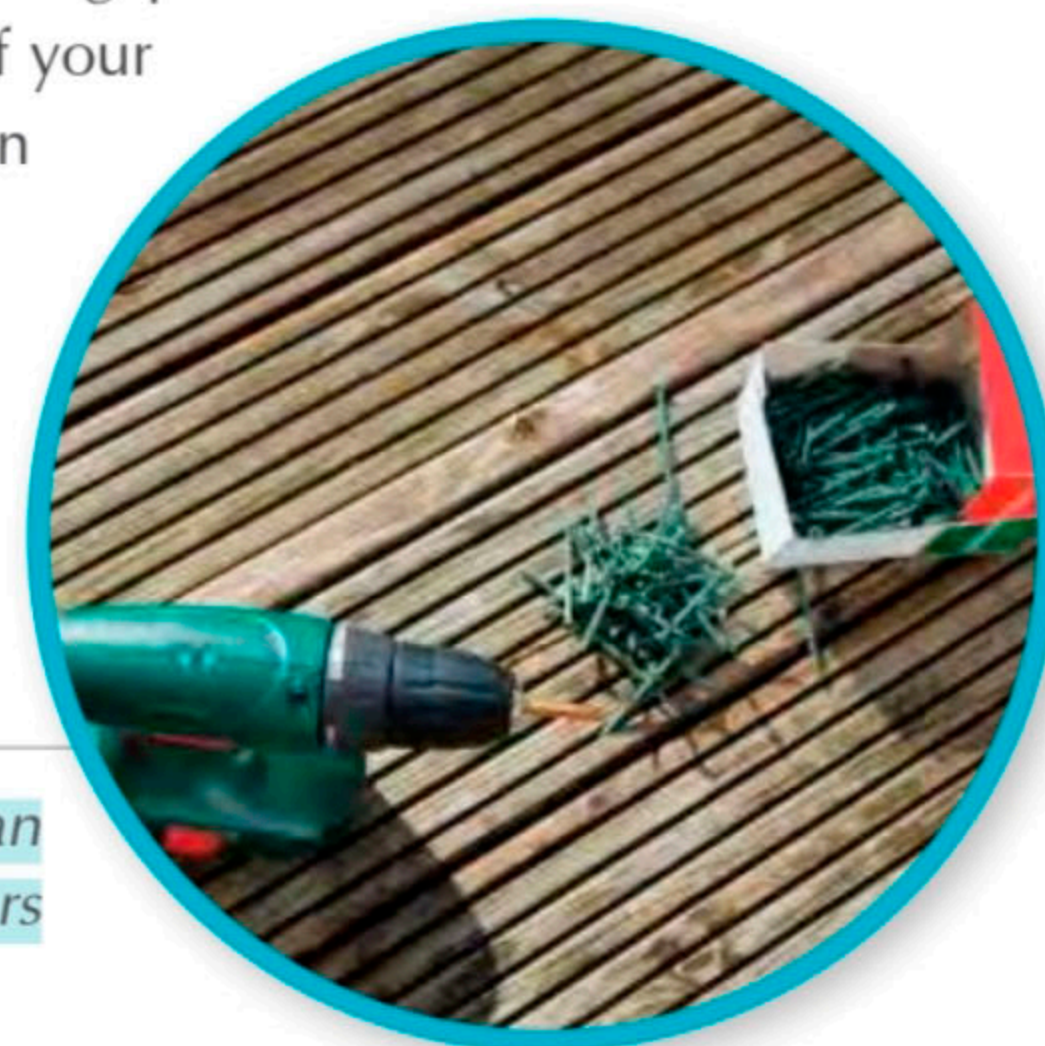
TIP #3: Add a sealant

If you have a wooden deck, springtime is the best time to have it resealed. Late spring is an ideal time to have your wooden deck resealed to help protect it from harsh weather conditions. Resealing also helps keep your wooden deck looking newer for longer. For composite decks, resealing isn't necessary, but homeowners can reseal it if they want to.

TIP #4: Repair it

Your deck may have sustained some damages throughout the winter. Before the summer arrives, it's best to have your deck repaired. Loose boards, rot, and board gaps are all damages that can affect the safety of your deck. Damages such as discoloration and fading deck colours affect the overall appearance of your deck. If your deck has multiple damages or its structural integrity has deteriorated, the spring is the best time to replace your deck.

Regular inspection and maintenance can extend your wood deck's life by 10-15 years



Swimming pool

The cold weather is finally starting to leave, which means it's almost time to set up the swimming pool for fun and relaxation. Taking time to properly check all aspects of the swimming pool in the spring will help in creating a safe and healthy swimming environment for the summer. Here's a simple pool maintenance checklist:

Pool cover

Removing the pool cover may seem self-explanatory; take time to clean and store the cover properly. When pool covers are not stored properly mould and mildew can grow, causing illness. If possible, use a vacuum designed for use with both wet and dry surfaces to clean the pool cover. Allow the cover to completely dry before storing.

Inspection

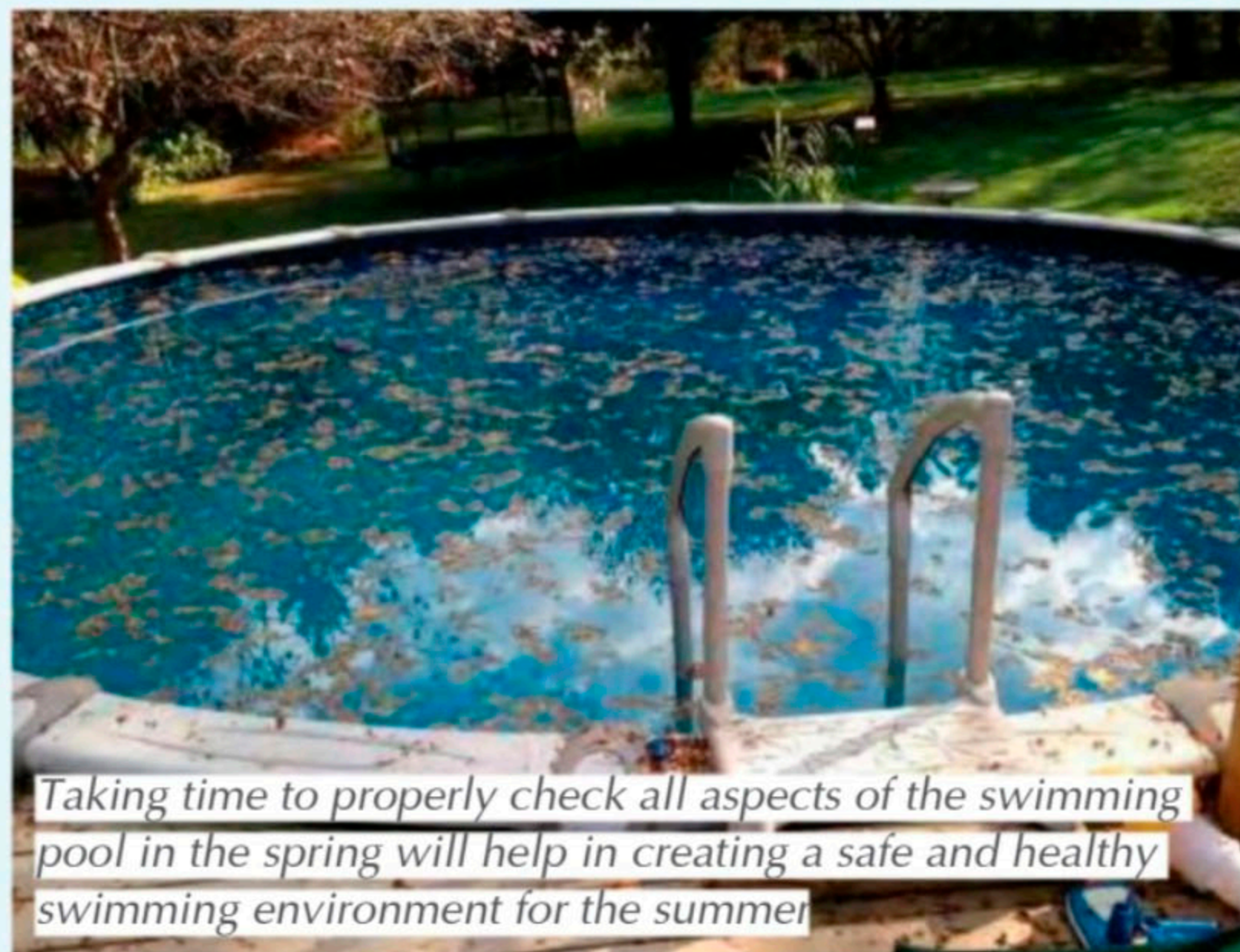
You know your pool the best. Take time to visually inspect the area, making notes on what needs to be done prior to opening the swimming pool for the season.

- Inspect ladder going into the pool to ensure that they are safe and secure.
- Inspect the pump, filters, plugs, and any other mechanisms of the swimming pool.
- Look for tears or small holes in the liner that may affect water fill-up.
- Trim back any overgrown foliage around the pool or deck.
- Inspect area around the pool or deck.

Cleaning

Cleaning is an important step in maintaining your swimming pool.

- Clean the area around the pool to prevent slips and falls.
- Over the colder months, items may have been stored near the pool. Move items away from the pool area to keep it clear from potential safety hazards.
- Clean out any debris in the pool.
- Vacuum the pool.

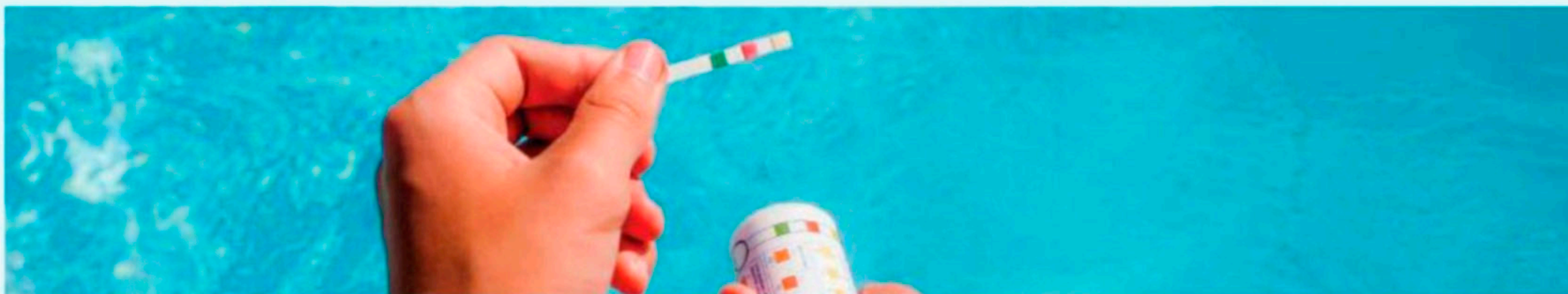


Taking time to properly check all aspects of the swimming pool in the spring will help in creating a safe and healthy swimming environment for the summer

Chemicals

Having the proper chemicals is an important component in keeping your swimming pool clean and safe for your friends and family.

- Begin by testing the water. The water test will include pH balance, total alkalinity, chlorine, and metals. Testing must be done to determine the appropriate amount of chemicals needed.
- An algaecide may have to be used if the swimming pool is not clear after clean up.
- The test results will help in determining the amount of chemicals you will need to use to get your pool ready for use.
- Apply the chemicals and pool shock to the water.
- After the chemicals have set for their directed amount of time, retest the pool. If the test does not show the desired results, take the necessary steps to fix the chemical imbalance.
- When the chemical imbalance is corrected, the pool filter may be turned on.
- Wait the directed amount of time before use. For most pool set-up procedures, the amount of time is a minimum of twenty-four hours.



The first steps in getting your swimming pool ready to use may take some time, but the outcome is a safe and healthy environment for your family and friends to enjoy. To keep the pool in top working order, remember to do weekly

maintenance. You may have to skim the pool more frequently throughout the week to keep water free of debris. With a little extra work, the swimming pool can provide hours of outdoor entertainment throughout the warmer months.

Garden tools

Your garden tools have been sitting in your garage or shed for the entire winter season, so it's important to get these tools ready to save yourself some time later on. Get organised and get all your tools out to see everything you have and all the work that needs to be done on them. This step is incredibly important to do early on because it'll help you be completely prepared to plant your garden when the time comes.

Start by cleaning all your tools. If there's any old soil, dirt, or dust on your tools, make sure to get them all clean and shiny before you use them for your garden. You'll also want to sand off any rust that has formed on the tools to assure the best quality for your garden. Additionally, make sure to sharpen your digging tools if needed.

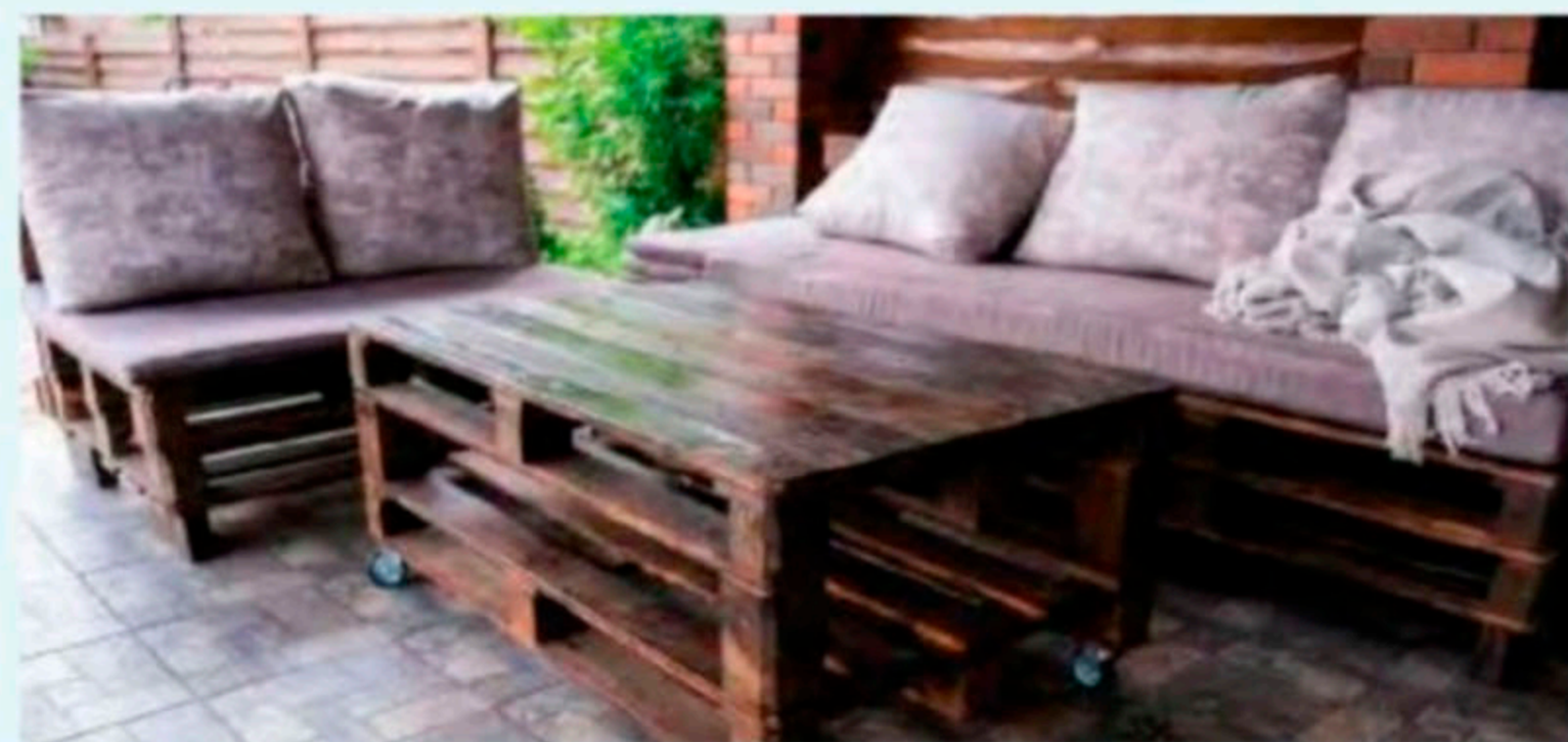
As you're going through all your tools, decide if any of them need a replacement. If some of your garden tools have been used for many years, it might be time for some fresh ones. This is a great time to purchase new tools and any other new equipment that you're going to need for your spring garden. Stay organised by making a list of all the important tools you'll need before you start gardening. You'll thank yourself later for being prepared!



Outdoor furniture maintenance

Every backyard needs furniture! It is the most comfortable and useful element to every outdoor living space. We cannot wait to relax on our comfy furniture in the coming warm weather. Here are our tips on how to prepare:

- Brush off any loose dirt from frame and outdoor furniture cushions.
- Prepare a cleaning solution of 1/4 cup mild soap per gallon of warm water (for spot cleaning of cushions, put into spray bottle).
- Use a sponge or a soft bristle brush to clean frame & outdoor furniture cushions.
- Allow cleaning solution to soak into fabric.
- Rinse thoroughly and let furniture air dry.



Gutters and downspouts

It is really important to make sure gutters and downspouts remain bonded to the home. Every spring it is necessary to check for loose downspouts and sagging gutters. Tighten any loose gutter straps and, if spout extensions have been added to help keep water away from the house, make sure to reconnect any that have come loose.

It is critical to keep gutters and downspouts clear and free flowing. Consider adding a few helpful accessories to your gutters like screens to cover the spouts or gutter cap systems that go a long way to keep gutters and downspouts free flowing.

- There are just a few steps to follow in order to maintain gutters. First, climb a ladder and clean the goop out of the gutters. The decomposed leaves make great mulch or compost. Pay particular attention to the downspout. If leaves and debris are clogging it, water won't drain properly, and along with mildew and mud you'll end up with sagging gutters.
- Check all the spikes that are supposed to go through the gutter, through the fascia board and into the rafter behind it. At most homes, these spikes miss the rafters entirely, usually because the spike has just worked its way out of the hole over the years. It's a good idea to invest in new gutter spikes so the gutters are securely fastened once again.
- Another thing you want to look at are the sources of any leaks, including holes in the gutters and cracked caulking in the seams. Use an old chisel to scrape the old caulking out and dry the area thoroughly. Then use new bead silicon sealing to keep water from getting down behind the gutters and rotting the boards.
- During this inspection, check out the rivets on the downspout. Frequently they'll be loose or will have dropped out completely, all that is needed is a rivet gun to secure them anew.
- Buyer's guide: Purchase new rivets at the hardware store. You can also buy a rivet gun there.
- Once you've finished with the mechanics, you can attend to cleaning the gutters. The best way is with a pressure washer, which you can rent or even purchase. Follow the instructions that come with the washer to the letter; usually the washer can be used with garden-hose water or some type of cleaner.
- A pressure washer won't hurt the gutters provided you've secured the gutters with screws or new spikes. The real key is to avoid hitting the gutters at too high an angle or you'll blow the shingles off with a high-pressure stream of water.
- If the gutters are rusting, they are very old. They've moved to aluminium and vinyl gutters now, and they don't rust.

You might want to consider new gutters. But if you're going to stay with the old ones, get all the rust off, sand them down, paint them with a good primer and then with a good-quality rust-inhibiting paint.

- A splash block is a very important element. It keeps the water coming out of the downspouts from digging a trench next to the house, and it keeps water away from the home's foundation.



It is really important to make sure gutters and downspouts remain bonded to the home

Here are some bonus tips when replacing gutter spikes:

Remove the old gutter spikes and ferrules (the large spacers that keep the gutter walls from collapsing while you drill), installing each new set as soon as you remove the old one.

Position the new ferrule inside the gutter, directly behind the existing spike hole.

Insert the gutter screw into the existing spike hole. Use a standard variable-speed drill, electric or cordless, to slowly thread the fastener through the spike hole and the ferrule and then into the existing hole.

Thread the fastener until the head is even with the gutter and the screw has engaged with the rafters on the other side of the fascia board.

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UPS, generators and inverters all serve the same purpose: to provide backup power supply to electronic devices. But which one is best for you?

The differences between UPS, GENERATORS & INVERTERS



With load-shedding a common occurrence in South Africa, many people are looking into back-up power supplies to keep the lights on when the electricity goes off. We have put together a comprehensive list of your options and found out the advantages and disadvantage of each.

What are inverters?

An inverter is an electronic device that transforms a direct current (DC) into an alternating current (AC) at a given voltage and frequency. An inverter works by taking the AC power supply from AC mains and converting into DC using a rectifier.

Inverters are invaluable within both industrial and household settings as these systems both work on AC power and are used to get the power supply after a power outage or blackout. No external power is needed to operate an inverter.



What is a UPS?

UPS, which stands for uninterruptible power supply, is an apparatus that provides short-term backup power when your regular power source fails or voltage drops to an unacceptable level. Also known as a battery backup, it ensures that devices experience no interruption in the event of a blackout.

A UPS is strictly a short-term backup power solution as its maximum power supply is generally between 10 and 15 minutes though longer autonomy options are available.



What are generators?

A generator is a device that converts motive power (mechanical energy) into electrical power for use in an external circuit. The electricity generated is used for main AC (alternating current) power supplies in power stations, industrial applications and more.

A diesel generator is a specific type of engine-generator and consists of a diesel engine plus an electric generator (usually an alternator), which work in tandem to generate electrical energy.

Diesel engines are compression-ignition engines and can operate on a variety of different fuels, depending on configuration and location. Usually, they run on diesel, but some types are adapted for other liquid fuels or natural gas.



INVERTER PROS AND CONS

PROS

- An inverter is safer for electronic devices and other sensitive equipment such as computers and personal printers. It produces a pure sine-wave output that matches the quality of mains supply.
- It provides uninterrupted back-up with no starting time, no inconvenience either.
- Hardly makes any noise.
- Causes no pollution.
- Greater efficiency of operation hence lower running cost.
- The backup time is inversely proportional to load. The lower the load, higher the back-up time.
- The next generation inverters are designed for Solar Compatibility hence you can generate electricity using solar power or run appliances or even charge batteries.

CONS

- Can be expensive.
- May produce radio interference or audible tones.
- UPS's provide more regulated voltages than that of an inverter.

UPS PROS AND CONS

PROS

- Uninterrupted Power Supply provides silent power backups. There is no noise of any kind and they provide automatic power backup instantaneously when the electricity goes out. They are cheap as compared to generators and there is, as such no regular maintenance required. The most important part of a UPS is its battery. If the battery is of good quality, it will prolong the life of the UPS and will continue providing backup without any problems.
- UPS have advantages over generators in term of switching time.

CONS

- One of the main drawbacks of UPS is that they are not meant to run heavy appliances. So if you live in a locality where heavy load shedding occurs, UPS is not your choice. UPS are fit for those areas where power outages usually last an hour or two.
- Low quality or substandard batteries may require frequent filling up of battery liquid. The battery is the most expensive part of the UPS and if you are using a low quality battery you will end up replacing it every 5-6 months.
- UPS require installation by an expert electrician so that only fans and lights work on it. If accidentally the whole load of a house gets shifted on a UPS, it may permanently damage it. Therefore it is important to call an electrician to set it up so that only limited load can be run. UPS are installed in a close circuit in your home and therefore provide no plug and play option as generators.

GENERATOR PROS AND CONS

PROS

- Generators are portable and can be carried along wherever you go. Although heavy, they mostly come equipped with wheels and can be moved around easily.
- Generators will work without any special wiring or installation. You simply need to turn off the mains, start the generator and plug it into any socket. However, if you have distributed connection or you have decided to install an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS), then a switcher might be required.
- Based on their kVA ratings, generators can easily handle heavy appliances such as deep freezers, refrigerators and motors. This is certainly a decisive feature for places where prolong and unannounced load shedding occurs.

CONS

- Generators are very noisy and while they may power up most of the devices and appliances in your home, you still won't be able to get a good sound sleep when they are running. If you live in small house or an apartment, a generator will make things all the more tensed and frustrating due to its noise. A more silent but expensive option is the inverter generator. Buy them if you can afford to.
- Generators are mechanical appliances that are run by even more smaller mechanical components. They require regular maintenance and oil check-ups which is definitely a cost as well. You would be required to frequently check oil since running in low oil may permanently damage the engine and void the warranty as well. Cleaning the air filter, plug and carburettor is also required at regular intervals.
- The cost and maintenance of a generator makes it an expensive option and if you are running it on gas it may lessen the life of the generator, cause performance degradation and frequent malfunctions. Keep in mind that gas corrodes the mechanical parts such as valves and will greatly lessen the life of your generator. There are some manufacturers which lessen or may even void the warranty if the generator is run on gas.
- Not only can certain generators be quite noisy, they can also emit poisonous gases as well which are harmful to the environment and lethal if inhaled.

Understand the differences between curtains and blinds to determine what's right for your light control, insulation, and privacy needs – as well as your décor and budget.

Blinds or curtains? Which is best for you?

Window treatments let you control light, privacy, and indoor temperature while complementing your décor. While you've got a variety of options to choose from, blinds, which feature movable slats, and curtains or drapes, made of fabric panels, are among the most popular. Blinds and curtains each come with particular benefits and drawbacks. Ahead, we've put the two head-to-head – blinds vs. curtains – and outlined six key differences to help you decide which window treatment will be a winner in your home.

Blinds are generally less expensive

Blinds require less material and time to manufacture and take less time to install. In 10 to 20 minutes, a pro can put brackets in a window frame, mount the blind, and attach the mechanisms that move the slats. Plastic blinds will lower your material costs, whereas wood and high-quality vinyl blinds will increase them.

Curtains are usually pricier because they take more material and time to make, and more time to install. A pro will take an hour or more to install level brackets above the window, slide the panels onto the rod, hang and secure the rod onto the bracket, and then style the curtains in an attractive arrangement. To reduce costs, choose cotton curtains over linen or silk.

