

NEW ZEALAND

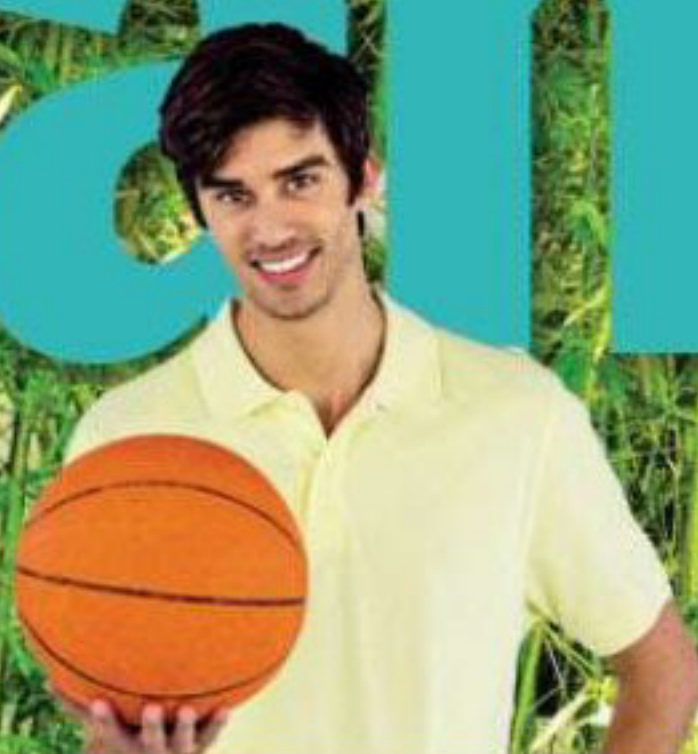
DIY MADE EASY

DEC 2013/JAN 2014

# Handyman

## BUILD THIS RELAXING DAY BED

PLUS CONCRETE ESKY  
AND BARBECUE BENCH



### SORT THE GARAGE

MAKE THROW-AND-GO  
SHELVES TO FREE UP  
THE FLOOR

DIY OR  
BUY?  
SAVE BIG  
BUCKS

FUN AND FAST  
SILK SCREEN  
TECHNIQUES

## 15 OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS

- Install an octagonal deck
- Edge a garden bed
- Rescue weathered furniture

### HOLIDAY PROJECTS

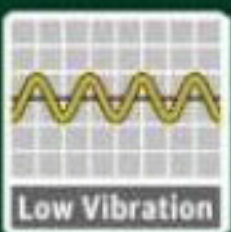
Create a Christmas tree  
String up festive lights

## DO IT NOW GARDENING

PLANT BEANS GROW FRANGIPANIS AND CLIVIAS



# Hand sanding was so yesterday Bosch introduces...



**Make it your home** with the innovative PRR 250 ES Sanding Roller from Bosch. Its easy-to-change attachments for different materials even adapt to uneven surfaces. This enables you to sand continuously, without having to change the tool. **CLEAN** Connection for external dust extraction. **COMFORTABLE** SDS system for easy, tool-free changing of the wheels. **VERSATILE** Continuously variable speed pre-selection enables material-specific work.

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scan with your smart  
phone now



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STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

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# What happens when you upgrade your trowel to a tablet?

**Vodafone**  
Power to you



If you're a builder looking to do the best possible job, it pays to use the latest tools. That's why companies like Cook Brothers Construction in Dunedin are packing smartphones and tablets in their toolboxes. Using the latest mobile devices with mobile data and some very clever apps, Cook Brothers is equipped to work more productively than ever before.

## Working to a different blueprint.

Always keen to find new ways to improve performance, the executive team at Cook Brothers asked Vodafone to work with them to introduce mobile productivity tools:

### Video briefings via tablet.

All site managers received a tablet connected to Vodafone's super fast network. Health & Safety briefings are now run via an induction video to help Cook Brothers achieve its goal of 'zero harm' for site safety.

### Photos solve problems.

Workers on site use the camera on their smartphone or tablet to send pictures to the architect or engineer for instant resolution of tricky building issues. The savings in time – and mistakes avoided – are huge.

### Capturing more costs with a timesheet app.

Building their own simple timesheet app means Cook Brothers can capture costs more accurately and manage projects more efficiently compared to their old paper-based processes.

### Staying connected with all stakeholders.

Video conferences are easy to set up, so everyone connected with the project can stay in touch at every step.

**To see how other Kiwi businesses are already making use of this new technology to do business better, check out [vodafone.co.nz/mobility](http://vodafone.co.nz/mobility)**

## Outcomes.

- Better bottom line – managing costs and risks more effectively means Cook Brothers can bid for and win more lucrative contracts.
- Greater productivity – from mobilising business processes, like adding timesheet apps on tablets and using video to resolve building issues.
- Flexibility to work anywhere – with the latest technology and no delays thanks to fast connectivity.
- Industry-leading health and safety standards – aided by video briefings on mobile tablets.

## Cook Brothers is one of many Kiwi businesses turning mobility into possibility.

With Vodafone you too can be working on the go, cutting costs and removing duplication. Access your information anywhere in order to become more productive. Connect to servers when you're out of the office. And use cloud-based apps like Xero or DropBox to work more efficiently, knowing that your data is always safe.

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**W**hen you're walking down the tool aisle in a hardware store, do you find the sheer number of products overwhelming?

*Handyman* is here to help. Every issue our tool section helps you pick the right equipment with a guide divided into usage criteria.

After we explain the features of these tools and how to use them, we list a selection to choose from.

On page 85, our story on pruners, tillers and mulchers illustrates what the different machines are capable of, whether powered by battery, electricity or petrol, plus what you can expect to pay.

## SMALL SPACES

When your home is small, arranging furniture can be a challenge, so we have come up with two space-saving tables. My favourite is the picture frame that converts into a table. Yes, you read that correctly! It's on page 64.

## THE FESTIVE SEASON

Do you remember when a string of Christmas lights had to be thrown away because if one light didn't work, none of them worked?

Well they've come a long way since then but still can get quite tangled. Check out great solutions to straighten them out and clever tricks for hanging them, on page 40.

## SUPER STYLIN'

It's time for relaxing outdoors and we have a bunch of great ideas you can DIY to give your yard a facelift.

*Handyman* contributor Gema Beneitez silk-screened her own designs for the day bed cushions on the cover, creating instant eye candy. We show you step by step how to decorate fabric, timber and even a wall hanging.

We hope you enjoy all the outdoor projects and inspiration in this issue.

MANAGING EDITOR  
LEE DASHIELL

## Winner!

Jillian Hellyer of Trentham won a garden shed, tools and equipment valued at almost \$6000 from the August issue of *Handyman*.

**HER WINNING TIP** 'The best handyman tip I had from my father was to put plain masking tape on your ruler or measuring tape to write down a measurement, eliminating the need to carry around paper or the like. It's cheap and very efficient.'

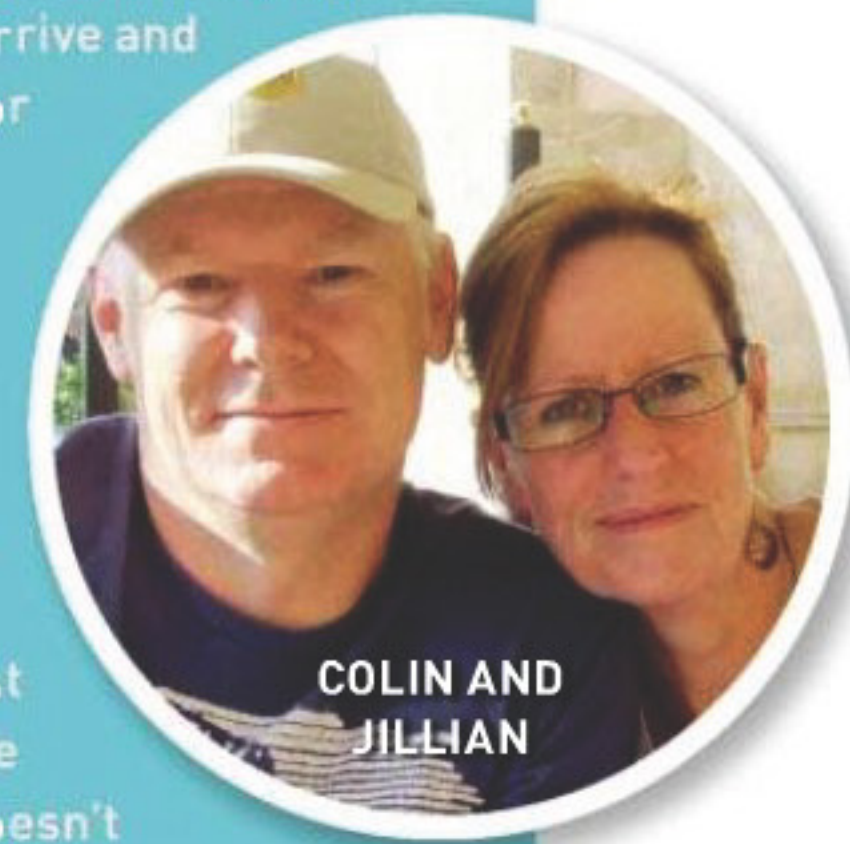
## HER REACTION TO WINNING

'What a fabulous surprise when I heard I won this wonderful prize.'

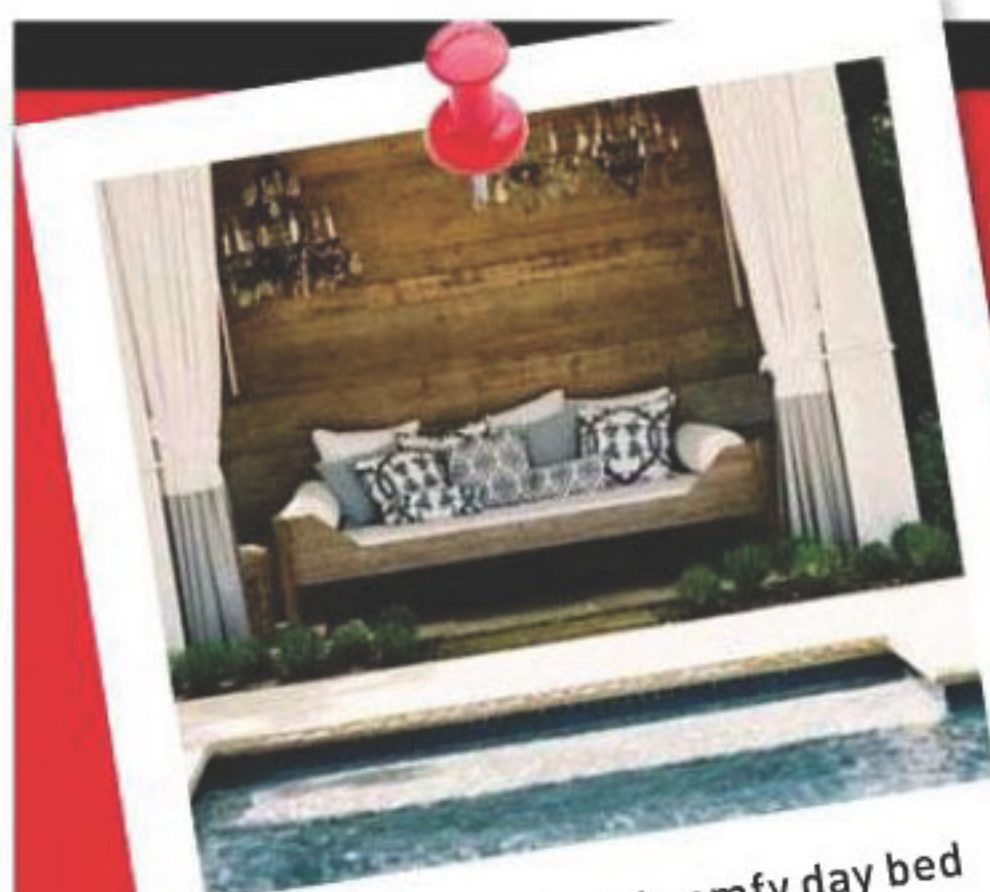
'I wait with excited anticipation every month for our *Handyman* magazine to arrive and the wish list for projects to be worked on grows, much to my partner Colin's horror.'

'I have no idea what most of the tools are for, but that doesn't stop me wanting them.'

'I'm very much looking forward to vacuuming my garage with my new Karcher while wearing my brand new gumboots. Heaven!'



COLIN AND  
JILLIAN



Build a stylish and comfy day bed to upgrade an outdoor space.

## More inspiration

Looking for inspiration for your outdoor area? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures.

It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next project. Check out *Handyman* at [pinterest.com/diyhandyman](https://pinterest.com/diyhandyman) or scan this code with your phone.



Pinterest



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# Handyman

WE SHOW YOU HOW!

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# NO DRIPPING

## Kärcher's battery-powered window vacuum

Your time is too valuable to waste on cleaning windows. Kärcher's WV 50 Plus window vacuum cleans your windows so they are streak-free in no time. It simply vacuums the water from the window after cleaning - without any dirty water dripping. This window cleaning system, which is unique the world over, ensures streak-free cleanliness in a jiffy. It's quicker with Kärcher.

[www.karcher.co.nz](http://www.karcher.co.nz)

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makes a difference



# HANDYSTUFF

Switch to these DIY options to slash hundreds of dollars from common household expenses

WORDS **ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT**



## Dream clean

So much dirt on your windows it looks like night time? Take down window grime with the Karcher 3.6V Window Vacuum Kit, \$126.

It takes care of the whole job without any mess or elbow grease for a professional clear finish.

Cleaning your windows yourself once a month instead of hiring a pro tallies up to \$1550 saved each year.

[karcher.co.nz](http://karcher.co.nz)





## Bugs beware

Lay down an insect-proof barricade around your home without harsh chemicals with Ecosmart Organic Home Pest Control, \$20 for 709ml.

It deters pests from entering the house and strikes down any that try to get in. Spray every six months instead of calling the exterminator and save \$580 a year.

[eproducts.co.nz](http://eproducts.co.nz)

## Home foam

Uncover the original colour of your carpet in two simple steps with Scotchgard High Traffic Foaming Carpet Cleaner, \$13 for 500g. Just spray it over your carpet then vacuum after the foam has lifted the dirt.

Doing this yourself every six months keeps professional carpet cleaning costs down, putting an extra \$280 back in your pocket every year.

[3mnz.co.nz](http://3mnz.co.nz)



Find new and creative ways to keep the house clean and save money.



## DIY and save

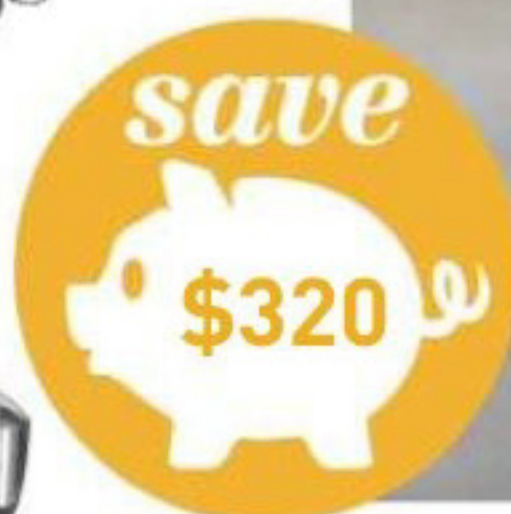


### Mix on the move

Save time and money by making your own smoothies at home with the Kambrook Blitz2Go, \$70. Its 300W motor blends the smoothie right in the bottle quicker than it takes to queue up at the juice bar in rush hour.

Blend a brekkie smoothie at home instead of picking one up on the way to work and you'll save \$1610 a year.

[kambrook.co.nz](http://kambrook.co.nz)



### Brain juice

Struggle to function without your morning coffee? Then get your caffeine hit before you head out the door with the Breville Oracle Espresso Machine, \$2600.

An inbuilt grinder, self-tamper and auto steaming wand will deliver cafe-quality coffee to your kitchen each morning, saving you \$320 a year over the two-year warranty.

[breville.co.nz](http://breville.co.nz)



### Filter fresh

If your tap water tastes like it came from the pool, try the Stefani 2.4L Water Filtration Jug, \$33.

The Stefani has a four-stage filter to take out the nasties and is designed to fit in a fridge door.

Foregoing plastic bottles in favour of filtered water not only helps the environment, it will also save you \$970 a year, based on 750ml a day.

[stefani.com.au](http://stefani.com.au)



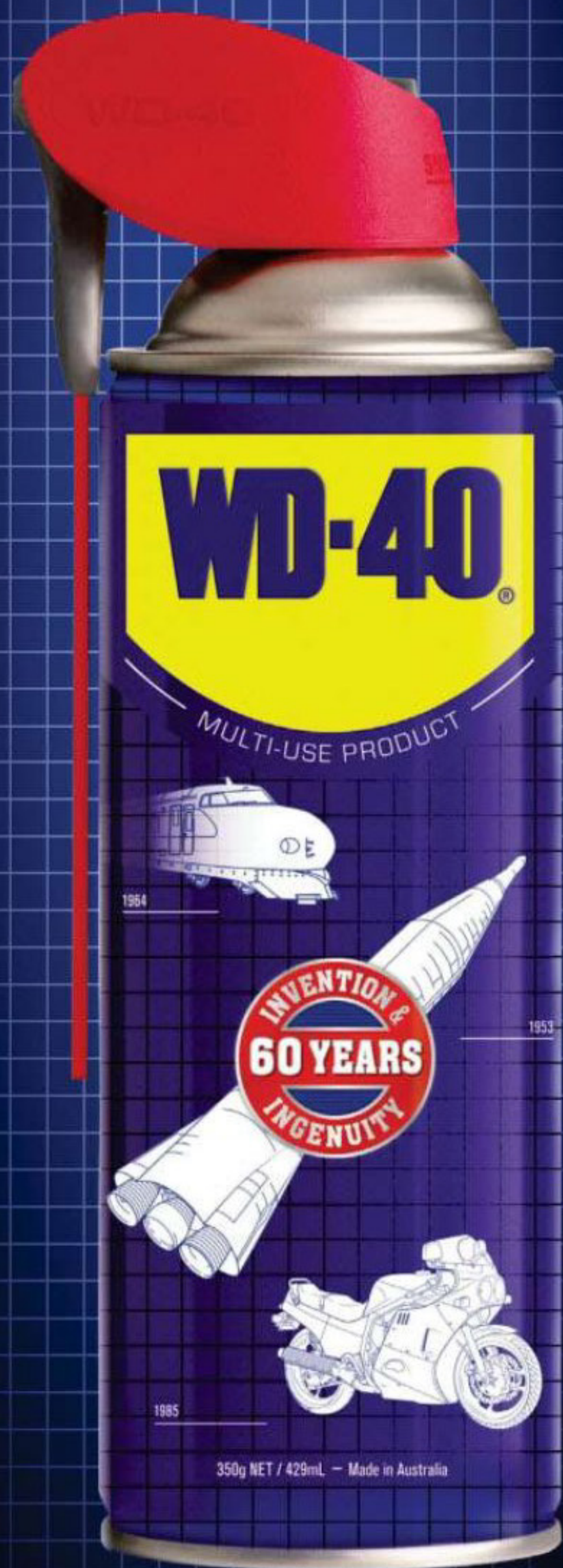
Heaven is not having to choose between good coffee and new shoes.



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## DIY and save



### Less dough

Cook your own pizza at home in less time than it takes to deliver one with the Hark Pizzeria Wood Fired Oven, \$1198. It's portable, has a safety mesh and heat resistant chrome handles.

Making two pizzas each week from your own ingredients will save you \$460 on gourmet pizza deliveries in a year.

[fwcave.com](http://fwcave.com)



### Light a fire

Forget the scrunched-up newspaper and all that kindling, the easy way to light a home fire, barbecue or pizza oven is with Samba Firestarters, \$3.

When you no longer have to buy a couple of bags of kindling a week to light a fire most nights for half the year, you'll save \$220 using firelighters.

[sambafirelighters.co.nz](http://sambafirelighters.co.nz)



Happiness is tucking into a slice of homemade pizza.



### Quick spray

Save lots of time and big money with the Wagner Flexio 585 Spray Painter, \$249. It can spray any paint undiluted and is suitable for painting projects as diverse as interior walls and ceilings to garden fences and furniture.

It costs about \$3500 plus paint to have a three-bedroom house interior painted by professionals. Do it yourself with this spray unit and you'll save \$3250.

[wagner.co.nz](http://wagner.co.nz)



HOT PRODUCT



# READY, SET, SEAL!

MASTER DIY WITH THE NEW ONE+ 18V CAULKING GUN



## INCLUDED AS STANDARD

- Caulking gun
- Puncture tool
- Operators manual

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Voltage:** 18 Volts  
**No load speed:** 1-5.5 mm/s  
**Max. push force:** 225 kg (500lb)  
**Tube length:** 215mm (standard)  
**Weight:** 1.7 kg

Product Model: R18CG0 | SKU 239433



# Make light work of the holiday season

You don't want to spend your whole holidays working too hard, so check out these time and labour saving products to help out. Plus we've added some great new ideas for relaxing around your home.



## A NATURAL ENTERTAINER

Made from hardwearing FSC certified Karri Gum, this Mimosa 3 Piece Hardwood Setting will become the centre piece for all your entertaining for years to come. Its contemporary look in traditional wood compliments any style home. \$999.

## MAKE YOUR GARDEN GLOW

Use the power of the sun to light up your garden with Solar Magic Stainless Steel Solar Lights. Ideal for highlighting feature plants, pathways and landscaping, they turn on automatically at dusk and are easy to install and maintain. From \$5.99.



## DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Made from specially coated steel, the Malmo Fireplace is built to withstand heat up to 650 degrees. Available in a range of colours and tones, this designer brazier will extend the time you spend outdoors and make heads turn. \$229.







### AWESOME CHRISTMAS GIFT

With so many functions, the Ryobi 200W Multi Tool with 20 Piece Accessory Set will be the go-to tool for most of the home handyman's needs. It has 6 variable speeds for cutting and sanding all types of materials plus the set includes the accessory adapter and blades to plunge or flush-cut wood, drywall, metal and grout. A sanding pad, various sanding papers, Allen key and toolbox complete the package. \$199.



### MORE CUTTING POWER

The Ryobi 46cc Petrol Chainsaw with powerful 2 stroke petrol engine and high quality, low kick back 16" chain bar will certainly "cut it" around your property. It also features tool-free air filter access, side action tensioning system, automatic chain oiling and anti-vibration for more comfortable handling on long jobs. \$249.



### A CUT ABOVE

Powered by a 4.0Ah lithium-ion battery, the Ryobi 36V Lawn Mower Kit gives greater performance and longer runtime. Light and nimble, it is packed with features such as ergonomically designed handles for user comfort, large 50L catcher, 7 cutting height adjustments from 20-70mm and wide 400mm cutting width. \$599.



### MAKE LIGHT WORK OF TRIMMING

The Ryobi 500W Line Trimmer is light but powerful. It features an auto feed head with large 300mm cutting path, telescopic height adjustment and 3 position pivoting head for neater, trimmer edges. The large throttle trigger adds to its ease of use. \$79.99.



### MULTI FOLDING LADDER

The Hurricane 2.5m Multi Fold Ladder is possibly the only ladder you'll ever need again. Made from tough aluminium, it is light for easy manoeuvrability but strong enough to take loads up to 120Kg. \$78.



### HOURS OF ENTERTAINMENT

The Aurora Shade Pool from Poolscape will give hours of fun for the kids without worry of sunburn. With handy drainage plug, it measures 250 x 250 x 160cm, is easily assembled and folds flat for easy storage. Great value at \$99.

### ONE COAT WONDER

British Paints Prep 4 in 1 Acrylic Sealer Primer Undercoat and Stain Blocker is a multi-purpose interior and exterior preparation coat that gives protection to new or unpainted timber, weatherboards, hardboards, plasterboard, MDF, brick, cement/concrete as well as galvanised iron. Its excellent hiding and filling properties means it dries to an even, flat finish to provide the perfect base for your topcoat. \$83.



Not all products featured are available in all stores, but may be ordered. Shelf prices may be lower than advertised to ensure lowest prices every day. We reserve the right to restrict the purchase of commercial quantities. All prices quoted are inclusive of GST. Prices valid until Sunday 19th January 2014, or while stocks last.



# DESIGNER *day bed*

Build a luxury sofa to invest in some serious relaxation this summer

PROJECT **ED FREND** MAIN PICTURE **CHRIS L JONES** STYLIST **GEMA BENEITEZ**

**DIY> \$330**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1130

**SKILL> 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME> 2 DAYS**

**G**arden dining settings and deck chairs have their place, but nothing tempts you outside like the prospect of a peaceful afternoon curled up on a supremely comfy, well-built day bed.

This simple project might be the most luxurious outdoor furniture you will ever own. It is built from primed H3 LOSP (light organic solvent preservative) finger-jointed pine, and is designed to fit a single mattress.

The timber is weatherproof but the mattress needs to be stored undercover. If you'd prefer to leave it exposed to the elements, alter the dimensions to fit an outdoor mattress of your choice.

**TIP** If you prefer a natural timber finish you can use hardwood instead of treated pine, but it will cost a lot more.

## MAKE IT SIMPLE

Joining legs to rails is a complex task, but we've made it simple by building each leg from an outer and inner piece.

The inner leg is shorter by 90mm, equal to the width of the rail. This allows the base rail to sit on the inner leg and finish flush with the outer leg.

Cut the components with a sliding compound mitresaw, cutting 45° opposing mitres on the baseplates, base rails and top rails, and mitring the upper end of the uprights.

For a professional finish, fill the screw holes with two-part filler and sand with 120 grit abrasive paper before painting. We used matt black acrylic for an oriental look. ➤



Turbo Builder's Bog, \$14 for 250ml.  
[chemspec.co.nz](http://chemspec.co.nz)

## Fasteners

Use 65mm x 10g treated pine screws for the base frame, legs and centre rail. Attach the slat supports to the baseplates with 32mm x 8g screws.

Secure the slats with 40 x 2mm nails, and use number 20 biscuits in the mitred baseplate joints to keep them all flush.



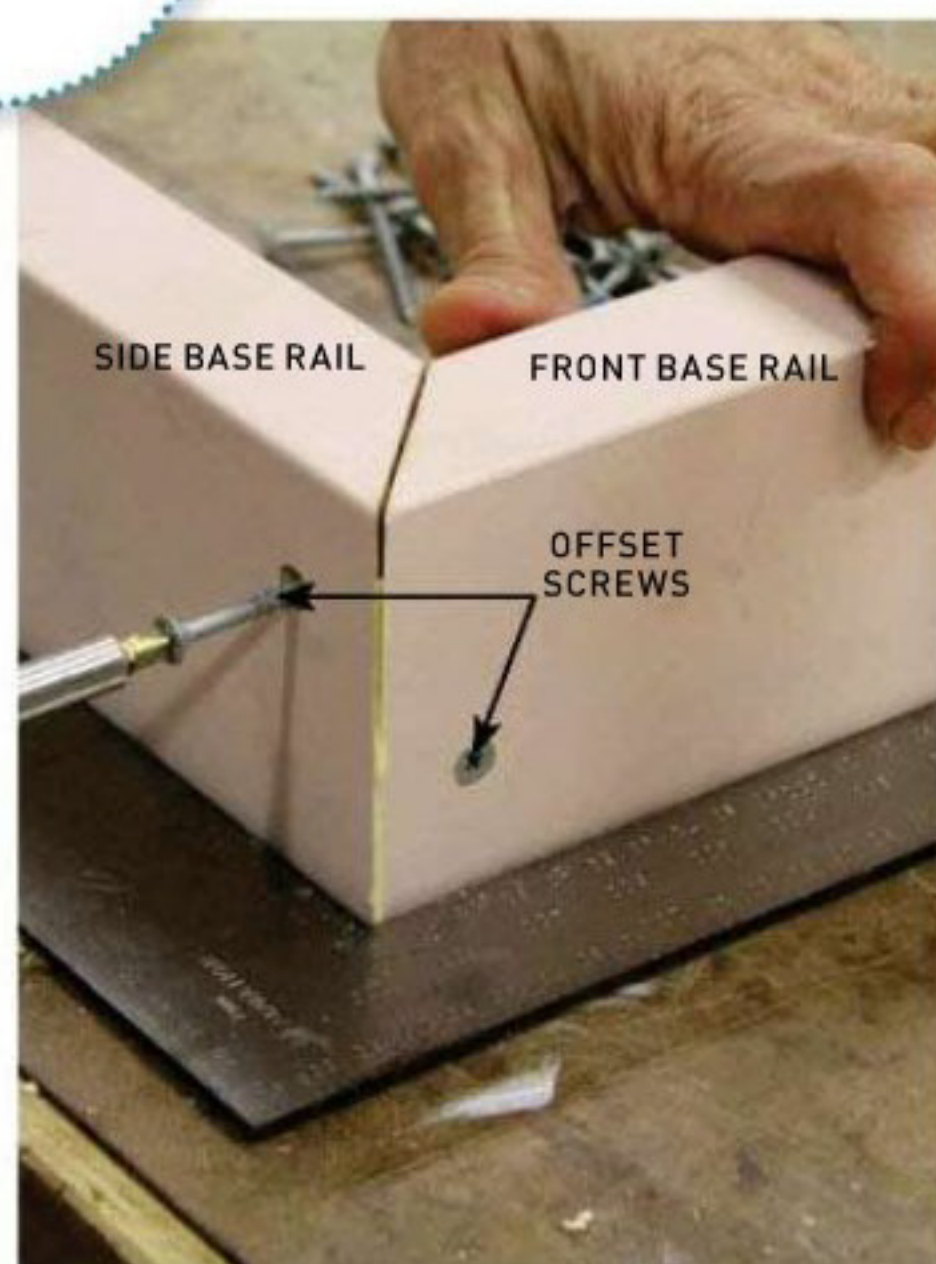




To get the look, turn to page 22 to decorate the cushions and side table, adding outdoor lanterns and candles for ambience.

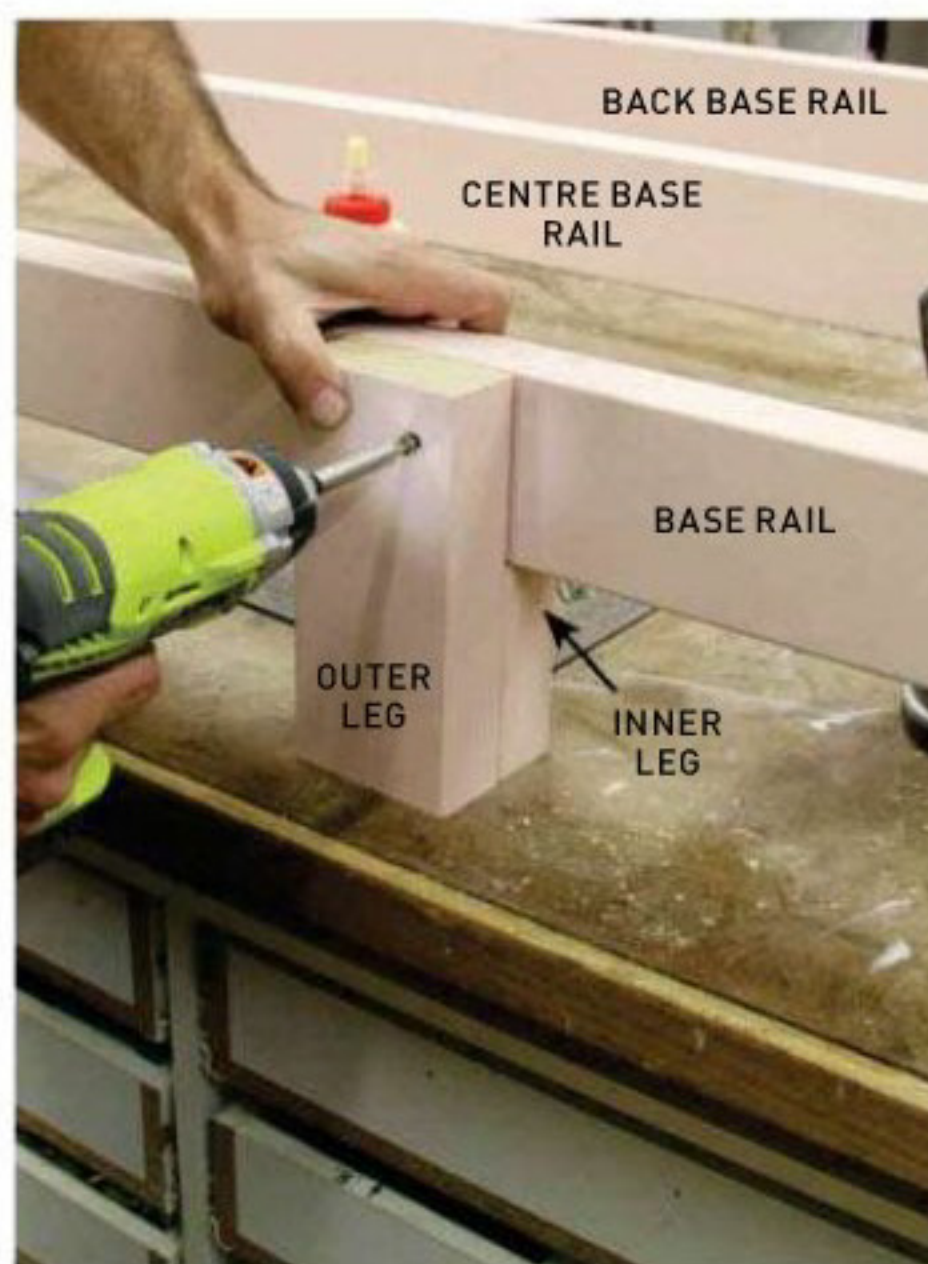


## BUILD THE DAY BED



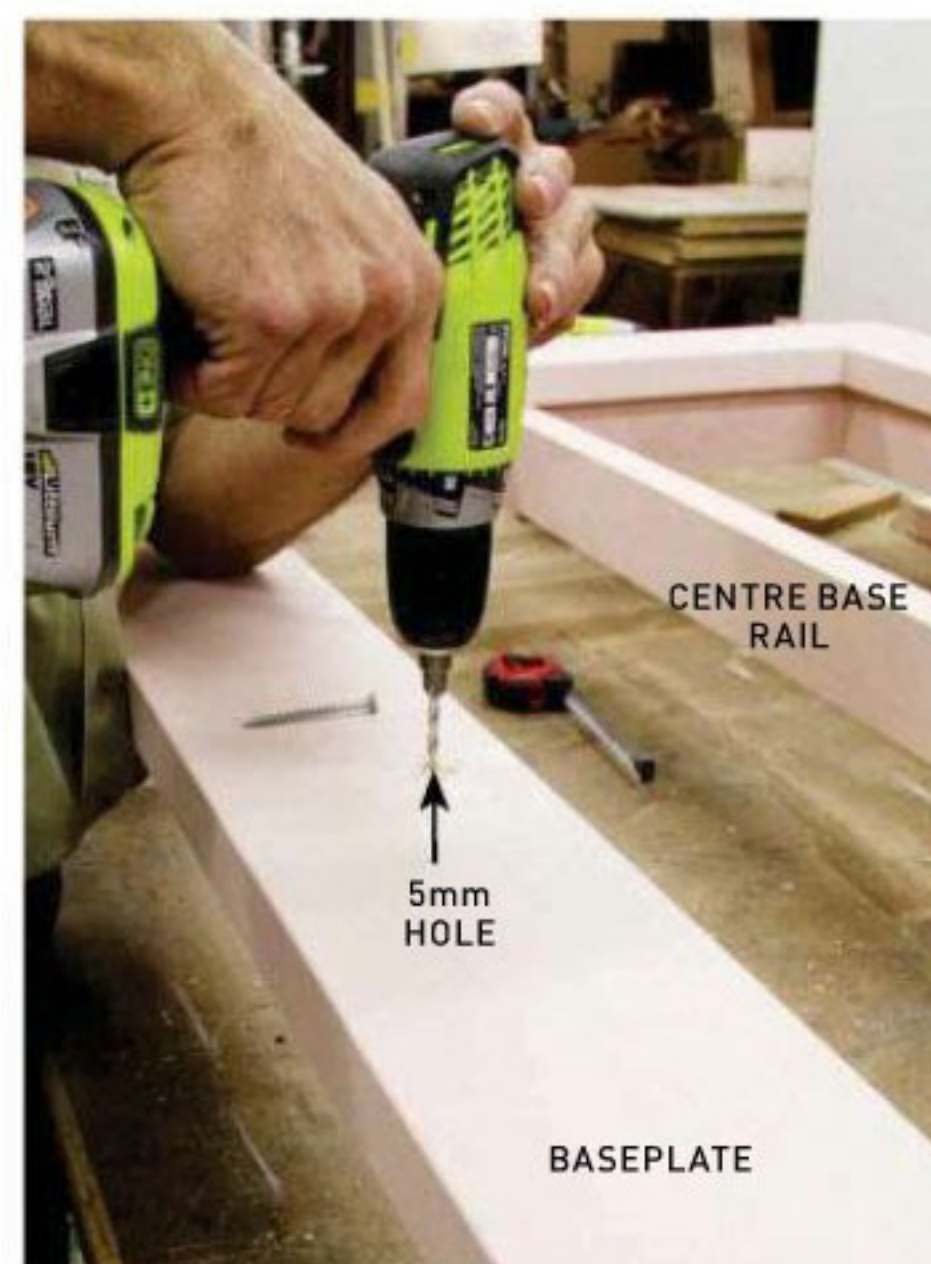
### 1 Make the base frame

Drill 5mm clearance holes through each inner leg then secure to the outer leg using adhesive and screws. Assemble the mitred base frame by drilling clearance holes through all pieces, offsetting the screw positions so the mitred joints are pulled tightly closed.



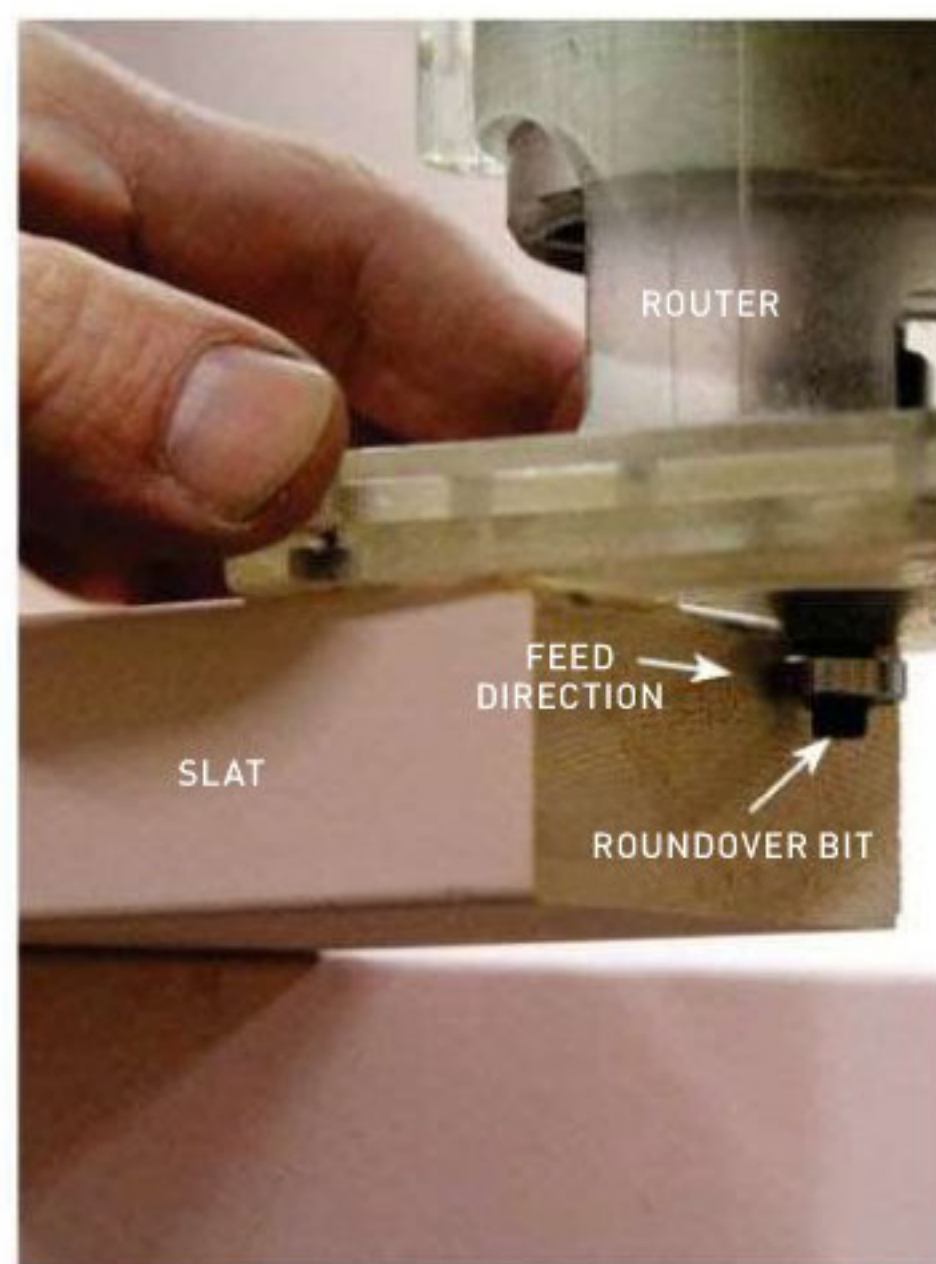
### 2 Attach the legs

Clamp the centre rail in position then secure using adhesive and two screws at each end. Use adhesive and screws to attach the legs to the base rails 400mm in from the ends. **TIP** Slightly recess the screw heads so they can be filled over.



### 3 Secure the baseplates

Assemble the mitred joints of the baseplate frame using biscuits or dowels and leave to dry. Position the baseplate frame with even overhangs on the base and leg assembly then drill 5mm clearance holes through the baseplates and secure with screws.



### 4 Prepare the slat ends

Set up a trim router with a 5mm roundover bit and adjust the depth to match the existing radius at the edges of the timber. Rout the slat ends, working in the correct direction of feed by moving the router from left to right. Seal the raw ends with primer.



### 5 Add the slat supports

Drill 4mm clearance holes through the slat supports at 200mm centres. Secure two of them to the baseplate frame with adhesive and screws, flush with the underside. Centre the third slat support along the centre base rail, securing with adhesive and screws.



### 6 Attach the slats

Arrange the slats roughly over the slat supports then use offcuts of 66 x 30mm timber to space the slats evenly. Start from the centre slat and work towards the sides, securing with adhesive and two nails skewed through each end of the slat.



# Coolaroo

## Shade Sails

**The best family protection under the sun**



**Protect your family, friends and style your backyard with Coolaroo's extensive range of shade sails...**

Available in a variety of colours, shapes & sizes

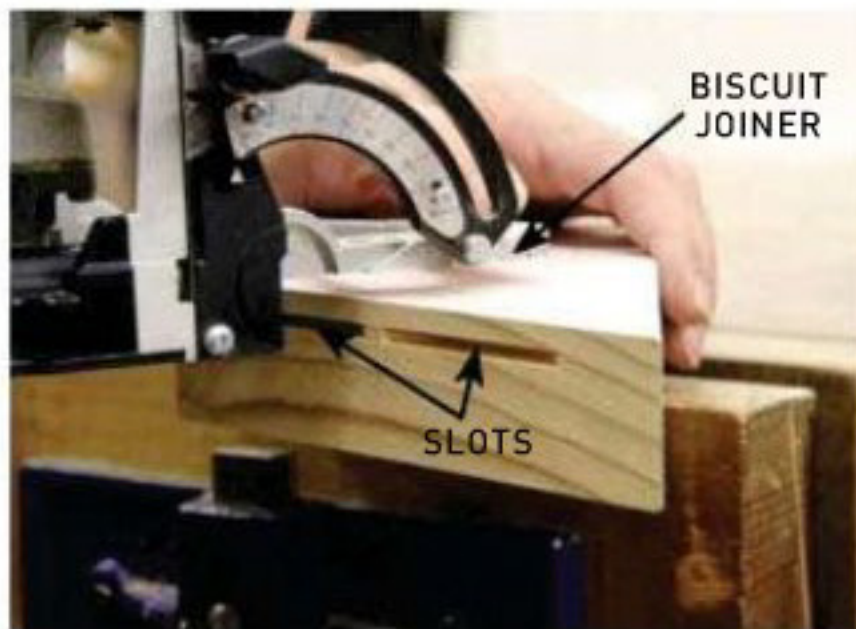


[coolaroo.com](http://coolaroo.com)

### Keeping the baseplates flush

To keep the mitre-joined baseplates flush and neat, we used exterior PVA adhesive and number 20 biscuits.

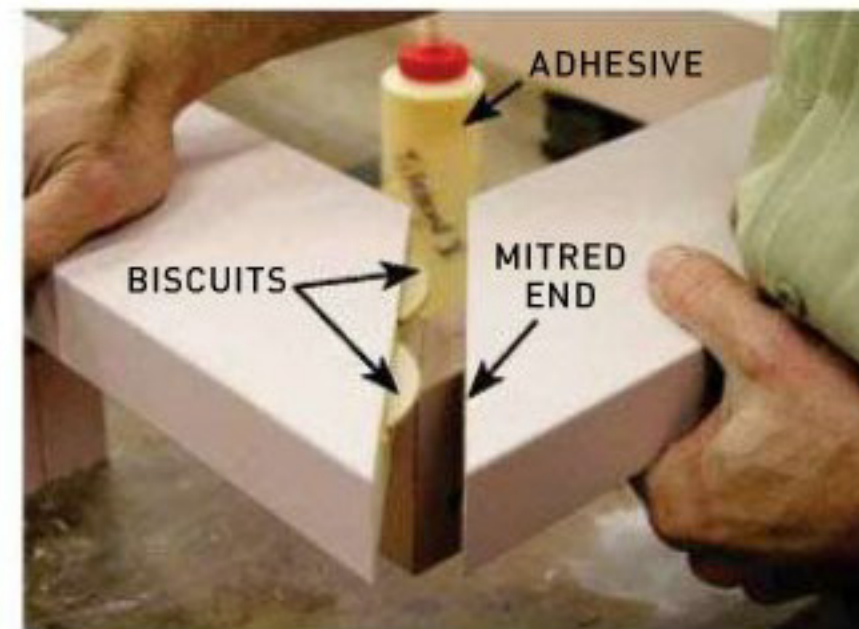
Biscuits are oval-shaped fasteners made from pressed beech, and they are available in three different sizes.



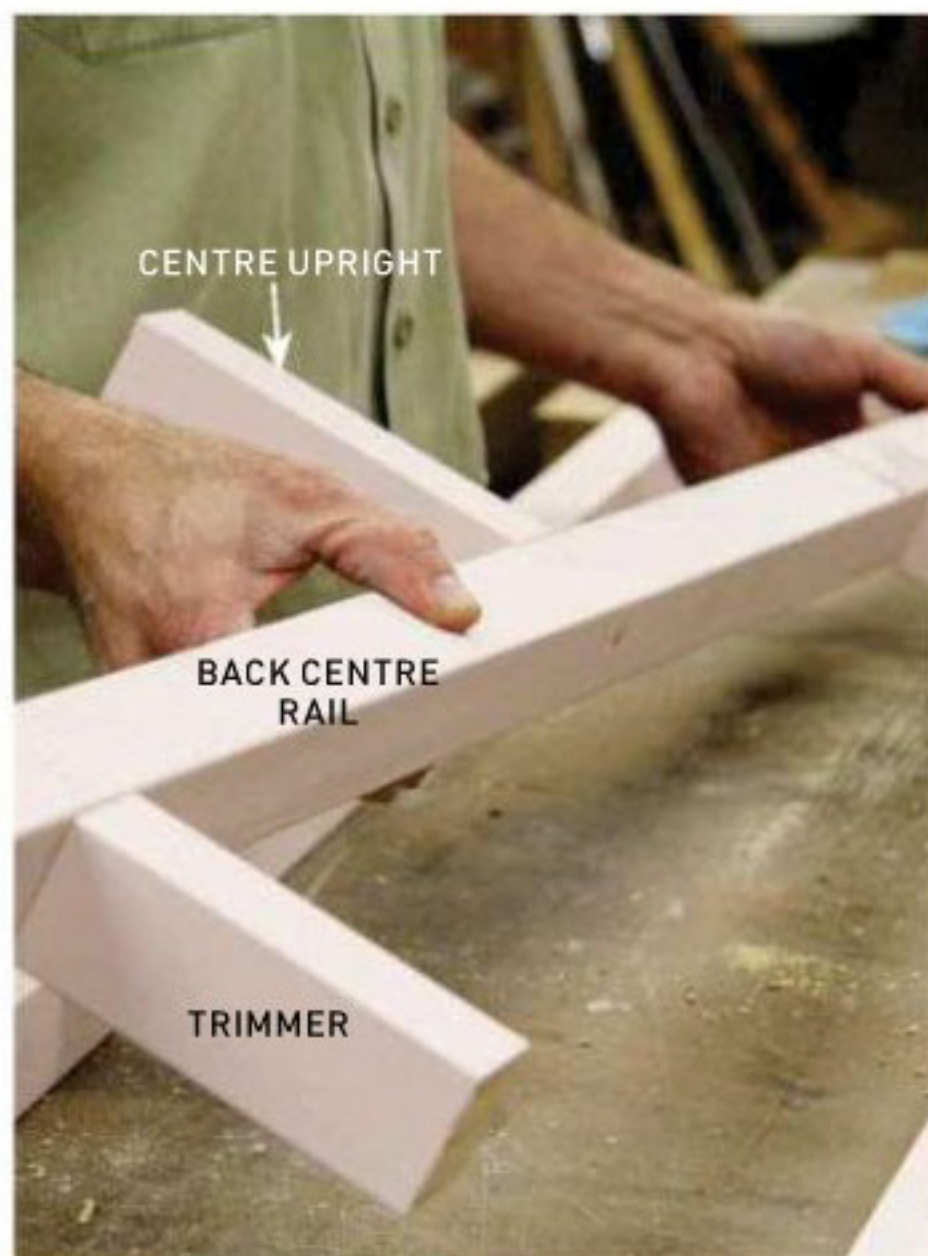
**CUT TWO BISCUIT SLOTS** in each mitred end of the baseplates. Take extra care not to make the slots too close to the long point of the mitre so that the blade doesn't breach the outer face of the baseplates.