Blinds offer more light control options

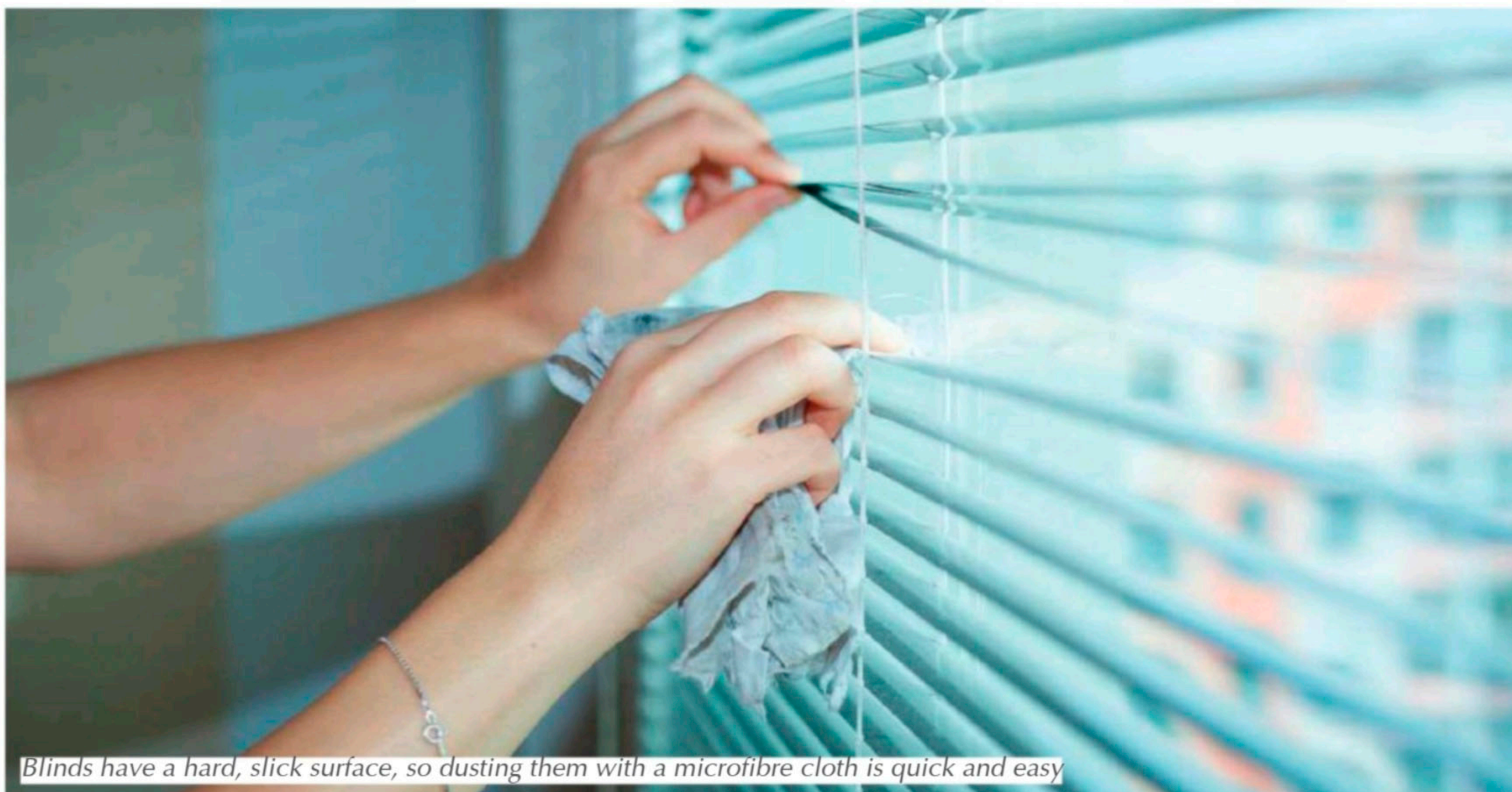
The slats on blinds, situated either vertically or horizontally (known as Venetian blinds), can be operated in two ways for

light control. Pulling the lift cord that hangs from the top lets you lift and lower Venetian blinds, and move vertical blinds from one side to the other. You can also twist the tilt wand (a long, stick-like apparatus) to rotate the slats, changing the angle at which light enters. While blinds offer more ways to control light, their slatted design means that some light will enter even when the blinds are fully closed. When curtains are closed they block virtually all light.

Blinds are easier to clean

Blinds have a hard, slick surface, so dusting them with a microfibre cloth is quick and easy. To remove dust from both sides of blinds, close the slats and wipe with a duster from the top down or from one side to another, then rotate the slats 180 degrees and repeat in the opposite direction. To get rid of stubborn dirt and stains, moisten a soft cloth with plain water or a mixture of 25 percent white vinegar and 75 percent water, wipe down the front and back of the slats, and then use a fresh cloth to dry.

Cleaning curtains is a bit more involved. To remove dust, vacuum top to bottom with a dust brush attachment. Banishing dirt and stains requires spritzing the soiled or stained areas with a mixture of 25 percent white vinegar and 75 percent water, a store-bought stain pre-treatment solution, or (for mould) a solution of one part bleach to four parts water. Let the solution dwell for a few minutes, then machine-wash one or two curtain panels at a time, according to the care label, and air-dry to prevent shrinkage. Iron as directed if necessary.



Blinds have a hard, slick surface, so dusting them with a microfibre cloth is quick and easy

Blinds last longer

It's not unusual for well-maintained blinds to keep their looks for 15 years or more. Blinds' synthetic material, be it plastic, vinyl, aluminium, or polymer-coated wood, makes them resistant to discoloration and staining. They're also more rigid and rugged than curtains, so less prone to everyday wear and tear. Fabric curtains, be they cotton, linen, velvet, or silk, are more prone to tearing, staining, and moulding, so they often need replacement within a decade.

Curtains offer better insulation and soundproofing

Both curtains and blinds can increase the overall insulation of your windows to help maintain heat, resulting in lower electricity bills in cold weather. But curtains, because they lack the slats through which heat escapes, have been shown to reduce heat loss by up to 37 percent during chilly months, compared to the approximately 14 percent heat loss reduction you might get from blinds. The thicker the curtains or blinds, the more insulating they are, with thermal curtains that have acrylic foam between the layers of fabric and honeycomb blinds, with their honeycomb-shaped grid of air pockets, being the most insulating.

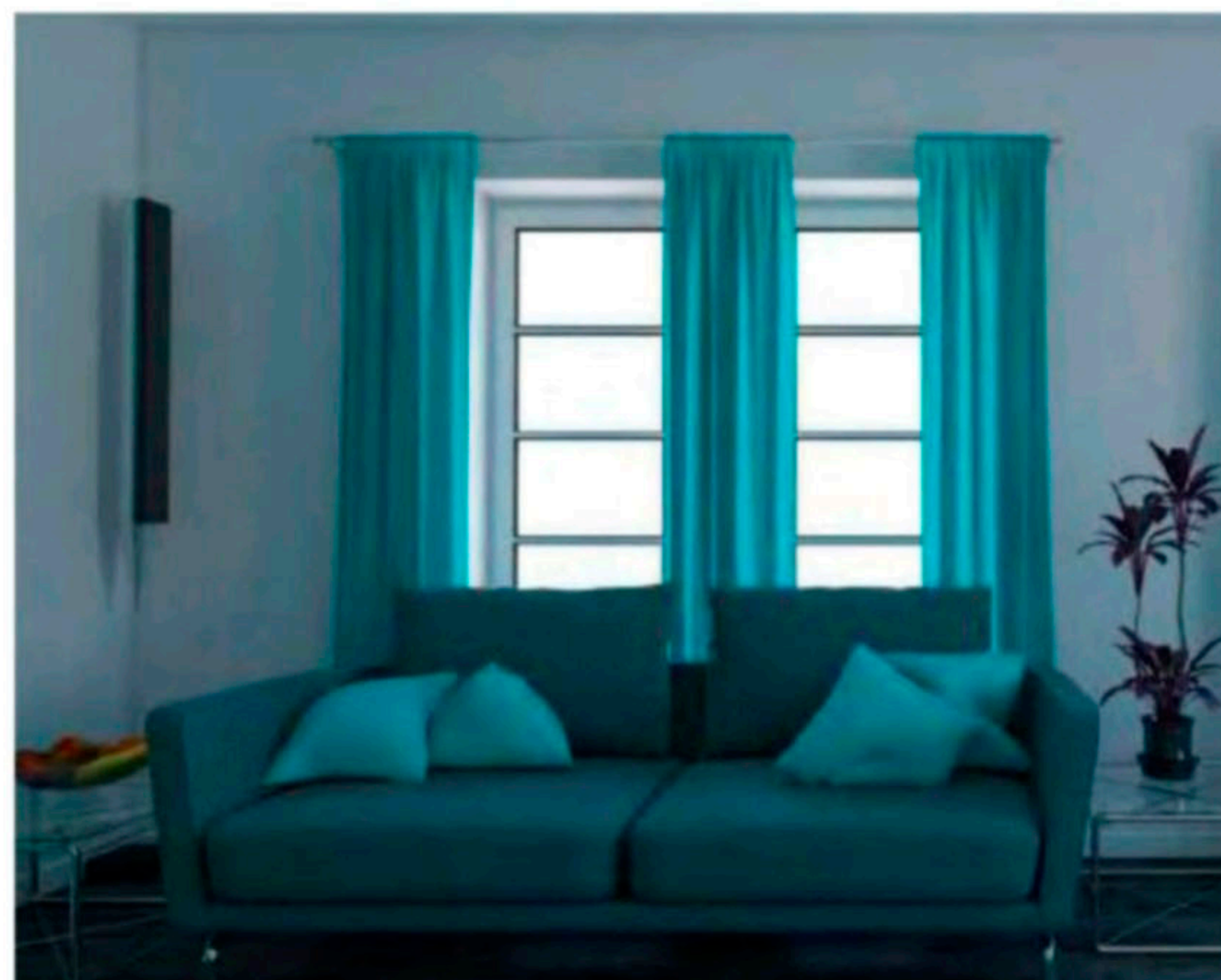
In warm weather, however, blinds beat curtains in energy efficiency. Because blinds leak more heat from a room, they also decrease indoor heat gain more efficiently in the summer, by around 45 percent. Curtains, which leak less heat, reduce indoor heat gain by only 33 percent in the summer.

Both curtains and blinds also aid in sound absorption to keep out neighbourhood noises. But curtains, especially those made

of heavyweight, tightly woven fabrics like velvet or velour, perform better than blinds because they're thicker and lack slats through which sound enters.

Curtains offer more design possibilities

You'll find curtains in a wider variety of materials, textures, styles, colours, patterns, and levels of transparency, from geometric-inspired cotton curtains to sheer silk curtains. They work well in rooms with classic interior design styles, be it French country, mid-century modern, or Hollywood glam. Curtains are also DIY-friendly for folks skilled with a sewing machine. Blinds tend to come in a narrower range of materials and styles and only in solid colours; this minimalism makes them better suited for the modern look of the Scandinavian, industrial, and coastal interior styles.



Pair the two window treatments to maximise the benefits

To gain the benefits of both curtains and blinds, feel free to install both. Consider, for instance, curtains in low-moisture areas where mould isn't an issue, such as living rooms and bedrooms, to maximize your design options, insulation, and soundproofing. In high-moisture rooms like the kitchen or master bath, where mould growth is a concern, install blinds for a durable, easy-to-clean window treatment with a high degree of lighting control. You can even layer the two treatments in a single room to boost privacy and create a more intimate setting, installing the blinds first, then hanging curtains on a rod.



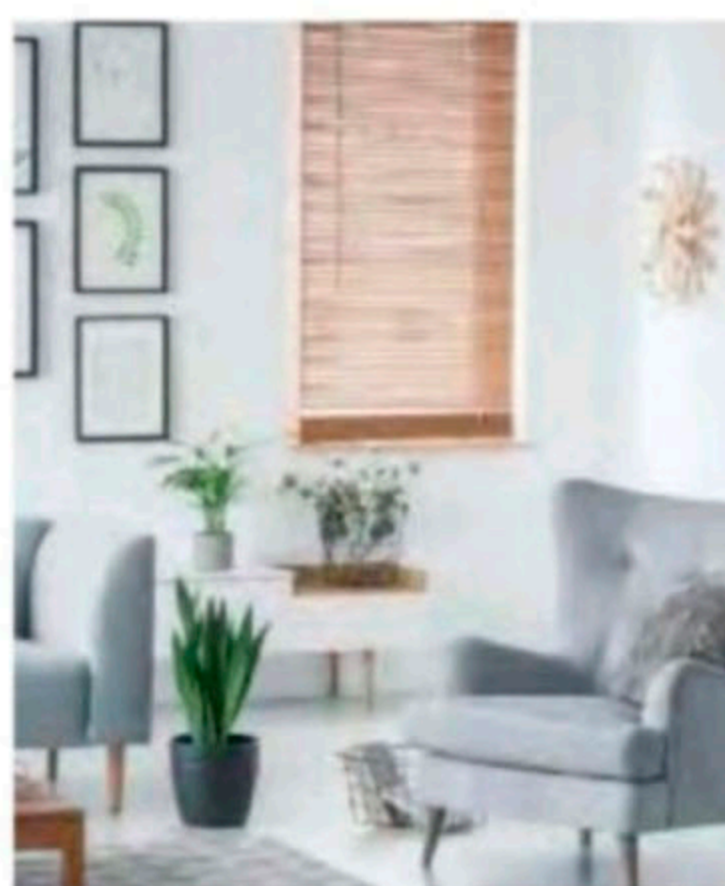
How to install blinds

Installing blinds or shades in your home may seem like a daunting task, but it can be done by the DIY'er. Keep in mind that the steps in this guide provide a general overview of installing blinds. Depending on your specific product, your installation instructions may vary. Always refer to your specific product for precise installation instructions.

How to install inside mount blinds or shades

The installation process for inside mount blinds may vary slightly depending on your product. These general steps provide an overview for installing inside mount blinds, but always refer to the manufacturer instructions for details specific to your product.

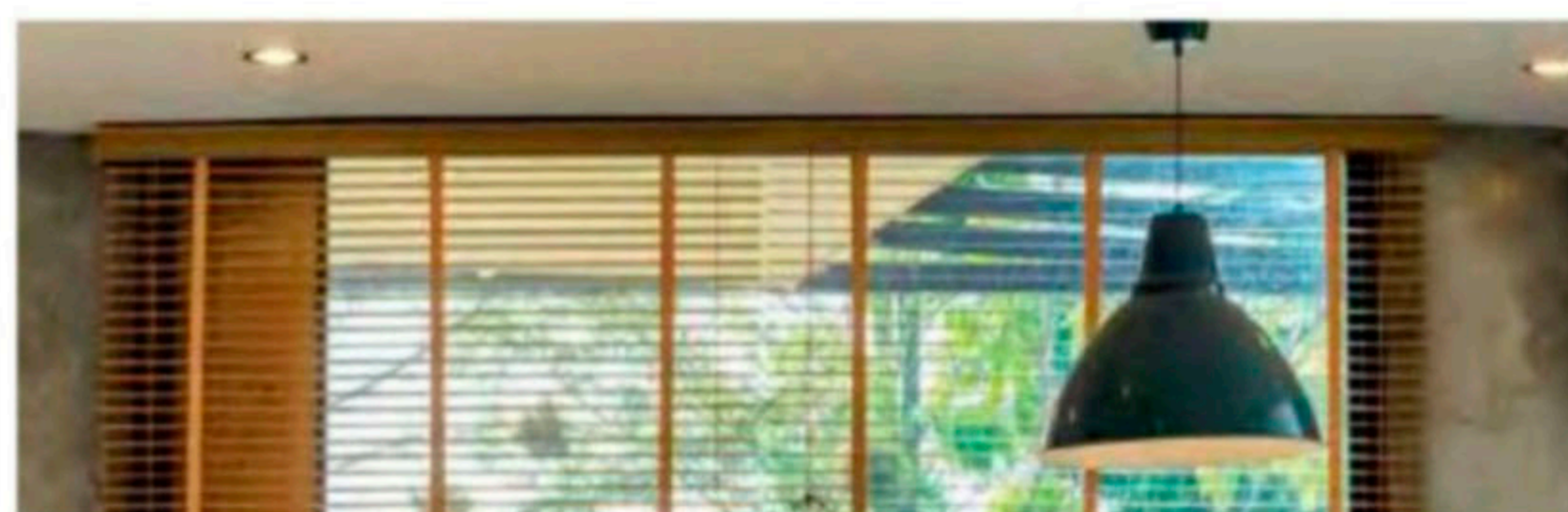
1. Position the first bracket in the upper corner of the window frame so that it's level with the wall's surface. Always check your specific product instructions for the exact placement of the brackets. If your blinds came with a decorative valance, you will need to set the brackets further back into the window opening to allow room for the valance.
2. Mark the screw locations with a pencil.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the second bracket in the opposite corner of the window frame.
4. Use a steel tape measure or a level tool to ensure the two bracket locations are even.
5. Use a drill bit – smaller than your screws – to drill pilot holes through your bracket marks.
6. Screw the brackets in place.
7. Install your blinds by sliding the headrail into the brackets, and close the brackets to secure the headrail in place, or snap the headrail into the brackets for other styles.
8. Test your blinds by lowering, raising, and rotating them to ensure all parts are functional.



How to measure outside mount blinds

Outside mount window treatments are mounted on the window moulding, wall, or ceiling above your window. Outside mount blinds or shades can make your windows appear wider and longer while also providing better light control and privacy options. You may be required to install an outside mount if your windows do not have sufficient mounting depth. Follow these simple steps to measure your windows for an outside mount window treatment:

1. Measure above the window first to make sure you have at least 5cm of flat space on the moulding or wall.
2. Next, measure the width you want covered. Blinds.com recommends at least 3-4cm of overlap on each side of the window for blinds and shades, and 5cm of overlap on each side for solar or roller shades. The extra width provides more privacy and light blockage.
3. Determine the location of the headrail – or top – of the window treatment. This could be installed on the window moulding or wall. Mark this spot with a pencil.
4. Measure the height of each window from the mark you just made to where you want the bottom of your window treatment to rest. Consider if you want your window treatment to extend to the sill or lower. If you have a protruding window sill, it is recommended that it be your bottom placement.
5. Be aware of obstructions such as doorknobs or moulding. If you have obstructions, spacer blocks or extension brackets are available to help your blind or shade extend far enough to avoid protrusions.
6. Do not take deductions from your measurements.
7. Double check that your measurements follow the width by height format (W x H).





How to hang curtains in four easy steps

1. Gather your tools and materials	First things first: gather up everything you need to hang curtains, including: • Curtains • Curtain rod and hardware • Ladder • Tape measure • Pencil • Level • Drill and drill bit • Safety glasses • Wall anchors • Iron
2. Take measurements	Measure your windows to make sure you get the correct curtains and rods. To determine the length of the rod, measure the width of your window and add 20-30cm. Each curtain panel should be at least as wide as your window. Measure from the spot you plan to hang the rod (usually 10-15cm above the window, but a minimum of 5cm) to the floor to figure out the length of the curtains. Add more length if you want the drapes to pool.
3. Install brackets	Use a pencil to mark the drill holes for your brackets. Each bracket should be placed at the height you previously determined and about 10-15cm from the side of the window frame. (This will allow you to open the curtains completely.) Check to make sure your pencil marks are level otherwise the entire window treatment will be crooked. Install wall anchors after drilling the holes. Drill the holes and then screw the brackets to the wall.
4. Install rod and curtains	If your curtains are straight out of the package, iron or steam out creases and wrinkles. Remove the finials from the curtain rod and thread the curtain onto the rod. Depending on the type of bracket, you may need to place the rod into the bracket before replacing the finial. Your bracket may have set screws to keep the rod in place, so you'll want to tighten them once the rod is installed.

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Mastering the Bridle Joint

>> Geoff Hollingdale

As contributor Denis Lock has shown in articles in the past, there are a number of woodworking joints which are used when tackling woodwork projects.

Woodworking joints range from very basic half-lap joints to dovetail joints used in professional fine woodworking. With the use of professional power tools, e.g., a saw table, band saw, router, mortiser, dovetail jig, it is, with practice, straightforward to create high quality joints and tackle complex projects.

As in projects which I have contributed to *The Home Handyman*, the accent has been on completing projects with a limited range of tools and a minimum level of skills. For simple jointing I tend to favour the following:

- Mitre Joints, as with a very simple jig which includes a back saw; picture frames, right angle frames can be made, and needed to improve joint strength, the joint can be dowelled.
- Bridle joints, which need a few basic hand tools, to create a strong, quality joint.

For this DIY project, we are going to look at the bridle joint. This type is essentially very similar to the mortise and tenon

joint, but the main difference between them is the length of the “mortise” and the depth of the “tenon”.

With the bridle joint, the mortise runs the full depth of the tenon meaning that the end grain of the tenon can be seen whereas with a traditional mortice and tenon this is not so.

This does have some advantages in the fact that the longer and deeper sections allow for a greater fixing area which technically makes the joint slightly stronger.

On the other hand, this also has a downside in that the end grain is visible. This might not be a major problem to you but if it is, the traditional mortise and tenon may be a better choice as any end grain is hidden. This generally looks much more visually appealing.

One of the main uses for the bridle joint (or “T-bridle” as they are also called) is for joining uprights such as legs etc., to benches, tables, and other similar objects where you don’t want to affect the structural integrity of existing rails or horizontal beams. More typically, these joints are used to join legs or stretchers to uprights in tables and chairs.

There are essentially three different types, with slight variations:

- **T-Bridle Joints:** As stated above, they are great for use in situations where vertical (downward) forces are applied and where twisting forces could come in to play to form a strong and stable joint between horizontal and vertical timbers. On the flip side to this they are not ideal for objects that will be moved regularly, as the constant movement will cause weakness over time.
- **Corner Bridle Joints:** Very similar to the above, but only this time, instead of being used to form a joint in the centre or middle of a horizontal section, it is formed at the ends to create a corner. In terms of use, the above also applies – great for use where downward and twisting forces will be featured, such as in tables and chairs, but not so great if they will be in constant movement use and they will become weak and fail over time.
- **Mitered Bridle Joints:** Instead of the joint being formed at 90° horizontally or vertically, it is formed using a mitre at 45°. Normally only used for the corner joints (but not always) it does have a few advantages in that they can also resist laterally applied forces (as well as vertical and twisting) and the joints themselves, if created correctly, can be almost invisible which makes them ideal for use in such things as furniture making.

Choosing the correct timber for joints

Generally, most basic projects don't get constructed from quality hardwoods. We tend to work with Pine or Man-Made Timber, like MDF or Chip Board. To make the job as easy and visually appealing as possible you need to choose the timber that you are going to use. Several things to be aware of are as follows:

- **Knots:** Choose timber that is as free from knots and other imperfections as it possibly can be. When making your joints, if there is a knot in the wood you are using, you can pretty much guarantee that it will fall right where you want to make your cuts. So, you need to 'juggle' with the layout to try and avoid knots.
- **Bowing:** Depending on the type of timber you are using, in some cases if it has been lying around for a long time or has been stood upright, leaning against a wall, then it may have bowed which will mean you will have sort through to try and find the most workable pieces.

How to make a Bridle Joint

As there are several types of bridle joint, for the purposes of a seeing how make a bridle joint, we'll make a Corner Bridle Joint.

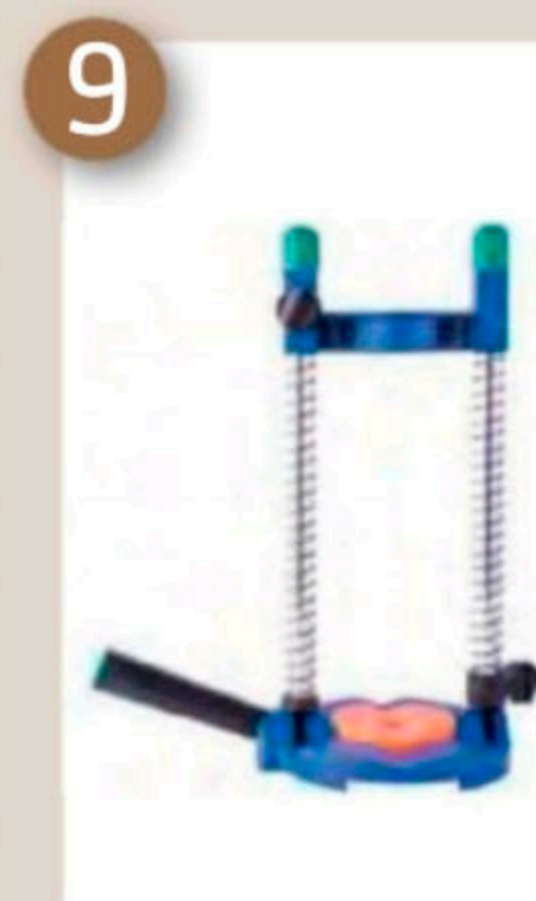
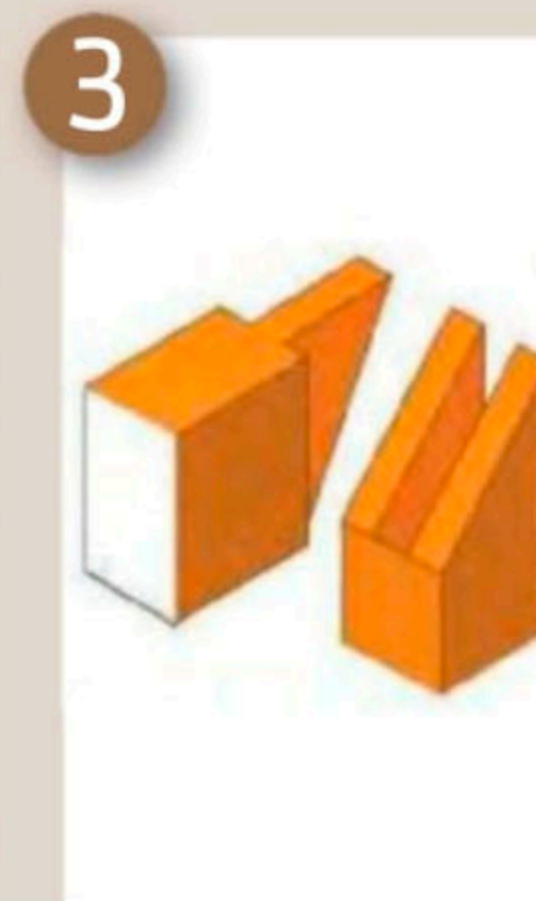
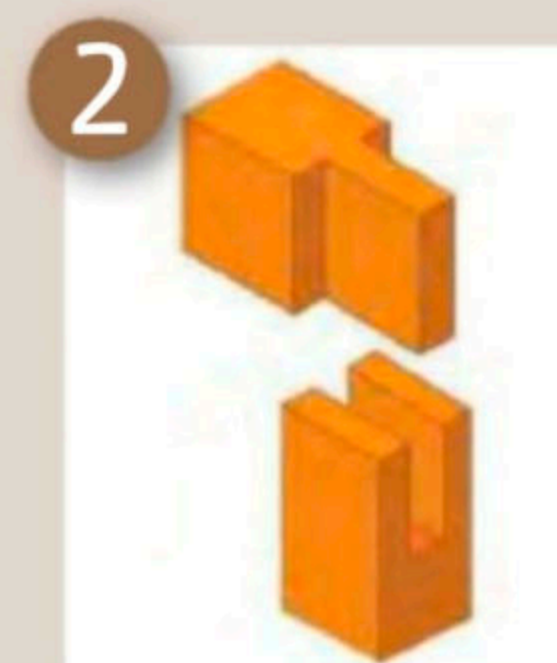
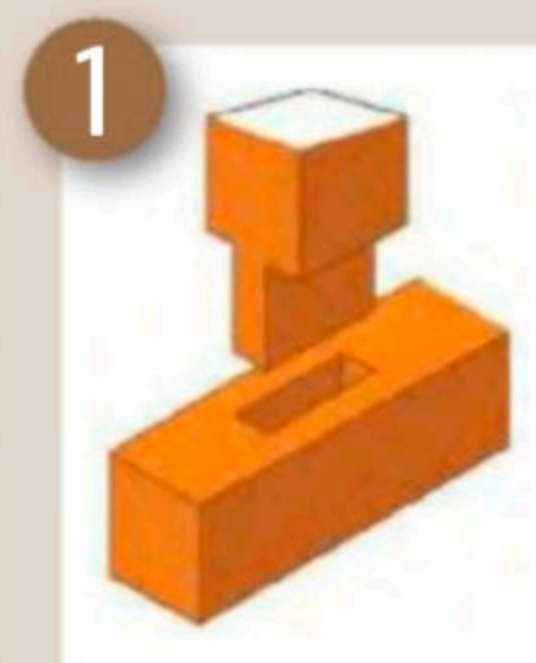
Step-by-step guide