A biscuit joiner is a power tool that resembles a small angle grinder with an integrated fence that ensures the slots for the biscuits are located and cut precisely.

**TIP** Dowels could also be used to secure these joints.

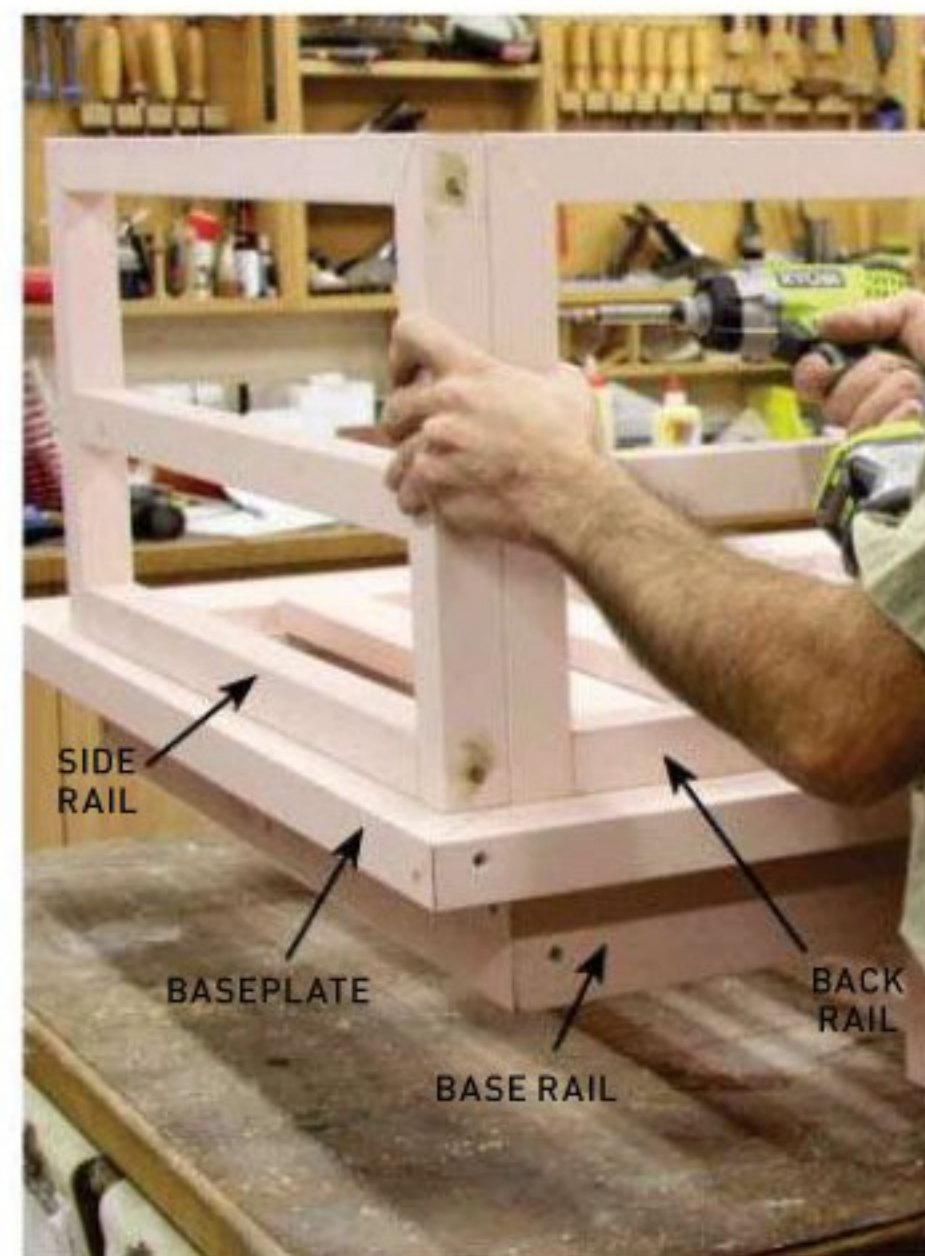


**APPLY ADHESIVE** in the biscuit slots and over the entire surface of both mitres. Insert the biscuits into the slots and press the two mitred ends together. Reinforce each joint with two screws.



### 7 Make the back and sides

Build the side frames by securing the uprights to the rails with adhesive and screws. Assemble the back frame by attaching the trimmers and centre upright to the back centre rail then secure the uprights, and back, top and lower rails with adhesive and screws.

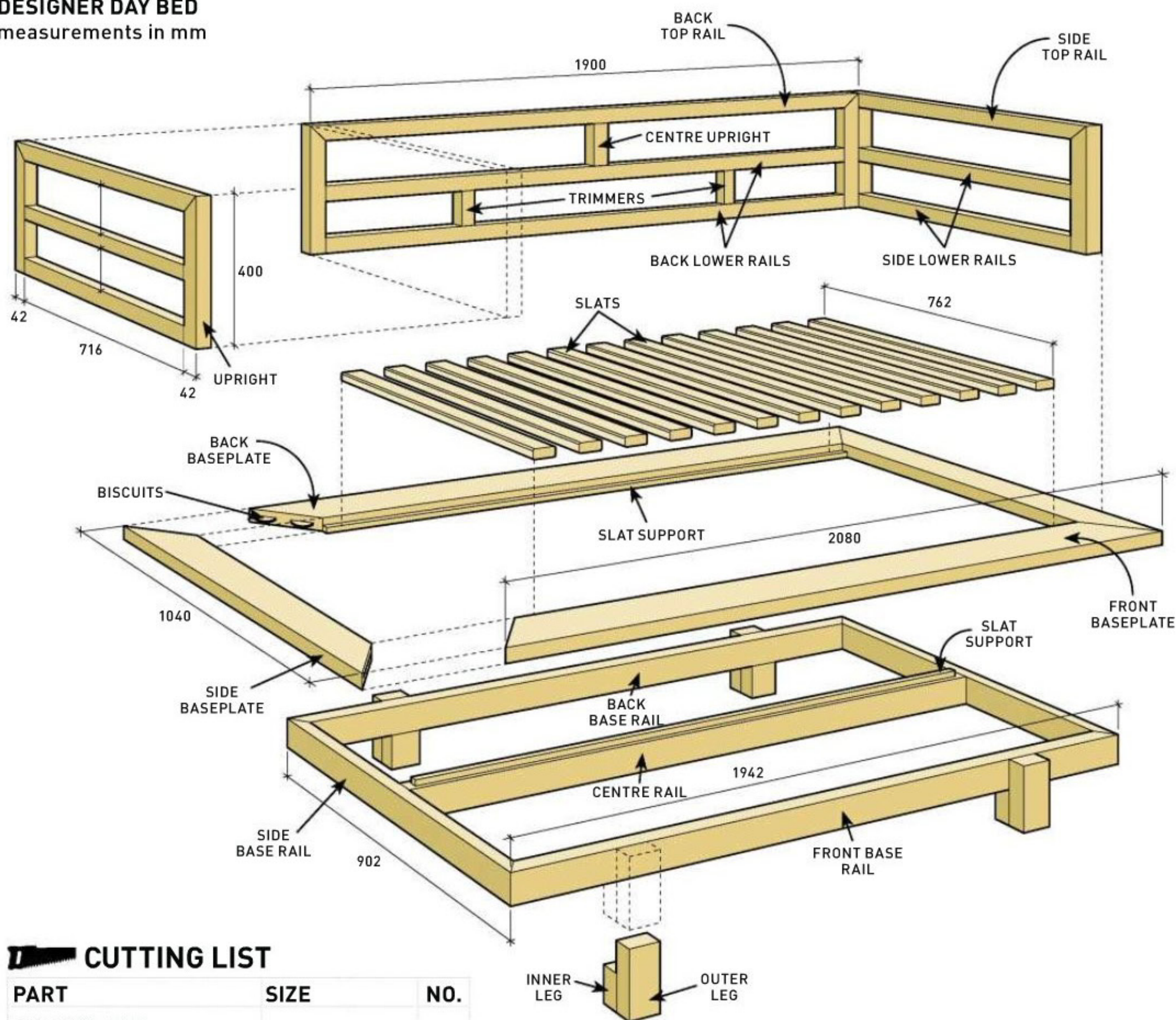


### 8 Secure the frames

Measure and mark the position of the back frame on the baseplate frame so the lower rail is centred over the base rail. Attach one side frame then the back frame and the opposite side, using screws to secure the frames to the baseplate and one another. ➤



# **DESIGNER DAY BED** measurements in mm



## **CUTTING LIST**

| PART                      | SIZE            | NO. |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| <b>H3 LOSP PINE</b>       |                 |     |
| Front and back base rails | 1942 x 90 x 42  | 2   |
| Side base rails           | 902 x 90 x 42   | 2   |
| Centre rail               | 1858 x 90 x 42  | 1   |
| Outer legs                | 200 x 90 x 42   | 4   |
| Inner legs                | 110 x 90 x 42   | 4   |
| Baseplate front and back  | 2080 x 138 x 42 | 2   |
| Baseplate sides           | 1040 x 138 x 42 | 2   |
| Uprights                  | 400 x 42 x 42   | 6   |
| Centre upright            | 156 x 42 x 42   | 1   |
| Trimmers                  | 118 x 42 x 42   | 2   |
| Side top rails            | 800 x 42 x 42   | 2   |
| Back top rail             | 1900 x 42 x 42  | 1   |
| Side lower rails          | 716 x 42 x 42   | 4   |
| Back lower rails          | 1816 x 42 x 42  | 2   |
| Slats                     | 762 x 66 x 30   | 13  |
| Slat supports             | 1800 x 18 x 18  | 3   |

**+ Handymanmagazine.co.nz**  
Download the tools, materials and costs to build a designer day bed.





**PHILIPS**

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- **Up to 15,000hr lifetime** - change bulbs less often
- **Instant start** - have maximum light output when you need it.
- **80% Energy saving vs Incandescent** - save money on your energy bill every year over lifetime of bulb.
- **Simple replacement** - designed to work with existing sockets for ease of replacement

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

| WATTAGE | LUMENS | GLS EQUIVALENT | CAP TYPE | COLOUR TEMP |
|---------|--------|----------------|----------|-------------|
| 5W      | 350    | 25W            | ES/BC    | 3000K/6500K |
| 8W      | 600    | 40W            | ES/BC    | 3000K/6500K |
| 10W     | 806    | 60W            | ES/BC    | 3000K/6500K |
| 13W     | 1050   | 75W            | ES/BC    | 3000K/6500K |





# SUMMER PRINTS

Create decorative cushions, furniture and wall art using simple screen printing techniques

WORDS **DANIEL BUTKOVICH** PROJECT **GEMA BENEITEZ** MAIN PICTURE **CHRIS L JONES**

**S**creen printing is an affordable way to personalise cushions and furniture, or create an original wall canvas. The process involves using specialised ink, stencils and a mesh screen to apply a design to a surface.

Buy a screen printing kit from an art shop, or make one using silk mesh and a timber frame. For a budget option, buy a blank 300 x 400mm canvas, about \$10, and remove the fabric.

Cut silk mesh to size 50mm larger than the frame. Pull the mesh taut over the sides, then attach it at each corner and at 10mm intervals with staples.

Make your own stencils using contact paper or masking film.

**TIP** Apply acrylic varnish along the joint to seal the edge and use duct tape to make a neat border. ➤



Permaset Screen Printing Kit, \$169.  
gordonharris.co.nz



## Decorating a storage cube

Screen printing is normally used to apply stencil designs to fabric, but the technique can be used to decorate other surfaces.

Flat-packed storage cubes can be purchased for about \$20. Use a wicker basket as a drawer to create a versatile side table.

**TIP** Screen print the panels before assembling the cube.

- **PREPARE THE SURFACE** by applying primer to the melamine panels prior to screen printing.
- **PRINT THE DESIGN** on the panel by attaching the stencil to the screen printing frame and applying water-based paint with a squeegee.
- **ASSEMBLE THE CUBE** by following the instructions, then seal the surface with clear varnish.

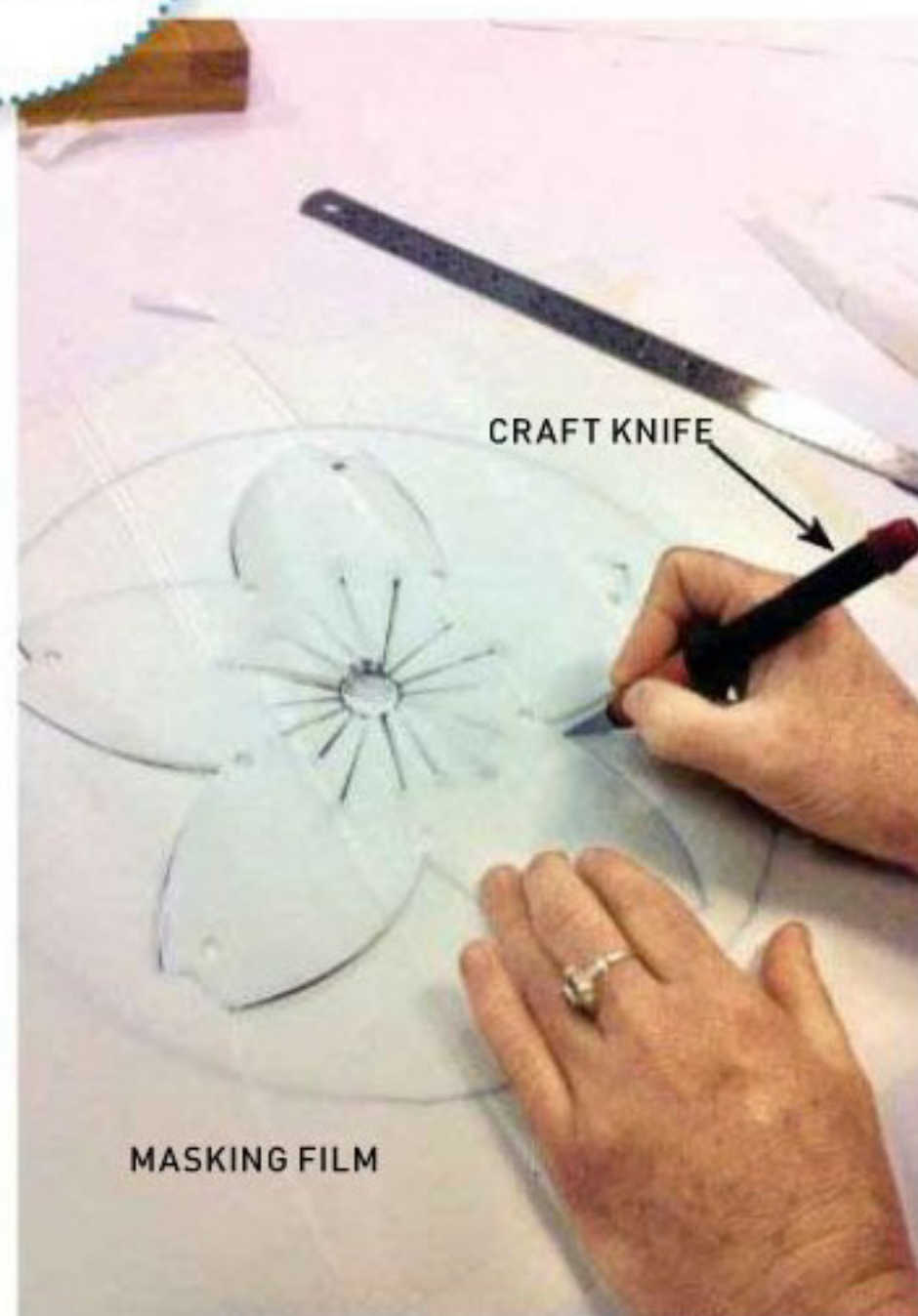




Summer-themed printed cushions work well in an outdoor living space.

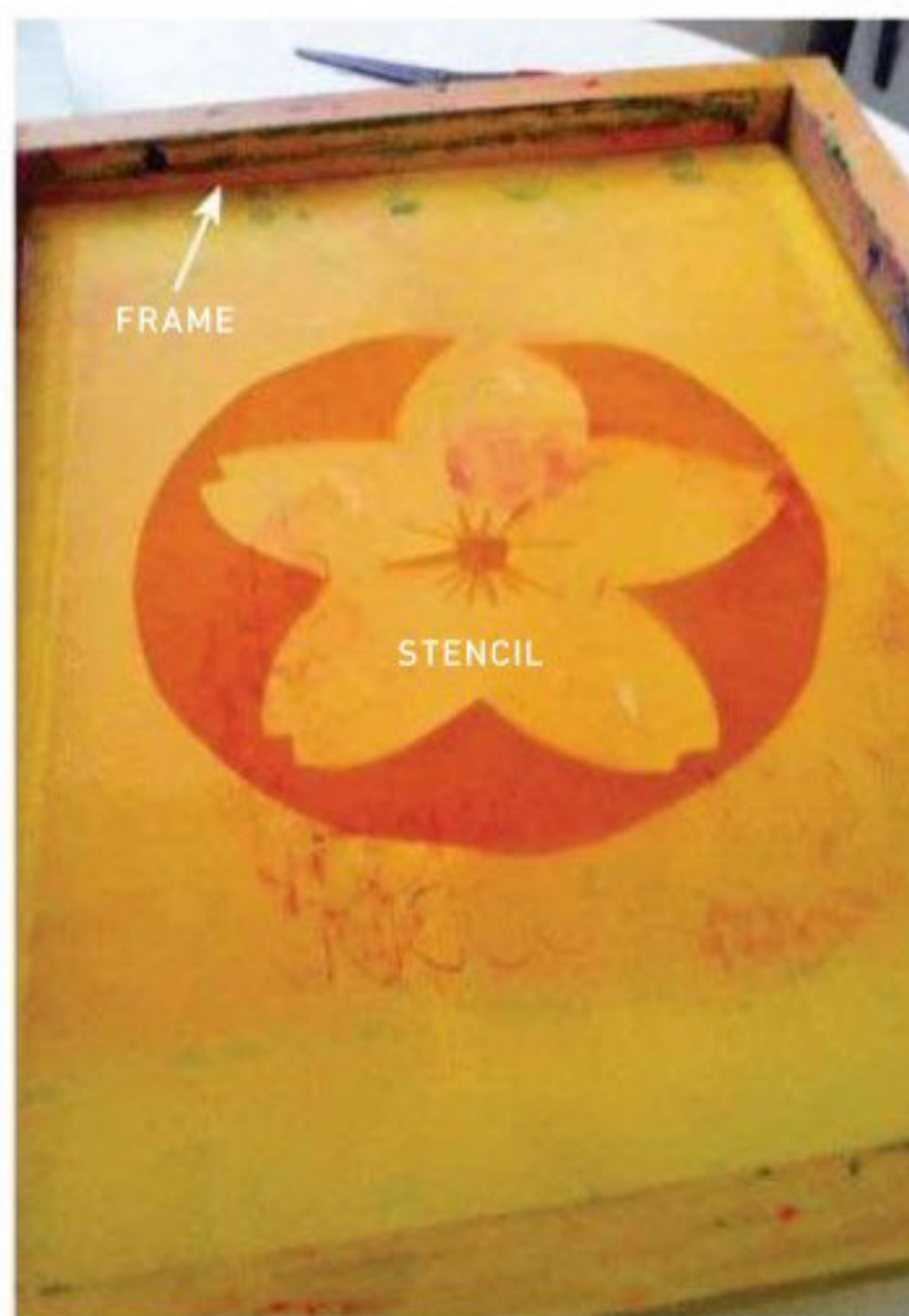


# STENCIL THE CUSHIONS



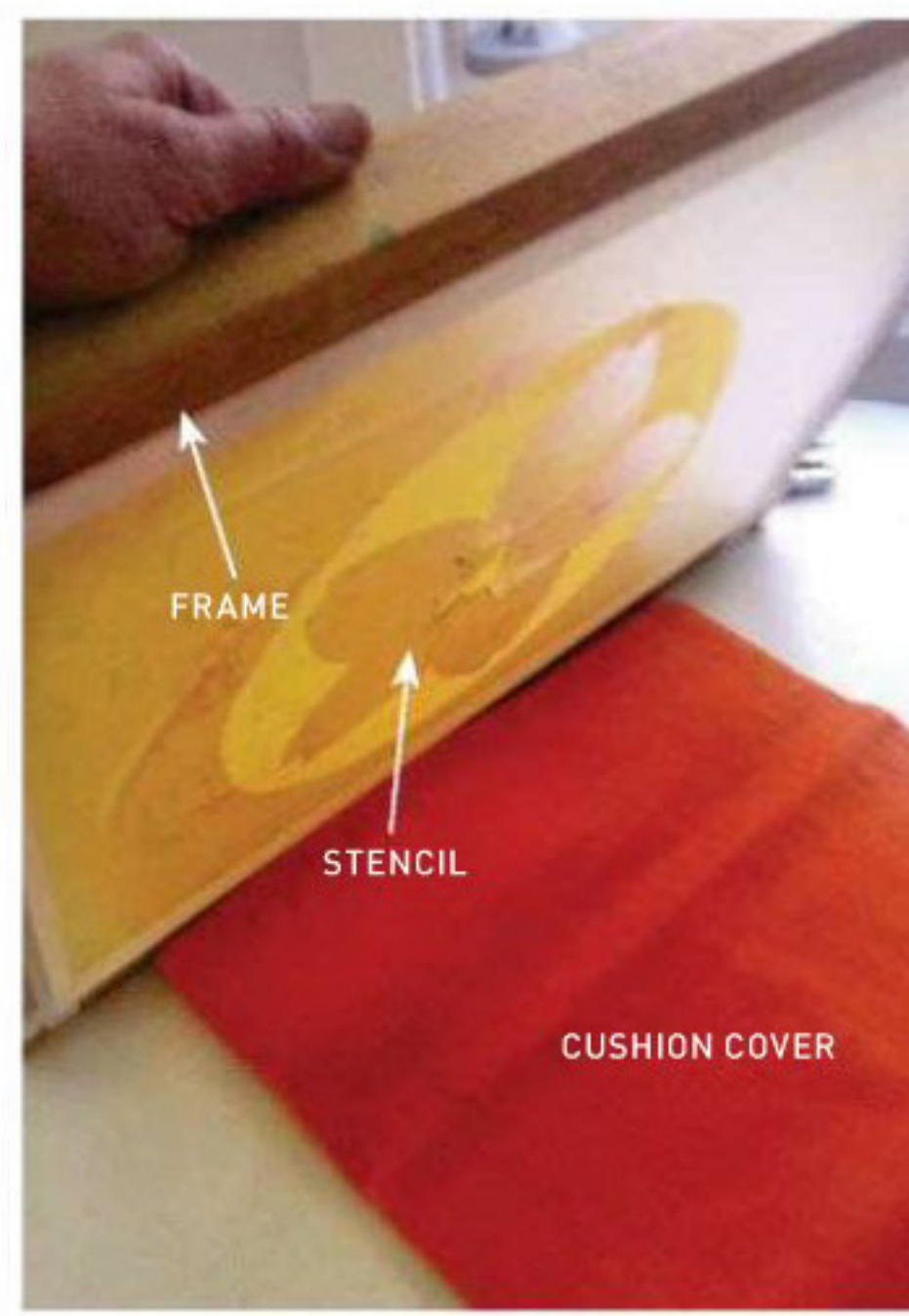
## 1 Create the stencil

Trace the design for your stencil onto the back of a sheet of acetate masking film using a pencil, then cut out using a craft knife. Keep in mind that the ink will be applied to all areas except the masking film stencil.



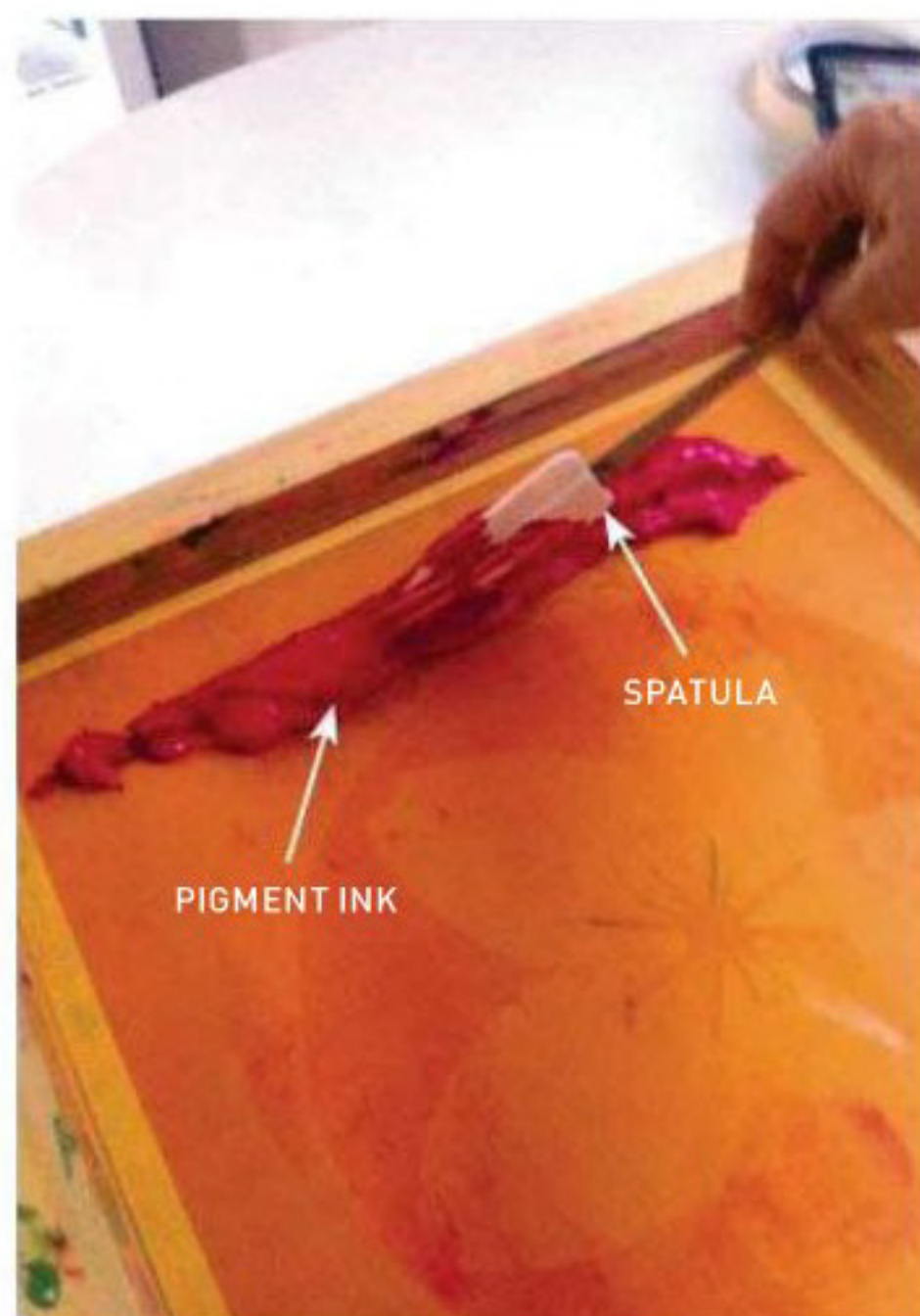
## 2 Prepare the frame

Trim the masking film to the exact dimensions of the frame, then secure the stencil to the screen on the outside of the frame, positioning it so that the design is centred and there are no gaps between the stencil and the edges.



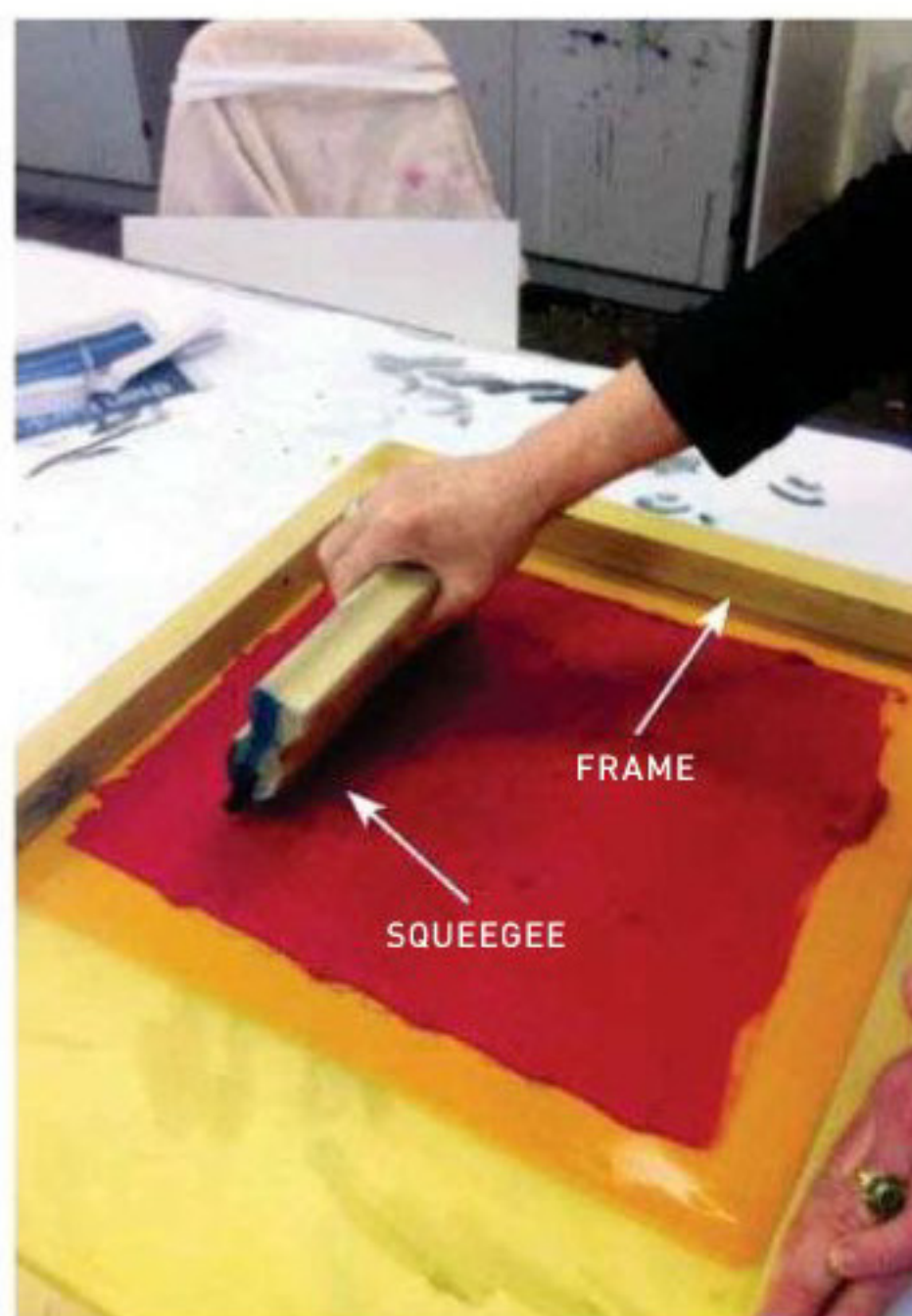
## 3 Position the screen

Lay the cushion cover flat on a table with the side that is to be decorated facing upwards. Position the screen on the cushion with the outside of the frame facing down, ensuring the design is centred.



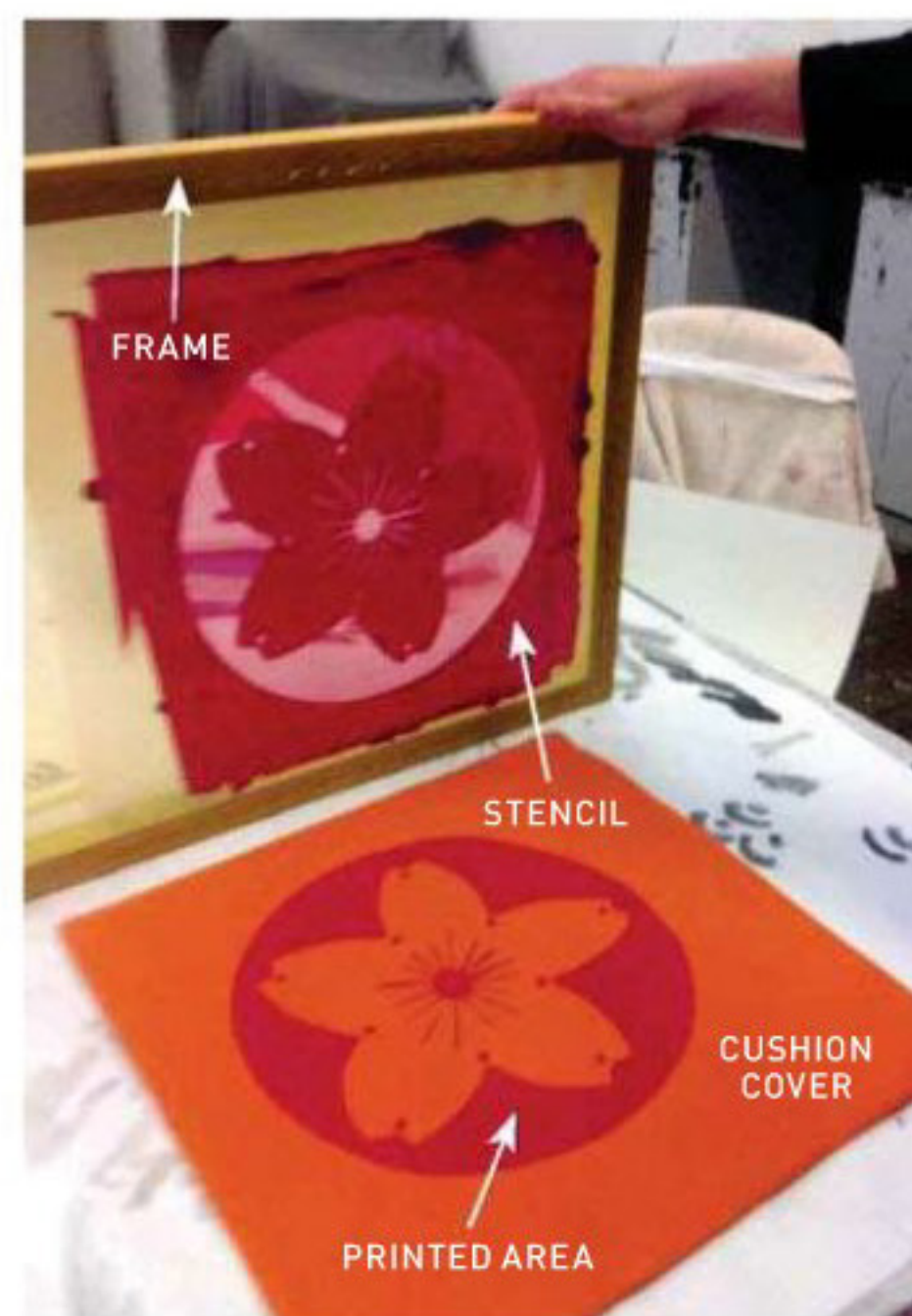
## 4 Add the ink

Place several spoonfuls of pigment ink inside the screen, just outside the stencil area, leaving enough space for the squeegee between the ink and the frame. Smooth the ink into a thick line across the screen using a spatula.



## 5 Apply the design

Grip the frame tightly with one hand and use the squeegee to firmly push the ink from one side of the screen to the other, keeping the squeegee at a 30° angle and maintaining constant pressure.



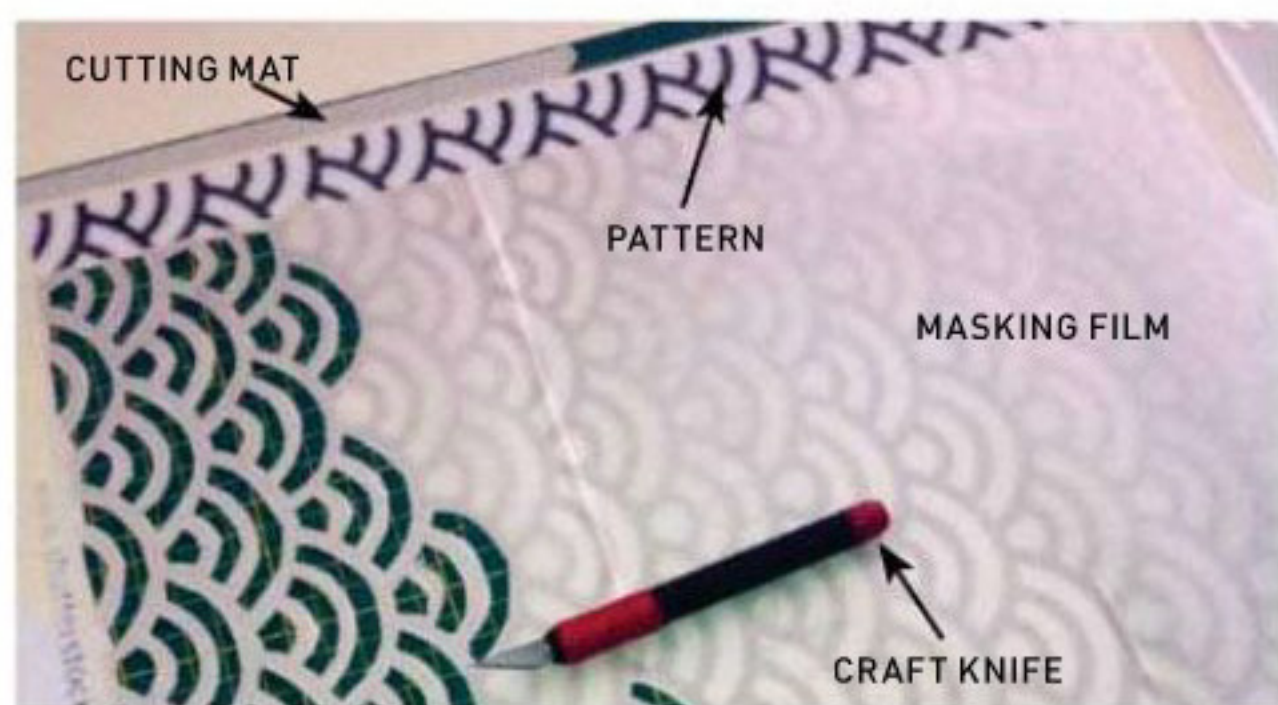
## 6 Remove the frame

Hold the cushion cover down with one hand and carefully lift up one edge of the frame, then the other. Allow the ink to dry on the cushion where it is. Remove the stencil and wash the mesh using cold water.

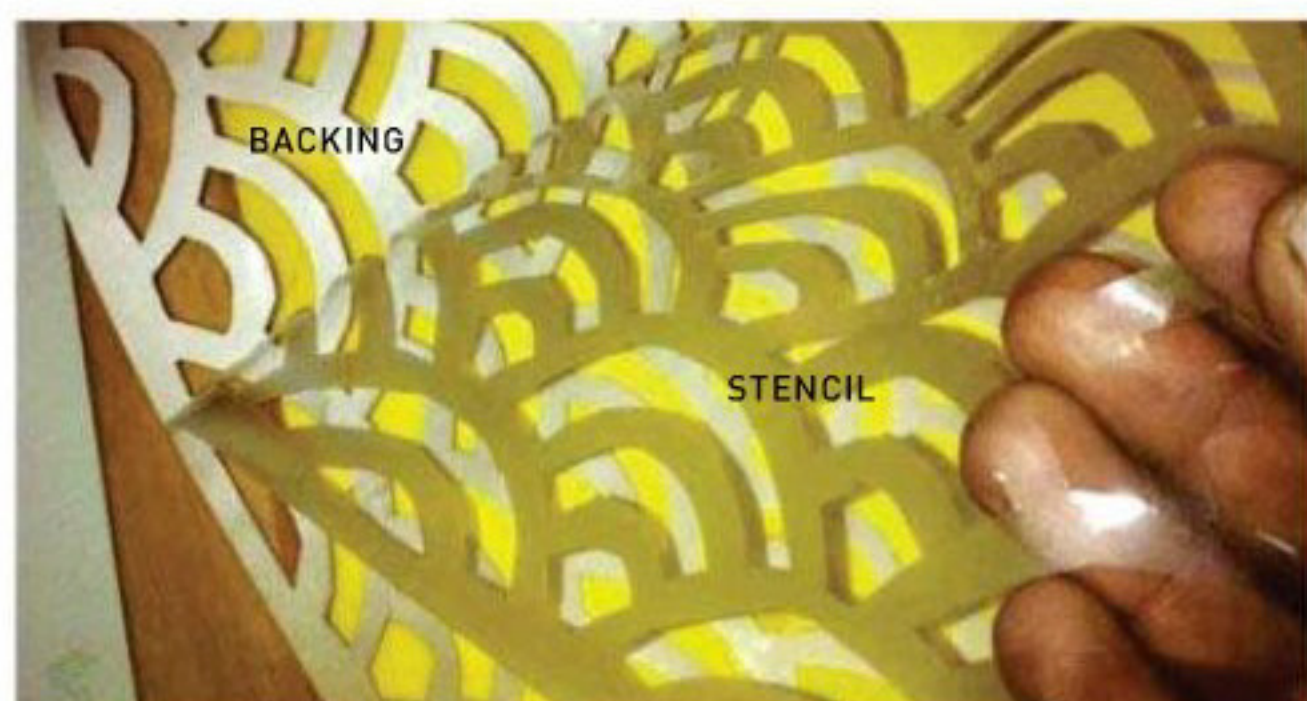


## Making pattern stencils

To make a stencil, draw your own design or trace a pattern using tracing paper and transfer onto masking film. If using a printout or a photocopied pattern, no tracing is required. You'll need a craft knife or scalpel and a cutting mat, about \$25, from an art shop.



**1 CUT THE DESIGN** by positioning the pattern on a cutting mat, then put the masking film on top, securing both with masking tape. Carefully cut out the areas of the pattern to be printed using a craft knife.

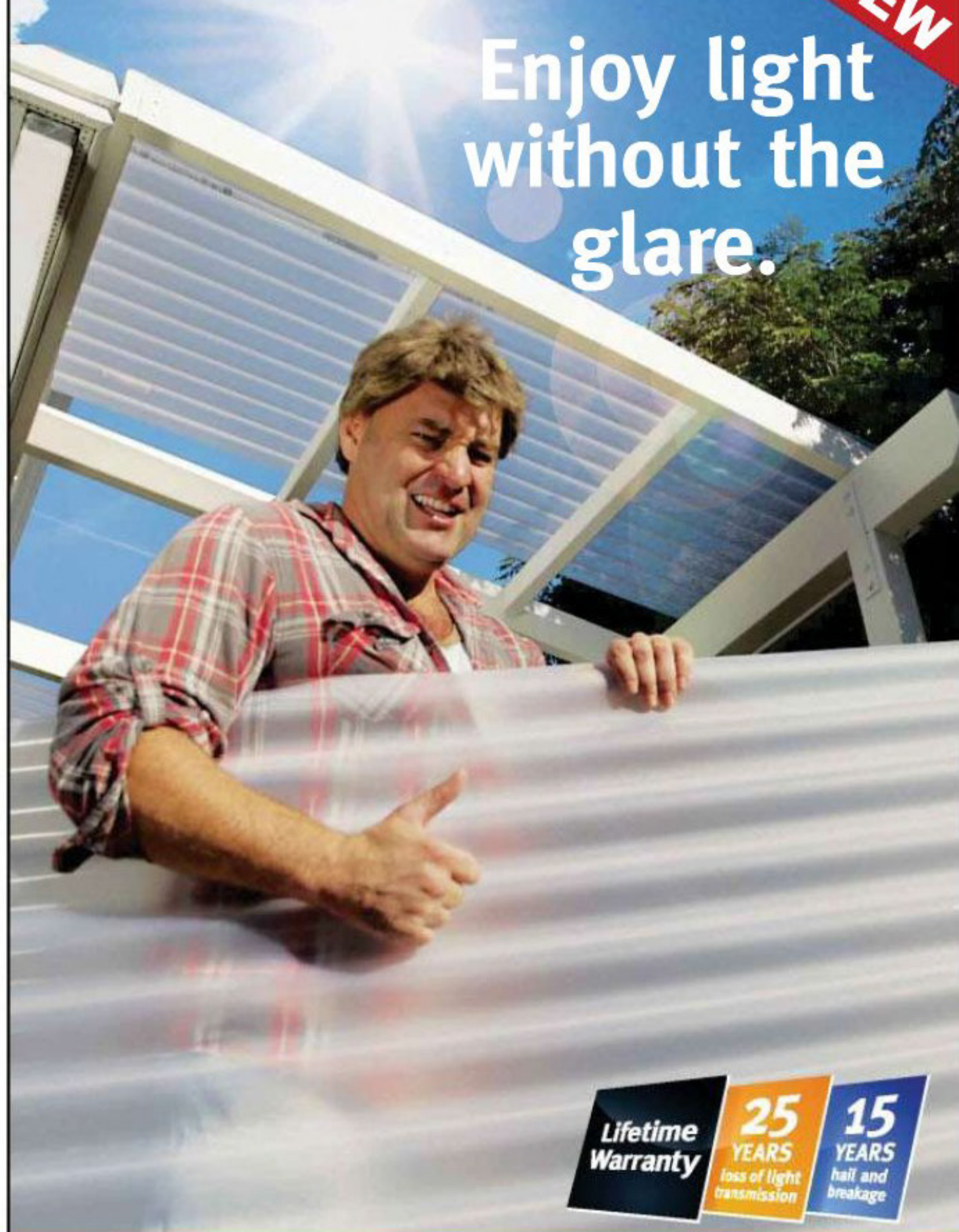


**2 ATTACH THE STENCIL** to the screen printing frame by carefully peeling away the backing and applying the stencil to the screen on the outside of the frame, lining up the edge of the pattern with the edge of the frame.



**3 PAINT THE STENCIL** onto the cushion cover by laying a line of ink along one edge of the frame and pushing it to the other side using a squeegee. For intricate patterns, practise on a scrap piece of fabric first. ➤

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without the  
glare.



## New Suntuf™ Diffused.

Suntuf™ has been New Zealand's number one polycarbonate roofing choice for 25 years, thanks to Suntuf's durability and protective barrier against wind, rain, hail and sun, providing 99.9% harmful UV resistance. It's virtually unbreakable. Now, Suntuf Diffused brings the benefits of Suntuf with the added reassurance that glare from the bright sun is a thing of the past. Enjoy light without the glare with Suntuf Diffused.



- Allows both light and privacy
- Attractive, modern style
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- Very strong and virtually unbreakable





# Paint a canvas

Transform an outdoor room with a canvas artwork created using screen printing techniques.

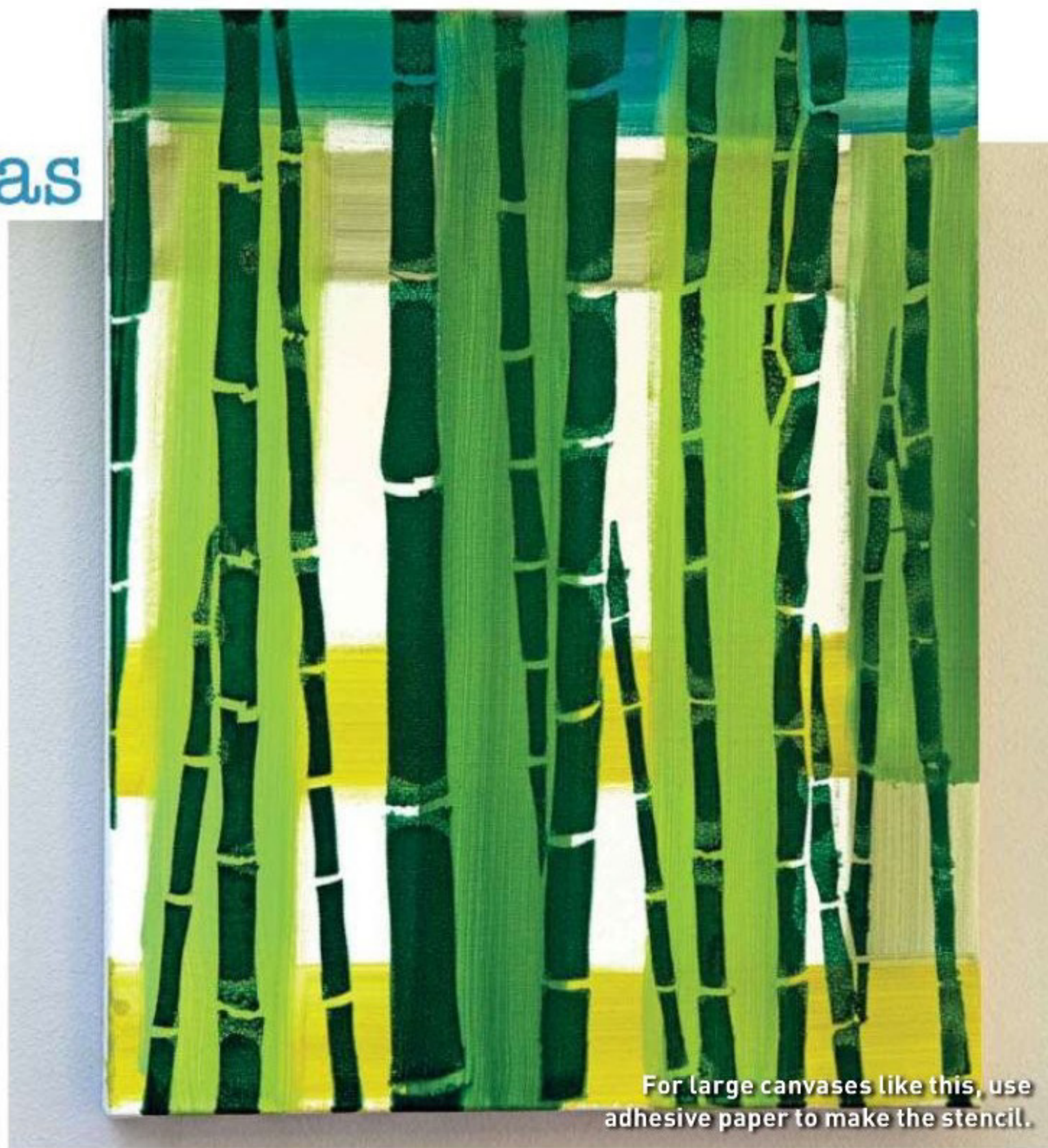
If you already have a screen printing kit, you simply need to buy a blank canvas to create original wall art on a DIY budget.