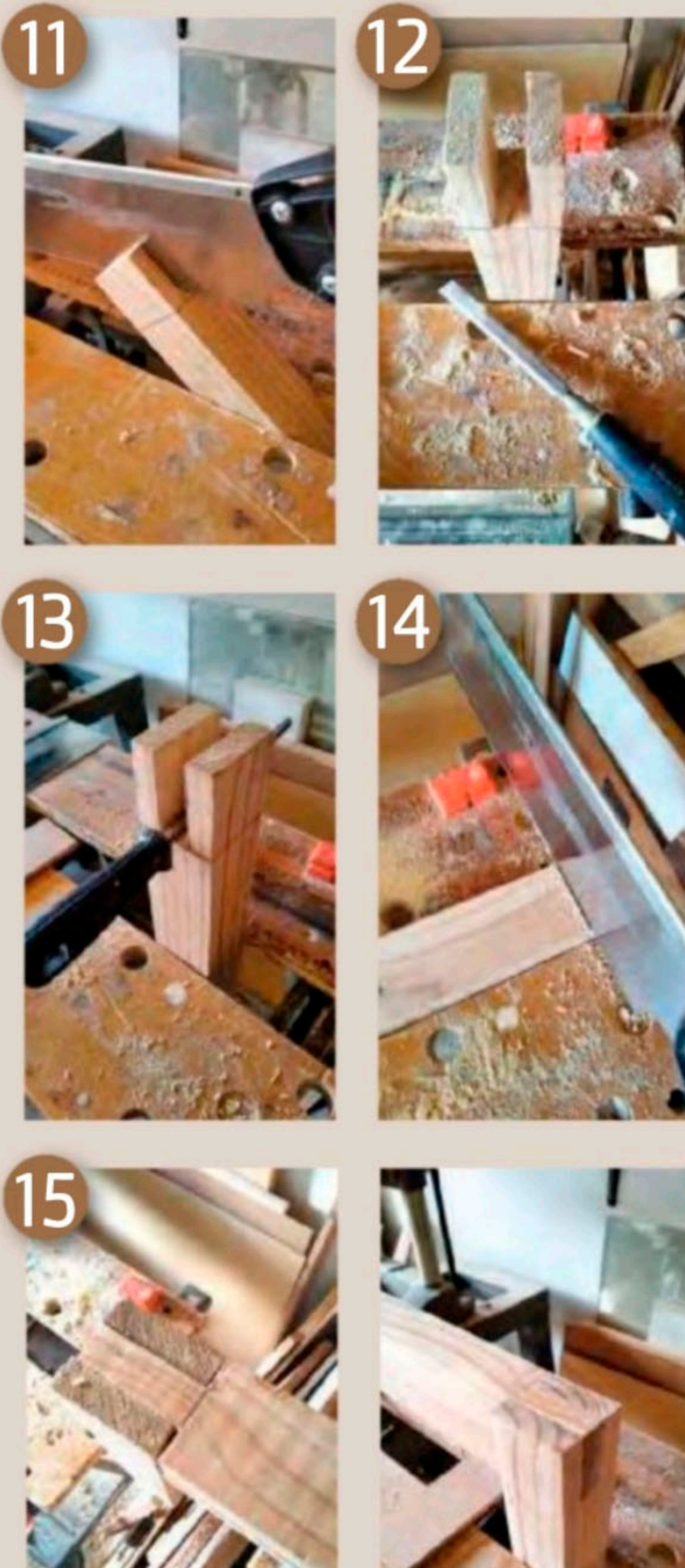
Step 1:

The first task is to check the timber you're going to use and decide before the lengths are cut to size whether the ends of the pieces where the joint is to be formed have any knots or cracking or if you're going to stain the wood, where will the end grain will be pointing and visible once fitted.

The next job is to square up any ends you will be working with. Don't rely on the fact that they will have been cut square in the hardware store or timber outlet as this is not always so.

Check the ends with a set square. If not square, measure and mark a line all around the outside of each piece of timber, over each face around 4-5mm from the end and then cut this off.





- 1: Tee or T-Bridle joint created between horizontal and vertical timbers Bridle Joint
- 2: Corner Bridle joint created at the corner between horizontal and vertical timbers
- 3: Mitered corner bridle joint
- 4: Checking ends are square
- 5: Stanley Mitre Box Jig
- 6: Lines marked on timber for shoulder of mortise and tenon joints
- 7: Using Marking Gauge
- 8: Cutting lines across grain scored with a
- 9: Drill Stand – Various models are available from a variety of hardware and on-line stores
- 10: Drilling the hole. Note that the work piece is clamped down. The drill stand is supported by scrap pieces of off-cuts of the same size as used in making the project
- 11: Start Cutting Mortise
- 11: Cleaning-up the mortise with a chisel. Select the widest usable
- 12: Cleaning-up the mortise with a file
- 13: Cutting the sides off to form the tenon
- 14: Test fitting joint
- 15: Final joint after sanding

Ensure that you cut this off 100% square. Ideally, cut pieces using a simple jig (available in hardware stores) where guides at 90 and 45 degrees are provided and using a tenon saw or back saw you can ensure all is straight and true.

Step 2: Mark your Bridle joint cutting lines

So that you know exactly what and where you need to cut you are now going to mark all the cutting lines. To get your marks accurate, measure with a tape or ruler, make your marks and then join them up with a square. Remember that when preparing for cutting, double-check the lengths you require.

Firstly, measure and mark the depth of the piece of timber you are going to use as your mortise section on the piece you will be using for the tenon. The tenon will run the full width of the mortise so this measurement needs to be precise as you don't want to have to trim or sand too much if the tenon extends outside the mortise.

With your line marked all the way around, now measure the width of the tenon timber and divide it by three. The tenon itself needs to be a third of the width of total width of the timber. Accurately mark points at a third and two thirds of the width on the end edge and along the line that you marked that signifies the width of the mortise timber and then joint the two parallel marks together to form the tenon. If you have one, the best tool to use here is a mortise or marking gauge. Otherwise use a pencil, ruler and square.

With the mortise and tenon joint cutting marked on the timber, the waste area to be cut away is shaded - in to avoid any confusion about which sections are to be removed, and which side of the cutting line you need to place the saw.

Step 3: Cutting the Bridle Joints

Before you start cutting it is a particularly good idea to score over any cut lines that run across the grain with a marking knife. By doing this you should then avoid too much breakout at the ends.

We'll start with shaping the mortise. The mortise will need a horizontal cut along the base of the waste piece to complete it. Prepare for the process by using a suitably sized drill bit (as close to the width of the joint as possible) to drill down through the waste section so that you can then cut down to the hole. Once cut and the waste is removed you can then tidy it up.

To make the drilling of the hole as accurately as possible a drill stand for power drills is recommended. There are various types available to fit 43mm collar portable power drills. The fitment is a practical and useful addition to your basic set of tools.

Using a vice or Workmate, position your timber and grip it tightly, angling it to about 45°. Position your saw at the point on the top to the inside of the marked line and start cutting downwards. Cutting at an angle will not only allow you to easily see the line defining the depth that you need to cut to but will also allow you to keep the saw aligned.

With your first cut made, turn the timber around and repeat the process on the second cut. Now the two cuts for the mortise are completed.

You now need to make a horizontal cut along the base of the waste piece to remove it. Either:

- Use a chisel: Use good quality, sharp chisel to remove the waste after cutting. When cutting softwoods, the chisel needs to be very sharp.

- Use a coping saw: If you have a coping saw then, once you have cut either side, you can slide the blade down and cut along the base. Keep this as level and straight as you possibly can.

Position the workpiece to 'clean-up' the mortise. Use a chisel together with a file to remove any remaining wood or shape uneven surfaces.

Cutting out the tenon uses, again, the exact same process of clamping the workpiece at an angle in the Workmate or vice, this time positioning the saw to cut to the outside of the marked lines to remove the two outer pieces marked as 'waste'. Finally, level the timber up and then cut downwards and through the "triangular" area that is now left on the sides.

Reposition the workpiece to clamp it in the Workmate or vice to saw off the two outer pieces. Once done, shape up the tenon with a sharp chisel. Use the widest you've got. Again, the use of a wood rasp or file will assist in shaping the edges.

You should now be looking at what resembles a bridle joint. Position the two sections together to see how good the fit is. If all cuts and chiseling are dead straight and accurate then the joint itself should be tight but moveable, but if you have to force them together you will need to do a little adjustment.

If the joints are so tight you can't actually fit them together then you are going to need to take off some wood. Do this with a sharp chisel, selecting a 12mm or 16mm.

To find the binding points, gently push each section together until they stick and make a mark. Also, 'eyeball' each cut face to make sure it is flat and level. A wood rasp is also helpful in removing small amounts ensuring a firm fit.

Additionally, if you can see from any cutting marks that remain that a cut has gone slightly off, then this is also a good sign of where to start to rectify it. Be patient as you chisel or file to remove material, check the fit regularly to make sure that you're not taking off too much, which will then render your joint loose and sloppy.

Step 4: Fit timbers together and complete the Bridle Joint

Spread a light coating of glue over both sides of the tenon. Before the adhesive starts to cure, ensure the two pieces are 'square' to each other. Use a set square to check. Wipe off any excess glue. After the joint has been given time for the glue to set, sand-off the tenon end flush to the timber surface.

For further joint strength an 8mm dowel can be later glued and inserted. After the joint has been given time for the glue to set, trim the dowel ends and sand-off the dowel and tenon end flush to the timber surface.

This method of jointing is more than adequate to assemble tables, and other furniture items for lasting strength and durability.

Project: Making a side table

This very simple design provides a good example of working with either mitred or bridle corner joints to give a sturdy and attractive side table.

You'll be using simple methods and basic hand tools to construct it. It is a good opportunity to hone your woodworking skills. Even when you progress to more sophisticated power tools, you still need to be able to measure and set-up, cut and fit joints accurately. You can either have a go at making the version with the Bridle Joint or the mitre joint using a Mitre Guide Box.

The example made was from 42 x 42 Pine PAR. You could also use 32 x 32. You can adjust the size of the Side Table to suit wider and higher design.

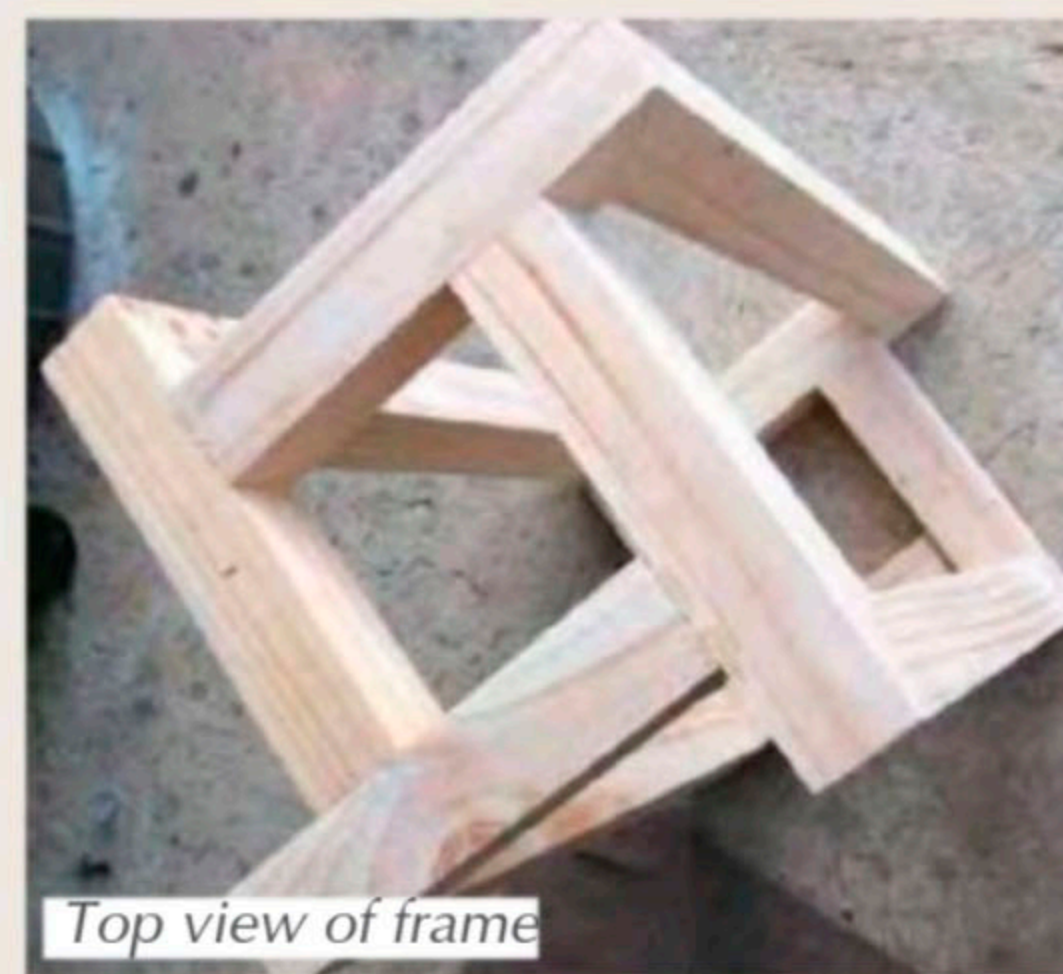
Carefully cut all the pieces to length. For the short pieces, don't forget to allow

for adding the timber thickness you are using.

Don't do what I did with a mitre cut version. I didn't allow for knots and had to use a piece with knots in it. The top I chose was an off-cut of a kitchen cupboard door of ivory coloured 16mm chipboard. I covered the three sides missing edging with glue-on plastic edging. The pine I sealed using Woodoc 5. When dry I gave the surfaces a rub down to remove any surface blemish. I then spray painted the wooden frame with Rust-Oleum Ivory Silk.



Too many knots in timber



Top view of frame

For the dimensions and cutting list of this project, email editorial@homehandyman.co.za

Learn how to transform a gas cylinder into a modern metal planter.

UPCYCLE A GAS CYLINDER

>> Guy Harper



What you will need

- Empty gas cylinder
- Black colour spraypaint
- Gold colour spraypaint
- Painter's tape
- Long ruler
- Plant of your choice (I went with a young palm for this one)



Tools

- Safety equipment: Welding helmet, welding gloves
- Angle grinder, grinding wheel and flap wheel
- Welding machine + 6013, 2.5 mm electrodes and a wire brush
- Electric drill with metal drill bits



Please do not try this unless you know what you are doing. Gas cylinders hold a lot of pressure and might contain flammable gas so there is a risk of explosion. This was a helium cylinder, which is a non-flammable gas, but I also made sure to remove any leftover gas completely by filling the cylinder with water before cutting into it.

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: As always, safety first. The first thing we have to do is clear out any leftover gas that might still occupy the cylinder... Helium is non-flammable but this is good practice either way. Remove the gas cylinder valve and make sure to fill it all the way with water or sand.

Step 2: Now that the cylinder is gas free, we can start cutting it! For this design I wanted a tall planter, so I cut it about 5-6cm from the bottom.

I marked my cut line with a long flexible ruler, and cut along that line with the angle grinder. Once the piece was cut, I placed it aside for later use and started smoothing out the sharp edge externally and internally. (Please use a flap wheel for this instead of a grinding disc).

Step 3: We all know how important it is to make proper draining holes; these allow excess water to exit the planter after watering, ensuring that water does not sit at the base of the planter for too long, causing the plant to rot etc.

This is extremely important with metal planters, as they can and will rust very quickly. There was already one hole from the valve that I removed, so I decided to add six additional holes. I marked six holes with a hole puncher and proceeded to drill them.

Step 4: So now I pretty much had a metal planter already, however it didn't look or feel very stable. Remember the piece I cut earlier? Now it was time to put it to use... I grabbed it and placed it on top of the valve guard, then tacked it together on four spots while making sure it would stand straight.

After tack welding it I cleaned the tacks and welded the two pieces together. This is probably not the best weld ever but for a planter it holds pretty well. I then switched to my flap wheel on the grinder and ground the weld as much as possible.

Step 5: Once the structure was ready, it was spray time! Before starting this project the only thing I knew is that I wanted a colour combination of black and gold, but to be honest, I didn't quite know how to combine them until the planter was ready as I didn't really know what shape it would have when I started working on it.

However, once it was prepared it was obvious to me that the majority would be black, with a gold stripe at the top. I first applied black spray, then moved on to applying gold, and then black again, all the while protecting the golden stripe with a painter's tape.

And that's it! I'm very happy with the end result and I think it looks great and is a nice addition to the front door of my house!



Important – remove any left over gas



Mark 5cm from the bottom



Cut the cylinder with an angle grinder



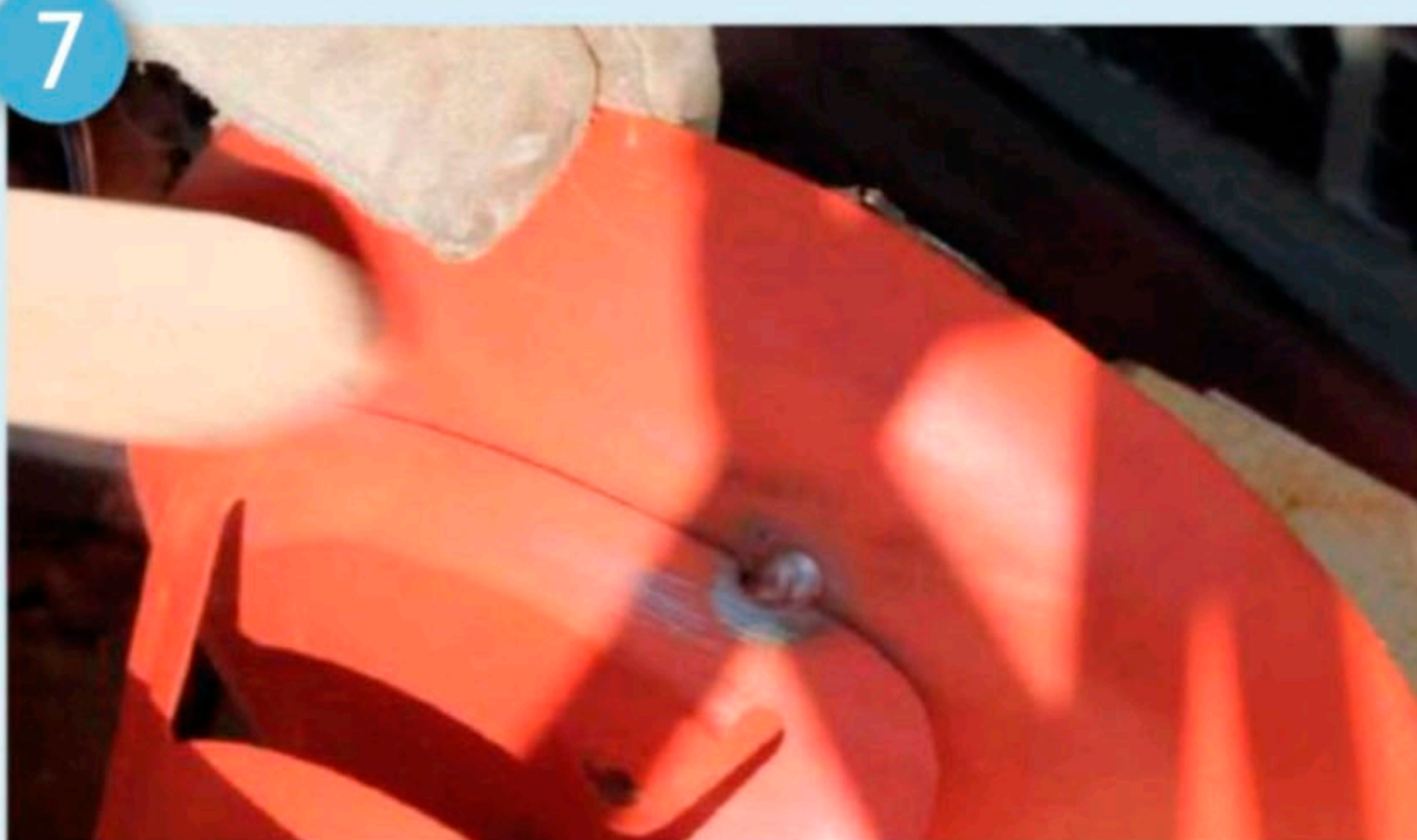
Smooth the sharp edges



5
Drill drainage holes



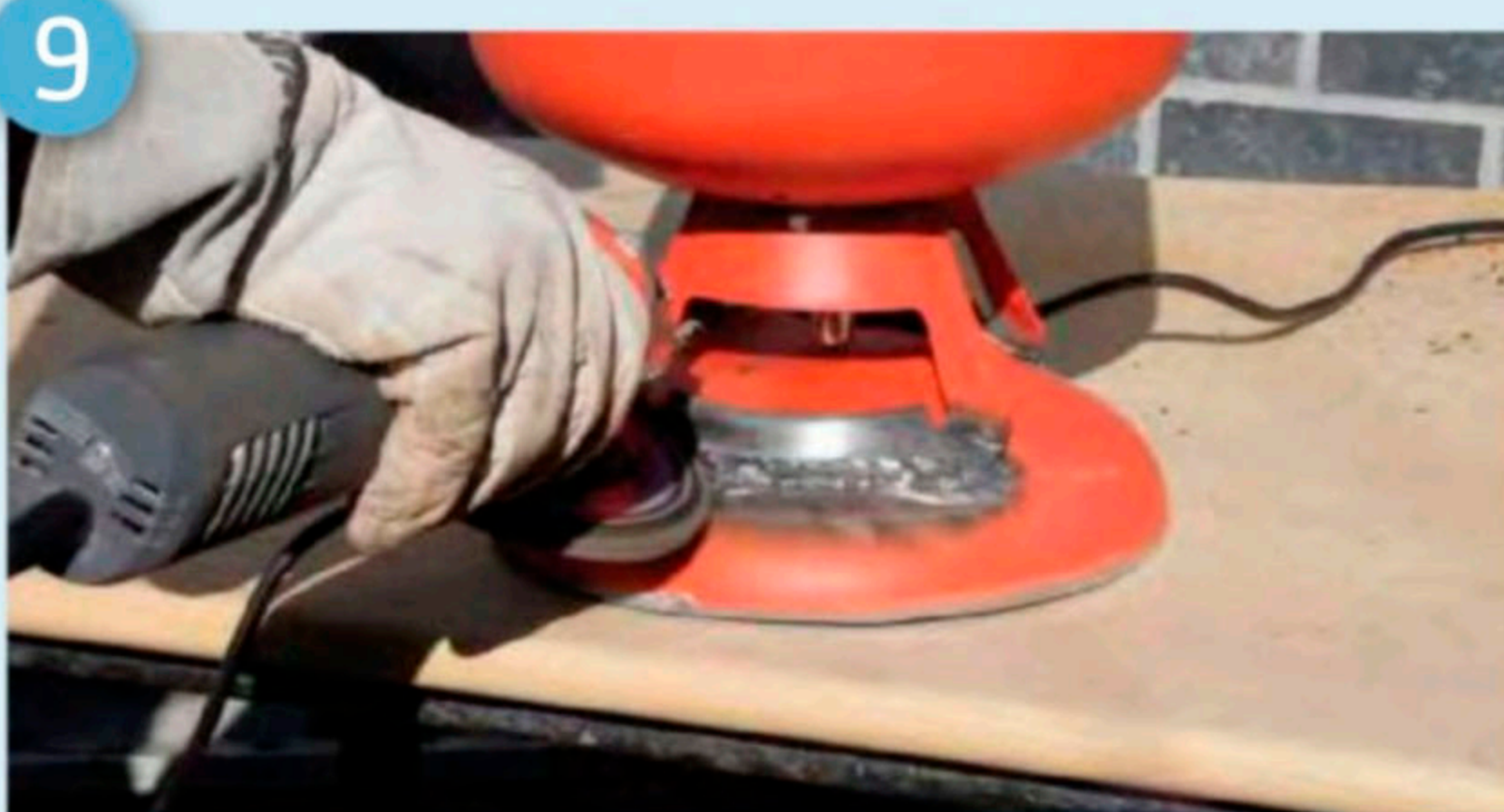
6
Welding the off-cut onto the valve guard



7
The initial tack weld



8
Not the best weld ever...



9
Neatening it up



10
Once the structure was ready, it was spray time



11
First black all over



12
Then a gold stripe at the top

How to INSTALL CONCEALED CABINET DOOR HINGES

Make cabinet door installation easy and get drill press accuracy with any hand drill

The Concealed Hinge Jig from Kreg takes the guesswork out of installing cabinet doors using concealed hinges. This economical, easy-to-use jig ensures accurate hinge alignment, so you can install doors that fit great and work well. Plus, the Concealed Hinge Jig works with an ordinary drill and the included carbide tipped bit.

The Concealed Hinge Jig allows you to drill cup holes for concealed cabinet door hinges using just a drill. The jig positions an included carbide-tipped bit exactly at the proper position and offset, and drills to the perfect depth every time thanks to a depth stop collar. The jig is simple to use, and it ensures that you can mount cabinet doors that fit great and work properly. Concealed hinges are great for mounting cabinet doors because they stay out of sight, they are also adjustable, and they work exceptionally well.