To make the stencil for a large canvas or wall hanging, use self adhesive paper, such as Contact.

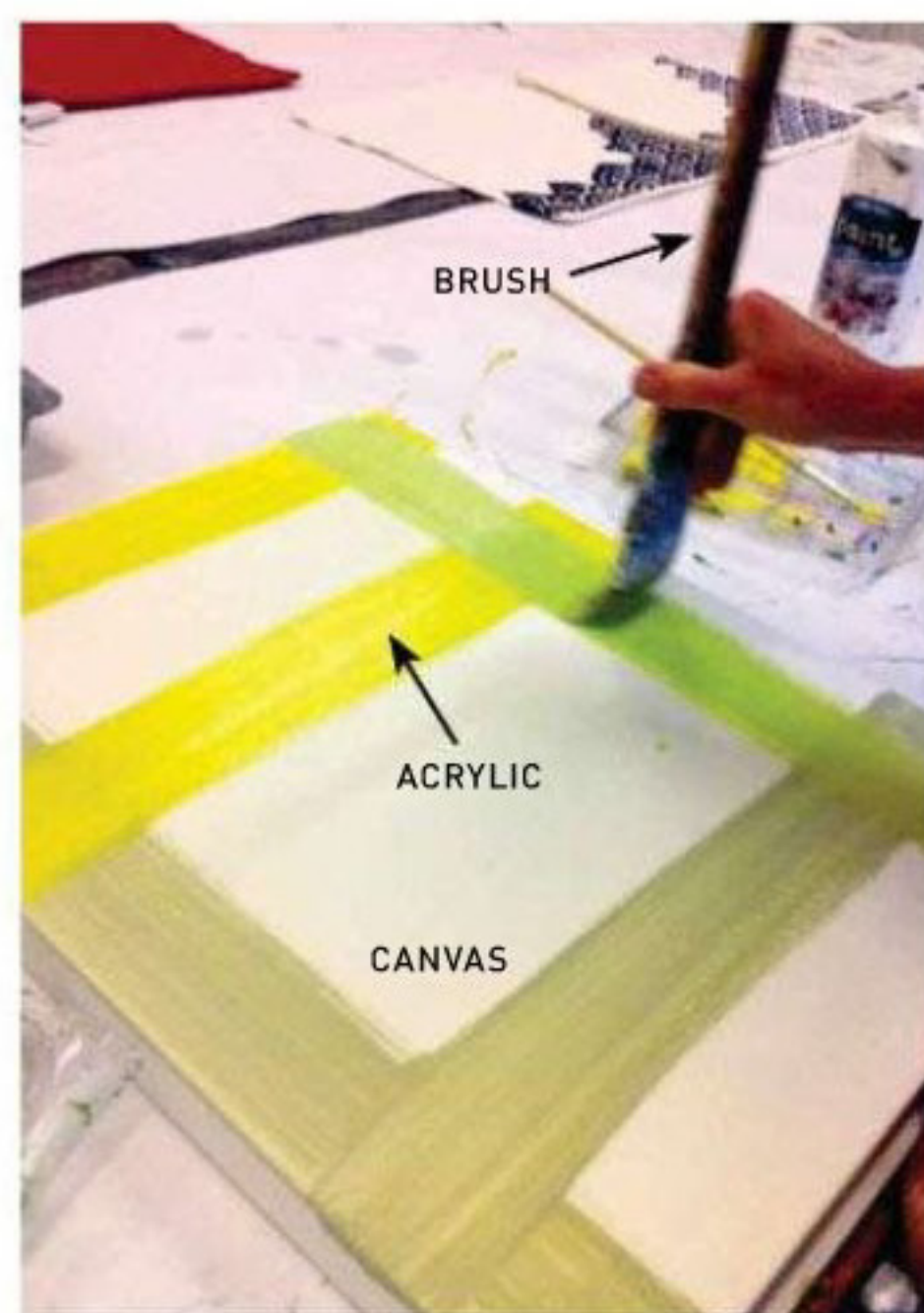
When using this method to paint a canvas, limit yourself to four or five colours, and consider using an online palette generator like [colourlovers.com](http://colourlovers.com) to take the guesswork out of choosing which colours work best together.

Use acrylic paint for both the background and the stencil, but dilute the background colours with water for a soft effect that won't compete with your design. Apply the darkest colour for the stencil pattern.

**TIP** Allow the background paint to dry before screen printing.

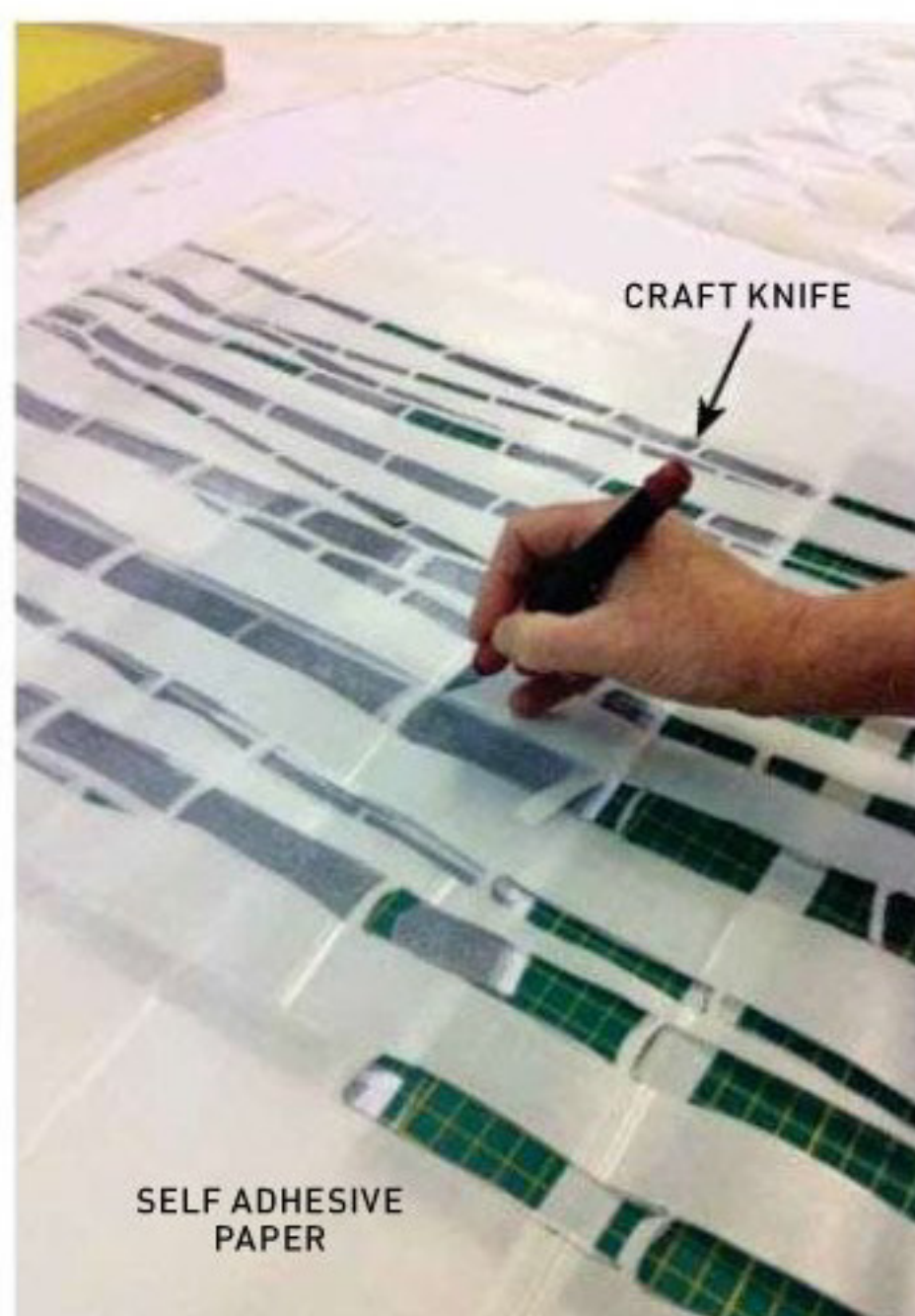


For large canvases like this, use adhesive paper to make the stencil.



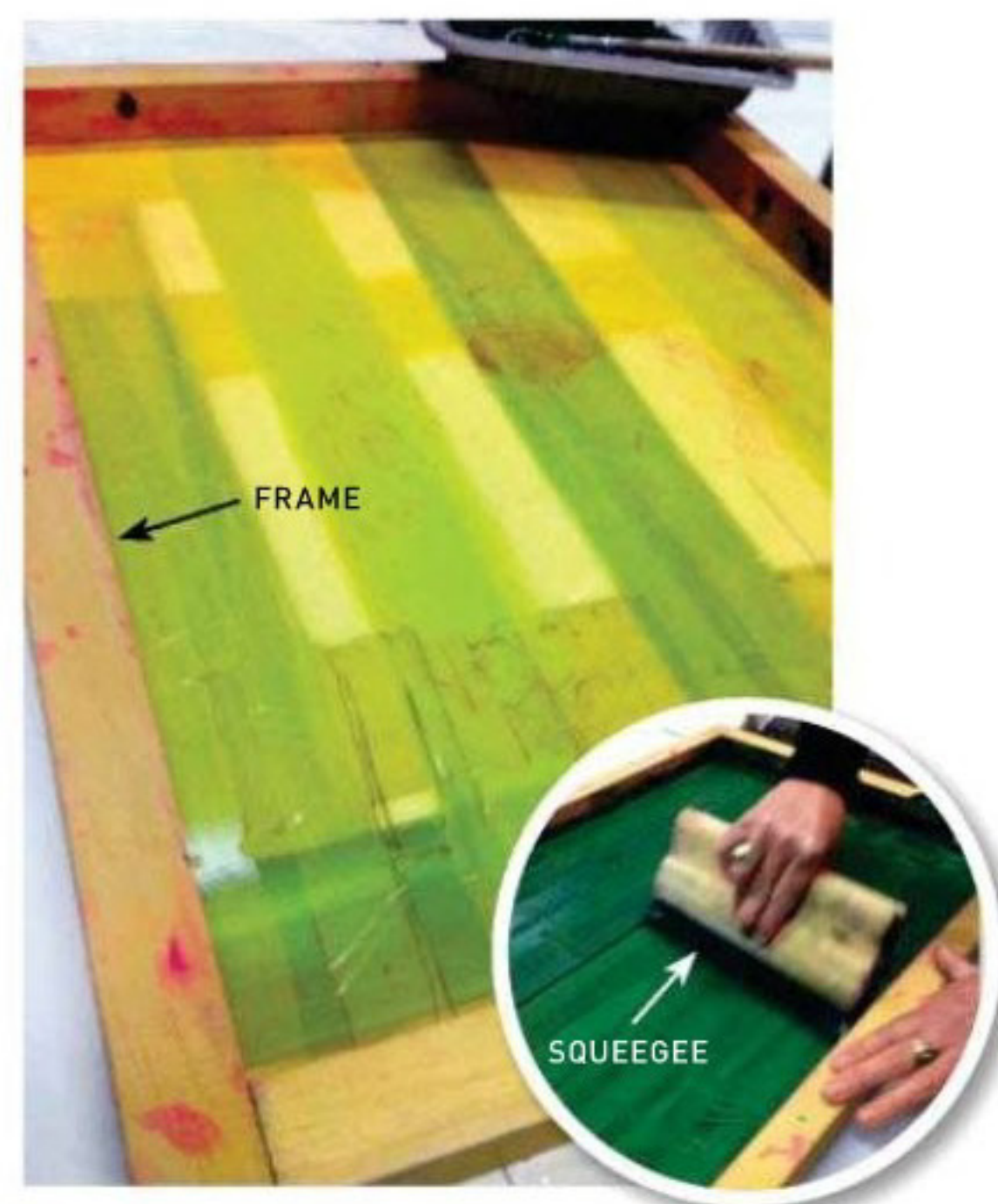
## 1 Paint the canvas

Use a wide brush to paint vertical and horizontal lines on the canvas at staggered intervals, allowing the paint to dry between layers. Keep in mind that the top layers will be the more dominant colours on the canvas.



## 2 Make the stencil

Sketch the design of the stencil on a sheet of self adhesive paper using a pencil, then cut out with a craft knife. Peel the backing from the paper and apply the stencil to the outside of the screen printing frame.



## 3 Apply the design

Lay the canvas flat on the table, then position the frame over the canvas with the outside face down. Apply a thick line of acrylic at one end of the frame, then spread the paint across the screen using a squeegee.





ORBIT Teal



Black

Teal

Pewter

Stone

### HOME PROFILE

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Filter summer sun and add privacy with our wide range of sizes in both at home and DIY sheer curtain ranges. Plain or patterned and ready-to-hang today.

*So easy to buy and hang today...*

Look for this sticker on packs in store for our Blockout range of readymade curtains.



# New in store Readymade Curtains

From custom-style to budget-with-style, now you can pick up, take home and hang your curtains today....

We have just launched a brand new range of Readymade Curtains into all Bunnings Warehouses – just in time for your Spring and Summer makeover projects.

Our new **Home Profile** curtain collection has a fabric lining, plus extra long 220cm drop for custom-made looks without the price tag.

Thermal lined **at home** curtains have even more of the colours and designs you need to finish any room in your home. If you're on a budget or just want to freshen up a room, our new **DIY CURTAINS** have been designed to work anywhere.

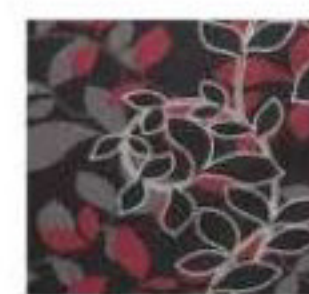
**THERMAL LINED, ADJUSTABLE WIDTH, READYMADE CURTAINS YOU CAN BUY AND HANG TODAY...**



BEAUMONT Mulberry

### athome

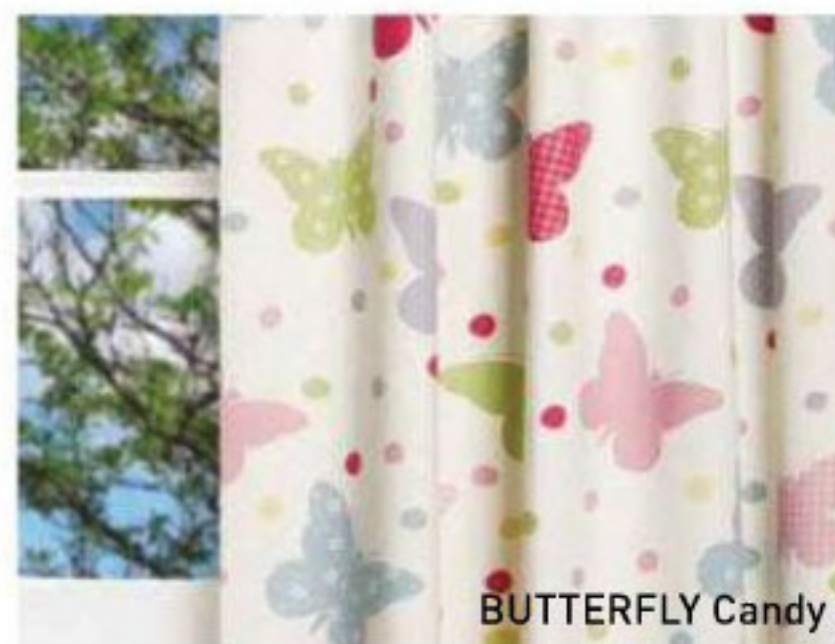
We have looked at the latest colours and designs to create a stylish, affordable range of fully-finished thermal-lined curtains.



Midnight



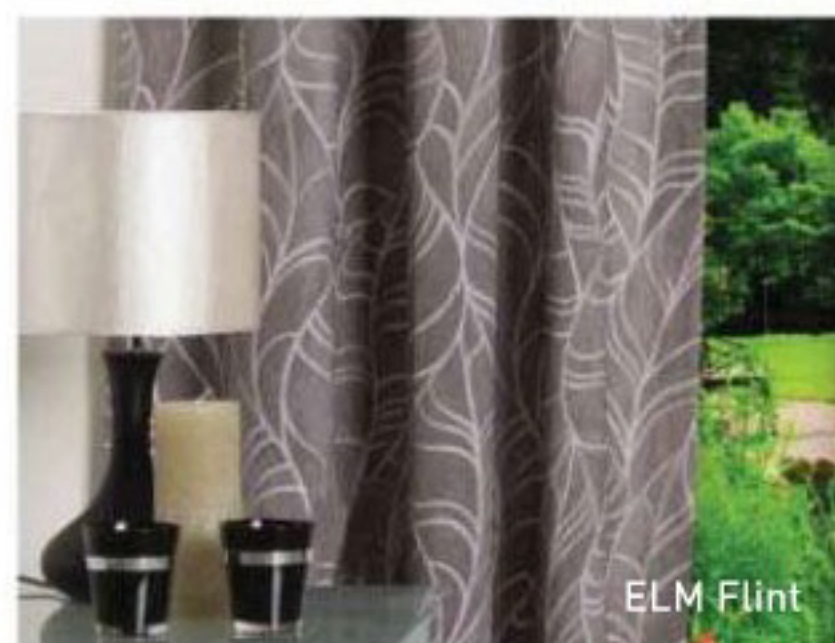
Stone



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ELM Flint

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Ask the Special Orders Desk at your local Bunnings Warehouse about ordering custom sizes.

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# TONES



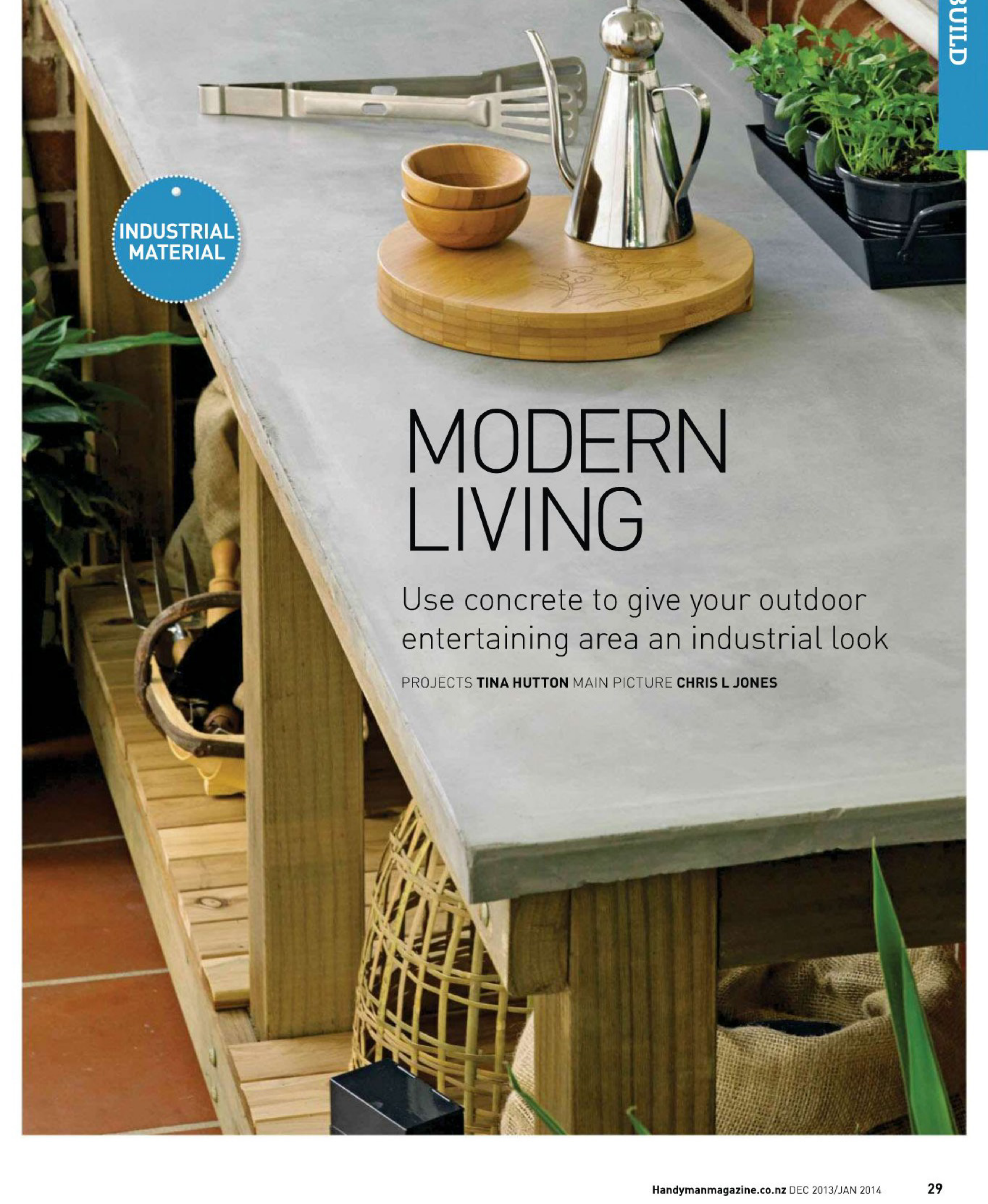
Produced by Johnson Tiles UK, featured here is 400x150mm Tones White Nano. Great to use as a feature tile in your kitchen or bathroom, the Tones range is available in a Satin finish in 5 colours, featuring Linear, Wave and Nano profiles. The Tones range is available now at all Bunnings stores.

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INDUSTRIAL  
MATERIAL

# MODERN LIVING

Use concrete to give your outdoor entertaining area an industrial look

PROJECTS **TINA HUTTON** MAIN PICTURE **CHRIS L JONES**



COOKING  
ALFRESCO

# CONCRETE BBQ BENCH

This durable construction material is ideal for building an outdoor trolley

**DIY > \$425**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$825

**SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME > 1 DAY**

**C**oncrete is becoming more and more popular as a domestic finish, with wet-look floors, benchtops and other surfaces adding a sleek look to modern interiors.

The cool, industrial grey of this reinforced concrete bench is warmed by the treated pine frame. The storage shelf is made from macrocarpa decking, and it has castors for manoeuvrability.

## INSTALL THE BENCHTOP

To make the benchtop, you need eight 20kg bags of concrete. Pour concrete into the formwork and let it cure, then remove the screws and tap the side boards away with a rubber mallet.

Gently tap the side to break the bond with the plywood. Get at least two people to help you turn it over lengthways, using plywood to support the top along its length or it will crack.

Lift the slab into position, apply construction adhesive generously to the frame and slide on the benchtop. Ensure the overhangs are even, then let the adhesive cure for 24 hours. ➤

## Smoothing the surface

Using film-faced plywood for the formwork will result in a very flat and smooth benchtop. To iron out any imperfections, apply a skim coat of cement slurry and smooth the surface with a steel float.

When the benchtop has fully cured, apply masonry sealer to make it resistant to water and staining.



Cemix Clear Sealer, \$30 for 1L.  
[cemix.co.nz](http://cemix.co.nz)







A timber bench with a concrete top offers a smooth surface for food preparation with built-in storage.



## BUILD THE BENCH



**1 Assemble the formwork**  
To build the formwork for the benchtop, use 40mm x 8g screws to attach lengths of 140 x 19mm DAR pine to a 2400 x 600 x 17mm sheet of film-faced plywood. Position the ends between the sides and secure the butt joints with screws.

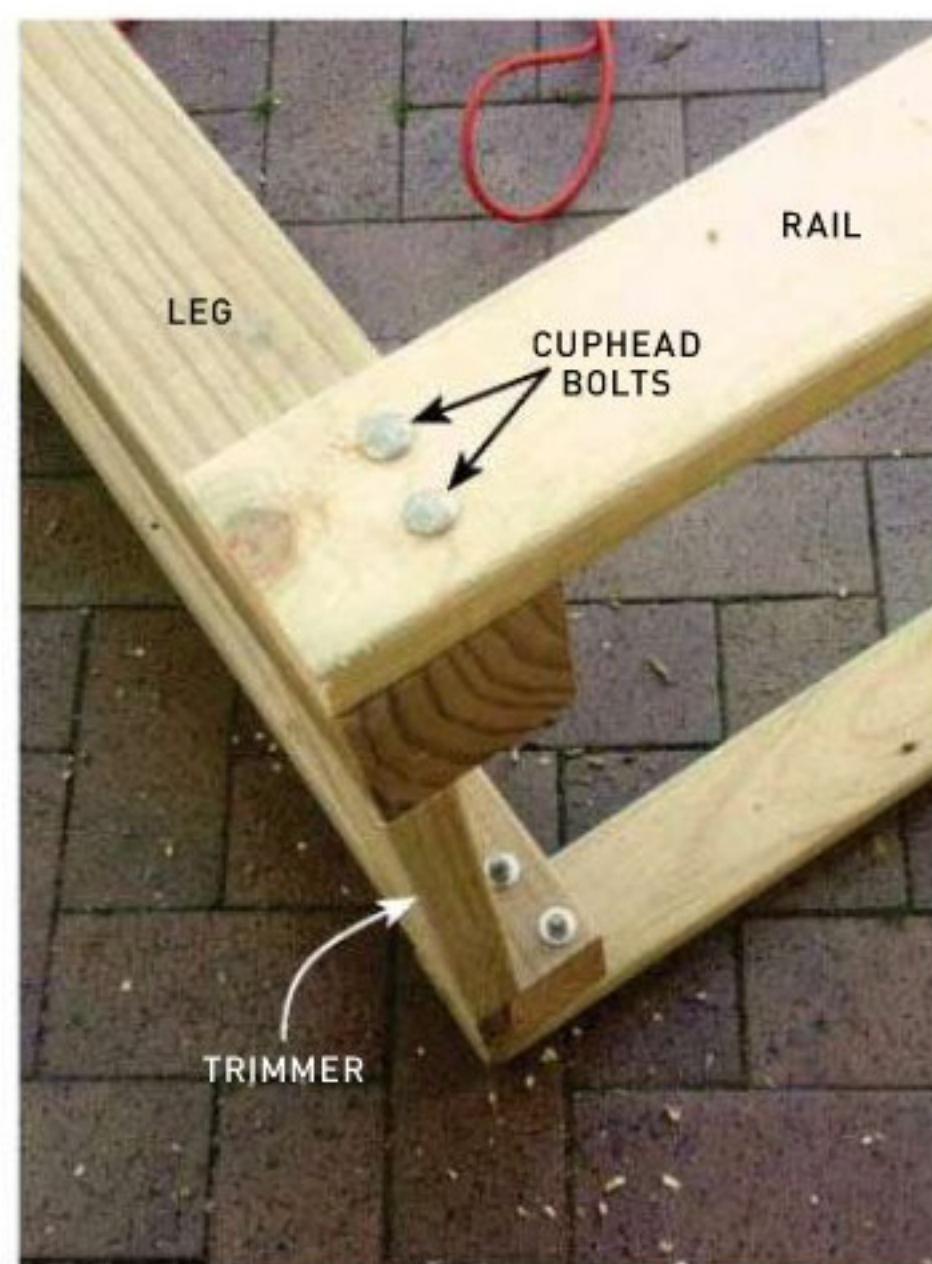
**2 Add the mesh**  
Use bolt cutters or an angle grinder to cut reinforcing mesh to fit in the formwork, raising it on bar chairs so it is embedded with an equal thickness of concrete on both sides. Use a caulking gun to apply silicone sealant in the corners of the formwork.



**3 Pour the concrete**  
Empty the concrete into a wheelbarrow and add enough water to make a wet mix that has the same consistency as mud. Pour the concrete into the formwork to 50mm deep and level with a timber offcut, then smooth the surface carefully using a steel float.



**4 Build the three leg frames**  
Clamp the trimmers against the ends of each set of legs flush with the outside, securing with adhesive and 125mm x 14g bugle screws.  
**TIP** Don't centre the trimmers on the centre leg frame as it will force the rail bolts too close to the edge of the legs.



**5 Secure the rails**  
Clamp the rails to the leg frames and drill clearance holes for 150mm x M8 galvanised cuphead bolts, securing with a socket wrench. Position the shelf slats on the base rails, spacing them with 2.5mm gaps, and secure with 40mm x 8g screws.

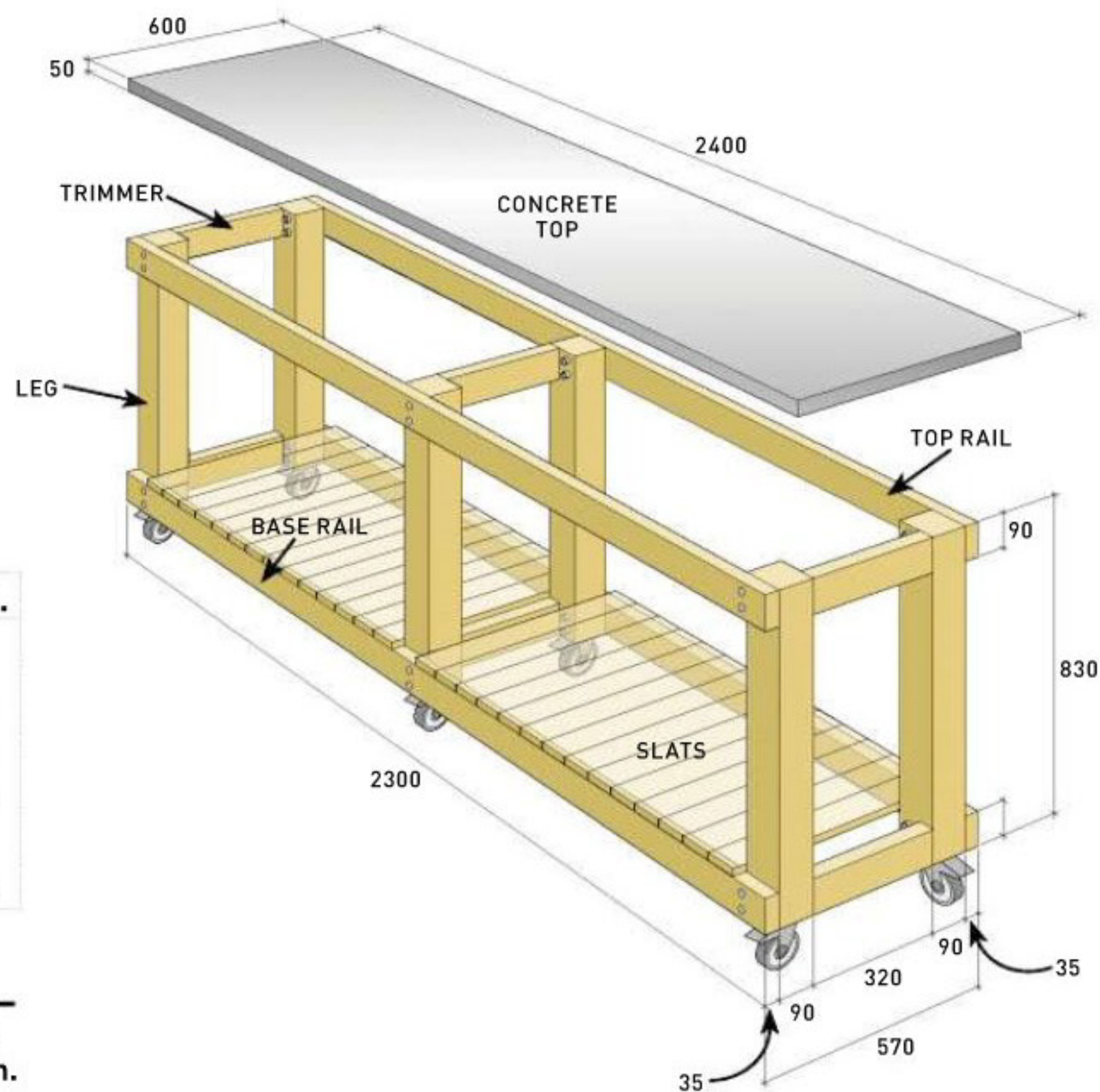


**6 Complete the bench**  
Turn the bench upside down and on the end of each leg, drill pilot holes and secure the castors with the supplied screws. Turn the frame the right way up, remove the formwork from the benchtop and secure it using construction adhesive.



# CONCRETE BBQ BENCH

measurements in mm



## CUTTING LIST

| PART                | SIZE           | NO. |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| <b>TREATED PINE</b> |                |     |
| Legs                | 830 x 90 x 90  | 6   |
| Trimmers            | 320 x 90 x 35  | 6   |
| Rails               | 2300 x 90 x 35 | 4   |
| <b>MACROCARPA</b>   |                |     |
| Shelf slats         | 570 x 70 x 19  | 28  |

**+ Handymanmagazine.co.nz**

Go online to download the tools, materials and costs to make this Concrete BBQ Bench.



BEFORE



AFTER



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TUTORIAL HERE!

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# CONCRETE COOLER

For a rock-solid drinks rider that's huge on thermal mass, you can't beat this icebox on wheels

**DIY > \$165**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$365

**SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME > 4 HOURS**

The phrase 'heavy drinking' takes on a whole new meaning with this durable concrete cooler box. With castors for mobility and an industrial finish, it's a unique way to keep your guests refreshed.

Use 16mm melamine sheet for the formwork and a holesaw to bore a hole for a 150 x 15mm threaded outlet pipe.

To make the void inside the cooler, instead of building a negative form, take a shortcut by assembling a 670 x 345 x 300mm block of polystyrene insulation and pouring the concrete around and over it so the sides and base are about 50mm thick.

Once the concrete has cured, simply dig out the polystyrene insert.

To finish, a plywood base is embedded into the concrete and castors are secured, with a garden tap wound onto the threaded outlet pipe.

## STAY CHILLED

When the concrete is dry, which will take about two days, apply an epoxy based concrete sealant inside and out.

This will stop the ice from being contaminated by dissolved minerals from the concrete, in case people add it directly to their drinks.

The concrete's high thermal mass means that once it's been cooled by the

ice you pour into it, it will stay cold for a long time, keeping the interior temperature stable.

This cooler is an open design, since a lid made out of concrete would be too heavy to handle.

A matching lid can easily be made from butt-joined decking boards or plywood, and lined with a leftover piece of the insulation. ➤

## Adding the hardware

To enhance the industrial aesthetic of the chiller, choose an outlet tap with a robust-looking finish and heavy-duty castors.



Aqualine 15mm Garden Tap, \$7, from Bunnings.



Swivel Castor, 63mm, about \$20 each, from Bunnings.





This cooler keeps a constant temperature for a long time, so your drinks will always be perfectly chilled.



## MAKE THE COOLER



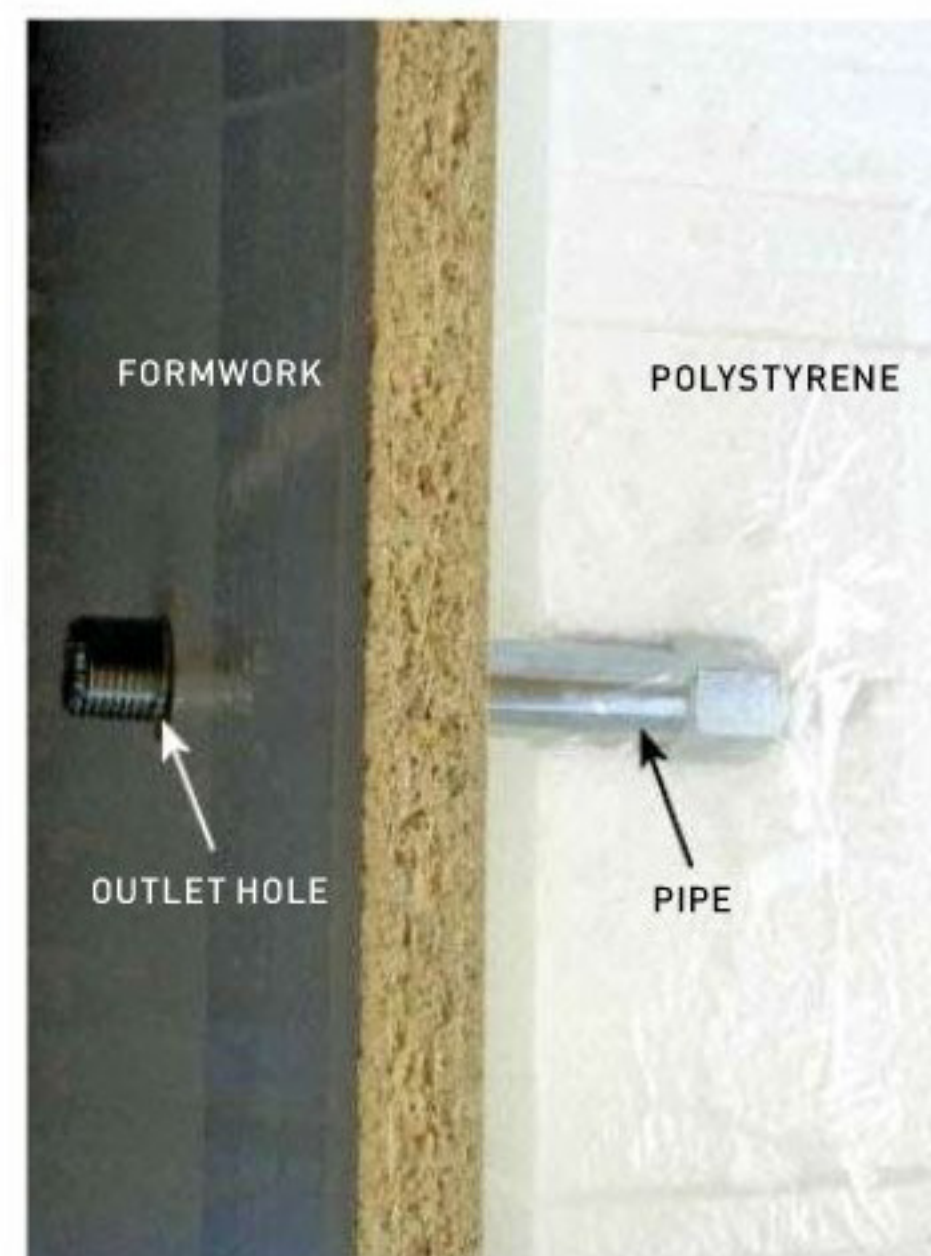
### 1 Build the formwork

Cut three pieces of 16mm thick melamine to 800mm wide x 445mm high, and two to 445 x 429mm to build the formwork box using 30mm x 8g particleboard screws. Use a drill with a 20mm holesaw to bore a hole centred about 150mm from the top of the box.



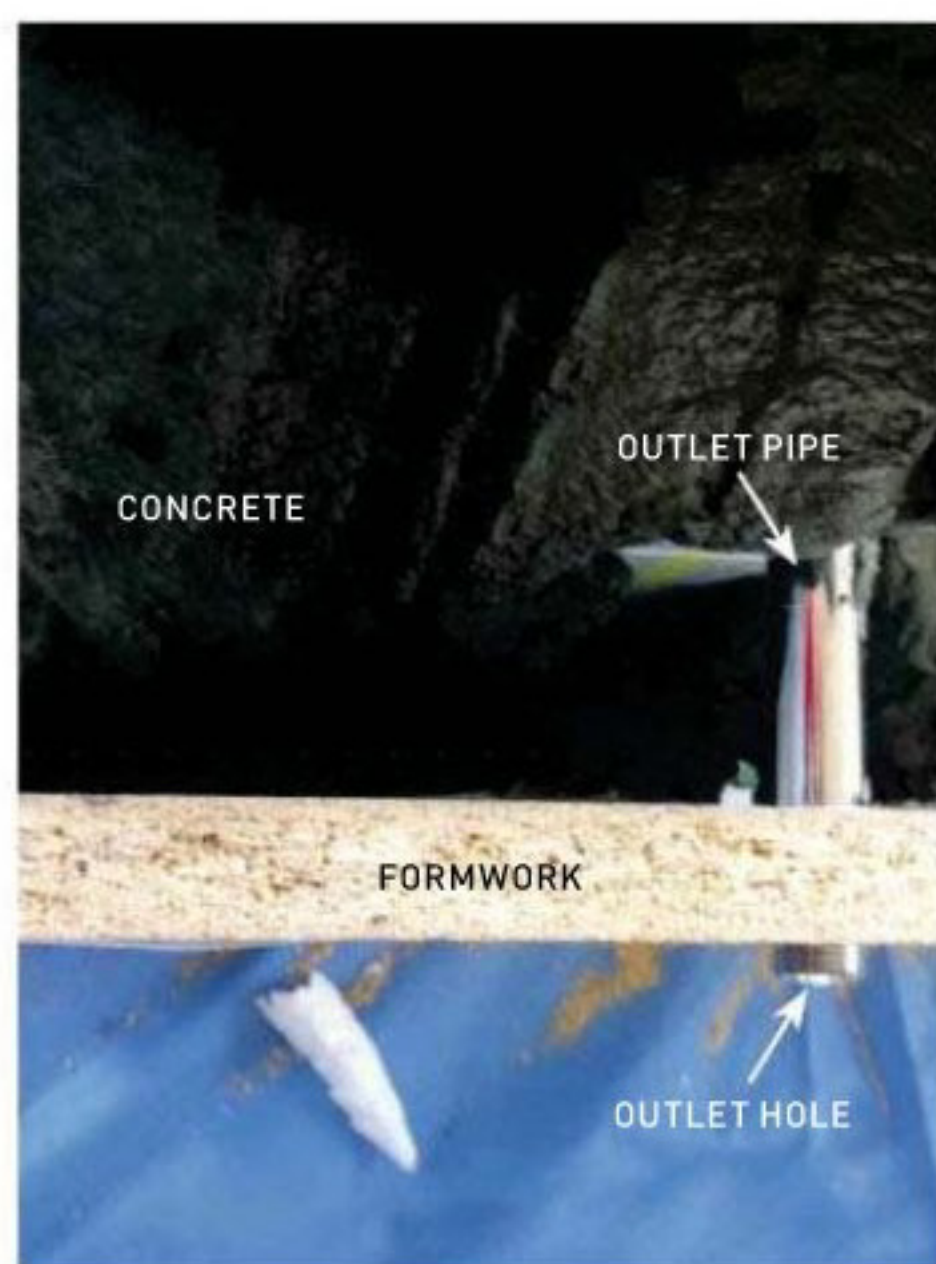
### 2 Assemble the insert

Use a caulking gun to apply silicone sealant into the corners of the formwork box. Cut polystyrene insulation into five 670 x 345 x 60mm pieces then use PVA adhesive to glue the stack together, and centre it in the formwork to create the void.



### 3 Install the outlet pipe

Using a utility knife, cut away a slight recess at the edge of the insert to house the end of a 150 x 15mm threaded pipe. Position the pipe in the outlet hole and seal off the end with heavy-duty tape to prevent it being clogged when you pour the concrete.



### 4 Pour the concrete

In a wheelbarrow, make up a wet mix of concrete and shovel it carefully into the formwork, spreading it evenly around the insert. Tap the side of the formwork to expel air bubbles and keep filling until the concrete covers the outlet pipe by about 50mm.



### 5 Insert the base

Use a timber float to roughly level the concrete then cut a piece of 18mm thick exterior ply to 700 x 345mm and centre it carefully inside the formwork. Press down evenly until the plywood is embedded in the concrete, roughly flush with the surface.



### 6 Add the tap and castors

Let the concrete cure for at least 48 hours, then disassemble the formwork and dig out the polystyrene insert. Wind a garden tap onto the threaded pipe and secure the castors to the underside of the plywood base using the supplied screws.



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**Willow**

## *Willow Carry Can 25L features:*

- lightweight yet Durable
- cap contains gasket for optimum sealing
- bonus tap inside can
- suitable for water, detergents and non-flammable liquids
- ideal for home, camping, boating and caravans.



## *Willow Quickserve*

### *44L Cooler features:*

- latch door on lid for easy access
- minimal loss of cold air by open latch instead of entire lid
- lid holds 3 Willow Ice Bricks
- rugged construction
- strong lifting handles
- clips that securely lock down lid
- trusted Willow Quality with a 10 year Guarantee.

Available at  
**BUNNINGS**  
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# RECLAIMED *timber tree*

Get festive with DIY and turn offcuts into a seasonal decoration that will last for many years to come

PROJECT AND PICTURES **JESS COX**

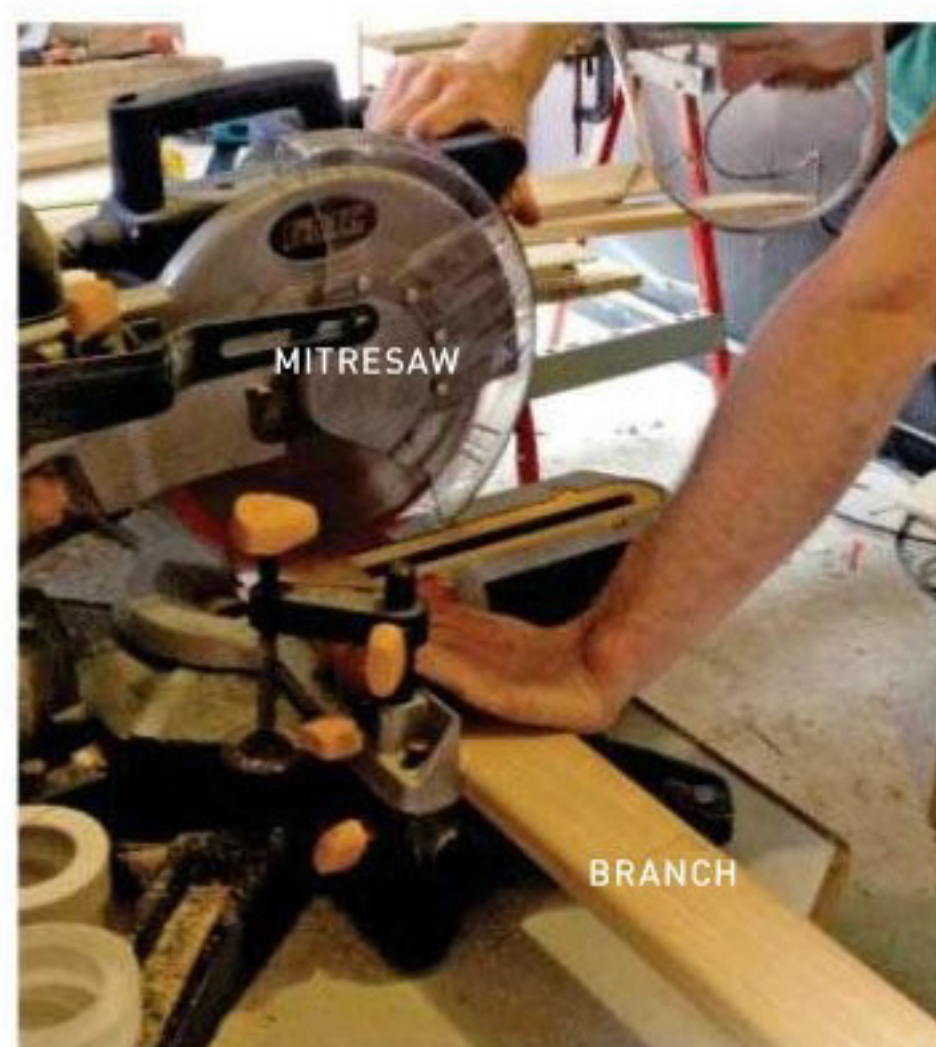
**T**his year, instead of buying a live Christmas tree that will end up being taken to the dump by January, make your own.

Use odds and ends from other DIY projects to create an individual, eye-catching festive decoration.

For the branches we used scraps of hardwood decking boards, a pine frame from a large canvas and a few scraps of framing timber. The branches were threaded onto a 600 x 10mm dowel, with pine offcuts used as spacers and the tree base.

Measure and mark the reclaimed timber into different lengths for the branches and spacers, ensuring that each branch has a matching pair.

You can leave the timber in a raw, unfinished state, or apply two coats of oil or beeswax before assembling.



## **1 Make the branches**

Cut the branches and spacers to length with a mitresaw. Sand all the pieces with 100 grit then 150 grit abrasive paper, smoothing over rough ends and corners. Find and mark the centre of each branch.