Mounting them, though, requires drilling a large hole at an extremely specific position and depth. The Kreg Concealed Hinge Jig takes the guesswork out of drilling those holes and allows you to

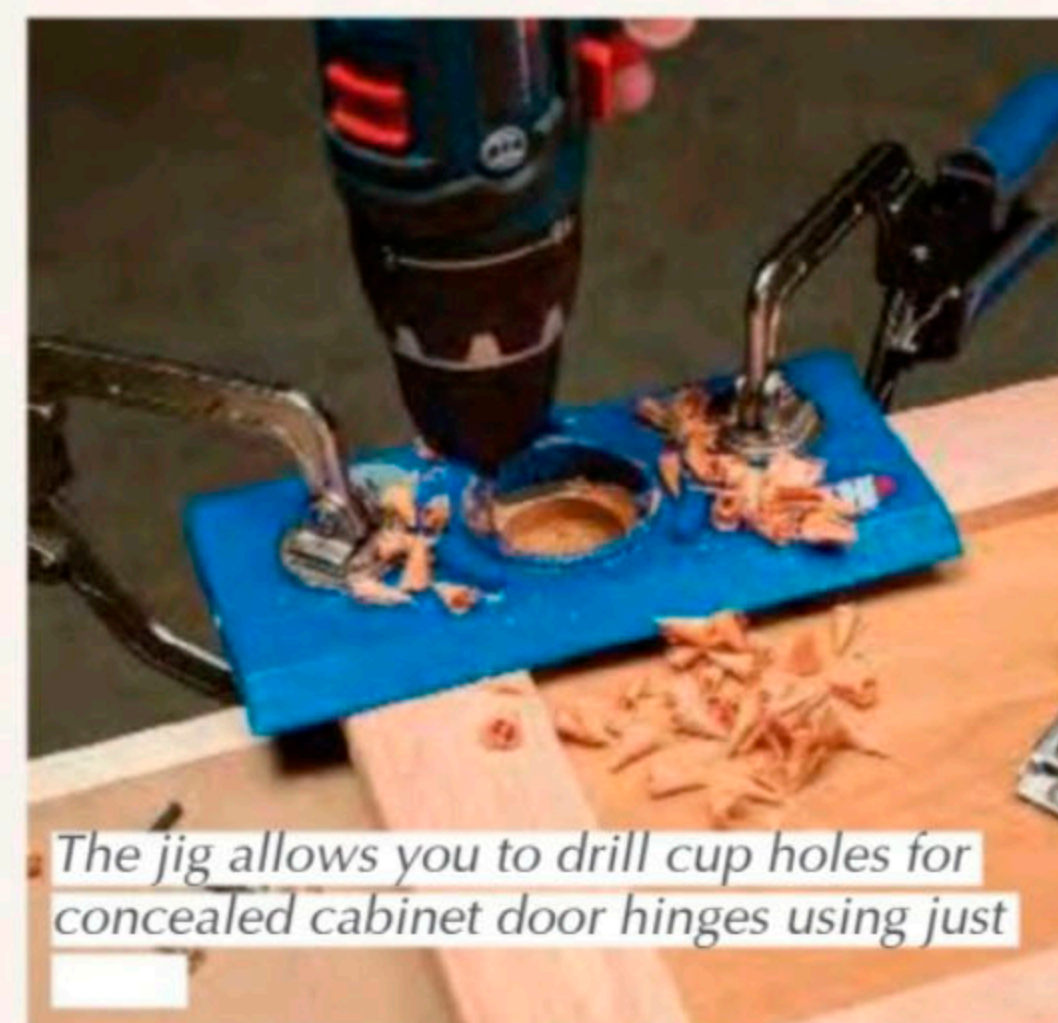
do it with nothing more than a drill and the carbide-tipped bit that comes with the jig. Note: A bit is required to drill the hinge-mounting screws. This is not included in the kit. It works with 3mm, 4mm, 5mm, 6mm hinge offsets.

The Concealed Hinge Jig consists of a glass-filled nylon base with a hole that receives a drill guide. Indexing cams ensure that the jig positions the bit to drill a hole at the required offset – which is dictated by each hinge – and a built-in stop collar ensures that the cup depth is correct every time. There are even holes that you can use to guide a bit for hinge screw holes.

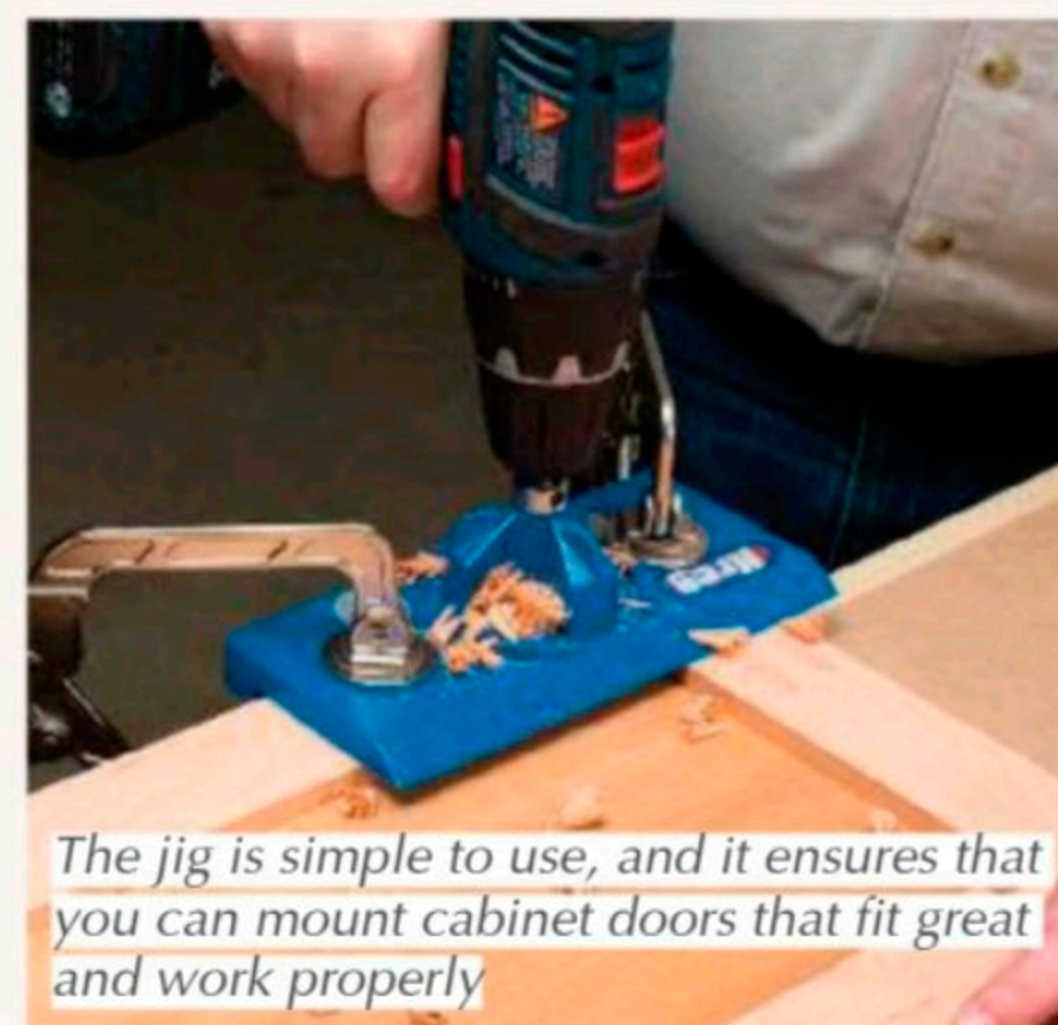
The Concealed Hinge Jig comes with a high-quality, carbide tipped bit to ensure great results. The Jig is designed to be intuitive for beginners to use, but robust enough for professionals. Just pick out your hinges, look up a few basic mounting instructions that come with them, and then set up the Jig by adjusting a pair of built-in cams. After that, you are set to drill hinge cup holes using any ordinary drill.

Whether you are installing one cabinet door or making doors for an entire

kitchen, the Concealed Hinge Jig provides reliable, consistent results.



The jig allows you to drill cup holes for concealed cabinet door hinges using just



The jig is simple to use, and it ensures that you can mount cabinet doors that fit great and work properly

To view the video on the Kreg Concealed Hinge Jig KHI-HINGE go to www.vermontsales.co.za and click on Kreg.

With home renovations having increased seven-fold from last year, it's clear that South Africans are embarking on these projects with no signs of slowing down. But this process can also be one of extreme stress – both for the client and for the contractor.

Six things your home renovation contractor wants you to know...

A home renovation may be stressful for you, but it is also stressful for the contractor

Anyone who has attempted a home renovation will attest to the fact that it can be a highly stressful process. "What you might not realise, is that it can be just as stressful for your contractor as it is for you," says Graeme Steen, Chief Operations Officer at Kandua.com, South Africa's largest online marketplace for home services.

"We have over 20 000 vetted home service pros on our platform – everything from plumbers to interior decorators – and we speak to them regularly to understand how we can help them build their businesses. These independent contractors and small businesses take huge pride in their work, and they want everything to run as smoothly as you do."

According to Steen, these are the six things your home service Pro wants you to know before starting your home improvement project:

Your changes are not the issue. Your timing is

Pros know that you might change your mind on decisions such as the paint colour of your walls. "The key is to speak to your contractor as soon as possible and to make sure you understand the consequences of the change before you pull the trigger," advises Steen. "Seemingly simple changes can have cascading effects on your project. It could mean undoing or redoing work, which increases material and labour costs, and could also affect timelines, especially if key subcontractors are no longer available on planned dates."

Honest budgeting

That good old saying 'champagne taste on a beer budget' applies to home renovations too. "When contacting a Pro, it's important that you share an honest budget and have realistic expectations aligned to these. You'd also need to factor in any delays or breakages which can happen during home renovation projects and keep tabs on invoices as you go along" says Steen. "The general rule of thumb is to add at least 10% to your budget – just to be safe and ensure open lines of communication throughout the project."

Some things are out of our control

"Uncontrollable factors such as weather, permits and the delivery of custom items can create time delays. These things are out of our control and added time should be factored into your project just in case."

There's a reason pros choose certain materials

"Your contractor often has decades of experience working with different types of materials, brands and products. This is where you need to trust their hard-earned experience and resist the temptation to go bargain-hunting," cautions Steen. As many home service businesses in South Africa have limited cash on hand, it is not uncommon for them to ask customers to supply the needed materials, such as paint or plaster. "You can save yourself a lot of headaches down the line if you ask your pro

what specific products they prefer and get those. Quality is the key to a successful, long-lasting home renovation."

A picture is worth a thousand words

Clear communication on complicated projects can be tricky. "Add to this a host of unfamiliar construction or trade-specific terminology, cultural and language differences, and the power imbalances between the customer and the service provider and it's no surprise that misunderstandings arise," explains Steen. "Use pictures to help explain what you want, ask plenty of

questions, and schedule regular set times to review the work with your pro." For bigger projects, Steen also suggests taking photos and keeping a journal of the progress.

Your feedback matters

If you are happy with the work, there are two meaningful ways to say thank you. "The first is to pay on time and in full. The second is to leave a good review or give your pro a referral," says Steen. Your review helps a deserving Pro secure more work opportunities and provide for his or her family," he concludes.

Top home makeover tips from renovators with real first-hand experience

1: Choose your contractors wisely

Get more references than you think you need before making a final decision on a contractor. Local social media groups offer a wealth of information and recommendations on reputable service providers. Other online resources like Kandua rate service providers according to ratings given by customers. Ultimately you want to be sure your selected contractor has a long list of happy customers and not an upcoming slot on Carte Blanche.

2: Ask questions, manage your expectations

It pays to remember there are no stupid questions when you're parting with your hard-earned cash. Make sure you understand and agree on your contractors' scope of work, terms and conditions and each and every cost involved before signing on the dotted line.

3: Go green

Go green as far as possible. Get a plumber to put your geysers on timers and install geyser blankets. Consider investing in roof insulation and replace old lightbulbs with energy efficient alternatives.

4: Document everything

Documenting absolutely everything is a universal bit of advice you won't regret taking. Whether it is the name of the tile you choose, paint colours per room, window measurements and room dimensions. Doing this means you can touch up paint, replace a broken tile or buy a new piece of furniture with peace of mind.

5: Ask an expert

Leave some decisions to the experts. Not sure what colour and shade paint to use in which room? Enlist the help of a paint consultant who can advise on what which tones work together, how many litres you need and how much you can expect to spend. If making a decision causes you anxiety, find an expert to help you.

6: Don't underestimate costs

Estimates vary but the general rule of thumb is to add 20

percent on top of all current costs to give you some breathing room in case of unexpected expenses. If you're lucky and you don't need to spend this, you have some budget to spend on décor!

7: Don't rush the décor

As tempting as it may be to splurge on soft furnishings like curtains, linen, throws and wall art, don't rush the process. Live with the room for a little while first and spend later. This gives you time to bargain hunt too.

8: Get online but don't stay there too long

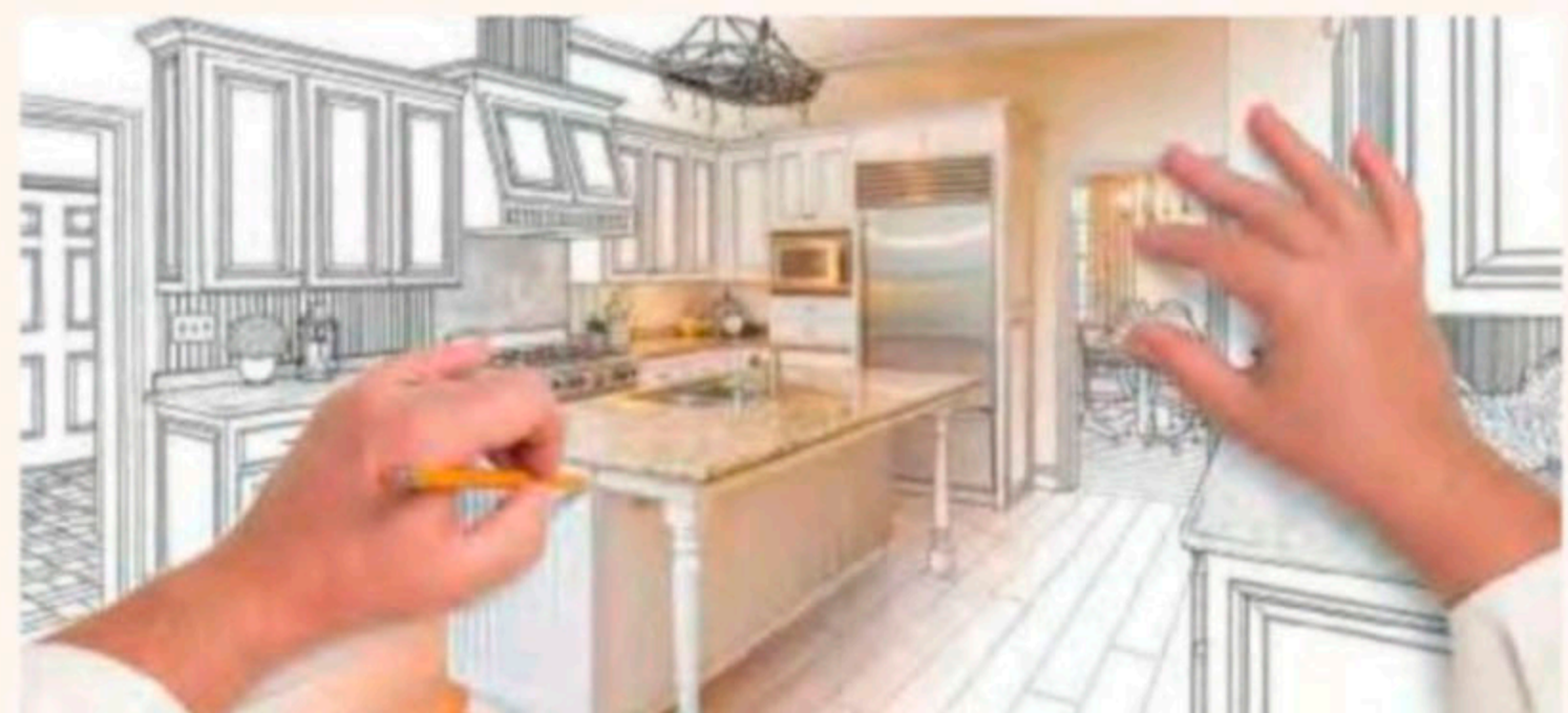
The internet is full of advice and inspiration, so don't be afraid to use it. Apps allow you to create sketches and visualise changes before making you decide to bash down that wall. Beware of comparing your home (and budget) to polished influencer accounts on Instagram and embrace and celebrate your unique style without any unnecessary filters.

9: Don't overcapitalise your investment

Make sure you keep the property's value in line with your chosen area. If you decide to sell your property in the future you want to be able to recoup your costs.

10: Don't make too many changes along the way

Avoid this by giving yourself plenty of time to plan. Think about where you will place lights, plug fixtures, and built-in cupboards. Scope changes increase the cost of a renovation and can set you back weeks. You will be happy in the long run making some of these changes, but the time and cost in the short term may make you think twice.





EASY IDEAS TO EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN YOUR HOME

The 27th of February this year was World Sustainable Energy Day, and as we know, a move towards using more sustainable sources of energy is vital to protect our planet from global warming. It also benefits the end user through lower electricity bills and in South Africa this in turn means less pressure on the national grid.

In light of this, Brights Hardware has prepared a list of ideas on how you can embrace more sustainable solutions in your home. They will also help cut your costs every month and once you have stocked up on alternative sources of power, light and heat it becomes a breeze to weather a few hours of (inevitable) load shedding.

Let there be (LED) light

"Changing the bulbs in your home for LED options is a great way – and one of the easiest – to embrace sustainable energy," says Orlando Luis, CEO of Brights. "LED light bulbs last longer than incandescent or halogen bulbs and use far less electricity."

"In addition to this, battery powered LED lighting is an essential must-have item for SA homes. There is a wide range of rechargeable LED light strips, lanterns, and torches available on the market. Another great item to have in

the home are intelligent LED light bulbs. These bulbs come in either a screw or bayonet configuration and can be used like a standard light bulb in any light fixture but they stay on during power outages as they hold charge for up to four hours."

Solar Solutions

"In a sunny country like ours, embracing solar powered energy is a no-brainer," advises Luis. "Solar installations can range vastly in size from an entry level system that powers a few appliances and lights, through to a full home installation that takes you off the electricity grid completely. People who are interested in pursuing this avenue can do a power usage analysis and questionnaire at the Brackengate and Montague Park Brights stores. We have a qualified consultant available in these two stores who will do the complete investigation and provide a full quote for UPS, battery and solar

solutions to suit every independent home or business."

Luis goes on to advise that solar geysers are also hugely popular in SA. "When it comes to solar geysers there are many different sizes and technologies that range in capacity and price – depending on how much water you use, your budget etc. Solar geysers may cost a bit more to install initially but the long-term benefit is well worth the capital cost upfront."

Install a heat pump

"This is one of my preferred solutions – even more effective than solar geysers," says Luis. "A heat pump work like an air conditioning unit in reverse – it extracts heat from the ambient air surrounding it. This is then run through a heat exchanger in which the water is heated. So only a little electricity is used to run a fan and compressor while the heat energy is provided indirectly by the sun."

Give it gas

It is widely accepted that anything in your home that uses a heating element is one of the biggest users of electricity. The stove is a big energy gobbler, as is the geyser.

Luis advises that there are now great gas versions of both of these essential household appliances available.

“When it comes to cooking there are many different gas options available to consumers today – whether it is a large six plate gas hob and oven or just a simple, portable table-top one or two-plate gas cooker – and many more options in between.”

“Many people are choosing to change their ovens over from electrical to gas. Not only does this mean you can carry on your dinner preparations during a power outage, but your electricity bill will also be reduced through the introduction of gas appliances,” says Luis. “Gaining in popularity is also a conversion over to gas geysers. There is a wide variety on the market and the benefits with gas is almost instant hot water minus the electricity usage.”

Put a timer on your geyser

According to Luis, if you do not want to replace your current geyser system, there are ways to make it more energy efficient. Such as putting a timer on your

geyser. “You only need hot water at certain times throughout the day, and if your geyser is left on all day every day then you are using more electricity than you need to. Install an electronic timer which can be programmed to only heat up when you need it to.”

Replace old appliances with new energy efficient models

“New appliances are made with the goal of being energy efficient and eco-friendly and so replacing old appliances with modern ones that have an energy consumption rating is a good idea. Old household appliances use up to 40% more electricity than an Energy Star appliance.”

Luis explains that Appliance Standards and Labelling Regulations have been put in place in SA which requires appliances such as air conditioners, fridges, washing machines, and ovens (for example) to be labelled with a South African Energy Efficiency Label. “The purpose of the South African Energy Efficiency Label is to ensure that consumers are informed about the relative energy efficiency of an appliance before they decide to purchase and the energy efficiency label has been designed to provide consumers with accurate and comparable information on the energy efficiency of household appliances.

Small behavioural changes that make a big difference

“All of the above are important things to be doing to ensure more sustainable living,” says Luis. “But we should also recognize that behaviour is a big part of our overall energy consumption.”

“Make small changes to your behaviours such as switching off the lights when you are not in a room, have shorter showers, wash your clothes in cold water, only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they have full loads, don’t run the air-conditioner or heaters unnecessarily. These are all examples of small things that you can do in your home to further improve its efficiency, reduce your footprint and embrace sustainability.”

Luis advises that Brights Hardware has on-site experts in all of their stores to provide advice and guidance on any of these solutions. “Whatever you may be interested in finding out more about – whether it is LED or solar technology to the best gas stove for your budget – our knowledgeable staff members can provide you with all the product insights and information that you need.”



Can't find the right desk for your home office? Using some basic power tools and one plywood sheet, you can have your own budget-friendly custom desk.

SIMPLE MODERN DIY PLYWOOD DESK

>> Melody James

About the project

The desk

- Height: 68cm
- Width: 145cm
- Depth: 65cm

The design

Inspired by a desk that I had seen but lacking the necessary power tools, I modified the design of the legs so the desk could be made using some basic power tools.

- Made entirely from plywood
- Legs are at an angle away from the centre
- Hair pin legs

The build plan

The plan was laid out over a 2440mm x 1220mm plywood sheet (see photo). From top to bottom, the rectangle pieces are desk top, legs x 4, support (long) x 2, support (short). This will come in handy later.

This was my first time using a circular saw and I built this out of my living room and patio, with a bit of patience, I would say this is a beginner friendly build!



Tools and supplies

- 2440mm x 1220mm x 18mm plywood sheet
- Circular saw
- Mitre saw
- Japanese hand saw
- Orbital sander (120 grit)
- Water-based polyurethane clear satin finish
- Clamps – quick grip
- Clamps – sash
- Pocket hole jig
- Electric drill

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: Rip long cuts to get a rough size of the pieces needed, see red dotted lines. Note the plan does not account for kerf (thickness of blade). There is a 3cm allowance on the 1220mm side of the plywood for that. The kerf of my circular saw blade is 2mm.

Cut a diagonal in the leg pieces along the long side to get two triangles per piece. Cut the short support, long support and legs pieces to size using the mitre saw. See image for exact measurements:

- Short support: 44 x 6cm
- Long support: 125 x 6cm, cut with the same angle as the legs
- Leg pieces: 2 cuts; 1 from the 9cm side at 8 degrees.
- Another 68.7cm down also at 8 degrees. Keep the off cuts together with the piece it came from, you'll need them later for the connectors.

Note: I left my mitre saw angle set to 8.3 degrees for the duration of the project so I could have consistent angles.

Step 2: Here we will make the connector of the 'hair pin' legs. Using the long triangle off cuts from the legs, glue two triangles together to form a trapezium. Saw a 5cm piece off at 8.3 degree. I cleaned them up with a handsaw and sandpaper. You might need to try a few times to get a good trapezium, it doesn't need to be exact. Bear in mind the best you need to do is align two of the edges; bottom and outer edge.

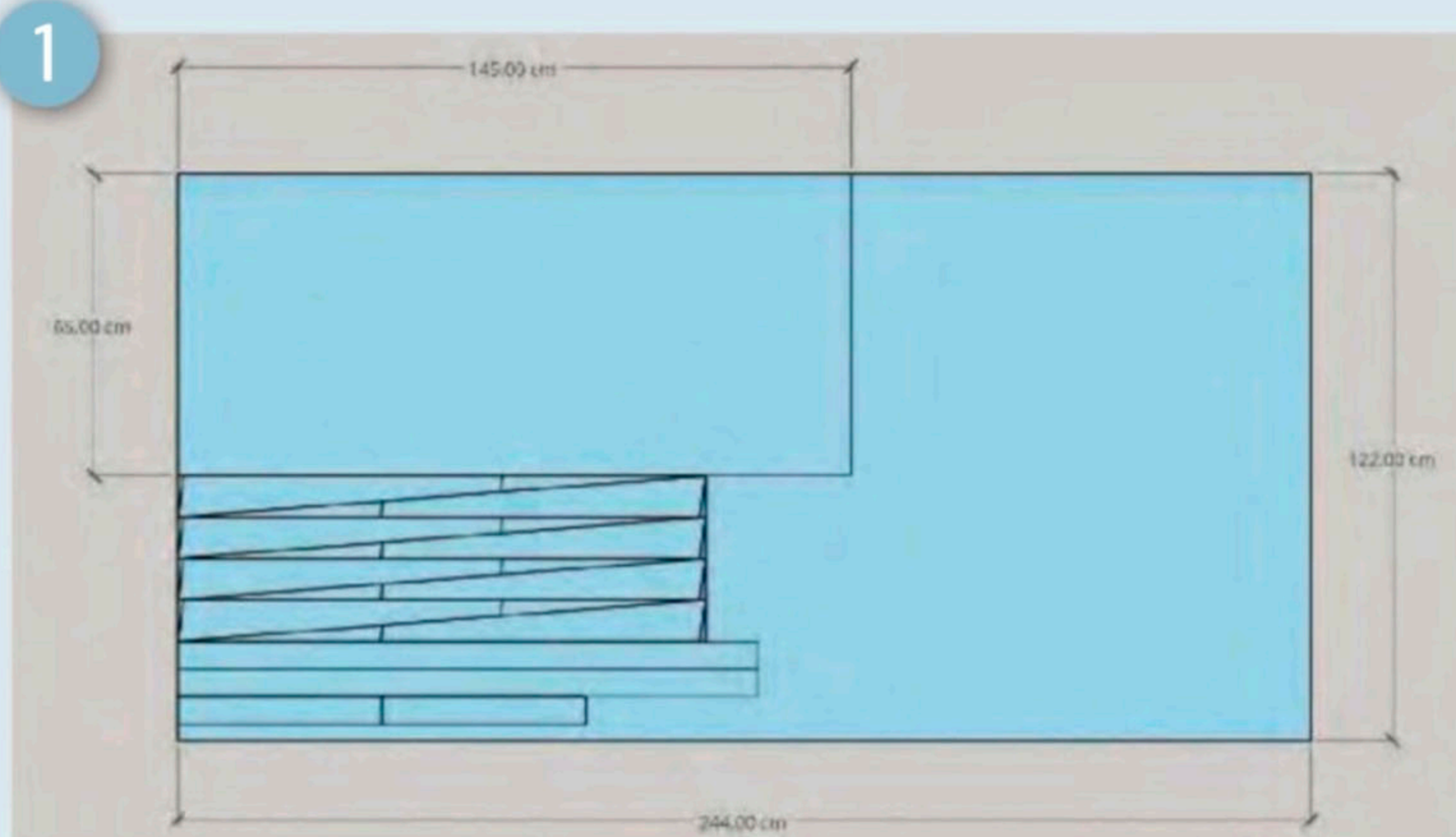
Step 3: Optional chamfer: to give an extra detail to the table top, I set the circular saw at 15 degrees and created chamfer along all four sides.