## **2 Drill the holes**

Make pilot holes in the centre of each branch using a 3mm bit, then drill with a 10mm bit, taking care to keep the drill vertical. Test-fit the branches to the dowel. Drill a hole in the base and secure the dowel with adhesive.



## **3 Make the tree**

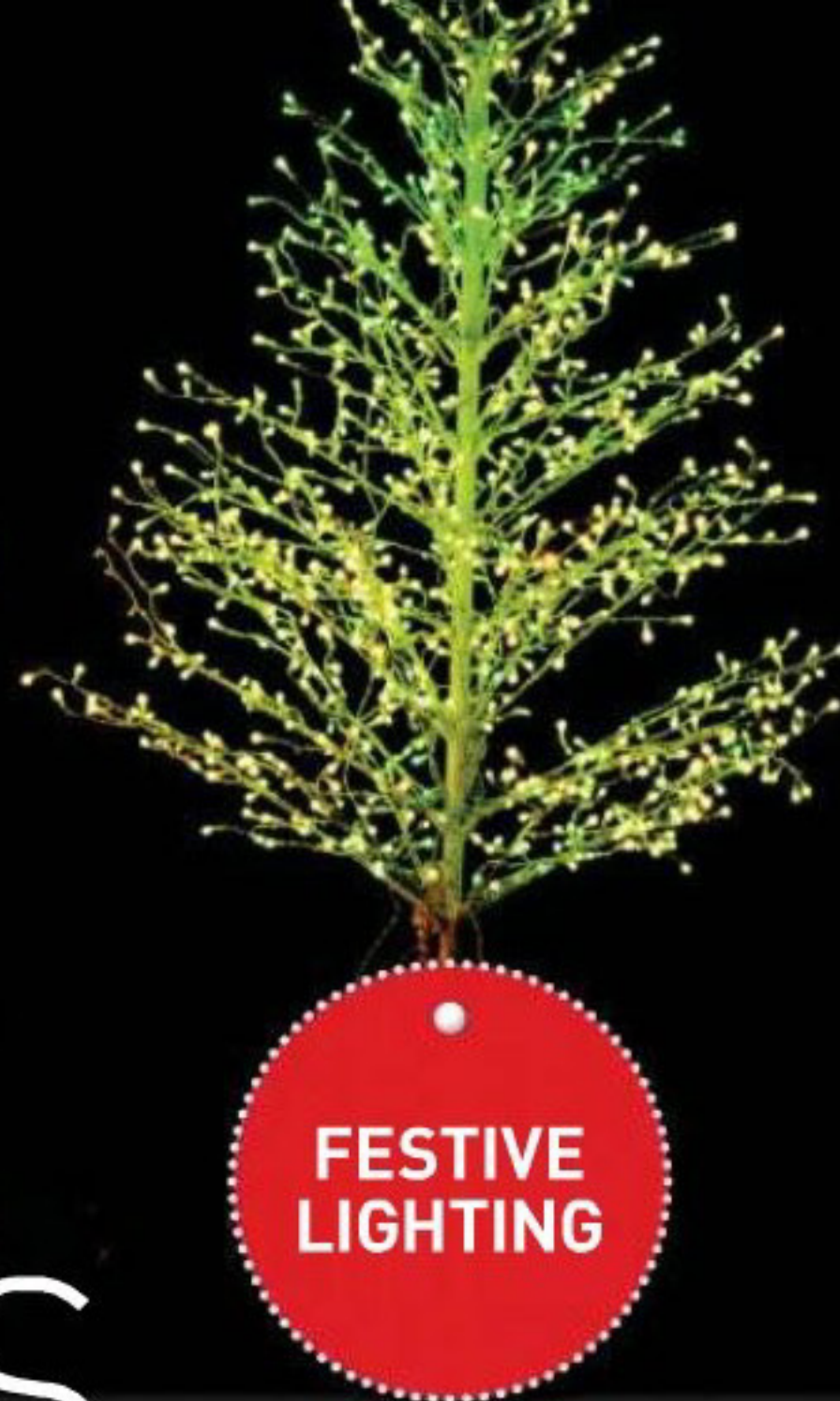
Thread the branches onto the dowel, adding spacers. Not all the branches need a spacer between them, judge what looks best as you go. Leave 50mm of dowel extending from the top for a star or angel. Add decorations.





Flameless LED tea lights and shiny baubles add sparkle to this festive one-off.





# STORAGE HINTS

Great ideas for putting up, taking down and packing away your lights and decorations

**A**nyone who enjoys decorating the house and tree will love these great solutions for storing and managing decorations.

Use these techniques to put up string lights and pack them away to keep them damage-free, so you can hang them up next season without spending hours untangling the cords or replacing broken bulbs.



## In the bag

An easy way to store holiday lights according to usage is to put each string in a separate plastic bag with the location marked on it.

Make sure the lights are untangled and the bulbs intact before putting them in the bags, storing them in a safe spot.

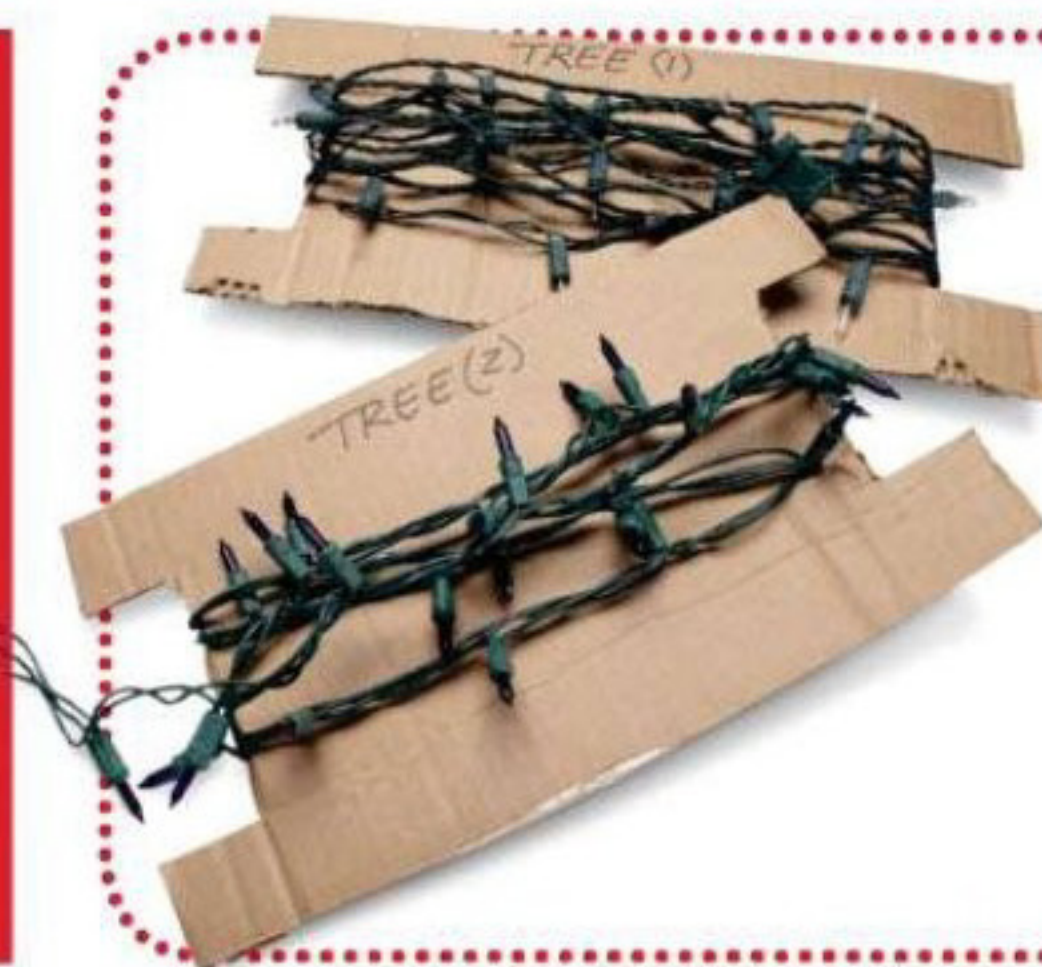
## Take a stand

If you use dozens of light strings each year, storage can be tricky.

To make stands for the lights, cut timber to fit the bases of plastic storage tubs and attach dowels 50mm from the ends using screws.

Wrap the string lights around the dowels in a figure-eight pattern and put the stands in the tubs.

You'll be amazed how many light strings you can store on the stands without tangles or damage.



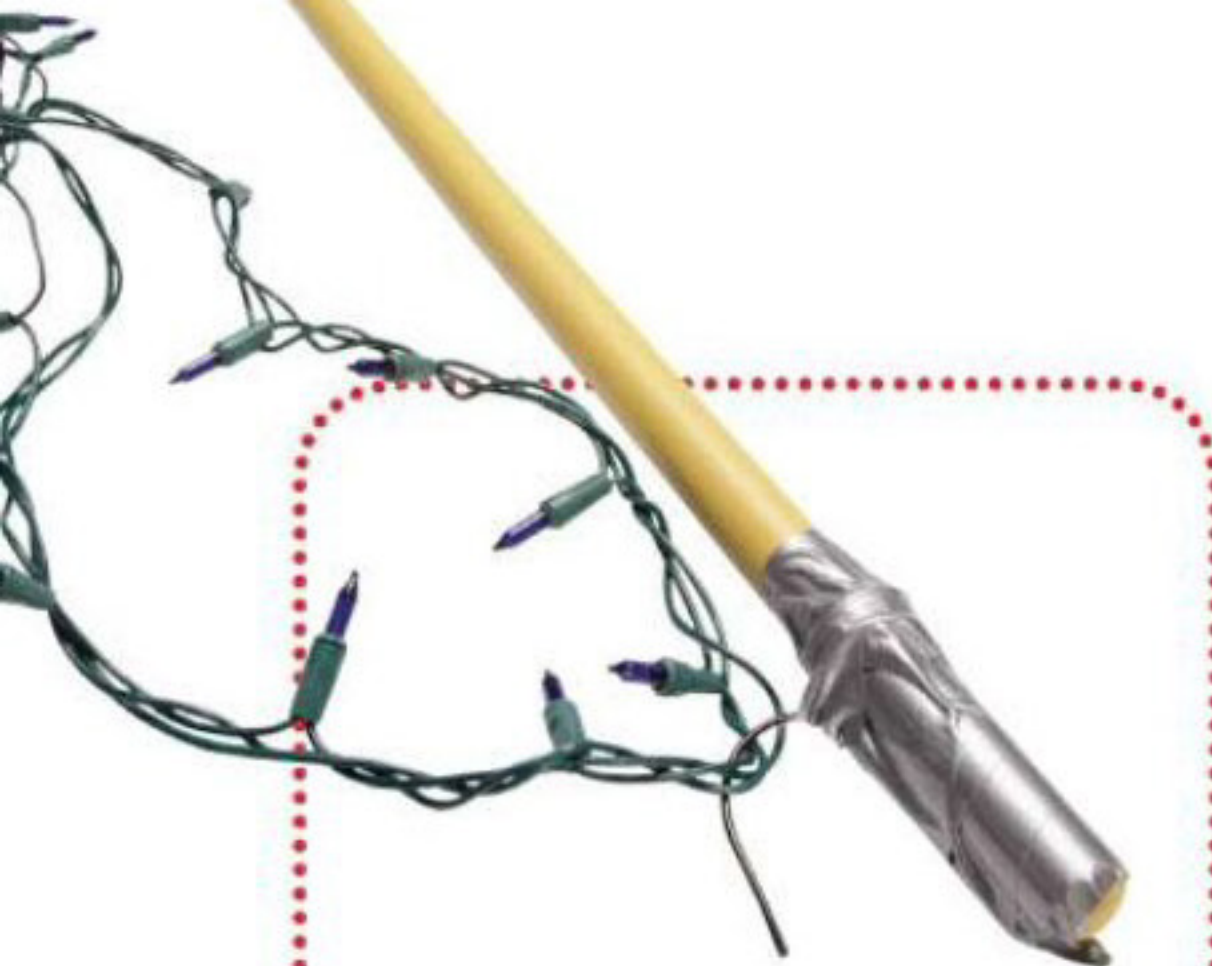
## On the cards

Here's a simple way to recycle old boxes and keep string lights from getting tangled when in storage.

Cut pieces of cardboard into the shape of flat spools with slots on the ends, like the type used for twine, ribbon and thread.

Wrap one light string around each storage card, label them and put in a plastic tub until next year.





## Off the hook

Putting up and taking down lights on a tall outdoor or indoor tree can be dangerous. Make it safer by using a paint roller extension pole or broom handle with a hook.

Cut the hook from a wire coathanger or make one from heavy-gauge wire, securing it to one end of the pole with duct tape to stop it sliding around.

**TIP** The pole hook is also useful for hanging ornaments up high.



## Wrap it up

When dismantling an artificial Christmas tree, use the ribbons it was originally packed with to tie up the boughs of each section.

When the ribbons wear out and you need substitute ties, use rolls of self-adhesive bandage to wrap the branches for storage.

Strong and re-usable they'll do the job without damaging the tree or breaking the budget.



## Peg it out

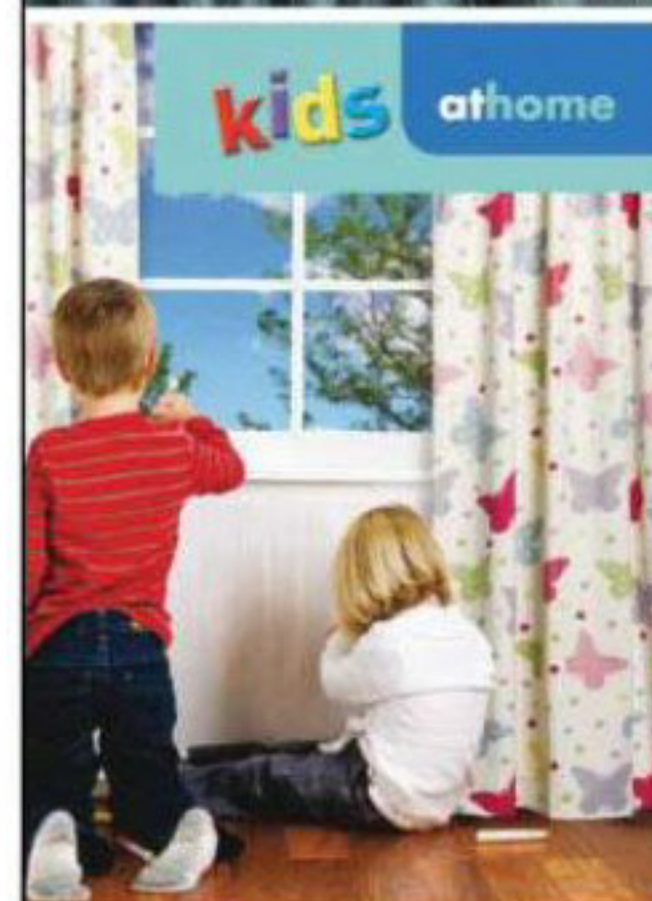
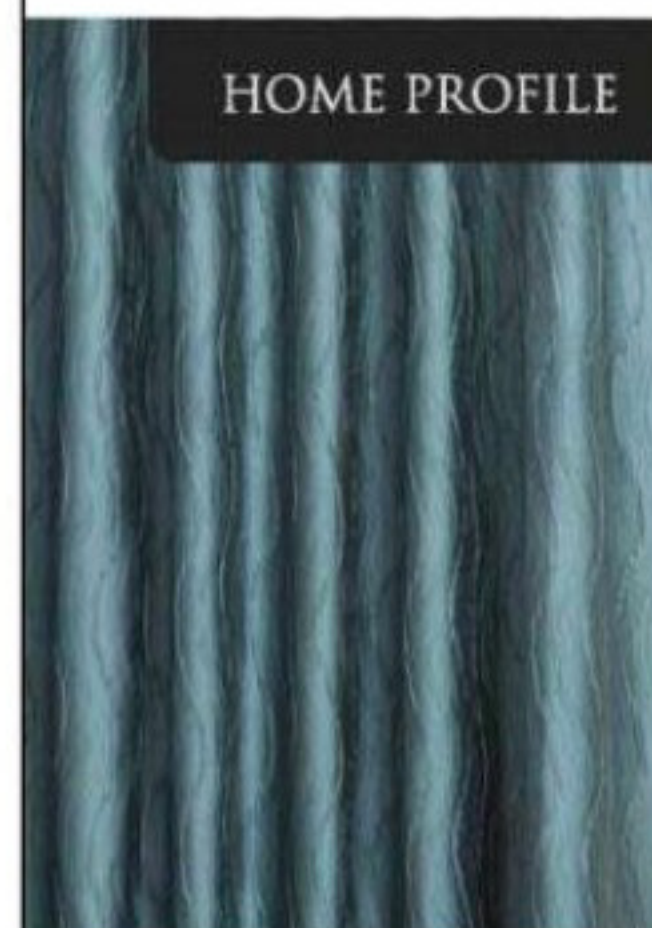
Instead of poking nails into fascia and eaves when you're stringing outdoor lights, clip the wires to the base lip with clothes pegs for damage-free hanging and easy removal.

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DIY GIFT  
IDEA

# DOWN TO THE WIRE

Make a designer bowl with just a few twists and snips then decorate it with paint and beads in bright colours

WORDS **DONYALE HARRISON**

**W**irework bowls are kitchen classics but often come with high price tags at antique and decorator shops. This one can be made for the price of the wire, seed beads and metal paint.

Seed beads can be found at craft shops, but for a budget option simply recycle some old jewellery.

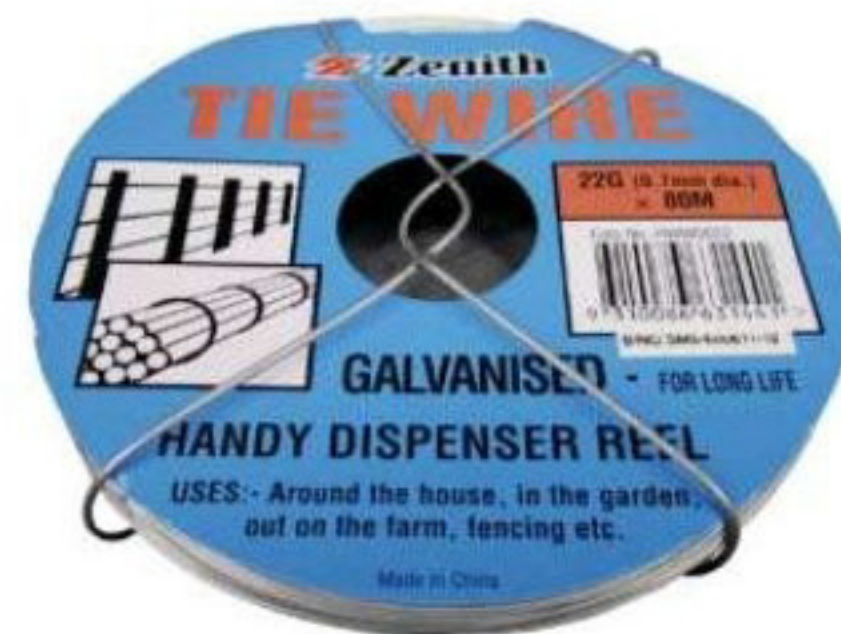
Buy the galvanised tie wire and the paint from a hardware store.

Wire is sometimes sold by gauge rather than in millimetres. The higher

the gauge, the finer the wire. For 2.5mm wire use 12 gauge, 16 gauge for 1.6mm, 20 gauge for 0.9mm and 22 gauge for 0.7mm.

If you have trouble finding the exact wire size you can go up and down a little in thickness.

The only tools you will need to make the bowl are wire cutters and pliers to bend the wire into shape, plus a round bowl to use as a size guide for the bowl rim and separate base with feet. ➤



**Zenith Galvanised Tie Wire, about \$9 in various thicknesses. [itwproline.co.nz](http://itwproline.co.nz)**

## Painting galvanised wire

The zinc coating on galvanised wire stops paint from adhering. To finish the bowl, first treat the wire to provide adhesion for the topcoat.

When weaving the bowl, leave two gaps for the beadwork, adding it after the wire has been painted.

**WASH THE BOWL** with an alkaline water-based cleanser with a pH of at least 11. Rinse with clean water and leave overnight to dry thoroughly, or longer in humid conditions.

**APPLY A PRIMER** using an etch or zinc-rich primer then spray with two coats of enamel formulated for metal.

**TIP** Test paint a small area, let it dry then apply masking tape. If the paint comes away with the tape, clean and prime the bowl again.

**White Knight Rust Guard Etch Primer, \$14 for 300g. [whiteknightpaints.co.nz](http://whiteknightpaints.co.nz)**







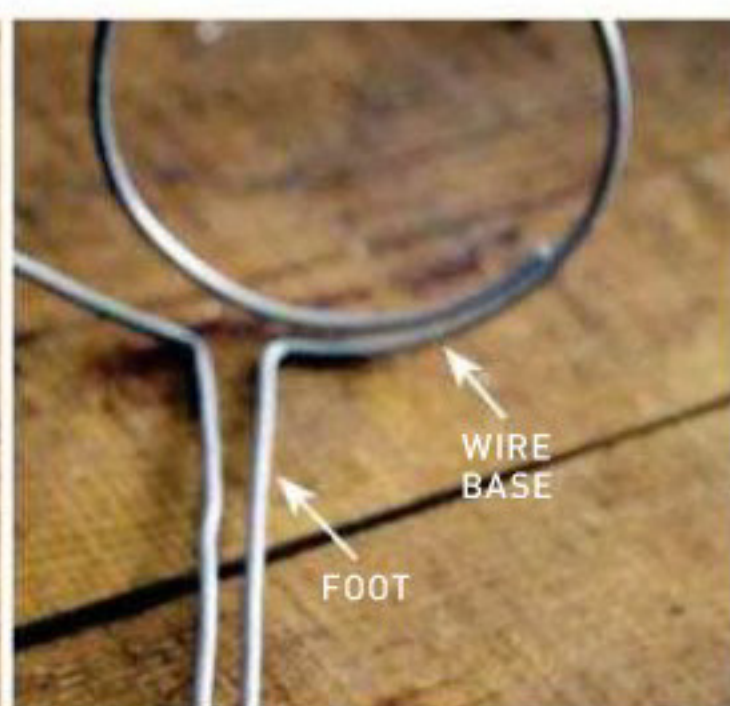
Make a decorative bowl with tie wire, adding beads for a bit of bling.



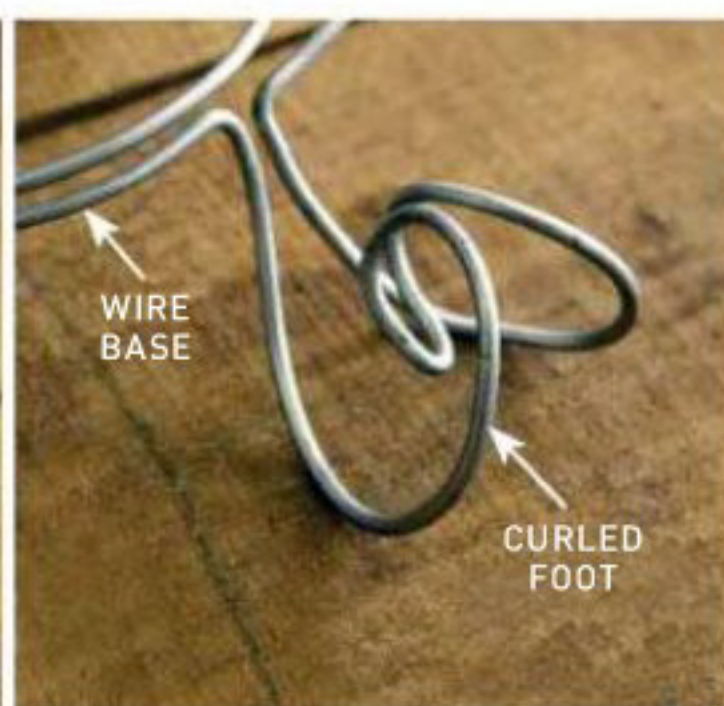
# MAKE THE WIRE BOWL



**1 FORM THE BASE** from a 1200mm length of 2.5mm wire, shaping one end into a circle sized to fit the bowl. Extend the wire around the inside of the circle by about a quarter and bend at 90°.