Step 4: Drill pocket holes in the support pieces. I set the length on my pocket hole jig to be the thickness of the plywood 18mm. The short support pieces attach to the inner legs, the long support attach to the desk top.

Step 5: Time to sand! I used an orbital sander for the desk top. I took care to round off all the edges and corners, they can be very sharp! I used a sanding block (sand paper wrapped around a block of scrap wood) to hands and the rest. I used 120 grit sandpaper, would have used a higher one but that's the highest I had at the time.

Step 6: Now you're ready to assemble the desk! Lay the desk top upside down and put a layer of plastic on top (or at least four smaller pieces for the corners). Screw the inner leg pieces to the short supports. I clamped it lengthwise to make sure they don't move when driving the screws in.

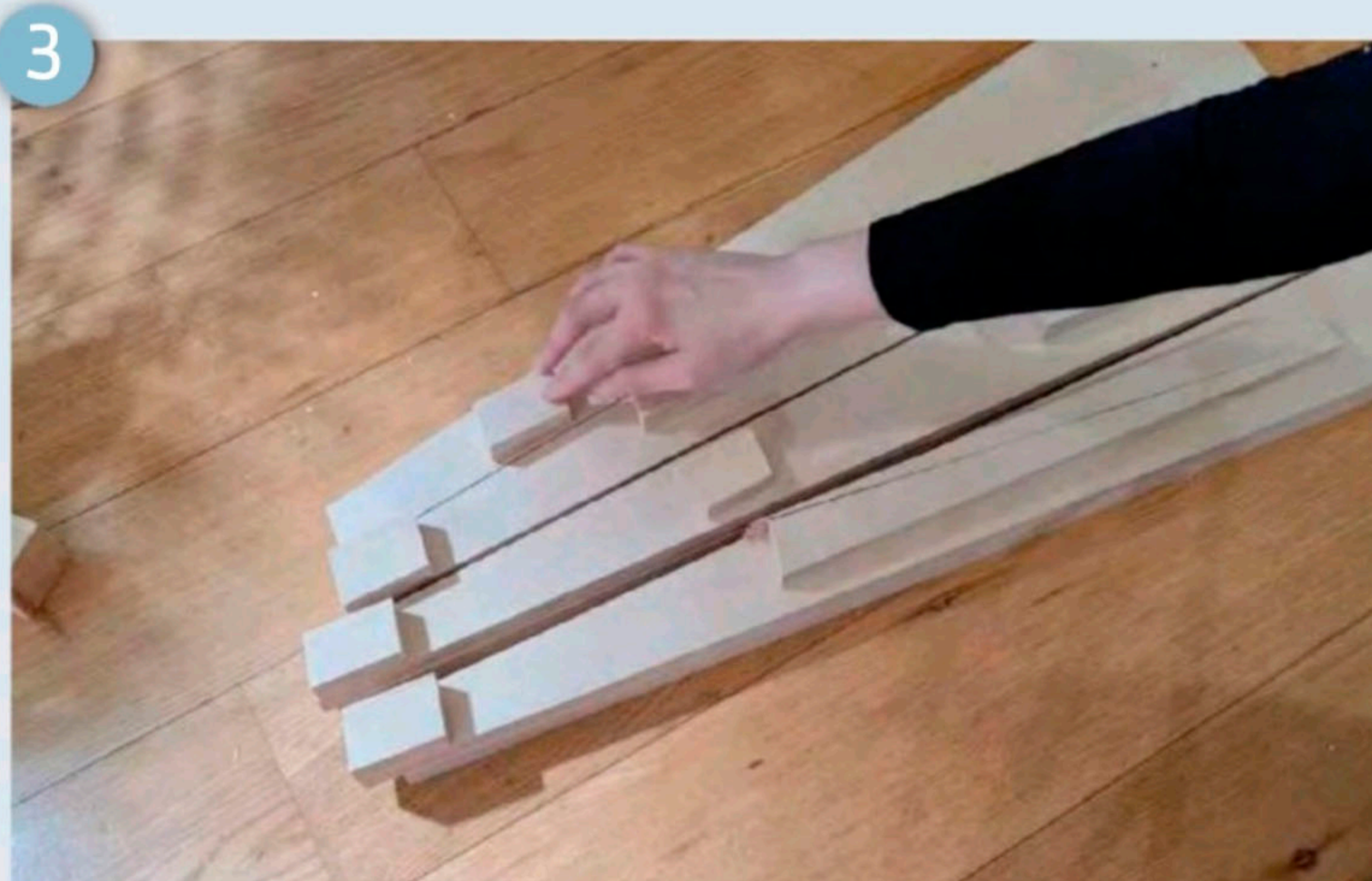
Grab your wood glue. Work on one side at a time, glue a long support to the outside of the inner leg piece then glue the outer leg piece onto the other side of the long support, and clamp them tight. Adjust if



This is the plan laid out over a 244cm x 122cm plywood sheet



Cut the short support, long support and legs pieces to size using the mitre saw



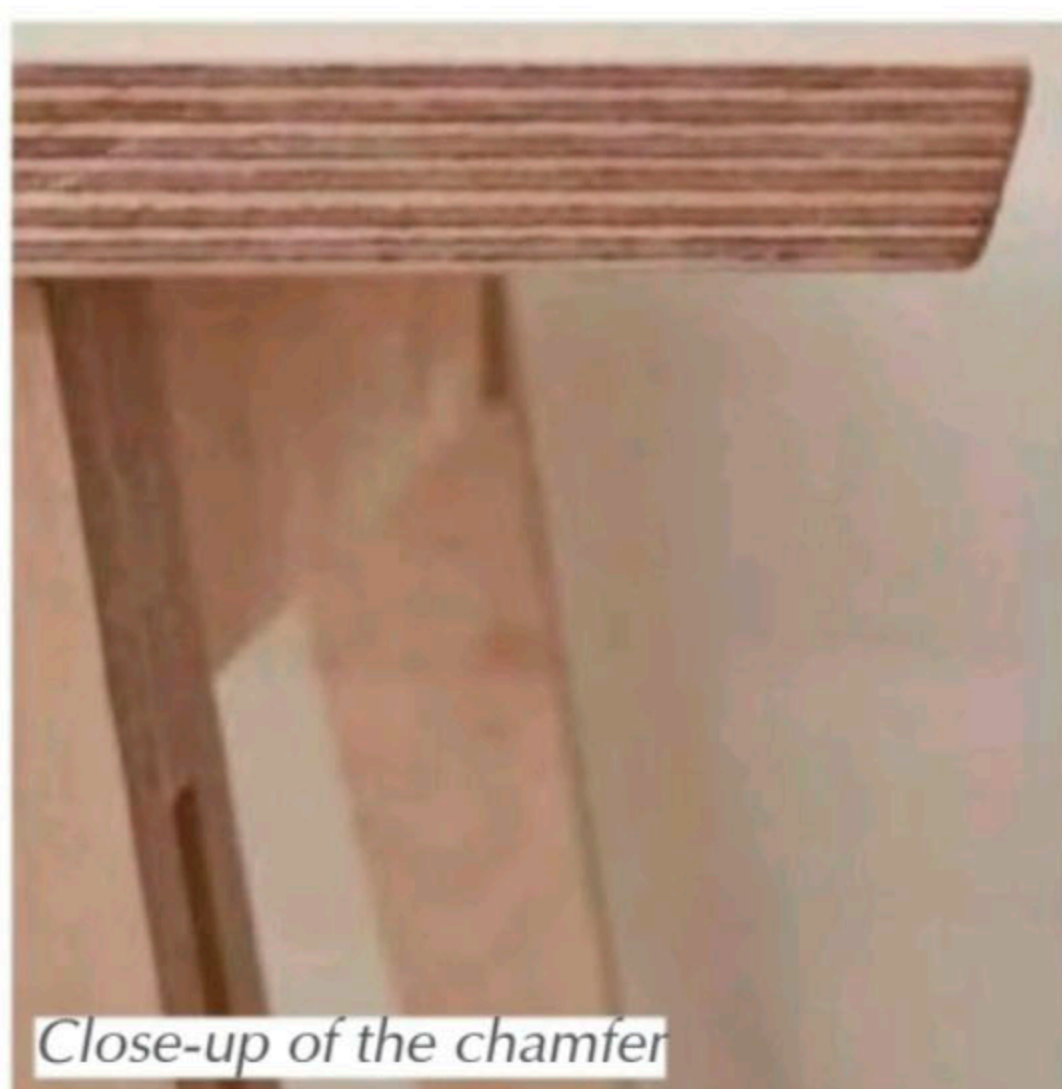
Make the connector of the 'hair pin' legs

needed (they might move when you clamp). Repeat for all four legs. Make sure they are resting on the plastic so the glue doesn't set onto the desk top prematurely.

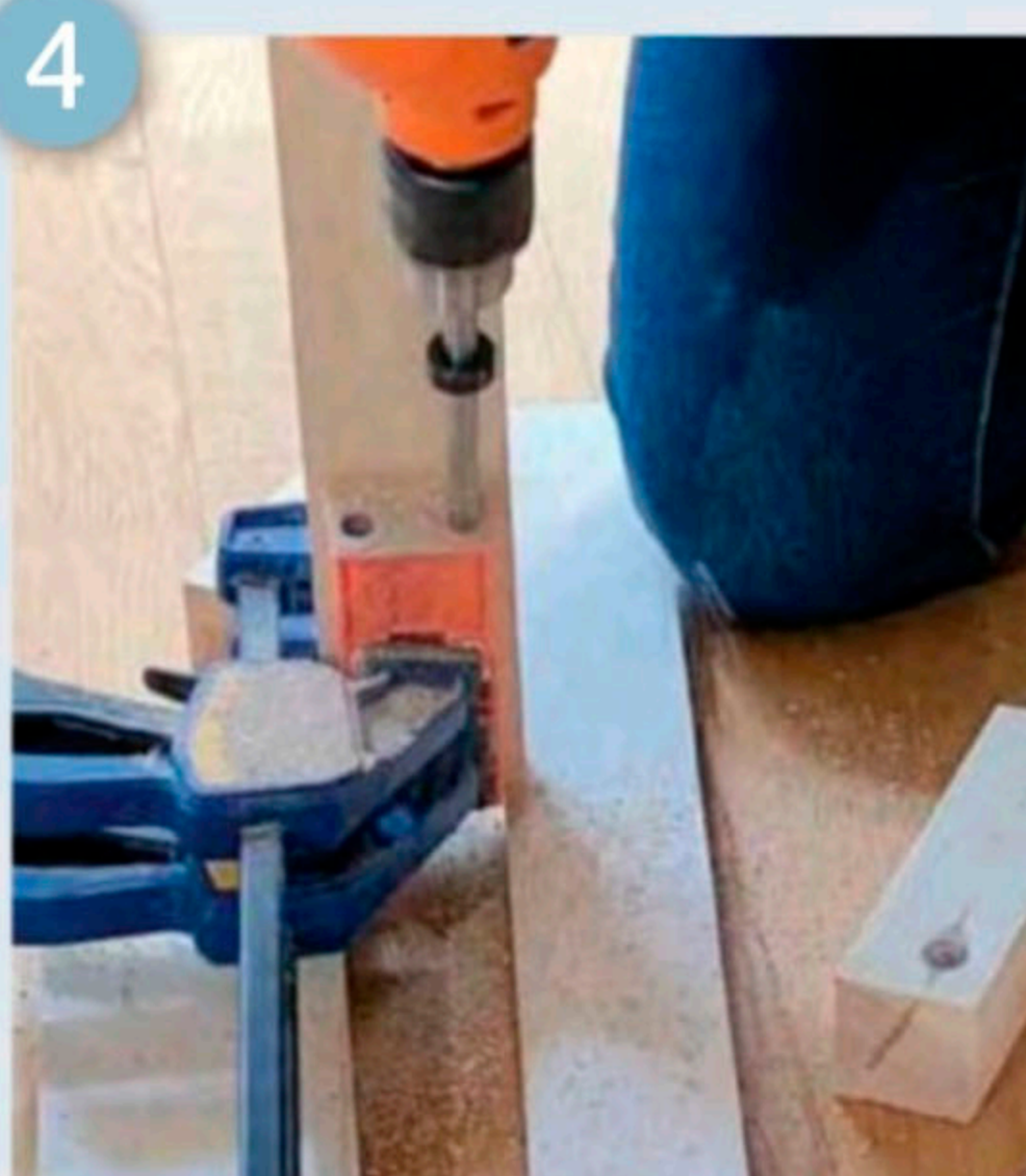
Note that the pocket holes on the long supports should all be on the inside! The image shows one of them having holes on the outside, I assembled it wrong! It isn't a big issue for me though, because my desk sits against a wall lengthwise, so hides them quite nicely! Next, take the connector leg pieces and glue them into place.

Step 7: After 24 hours, unclamp and sand off any excess glue. Mark the centre of each edge of the desk top and the supports. Aligning them should then centre your legs and top. Apply wood glue onto the top of the frame, and glue it onto the bottom of the desk top. Apply generously as the cross grains can absorb some glue. Drive screws into the pocket holes along the long supports. Lay some weights on top and leave for 24 hours.

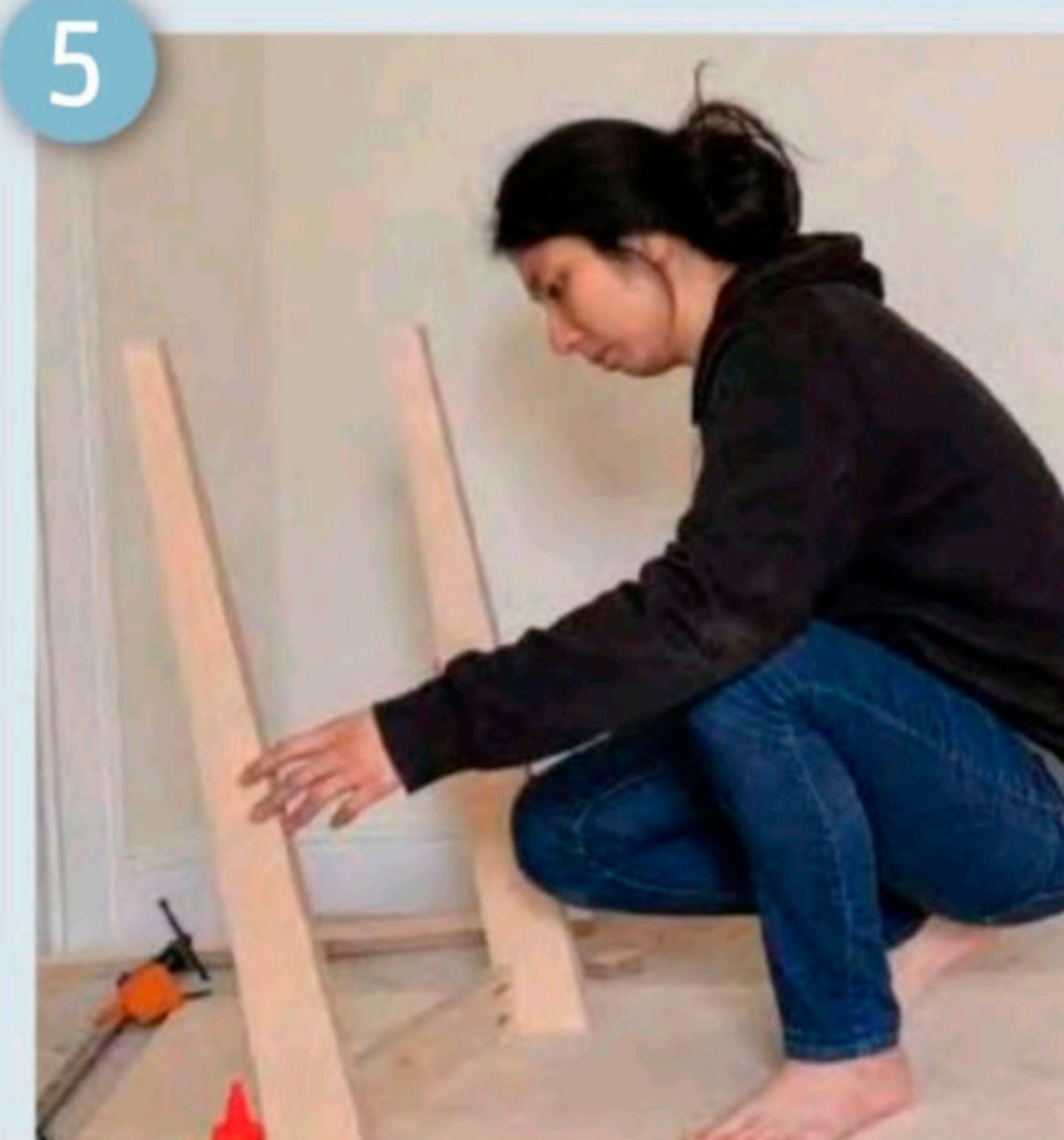
Step 8: Apply polyurethane for a smooth finish. I applied it with a synthetic brush. I used a clear satin finish so it doesn't alter the colour much and it makes the wood texture pop a little more. I applied 1 coat to the legs and support, and five coats to the top as it will be used heavily. I did a light hand sand between each coat.



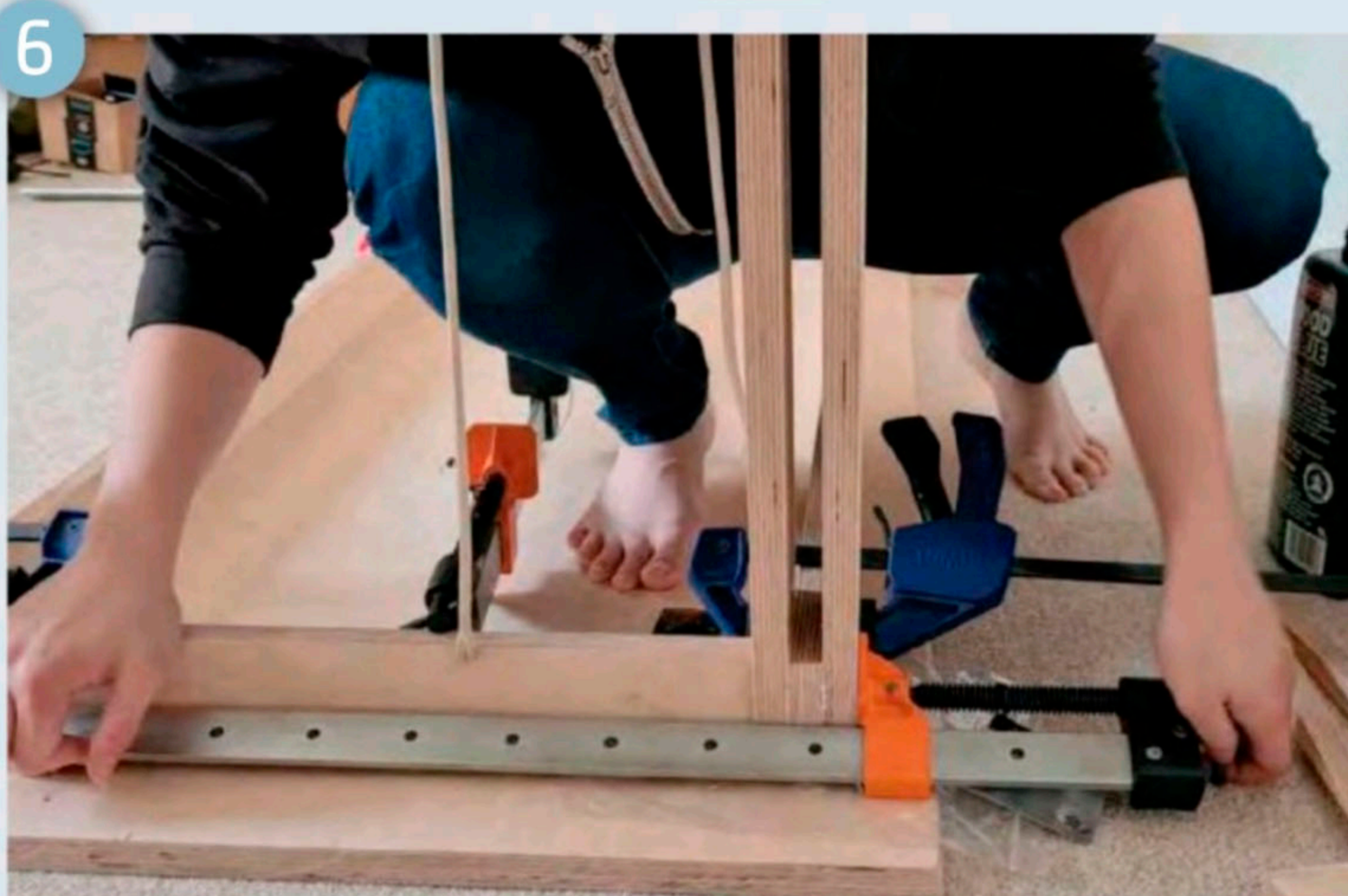
Close-up of the chamfer



Drill pocket holes in the support pieces



Screw the inner leg pieces to the short supports



Assemble the frame



Apply polyurethane for a smooth finish

BRIGHT IDEAS

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

Testing a drill press to ensure even cuts and no runout

Do you experience problems drilling accurately, even when you have nicely centre punched the correct location for a hole? My drill press was letting the bit dance around a bit (quite a bit) when starting a hole, so the hole frequently ended up just off the position where it needed to be. While you might get away with this on some types of woodwork, it can develop into a major problem for your metal projects.

To make sure your drill press is pushing through straight, use a dial indicator precision shaft to test it for any wobble. Among a variety of 'setup' tests, I measured flatness and front-to-back squareness of each machine's table. I also checked for runout (wobble) at the chuck by installing a precision shaft and taking readings off of a dial indicator while slowly rotating the spindle. Runout varied but that range of deviation from a



single axis of rotation didn't seem to transfer into noticeably smoother holes or out-of-round holes.

To test the full drill capacity of the presses, I drilled 50 holes in a test block to ensure that they came out the same across the block. After drilling out the holes, I measured each hole for depth and tested each for smoothness to ensure the drill was making whole, even cuts. I inspected the results for smoothness and consistent cutting depth. Then, I switched to a smaller diameter spade bit and bored another 50 holes.

In testing the drill press, I made 100 test holes and a huge mess in my workshop! It was a tough drilling challenge, to be sure and I made a lot of hamster bedding drilling those holes!

Nigel Kent, Roodepoort

A different kind of wood finish

One of the best, most versatile finishes, coconut oil can be used for a warm, not too shiny and easy to take care of wood finish. Whether you are new to woodworking of a seasoned DIY pro, if you have not tried finishing wood with coconut oil, you should definitely try this idea out. It's much easier to deal with than traditional wood oil, the coconut oil finish will leave your wood glowing. Hides imperfections and scratches, too! This is my favourite DIY trick which I've discovered recently!

Alan van Tonder,



Making a plan

Recently when wanting to use my Ryobi scroll saw, I realised that the rubber piston, that operates the blower, had perished. What to do? Having a spare nebulizer, I connected the hose which fitted perfectly to my saw and I was back to work!

Craig Sharp, Springs

WINNER



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Valued at R600

Send your bright ideas to:

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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 Craig Sharp who wins a TorkCraft motion sensor LED ceiling Tri-light.



Kids love slime, and this is a great way to use all those leftovers to make something beautiful.



What you need

- Slime (you can buy from the shops or learn how to make your own by reading the July/August 2019 issue of *The Home Handyman*)
- Containers for the slime
- Recycled plastic lids



TOP TIP! This project is messy! Spread out a large sheet of paper on your work surface, the drippy slime gets everywhere.

Art & science for kids: Slime suncatchers

>> Ana Dziengel

I'm obsessed with suncatchers. And slime. When we recently made neon Slime I accidentally left some slime out on the table and it dried up and became translucent. Then I had one of those crafty "Ah ha moments!" Maybe we could turn our bits and pieces of leftover slime into suncatchers. So we did, and the fact that these stick to glass is a bonus!

I love the way these look. The colour and transparency changes as they dry and they are really easy (albeit messy) to make. So the next time you make slime set some chunks of different colours aside and turn them into galactic art!

Step-by-step guide

Step 1: Place each colour of slime in separate containers on your work surface.

Step 2: Break off chunks of slime and place in the plastic lids. If your slime is gooey drip and drop it over the lids.

Step 3: Place enough chunks that the lids look full. There may be gaps, the slime will naturally flow and fill in all gaps as it settles.

Step 4: Allow to dry for 36-48 hours.

Step 5: Once the slime becomes dry, gently peel it off the lid and stick on a window.

Step 6: If your slime isn't dry enough it will begin to drip on the glass, in that case remove it from the window, let dry for about 30 minutes wet side up, and try again. You want your suncatchers to be slightly moist so they will adhere to a window.

You're done! These can be removed from glass by gently peeling back a section and pulling. Once removed they will not be able to be re-adhered but you can hang using tape or a string.

What I love about this project is the two in one nature. You can start by

simply making slime with your kids, which is a guaranteed boredom buster, and then use some it to make something lovely for your window. This would be a great double whammy project for the summer time.

Tips:

- Don't pat it down! The slime will naturally flow and fill the lids.
- If your slime has been stored for a while, you may want to knead it before putting it out. Slime made with white glue tends to liquefy a bit when stored. Kneading it again usually brings back the rubbery consistency.
- I recommend using light colours of slime and a combination of slime made with white glue and clear glue. That gives the nicest colour and transparency swirls.
- If you are having trouble removing the suncatchers from your window, try softening them with vinegar.

Art and science

Slime and suncatchers have nothing to do with Isaac Asimov but the cosmic, aurora borealis way these suncatchers look, made me think of astronomy and science fiction and nobody does science fiction better than Isaac Asimov. Isaac Asimov was one of the most prolific and popular science and science fiction writers ever, with over 500 titles under his belt. His genre of science fiction was classified as hard science fiction

for its basis on scientific principles. One of his most famous books is the collection of stories I, Robot and he also developed what he called the Three Laws of Robotics. In fact, he is even credited with coining the term robotics though he said he'd heard it used before.

Asimov also wrote non-fiction, was a leader in Mensa and the Humanist Society, and is a fascinating figure for his broad creative and scientific works.



1



Gather all your supplies

2



Place enough chunks so that the lids look full

3



Allow to dry for 36-48 hours

4



Many different colours can be used

ASK OUR EXPERTS

Our panel of experts answer your questions on DIY problems

What is the difference between MIG and MAG welders?

Would anyone be able to help explain the difference between these two welders and also who sells good quality

Charlie Tyrell, by email

Ed replies: Only inert gases or gas mixtures are used for the shielding gas when MIG welding. Typical inert gases used for MIG welding are argon and helium. These gases are usually used for MIG welding of aluminium and other non-ferrous metals.

MAG stands for Metal Active Gas. Active gas mixtures have been developed primarily for welding steels. Typical shielding gases are mixtures of argon, carbon dioxide and oxygen e.g. CO_2 , Ar + 2 to 5% O_2 , Ar + 5 to 25% CO_2 and Ar + 10% CO_2 + 5% O_2 .

The composition of the shielding gas has a substantial effect on the stability of the arc, metal transfer and the amount of spatter. The shielding gas also affects the behaviour of the weld pool, particularly its penetration and the mechanical properties of the welded joint.

Regarding your question on where to buy a welding machine, depending where you live there are numerous reputable online retailers who offer free delivery to local areas. E-Weld Online is a well known website which offers the same high quality and comprehensive range traditionally available on the market. Visit their website www.walmart.co.za (they offer free delivery in Johannesburg along with a full range of accessories).



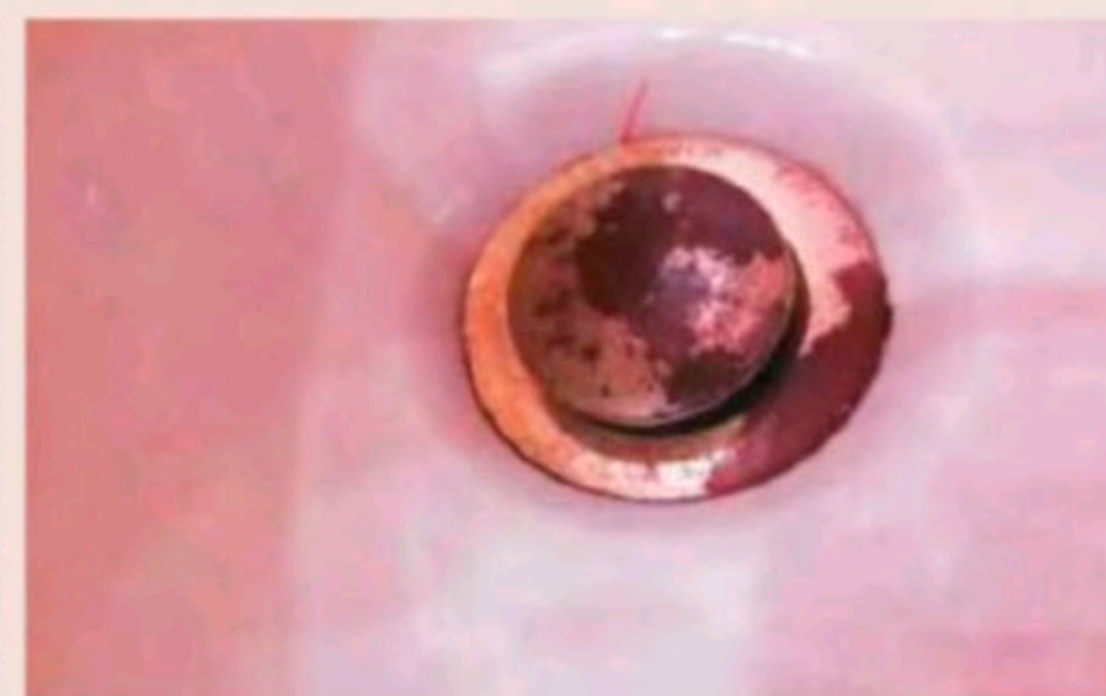
How to clean corroded rusty bathtub waste hole

I'm replacing an enamel bathtub waste drain and have removed the old plughole, but it is quite corroded/rusty where the old black rubber washer was seated below the chrome plughole. What is the best way to clean this up before fitting a new waste? Scrape with screwdriver? WD40? Some sort of commercial rust

remover? If so what type? Any advice greatly appreciated.

Frank Lilley, by email

Ed replies: Do not use any form of chemical cleaner as this could etch the enamel surface and ruin it. We suggest you try a scouring powder cleaner but you may find the rust has deeply stained the enamel.



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Our winning query comes from Basil Evdemon who wins a subscription to *The Home Handyman* magazine for a year.



Cleaning a brick surface

My house was built with a reddish face brick which the builder decided to coat with some sort of sealant. It was explained at the time that this would prevent damp, but it has been found over time that is not the case and there are a few damp cases on the inner walls and visible efflorescence.

The face brick has also weathered, and it seems that the sealant is coming off and leaving a very patchy surface. See the photos.

I have, over a small area, tried to clean the brick surface with water and a soft brush, but this did not make a difference.

Questions:

- 1) Is there a safe method that can be applied to remove the remainder of the sealant skin?
- 2) Is there a solvent that can be used and what type would you recommend for the brick surface?
- 3) Would using high water pressure be an alternative suitable approach?

Kindly advise ways of possibly restoring brick surface to its original state. Any guidance will be appreciated.

Basil Evdemon, Pretoria

Ed replies: Thank you for the query. The advice we received for your query was to first try remove the sealant with a pressure washer (this will also remove the efflorescence, however, as this is caused by a damp issue, it will return).

There are other remedies though: Before you can begin, you will need the right tools to get the job done. The more prepared you are to tackle a problem, the quicker and easier it will likely be. You will generally need: a heat gun, a scraper or wire brush, a sponge, and some isopropyl alcohol. Some tools – like the scraper – are interchangeable. If you have a metal putty knife or even a utility knife, those will work just fine. Just make sure that you have all the tools you need; nothing is worse than getting started only to find that you don't have the tools that you need.

It is also possible to remove old sealant by simply chipping away at it. This will take a lot of time and even more effort to achieve. That said, the best and most effective way for removing old sealant is to properly heat it up to make it more pliable.

Use your heat gun to properly soften up the sealant. Just make sure that you move the heat gun carefully and slowly across the caulk to prevent damage to the bricks. Keep going until the caulk has softened up to a reasonably pliable state.

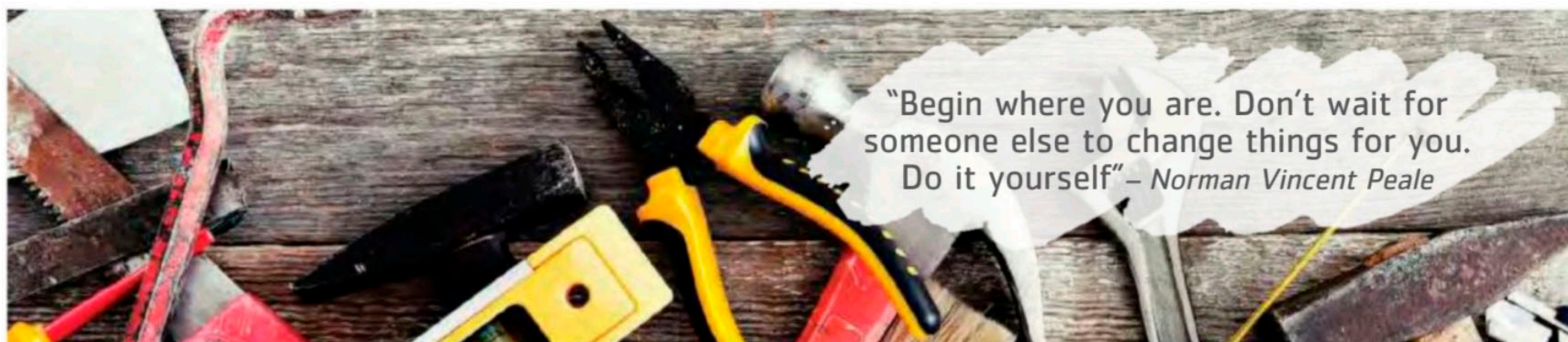
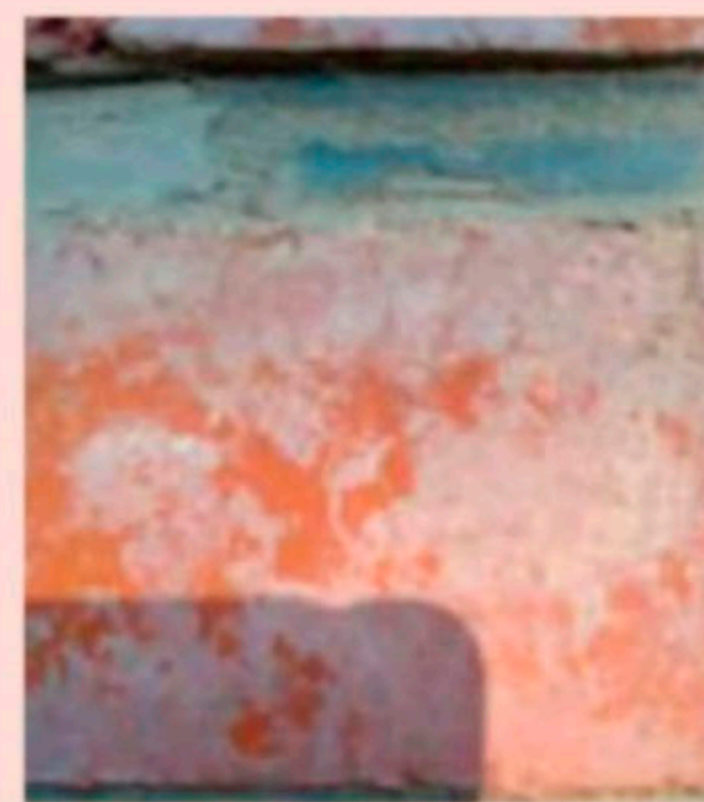
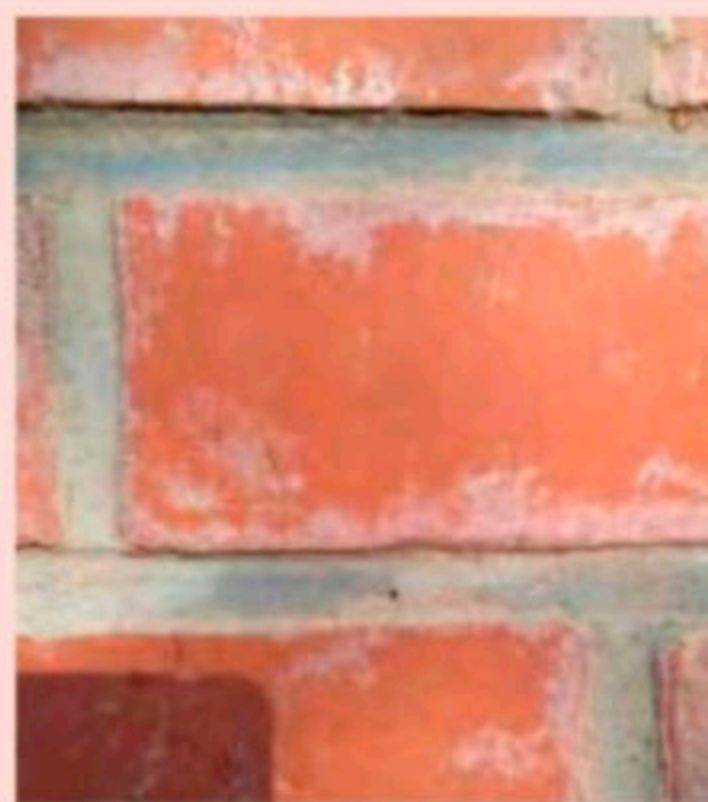
Now that the sealant has been softened properly, it is time to start cutting it away. A putty knife or scraper is the best tool for the

job, though a utility knife should work fine. And since we are working with brick, you can work a little looser without the risk of damage to the brick.

If the sealant has been softened properly, you should be able to remove the vast majority by cutting or breaking it away. If it doesn't move, heat it up again to make it more pliable. When you are done scraping, there should not be much left. Any leftover should be scraped away using a wire brush. Scraping away the little bits will make the next step easier.

Even if you can't see it, the sealant will have left a residue behind on the brick. It is important to get rid of this residue otherwise the new layer of caulk may not adhere properly. And if the sealant can't adhere properly, it can't do the job that it was meant to do.

Use a bit of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol to clean the area. Isopropyl alcohol is colourless and won't do any damage to the brick. Just make sure that you don't use it near high heat or a flame as it is very flammable. If you are working on brick in an enclosed space, open the windows. Isopropyl alcohol has a very strong smell, so be careful not to inhale much of it.





FREEHAND ROUTING

We are ready to start learning the six fundamental ways of guiding a hand-held router (fitted with the appropriate bit) to achieve a specific woodworking task.

>> Denis Lock

These six techniques are applicable to all categories of woodworking. Whether you are making children's toys, novelty items like jewellery boxes, treenware (wooden kitchen items), stand-alone furniture, built-in furniture or large items like arched doors and door frames the techniques apply across the whole spectrum. Woodcarvers and woodturners also can make use of some of the techniques.

The first technique is freehand routing: the first to be discussed and the first I recommend that you practice. Freehand routing is you and the router and no additional guidance accessory such as a fence. The result is a direct measure of your familiarity with the weight and feel of your router and your eye-hand coordination. I must hasten to point out that this is not the most important of the six techniques. Some router owners have successfully routed for years without ever doing any freehand routing. It is, however, a fun application and has more uses than you would initially think. It is also an excellent way of familiarising yourself with the feel of your router, improving your eye-hand coordination and improving the dexterity of your non-dominant (usually the left) hand. It is the first technique I have my students practice.

There is a very important rule that applies to freehand routing. The rule is small cuts only! My definition of a small cut is a bit

of 8mm diameter or less and a single pass cut depth of 4mm or less. You probably do not have the strength to control a larger bit spinning at 24 000rpm. Your reflexes are certainly not good enough. You end up with a beast that makes up its own mind as to where and how it is going to cut. It was a woodworker who broke this rule who coined the phrase: "The quickest way to ruin a good piece of wood is to take a router to it."

Let's start with freehand lettering or sign writing – adding text to wooden items. Photo 1 is one of my earliest examples: the words *Chip 'n Dip* added to a snack tray. The bit used was a 90° V-bit (Photo 2). In order to improve the view of the workpiece through the opening in the router base the bit was inserted with 15mm of the shank exposed. The depth of cut was set at 0,75mm by using an old credit card as a gauge. With a 90° bit this will give a 1,5mm wide V-groove. These two details are discussed in my July/August 2021 article. One of the challenges of hand-held routing is securing the workpiece. Photo 3 shows how a pine blank is secured for my students to practice routing the word *Chip*. My September/October 2019 article *Securing your work* gives a lot more ideas.

You might argue that as you are only making small cuts a laminate trimmer (palm router) can be used leaving a free hand to secure the workpiece. Certainly, use a laminate trimmer if





you have one. Don't try to secure the workpiece with your free hand. One of my students tried this – the result is shown in Photo 4. I must hasten to add that this didn't happen in my workshop.

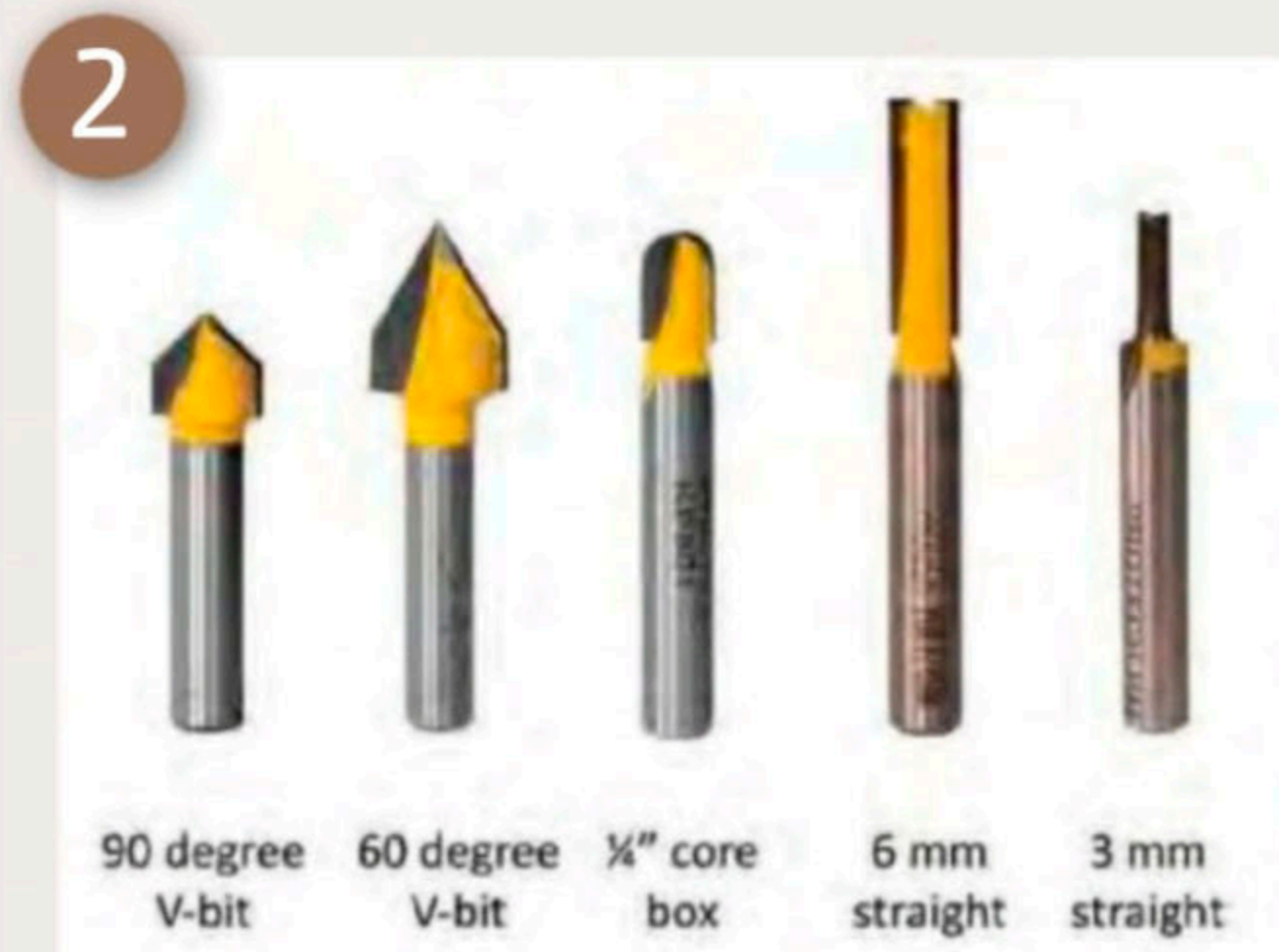
Isn't a 1/4" router too bulky and heavy for this type of work? No, it isn't a number of my lady students have used my Bosch 1/4" routers (they tip the scales at 3,5kg) without any problem to complete the exercise shown in Photo 3. Let me take you through the steps to do the exercise shown in Photo 3. I used Microsoft PowerPoint to produce the word *Chip*, printed it out and used carbon paper to transfer it to a pine blank. There are, of course, many other computer packages and many other ways of achieving the desired result.

The original (Photo 1) was drawn freehand. I set up my router with a V-bit and a plunge depth of 0,75mm. I prefer to generally pull the router towards me. Try both directions and decide which you are most comfortable with. Is it pulling towards you or pushing away from you? The letters are routed using one or more router movements (*strokes*). Photo 5 shows that the word *Chip* is routed using seven strokes. Position the router so that the tip of the bit is above the start of the *C*. Switch the router on, plunge till the depth stop is hit, lock the plunge and follow the shape of the *C* (stroke 1, Photo 5). When the end of the *C* is reached release the plunge lock, allow the router to spring up and switch it off. Repeat these six steps for strokes 2 through 7: position, switch on, plunge, rout, un-plunge and switch off. Your objective must be to perform these six steps smoothly with minimum delay between steps: one smooth motion. If you deviate from the pattern gradually return to the marked line.

Your first attempt may look as if it was done by a drunken sailor. Take heart. It doesn't take much practice and you will be signwriting like a pro. You will also find that you can dispense with switching the router off between strokes. Switch on, plunge, rout, un-plunge, plunge, rout... un-plunge and finally switch off. One continuous routing operation. Now you are ready to rout name tags for bedroom doors, guest toilet door, child names on toy boxes, welcome signs for your pub or braai area, sayings like *Give us this*



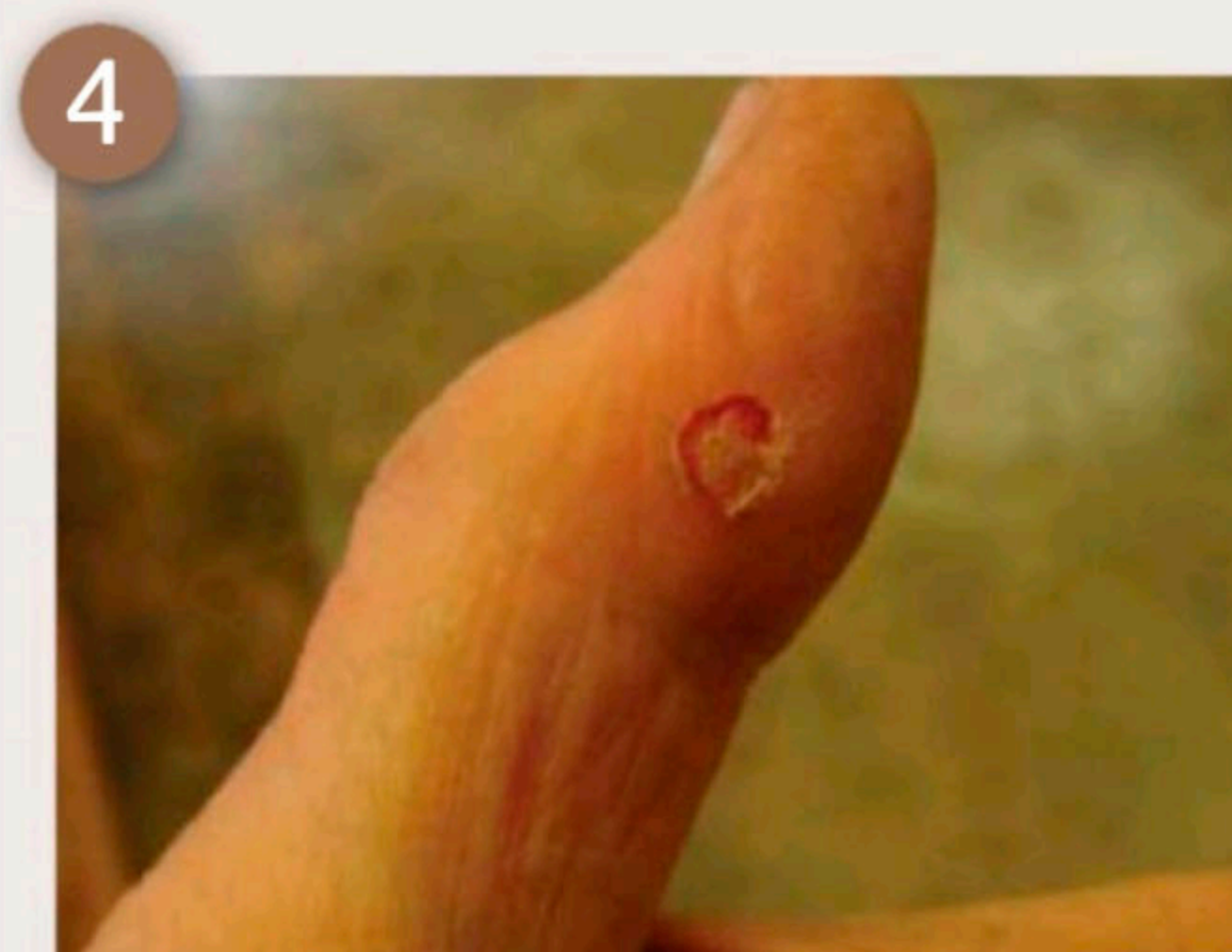
Freehand routing on a snack tray



Bits for freehand routing

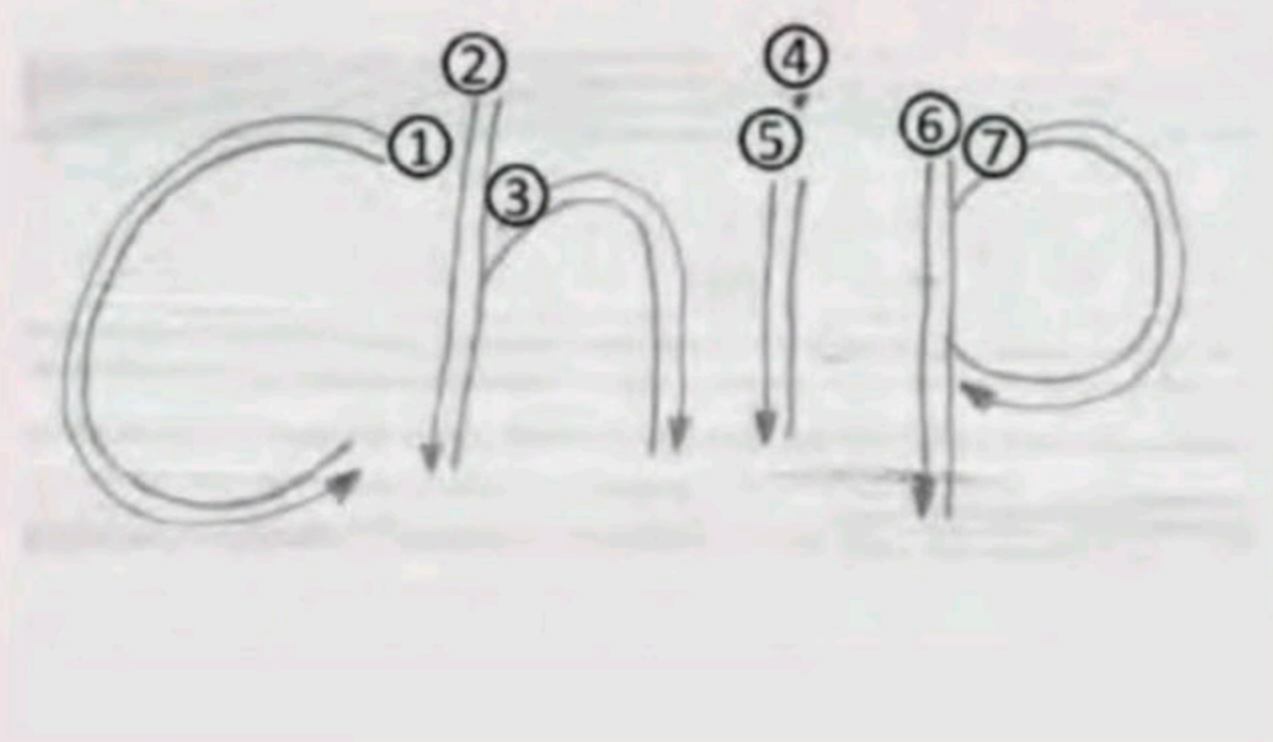


Securing your work



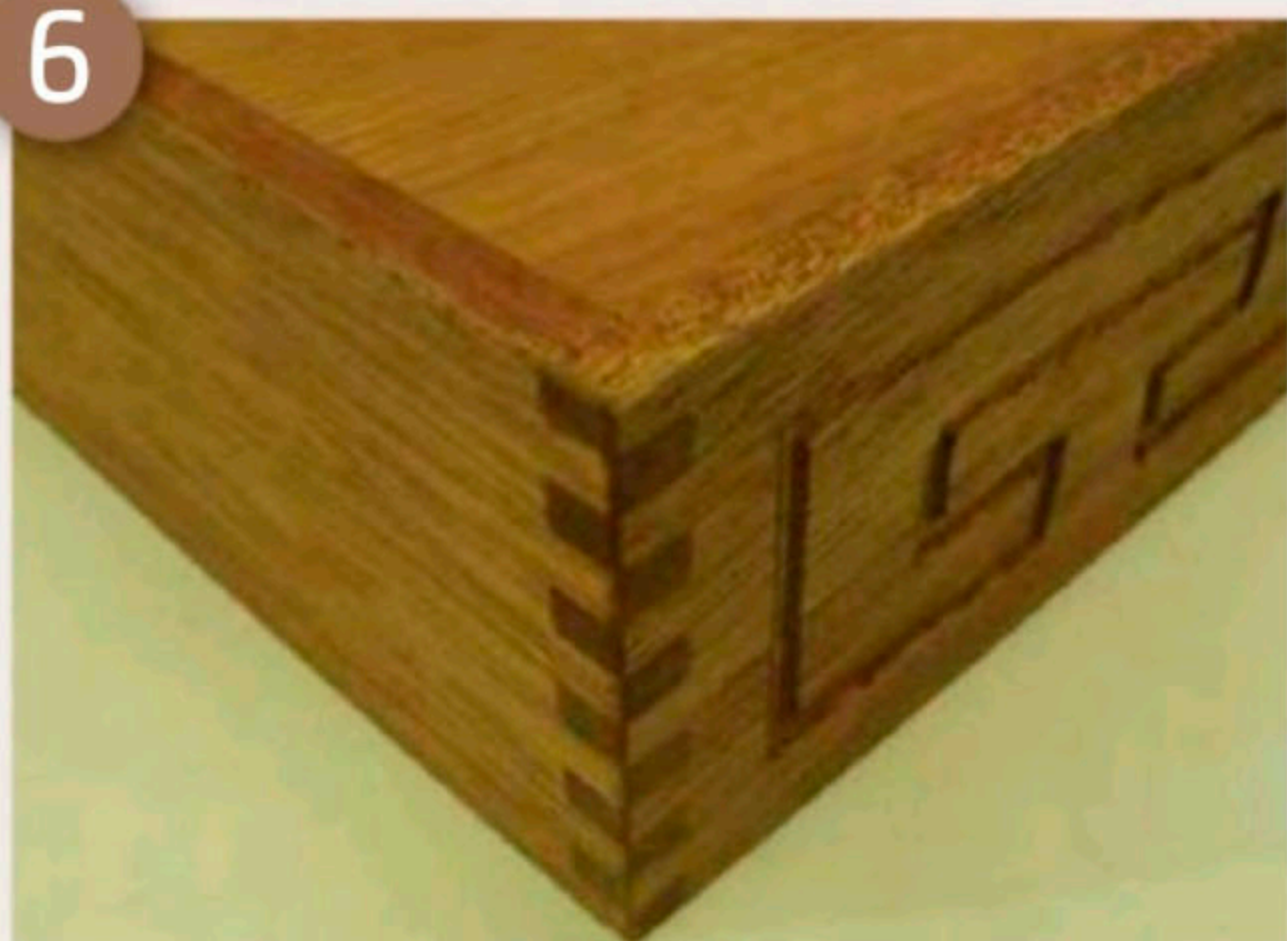
Don't let this happen to you

5



Seven strokes

6



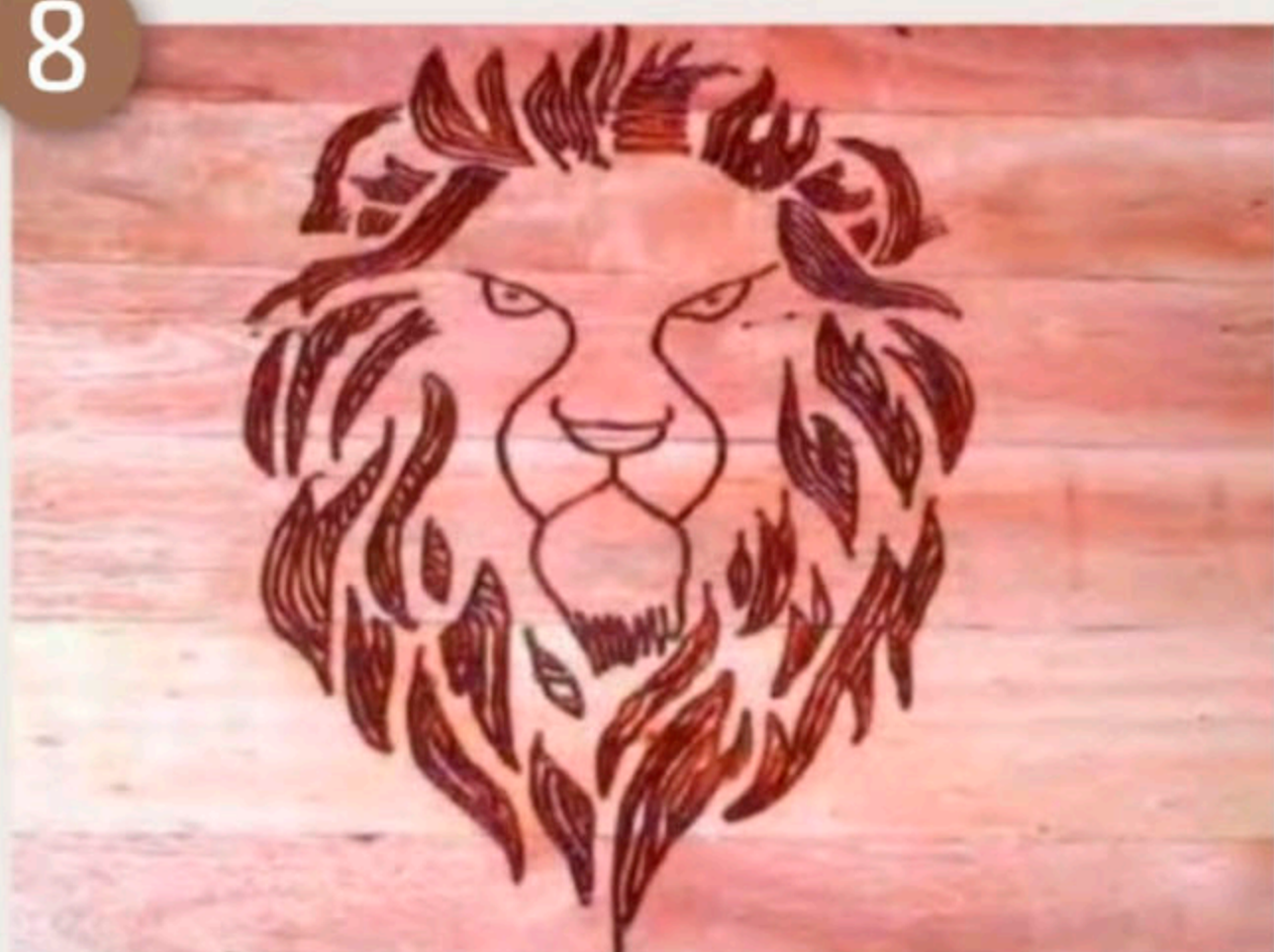
Freehand routing on a keepsake box

7



The full box

8



Line art – a tray

day our daily bread

Cheese anyone? on a cheese board, door and gate numbers and much more. Try some of the other bits shown in Photo 1. Rout at different depths. Play with paints and stains to accentuate the lettering and/or the background.

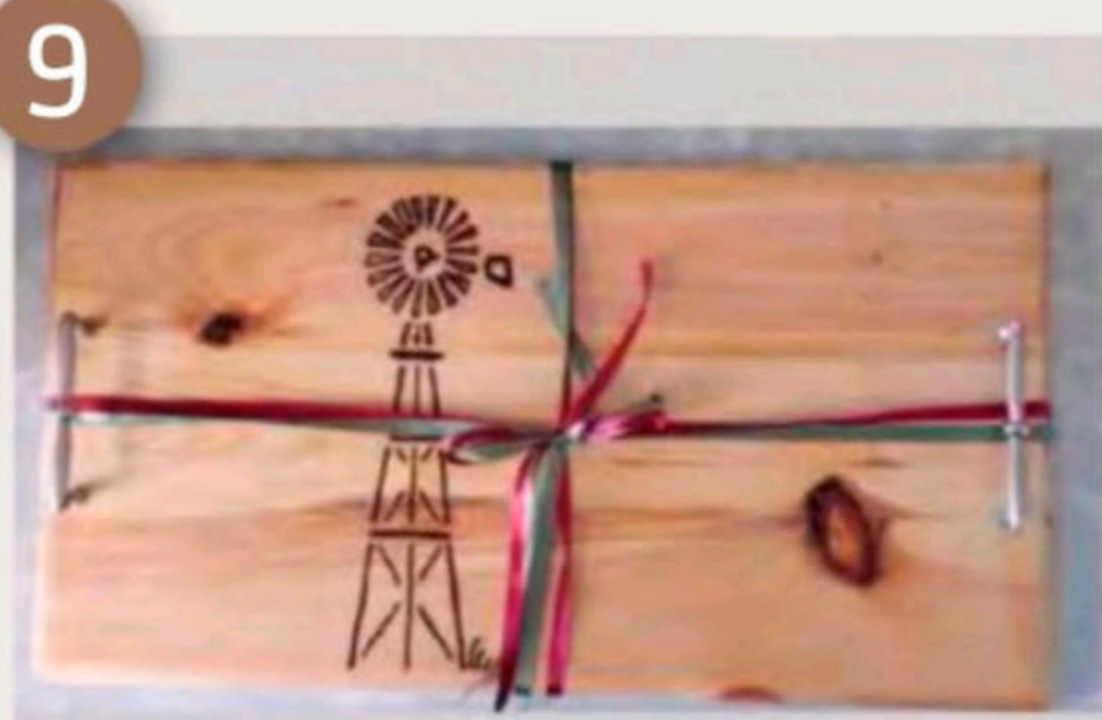
What has been described above is *negative lettering*: the letters are cut out and the background is left intact. You can do the opposite, *positive lettering*, where the background is cut away and the letters are left standing proud. This is a more demanding and time-consuming approach. The result can be awesome as seen in the picture at the bottom of the first page of this article. This is the work of Wolfgang Engling of Silverlakes, Pretoria. Certainly an achievement to aspire to.

Another application is routing geometric shapes on box lids, door panels and other panels. My choice for this routing is the $\frac{1}{4}$ " core box bit seen in Photo 2. I set the depth at 2mm or 2,5mm. I use this approach to relieve the boredom of flat panels. Photo 6 shows a variation of the Greek key motif routed on the side of a keepsake box. The technique used is exactly the same as that for lettering: position, switch on, plunge, lock, rout, un-plunge and switch off. The number of *strokes* are often a lot fewer and the strokes are a lot longer. The motif routed on the side of a keepsake box (Photo 6) was done in one single *stroke*: the start-point and end-point are the same. The result, after 27 right angle turns, is 28 lines routed (Photo 7) in one *stroke*.

The fact that free hand routing results in lines that are not dead straight does not matter. Your piece is unique. It is not one of many identical items produced on a CNC (computerised numerical control) machine. Do a Google search using the key phrase *Greek key motif*. You will find many ideas using this classical motif: rectangular, square and circular. What about stars, Christmas trees, hearts and diamonds? I have routed a pair of interlocking hearts on the lid of a jewellery box. Look at embroidered cloths, aluminium patio tables, printed fabrics, carpets and carvings. Turn to nature for simple designs. I have routed a quarter circle and radiating lines: inspired by a sunset. I have routed multiple sinuous lines: inspired by waves breaking on a beach. Scroll saw patterns are another source of ideas. Once again experiment with different bits and different cut depths.

As a third application of freehand routing we are going to explore is line art routing. Line art is any image that consists of distinct straight or curved lines placed against a (usually plain) background, without gradations in shade (darkness) or colour to represent two-dimensional or three-dimensional objects. The difference between this and the application just discussed is that instead of creating geometric shapes we are going to create organic shapes. Line art generally consists of a lot more lines (router *strokes*) and more variation in line width than what we have covered so far. The technique used is exactly the same as that for lettering: position, switch on, plunge, lock, rout, un-plunge and switch off. Photo 8, the centrepiece of a braaivleis tray was done by Beula Pypers of Middelburg. The tray, Photo 9, was also done by Beula. These are good examples of routed line art. The lion's head makes use of two different stroke widths. My associate's (Michael Sibanda) son is crazy about motor cars. Photo 10 is a wall plaque routed by Michael for Pajero as a Christmas present.

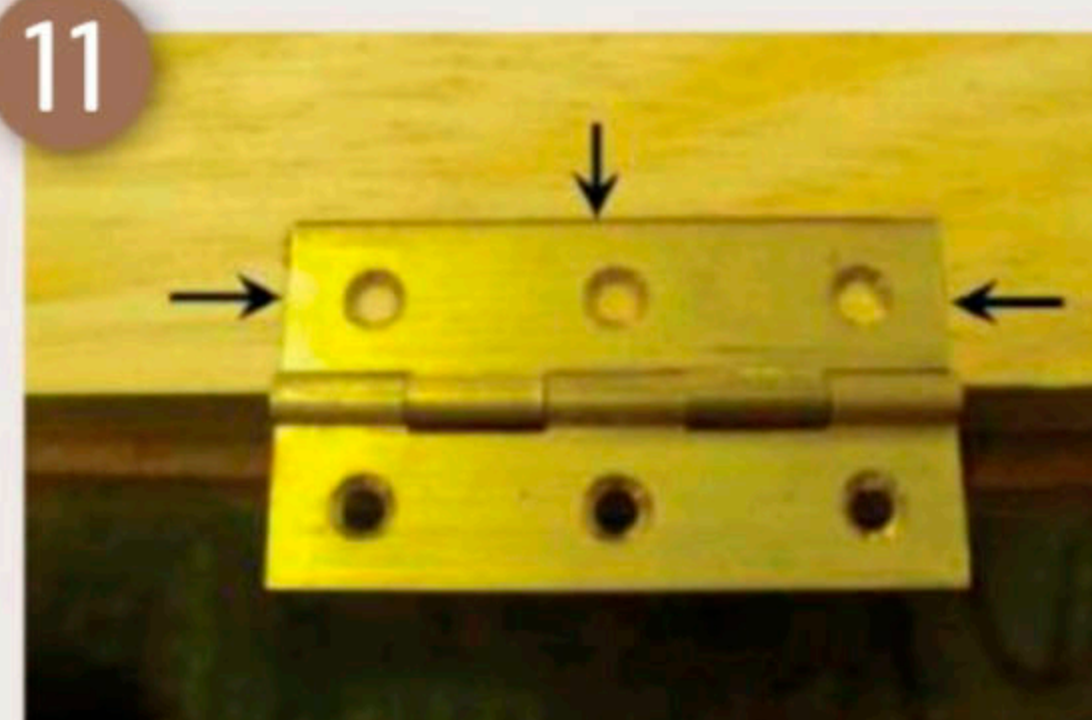
All three of the line art examples have been stained to accentuate the routed images. Google *line art* and you will find many hundreds of royalty free line art images.



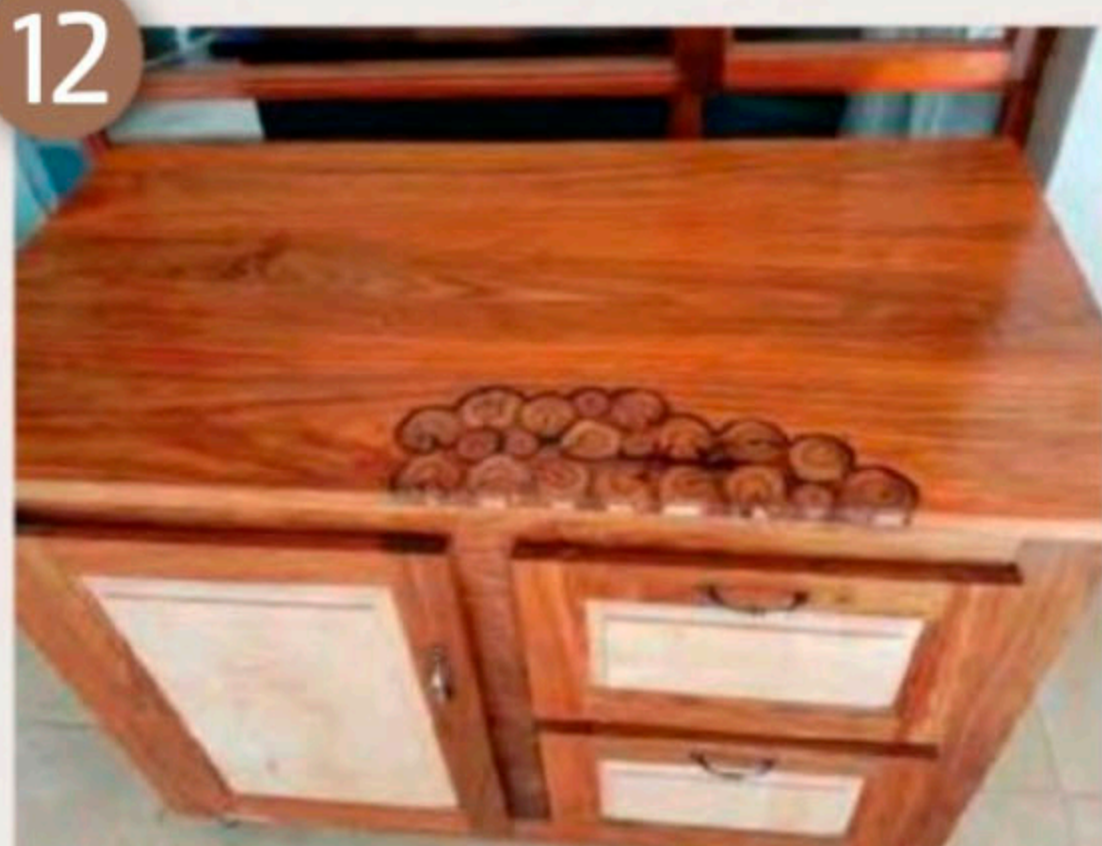
More line art – another tray



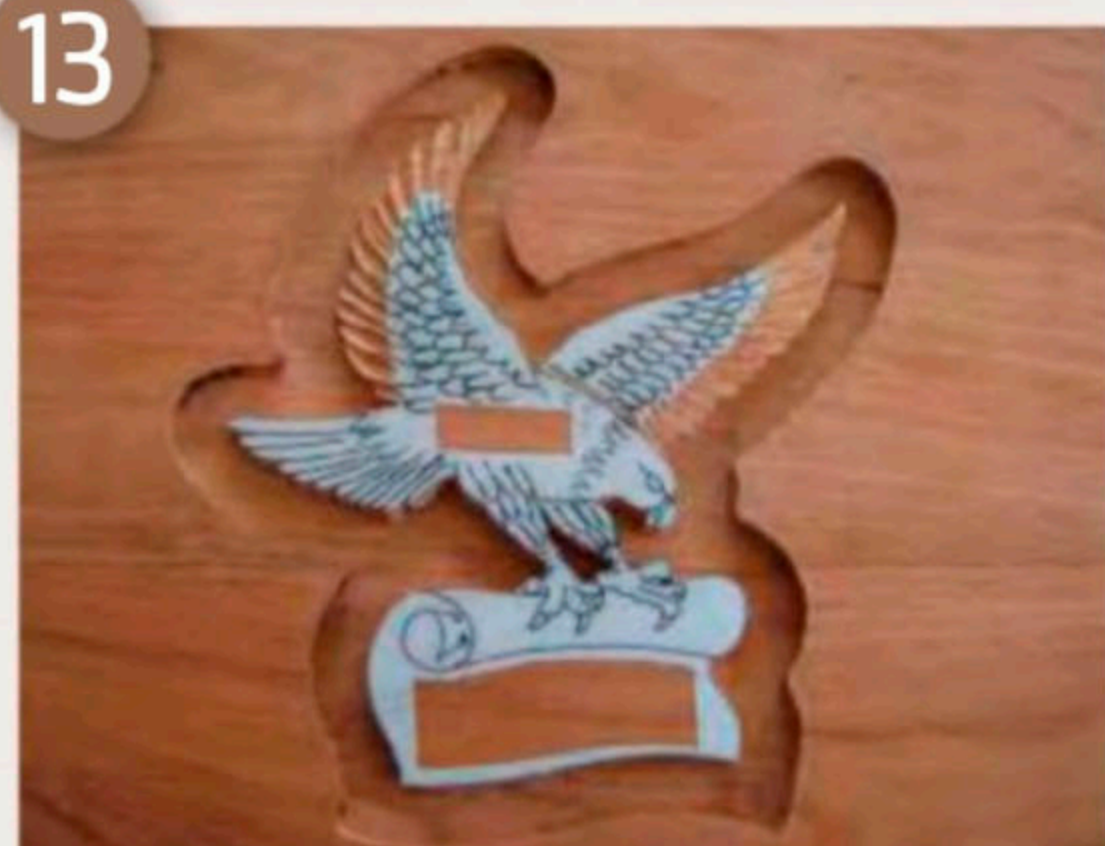
More line art – a plaque



Hinge mortice



Inlaid cabinet top



Altar chair back



Celtic cross

One of my favourite woodworking terms is *Hog away the waste*. It recognises that there are easier and faster ways of getting rid of excess wood before taking a finish tool such as a plane or chisel to the work. I use my table saw, radial arm saw, band saw, drill press and router as hogging tools. To finish this article I am going to cover three examples of using a router to *hog away the waste*. The first is cutting a recess (mortice) for butt hinges (Photo 11). Mark out the recess using a try square and marking gauge. Instead of labouriously chiselling the recess use a router with a 6mm or 8mm straight bit set to cut at the desired depth. Hog away most of the waste by using overlapping strokes. Be careful not to cut into the layout lines: aim to keep clear by a millimetre or so. The recess is at the right depth throughout and a few clean-up cuts along the edges (marked with arrows) with a chisel are all that are needed to get a perfect recess. Use the same approach for fitting other hardware such as locks.

You can also freehand cut recesses for various inlays. Photo 12 is a cabinet made by Piet Scholz of Parkwood. The kiaat top has an inlay of rings (the technical term is oysters) cut from branches of a wild olive tree. The rings are set in a bed of resin. The recess was freehand routed using a straight bit. That saved a lot of chiselling. Photos 13 and 14 show two high-relief carvings done by the late Bill Parrack of Benoni. The first is one of a number of altar chair backs. The second is a Celtic cross. Both needed a lot of background material removed. Bill did

this freehand with router and 8mm straight bit. You can see the router work very clearly in Photo 13. Photo 14 is of a finished project. I challenge anybody to tell whether Bill *cheated* with a router or carved the cross entirely by hand.

I hope I have given you some ideas for extended use of your router. Is it too early to think about Christmas presents? Have fun and add a unique touch to your projects. Thank you to the woodworkers mentioned for permission to use their photographs. Please send me some of your photographs.



ABOUT DENIS:

Denis Lock runs a woodworking school and shop. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic hands-on courses are temporarily suspended. He can be contacted at denis@tacazze.co.za or 082-267-5948. Visit his website at www.routingwithdenis.co.za

WOODWORKER'S CORNER

Sharing techniques, ideas and a love of wood

Start your woodworking journey off the right way

Woodworking is not just a hobby for some, it's a passion that many take pride in. Woodworking for beginners can start with committing a lot of mistakes but you will end up becoming a master who can create a lot of things. However, the first things to hone is your woodworking basics.

Know and follow the safety measures

With technical advancements, most of the woodworking tools have turned motor driven and electronic. Thus, there are sharp objects that are speedy to shape, cut, and smoothen your wood piece. This is good but at the same time, very risky. Therefore, it is very important to know how to handle them properly, without hurting yourself.

First and foremost, go through the manual and guidelines. These are available with both power tools and manual tools. Be sure to maintain a safe distance from cutting blades, saws, utility knives. It is also important to watch your hand before slamming the hammer and other heavy tools. Apart from the safety of yourself, also watch

out for kids' around. Safety is the first woodworking basic that you should abide by.

Set up a woodworking workshop

Working randomly with any piece of wood is never the right way. There is the requirement for a platform and a precise environment where the works can be carried on. But, preferably, one can keep it simple rather than setting up an extravagant garage or open space with too many electrical cords running around. Some ideas involve having a simple workshop table made from plywood and a pair of sawhorses.

Nothing fancy is required. In fact, there is a greater chance of accidents and fallout in the case of beginners. Thus it is safer and more financially convenient to use simple and minimalist setups for working on woodworking projects. However, make sure the surfaces are even and you have the basic tools required.

Sand the wood

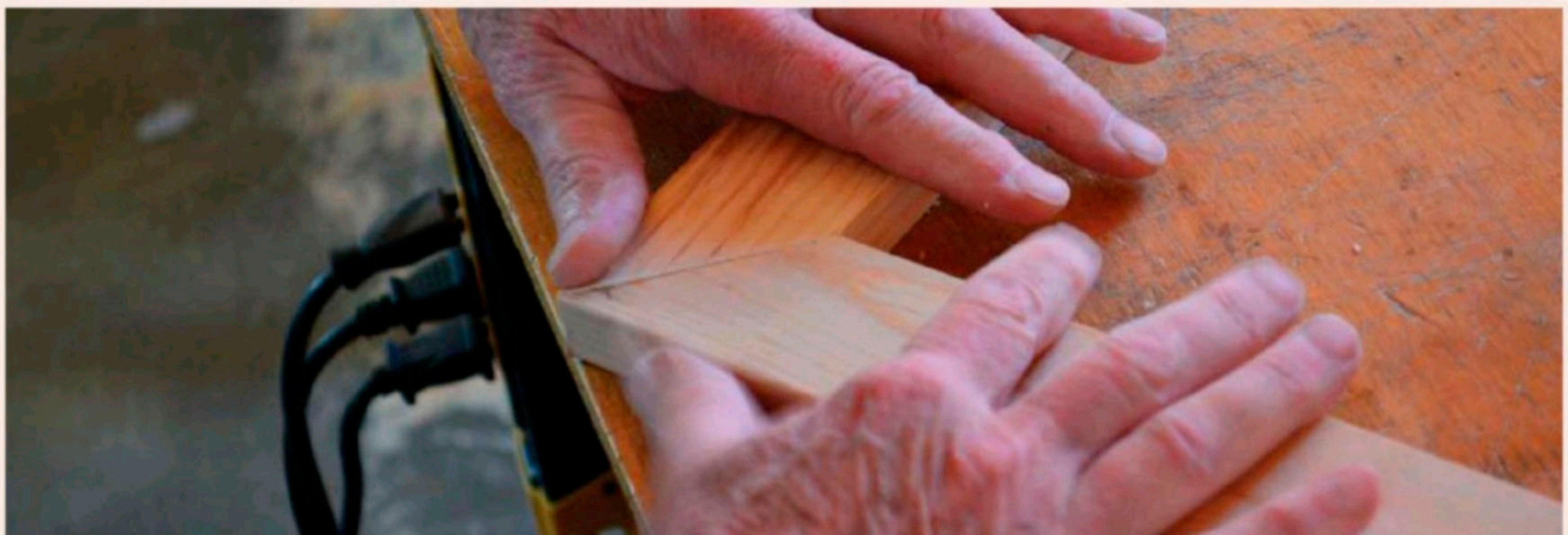
Knowing how to sand wood is a prerequisite in order to get a smooth

surface. There are powerful machines that do the work and make it convenient for you to work on wood. Surfacing also prepares the wood for staining and painting. Sanding the entire lumber surface before starting the work of cutting and ripping is always preferred as the first choice. For this purpose, you can use two types of sanders. One is a belt sander that can be used for larger surface areas. These are heavy duty and the most powerful. Orbital sanders are more appropriate for small and tight areas.

Learn how to take measurements

An important woodworking basic lesson is that you should know how to use a measuring tape. Never take measurements for granted, even a slight millimetre or two can mismatch your fitting operations. Always be cautious when taking measurement.

Along with these few steps, you can also train yourself in sharpening tools and understanding the species and quality of woods. These are easy things but hold utmost importance when it comes to working with woods.



Books, Books, Books

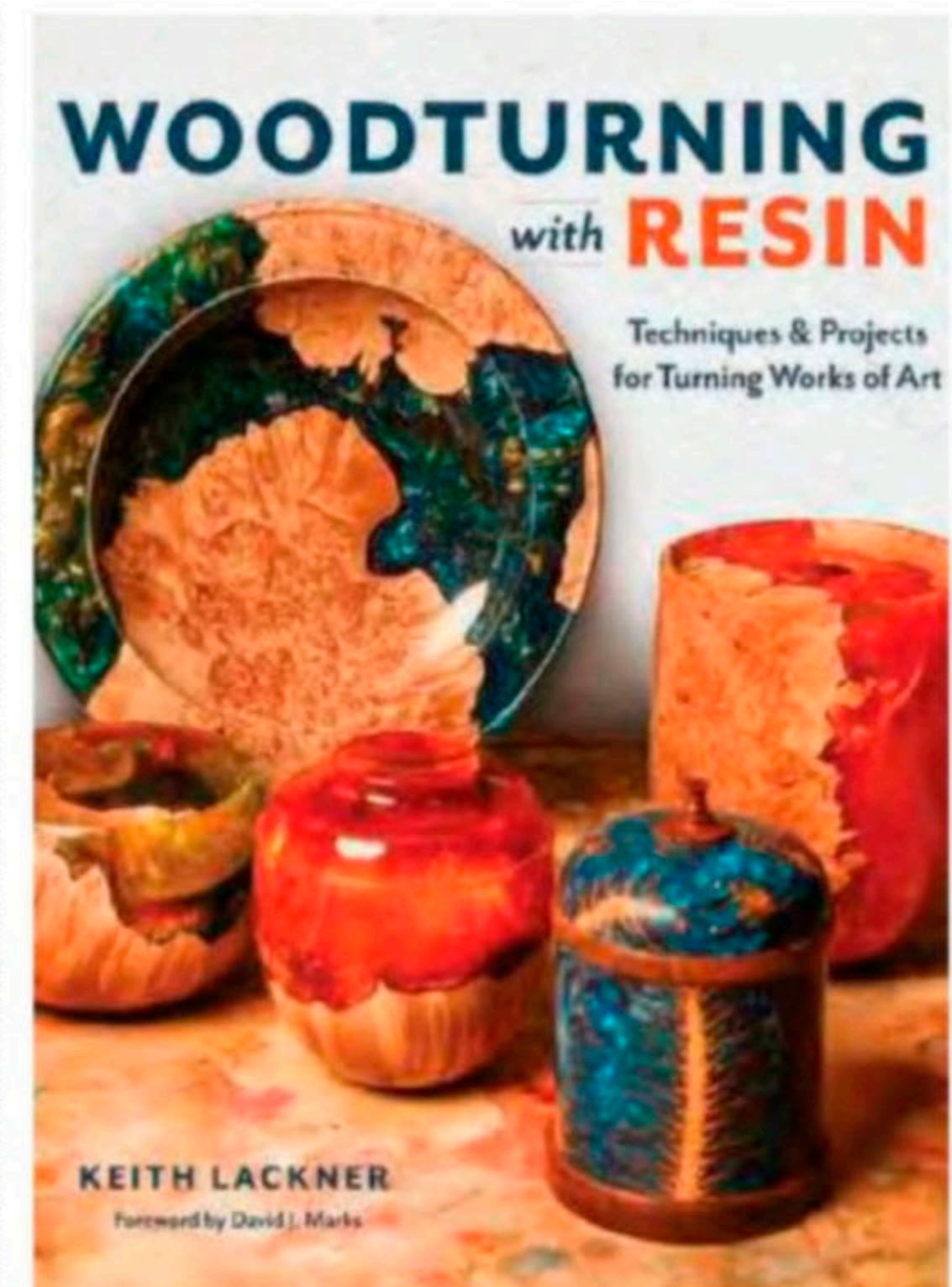
Woodturning with Resin: Techniques & Projects for Turning Works of Art, by Keith Lackner

You've probably seen the dazzling work of woodturners who've combined resin with wood to create gorgeous, one-of-a-kind projects ranging from pens and bowls to platters, boxes and more. The end result is so amazing that you'd think the process would be too complicated and too expensive. It's not. In fact, once you learn the basic techniques of preparing and working with resin, you'll discover that it turns like butter and stunning results will have you thinking about your next project before the lathe has cooled down.

From Keith Lackner, one of the leading resin woodturners today, *Woodturning with Resin* is a go-to guide for anyone who enjoys woodturning or is interested in getting started. With expert instruction and stunning photos, *Woodturning with*

Resin takes you through the golden rules of preparing and curing resin for the lathe. Also covered are the fundamentals of how turning with resin is different than turning wood, the best tools, grinds, and speeds to use, and how to achieve a finish that makes the resin sparkle. With all this premium information under your belt, you'll be able to tackle the wide range of projects that are detailed step-by-step. *Woodturning with Resin* also includes a gallery of projects to spark your imagination and a helpful *Troubleshooting Guide* for when things don't seem to turn out right.

Woodturning with Resin is the only guide you need to discover the fun, beauty, and unlimited potential of adding resin to your woodturning projects.



Understanding Wood Finishing: How to Select and Apply the Right Finish, by Bob Flexner

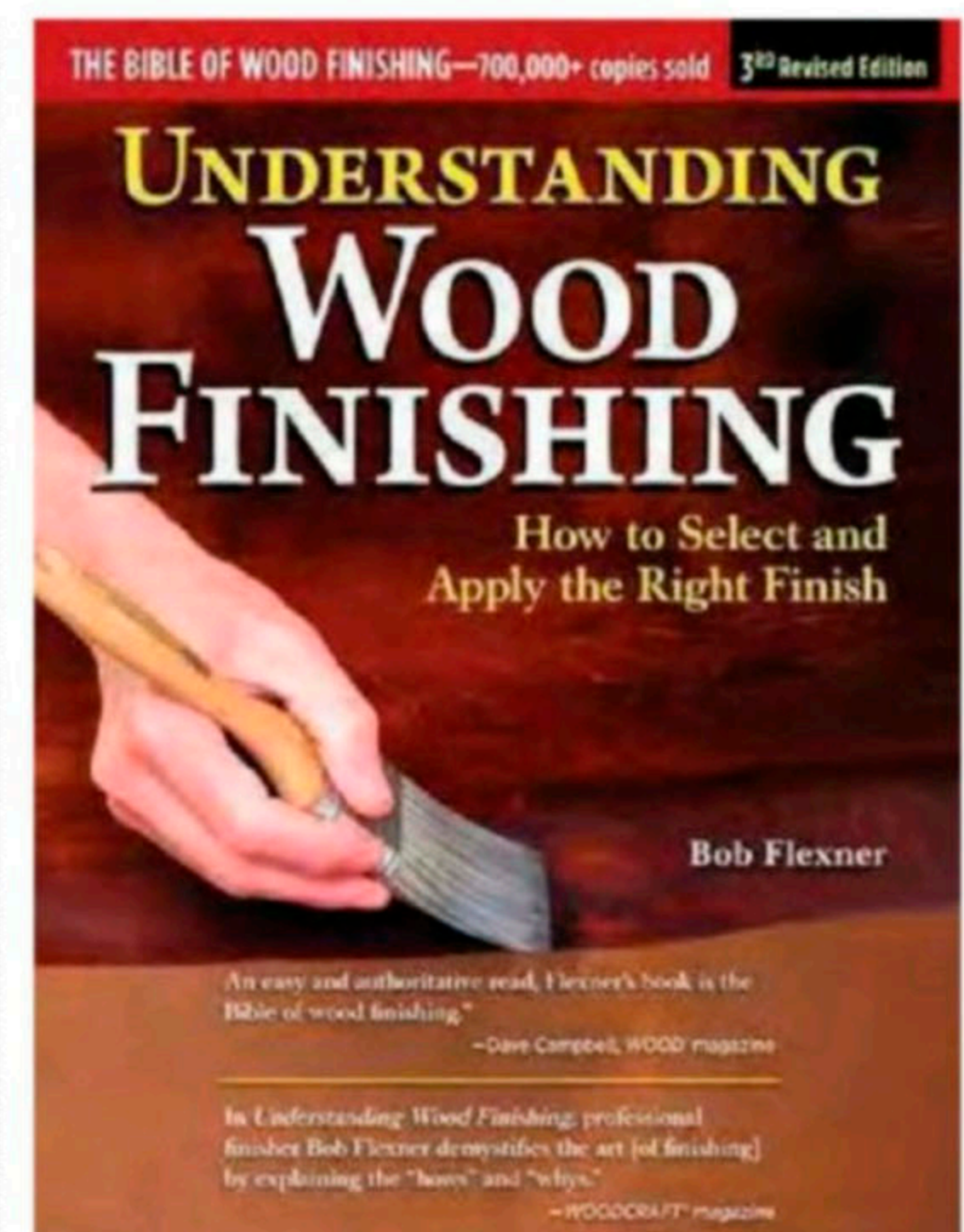
For decades, Bob Flexner has been inspiring and informing woodworkers with his writings and teachings on wood finishing. Now comes the long-awaited and completely updated third revised edition of *Understanding Wood Finishing* – the most practical, comprehensive book on finishing ever published.

Long admired by wood technology professors, magazine editors, professional cabinetmakers, and other industry leaders since its original publication, *Understanding Wood Finishing* is widely regarded as the bible of wood finishing:

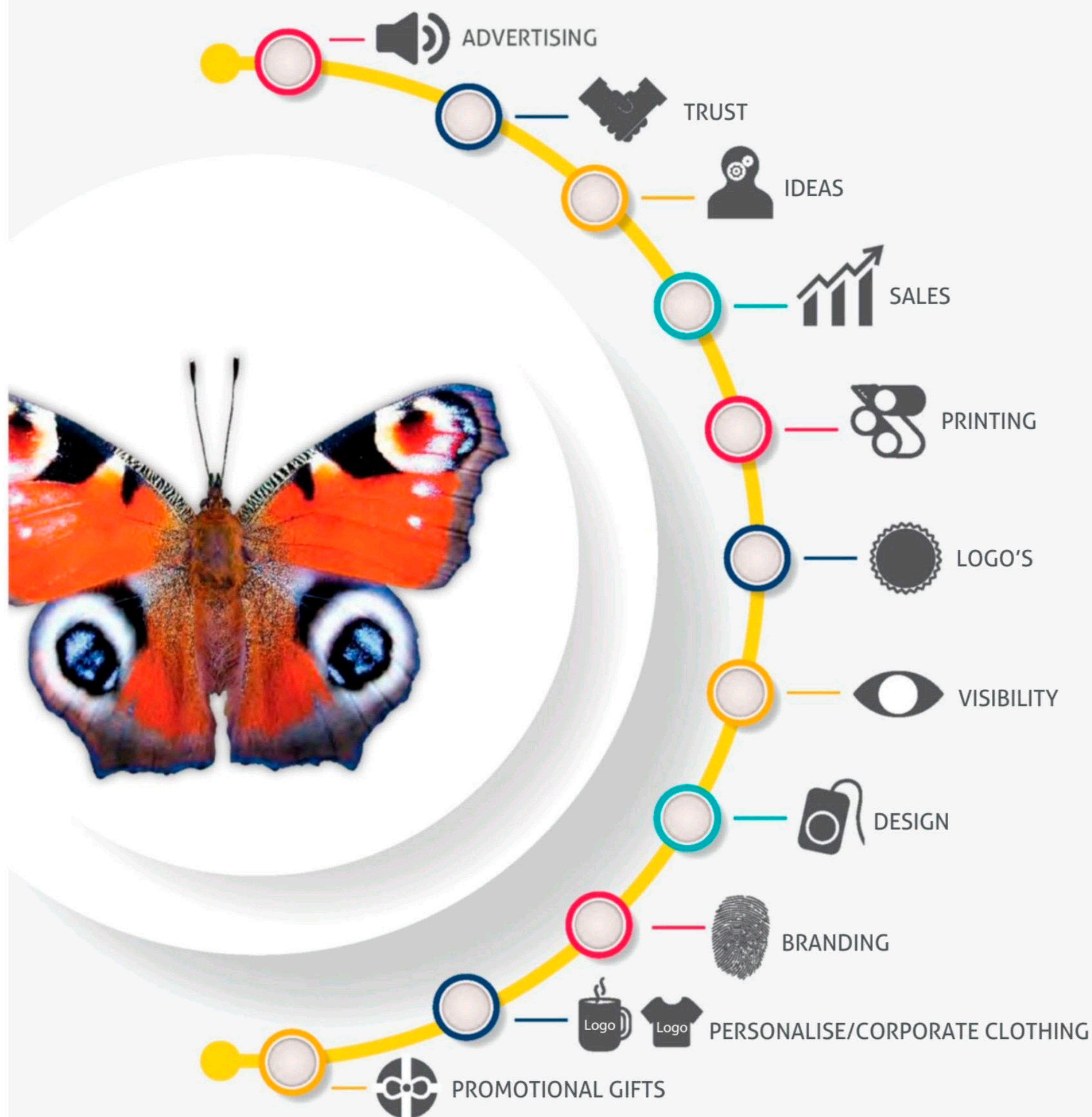
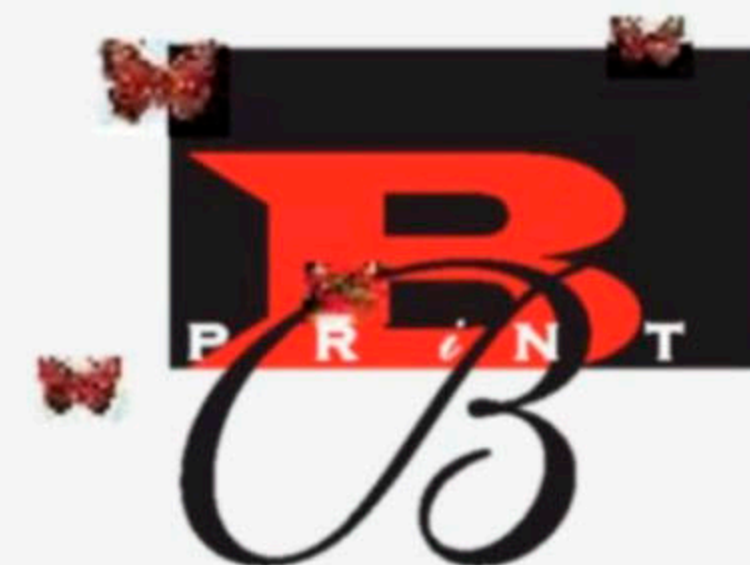
Understanding Wood Finishing, 3rd Revised Edition offers the latest technical updates on materials and techniques, detailed instructions and explanations, and over 40 must-have reference tables and troubleshooting guides. You'll learn everything you need to know

about finishing, from preparing wood to applying wood stains and different types of wood finishes – from shellac and lacquer to varnish and water-based – colouring techniques, filling pores, removing finishes, and more.

This updated edition features a collection of published articles written by Bob from the last few years, updated information on strippers and solvents no longer considered safe, information on finishing with soap – a fun and chemical-free way to finish furniture and small items – information on finishing a project in a day (or less), advice on matching colours and dating finishes, detailed info on working with wood filler, guidance on spray finishing, advanced techniques, and more! An easy-to-understand resource, this book not only offers valuable and expert information on a variety of topics surrounding



wood finishing, it's also written in an approachable, conversational tone that's engaging and interesting to read.



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We have found the top podcasts
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The best podcasts for DIY'ers

Podcasts are a great way to pass the time, whether you are driving, cooking or tinkering away in the workshop. These 10 podcasts are the top-rated DIY-focussed ones we could find, so search for them on your favourite podcast platform, subscribe and enjoy!

The Handyman Hotline's Podcast

The Handyman Hotline is an interactive radio show. 'A group therapy session' for homeowners to call in and discuss the problems they're having with their home, and get advice from a revolving cast of experts.

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You can, man

You can, Man is a podcast hosted by three friends named Josh, Dave and Tim. They all share a love of all things DIY; from basic handyman skills to major home renovations. Listen to the podcast for getting an idea about the basic household handyman tactics and how it can be done easily because 'What one man can do, you can do as well.'

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This show is about the construction industry. Professional handymen share experiences and insights on home renovation. Listen to the podcast for obtaining quality information and tips and tricks about construction.

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The Essential Handyman Podcast

The Essential Handyman Podcast gives advice and tips to help you get projects completed around your home. Craig, the host of the Essential Handyman Podcast shares information from his many years of experience working on thousands of jobs.

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The Helpful Handyman is a podcast hosted by Jason James. Tune in to the podcast to get basic and easy tips about construction and daily work.

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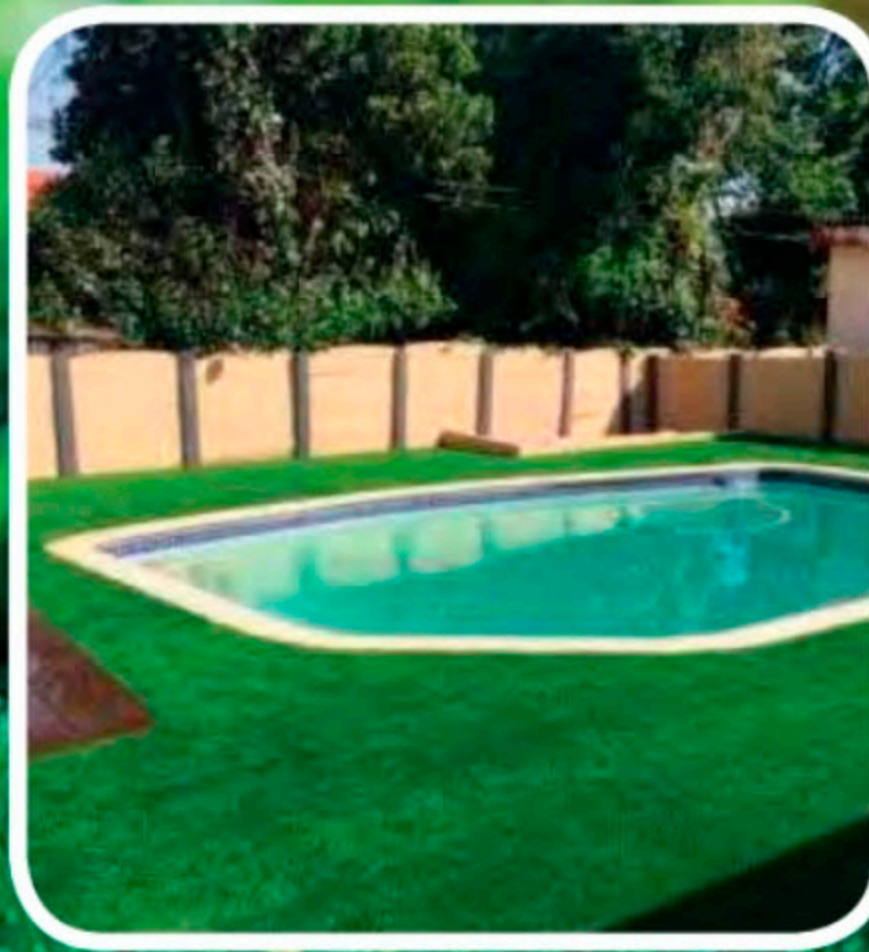
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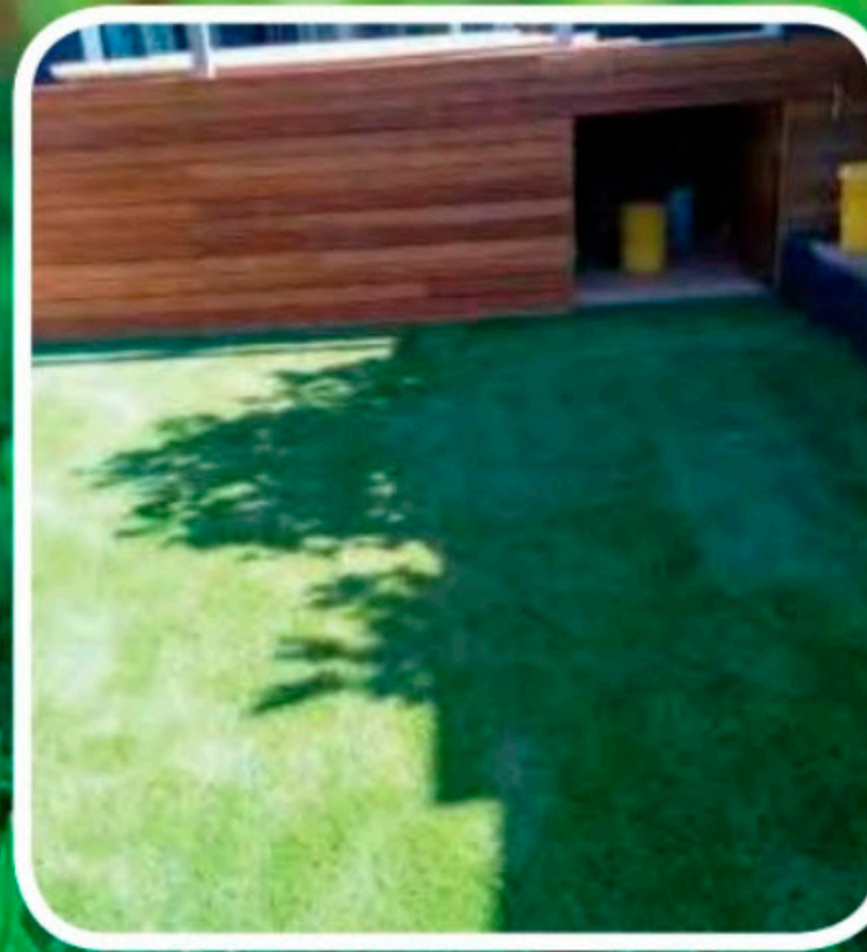
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- Durable – lasts up to 20 years
- Long term investment



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25mm Cruz



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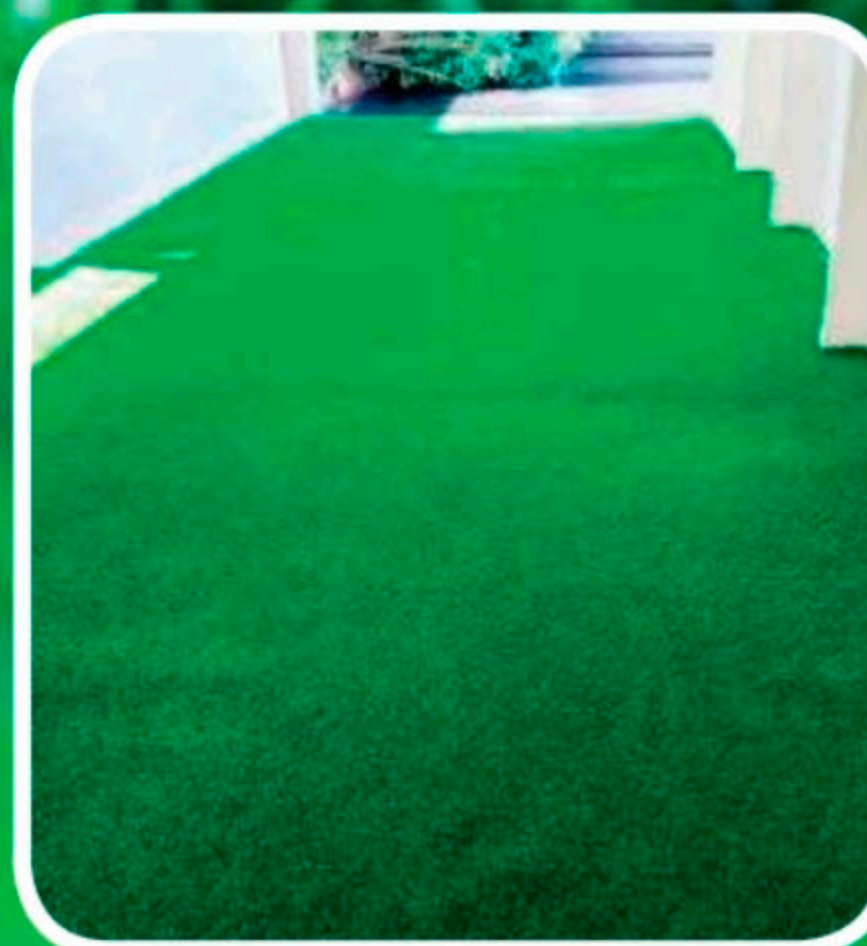
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35mm Supreme