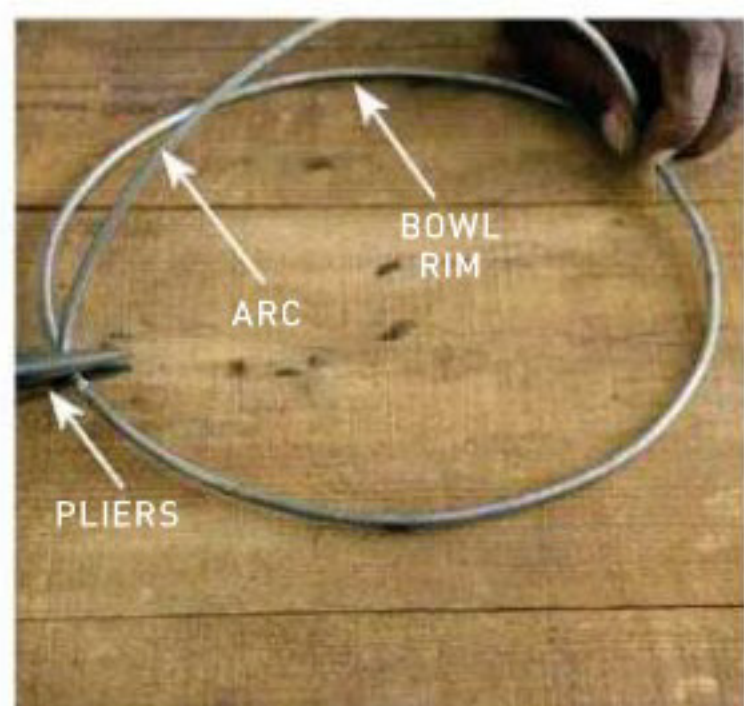
**2 BEND THE WIRE** into a 120mm-long foot, take it around the circle by one-third, make another foot then repeat. Use wire cutters to trim the wire to the start of the circle.



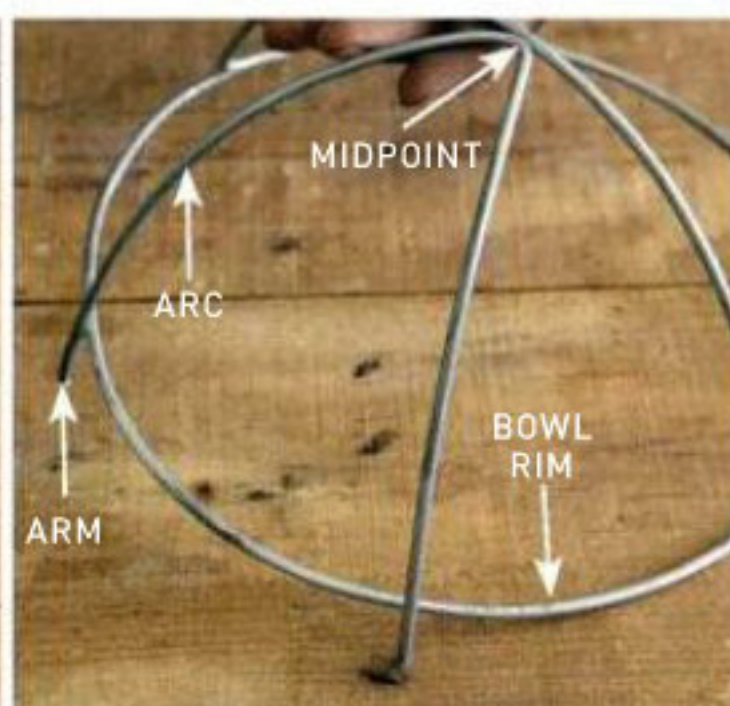
**3 FINISH THE FEET** by forming a curl from each 120mm long wire foot by gently separating and bending the two strands. Adjust all three feet so the bowl base sits flat.



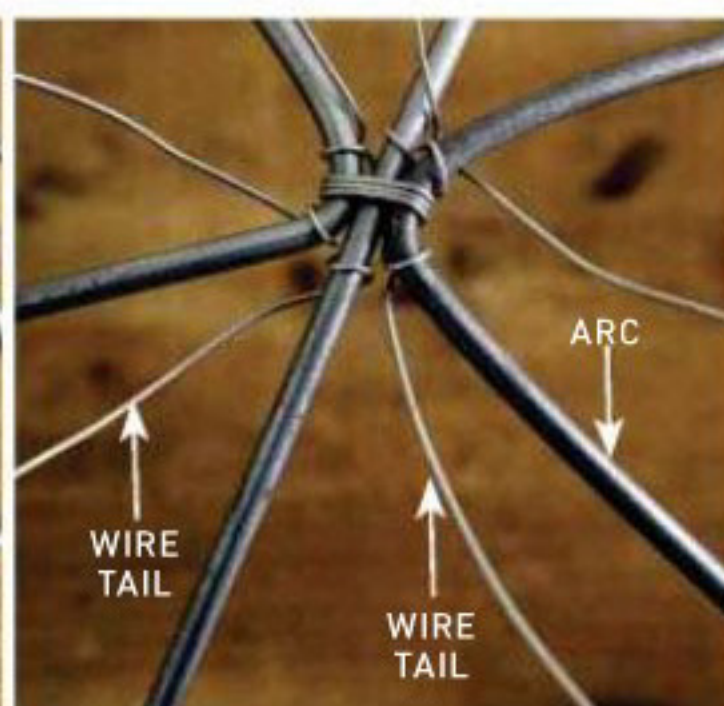
**4 CREATE THE RIM** of the bowl by wrapping a length of 2.5mm wire around an object of the required diameter. Cut the wire with wire cutters and tie the ends of the rim with 0.7mm wire.



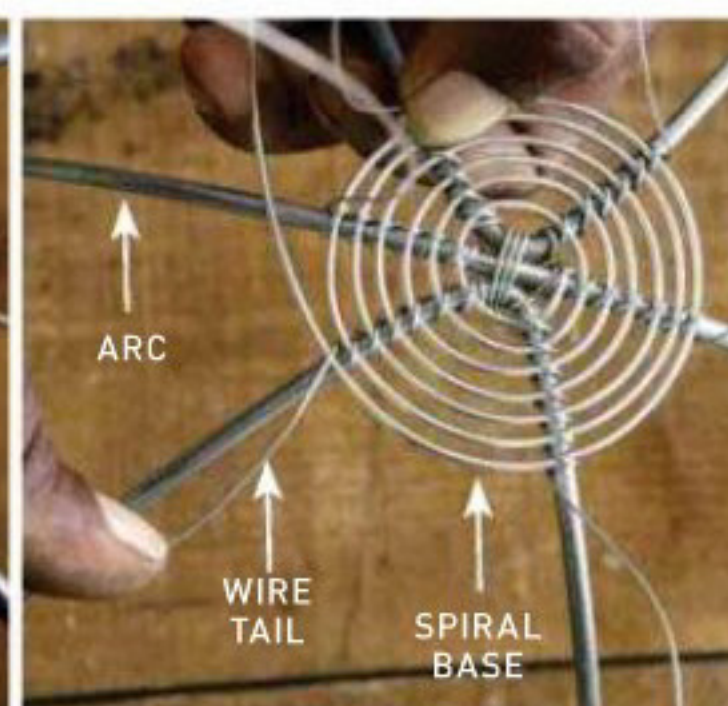
**5 MAKE AN ARC** from 2.5mm wire, cut it to length plus 50mm and bend 25mm arms at 90° on each end using pliers. Position the arc on the rim and secure with 0.7mm wire.



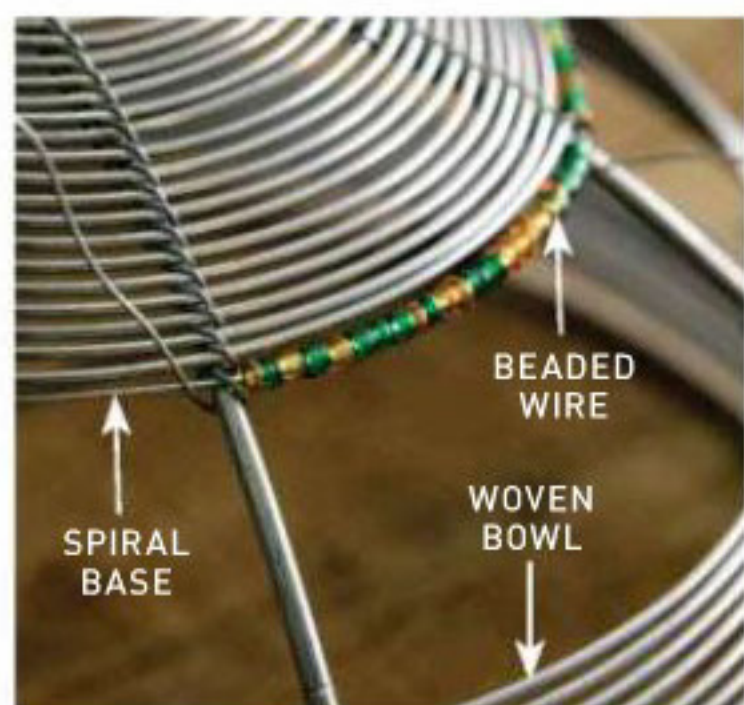
**6 SHAPE THE BOWL** by adding two arcs bent at the midpoint into a 60° angle. Attach the arms to the rim of the bowl and join the arcs at the midpoints using 0.7mm wire.



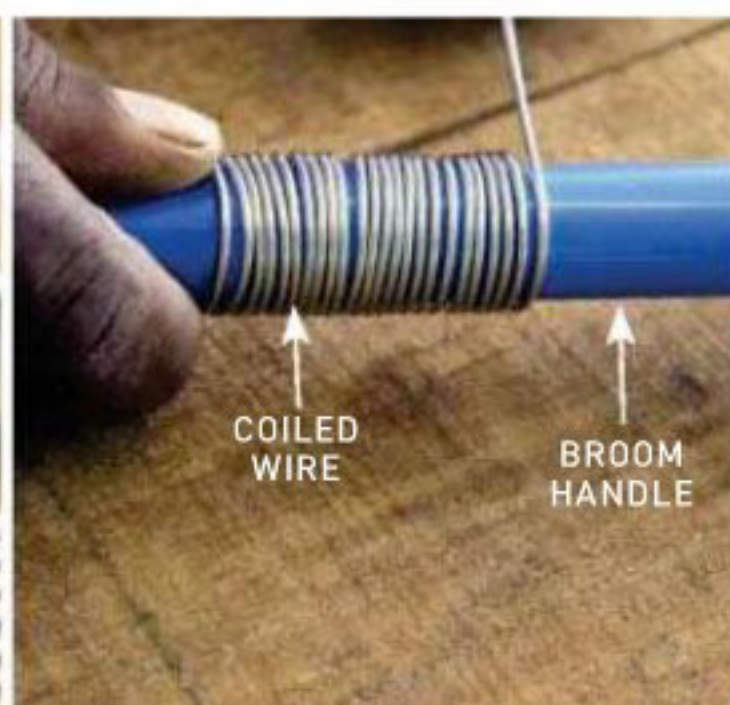
**7 ATTACH THE WIRE** for weaving the bowl by cutting three lengths of 0.7mm wire to five times as long as the arcs. Twist each wire around two arcs, leaving equal tails.



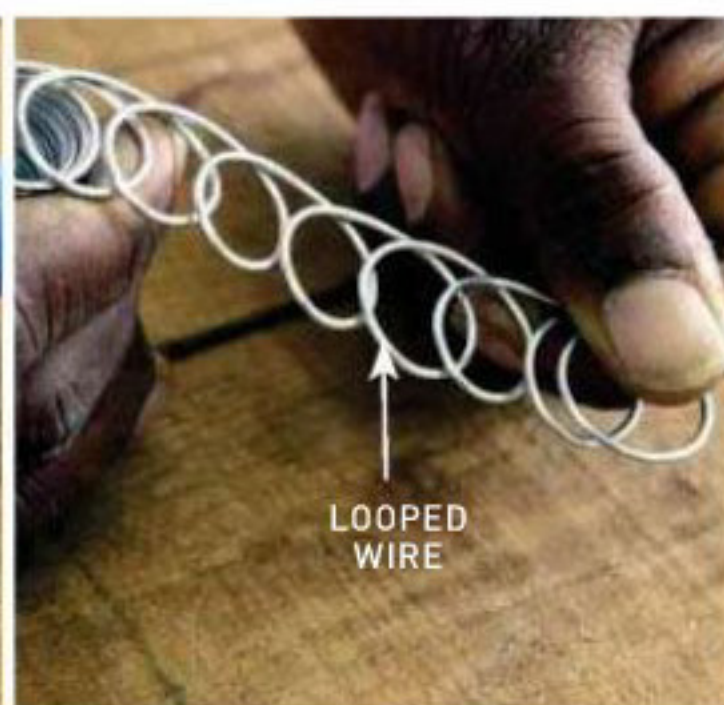
**8 START A SPIRAL** of 1.6mm wire in the centre, weaving the 0.7mm wire tails around the arcs. Finish the bowl base then twist and cut off the wire to leave a gap for the beadwork.



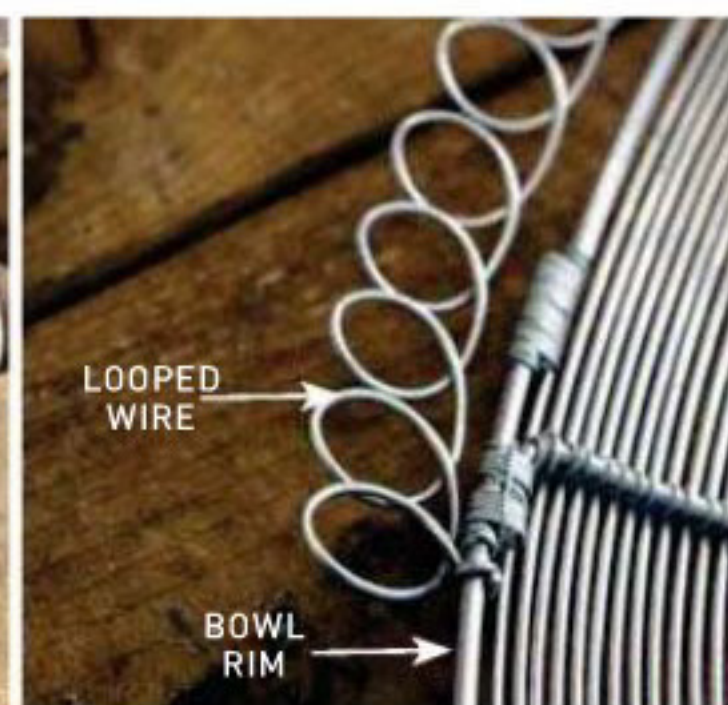
**9 THREAD THE BEADS** onto lengths of 0.9mm wire. Finish weaving the bowl, leaving another gap for beadwork. Tie off and trim all wires, attaching the beadwork with 0.7mm wire.



**10 MAKE THE LOOPS** for the rim of the bowl by tightly coiling a length of 1.6mm wire around a broom handle or 18mm dowel, keeping tension on the wire as you go.



**11 SLIDE THE WIRE** off the broom handle and gently stretch the loops out between two hands. **TIP** To flatten the looped wire, sit it under heavy books overnight.



**12 FINISH THE BOWL** by attaching the loops to the rim at regular intervals with 0.7mm wire and trim any excess. Neaten all wire joints and secure the base to the bowl with 0.7mm wire.



## Making a wire heart



Create a mini garden sculpture from scrap metal like this rustic heart made from mild steel wire, which is iron containing a small percentage of carbon. You can find rusted mild steel wire at a scrap yard, buy it new at the hardware store and let it weather or use galvanised wire finished with a special rust-effect paint.

To make the heart, form the shape using 2.5mm wire. Wind 1.6mm wire around an 18mm dowel, slide it off and twist the loops around the heart using pliers, letting the loops open as you work. Secure the ends to the heart with 1.6mm wire, cutting off any excess.

### ✚ Get more online

Visit [handymanmagazine.co.nz/mag](http://handymanmagazine.co.nz/mag) for more DIY decorating and a round-up of Small Furniture Projects.

porta

# H3 Treated Pine

by porta

[www.porta.co.nz](http://www.porta.co.nz)



Porta's Treated Pine Mouldings are designed for long-term protection against borer, rot, decay and weather.

Ready to stain or paint they are ideal for a variety of above-ground outdoor applications, including:

- Window and door trims
- Decks and patios
- Playground products
- Landscaping

✚ **Knot-free pine** – a premium grade of clear softwood. Easy to cut, nail and glue.

✚ **Solid Timber** – suitable to stain or paint to match any outdoor colour scheme.

✚ **H3 Treated** as per AS1604 with ACQ preservative

- Increase longevity above-ground for 30+ years.
- Borer, rot, decay and weather resistant.

✚ **FSC® Certified** – supporting improved management of the world's forests.



Suitable for long term performance in external above-ground applications.

Available at  
**BUNNINGS**  
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# Perfect equipment - perfect cleanliness

Who wants to spend a lot of time cleaning when you have better things to do, although water blasters can even make cleaning work fun. Kärcher water blasters make cleaning a simple pleasure. These high quality, convenient and powerful machines eliminate even the most stubborn dirt and encrustations within seconds – quickly, easily and effortlessly.

But did you know that Kärcher water blasters can operate even more effectively with accessories specifically designed for various cleaning applications, ultimately saving you even more time and effort whilst providing a superb cleaning result.

Hard Surface Cleaners, including T-Racers and Power Scrubbers, are the new generation of cleaning. The T Racer surface cleaner simply attaches to the end of the Kärcher Waterblaster gun and is brilliant for cleaning flat surfaces such as driveways, timber decks and patios without splash back, whilst saving you



time by cleaning up to four times faster than a standard lance. This is achieved by the use of two rotating nozzles contained within the T Racer head which enables it to clean a wider surface area whilst eliminating streaky, uneven cleaning therefore providing a professional result.

An alternative to the T-Racer is the Power Scrubber, a high pressure broom that is



especially well suited for cleaning smaller areas like patios, entrance ways, and stairs. The unit incorporates three high pressure nozzles that effectively and quickly remove even stubborn dirt from surfaces.

For effective yet gentle cleaning of other outdoor surfaces such as vehicle paintwork, garage doors, windows and even the boat, use a Kärcher Delta Racer. The revolutionary brush cleans with high pressure, saving energy, water and up to 30% less time. With its practical triangular form, in built rotating jet nozzles and soft bristles, it has no problem cleaning corners and edges whilst being ideal for use on delicate surfaces – the ideal solution for brilliant results all round.

Cleaning those high, hard to reach areas can be difficult, particularly if you want to clean with pressure. The Kärcher high



pressure telescopic lance extends up to 4m long gives you the ability to effectively clean those difficult to reach areas such as high walls and facades in a safe manner. The removable nozzle at the end of the lance also has the ability to take other Kärcher attachments like brushes to aid in the cleaning process.

For other difficult to access areas, there is the angled spray lance, ideal for cleaning hard to reach areas like gutters, tanks or vehicle chassis.



If you've ever wondered how to clean drains and downpipes, then try the Kärcher pipe cleaning hose accessory. This also attaches to your Kärcher water blaster gun and allows the effective cleaning of pipes, drains, downpipes and toilet blockages. Four reverse



high pressure jets forward propel the hose down the pipe which help clear blockages in the process. Consecutive marks and marker rings help to show how far the hose has travelled down the pipe.

With the wide variety of Kärcher water blasting accessories that simply attach to your Kärcher water blaster, the cleaning applications are numerous and make for faster and more effective cleaning.





**Kärcher water blasters are brilliantly effective at tackling any dirty surface.**

Grimy driveways, mouldy decking? Try the new Kärcher Deck and Patio Cleaner accessory for faster and easier cleaning of driveways, paths and decks.

Whatever you're faced with, wherever the dirt is, Kärcher water blasters are easy to use but hard on dirt.



 **KÄRCHER®**

**makes a difference**



A vibrant garden scene featuring wooden garden furniture. In the foreground, two wooden chairs with metal frames are positioned at a table covered with a bright red tablecloth. The table is set with white plates, glasses, and red candles. In the background, another similar table is visible, and the garden is filled with lush green trees and bushes. Colorful paper lanterns in shades of blue, red, and pink are strung across the scene, adding a festive touch.

QUICK  
FIXES

# REVIVE GARDEN *furniture*

Regular maintenance adds years  
to the lifespan of garden furniture.

PICTURE THINKSTOCK





## Restore your outdoor furniture in an afternoon with these easy techniques

**O**utdoor chairs and tables are often the hardest working pieces of furniture you can own, despite the fact that they usually only see use in the warmer months.

Garden furniture is constantly at the mercy of the weather and takes a beating from rain, wind and sun all year round. Without

proper care your tables and chairs can begin to look shabby and neglected and will quickly deteriorate or even become dangerous.

To avoid your outdoor setting being exiled at the next inorganic collection, set aside an afternoon to restore and protect your furniture so it will last for many more years. ➤

### Protecting wicker tables and chairs

Keeping wicker furniture outside leaves it exposed to full sun and water which degrades the weave.

Protective coatings and natural oils become dried out, reducing the wicker's resistance to the elements.

Adding a protective coat of timber varnish is a simple way to extend the life of wicker furniture. It also adds

warmth to the fibres, giving a fresh appearance that takes only a few minutes to achieve.

**TIP** First wash the wicker in warm, soapy water and leave in the sun to dry.



**Bondall Clear Timber Varnish**  
300g, \$20. [bondall.com](http://bondall.com)



**BEFORE**  
Dried out and dull, the wicker had lost its lustre, making the chair look dilapidated.



**SPRAY THE WICKER** furniture with at least two coats of clear timber varnish. Make sure you do it in a well-ventilated area.



**AFTER**  
With a few coats of varnish, the wicker's natural colour is restored.



# Restoring timber

Stained timber furniture makes a fantastic addition to a backyard, but without proper care its colour will start to fade.

Left to the elements timber furniture will eventually rot, becoming unsafe to use and tricky to repair. Restoring faded timber is simple and it only takes a few hours to make it look like new.

Clean and protect your timber furniture twice a year in spring and autumn to keep it strong and looking great all year round.



**Feast Watson Outdoor Furniture Oil 1L, \$44, in Jarrah. [feastwatson.co.nz](http://feastwatson.co.nz)**



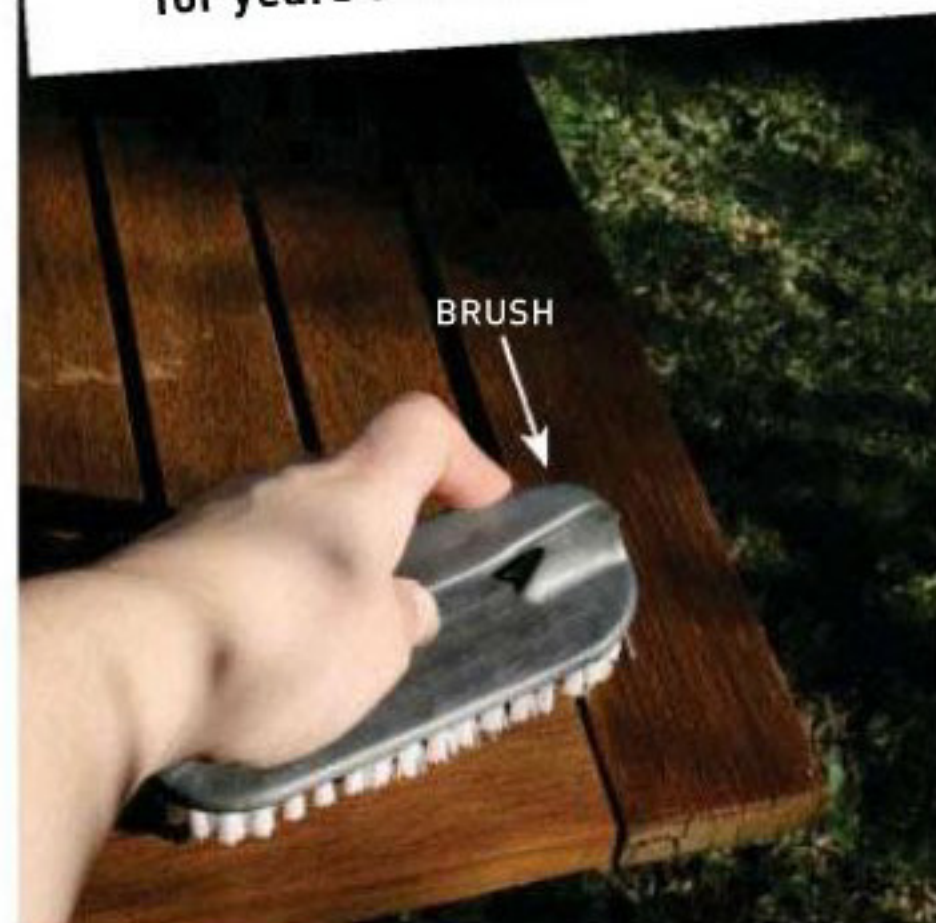
**AFTER**

A good clean, a few coats of oil and the table is as good as new.



**BEFORE**

This outdoor table had been neglected for years and looked drab and faded.



BRUSH

● **SCRUB IT CLEAN** using a hard bristled brush to remove any dirt clumps, leaves, twigs and cobwebs, then soak with a garden hose.



DECK  
CLEANER

● **WASH ALL SURFACES** using deck cleaner diluted in water, focusing on gaps and joints. Rinse thoroughly with a hose and allow to dry.



PAINTBRUSH

GARDEN  
FURNITURE  
OIL

● **PROTECT THE TIMBER** by applying at least two coats of garden furniture oil evenly onto all surfaces using a paintbrush. ➤



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# Painting metal

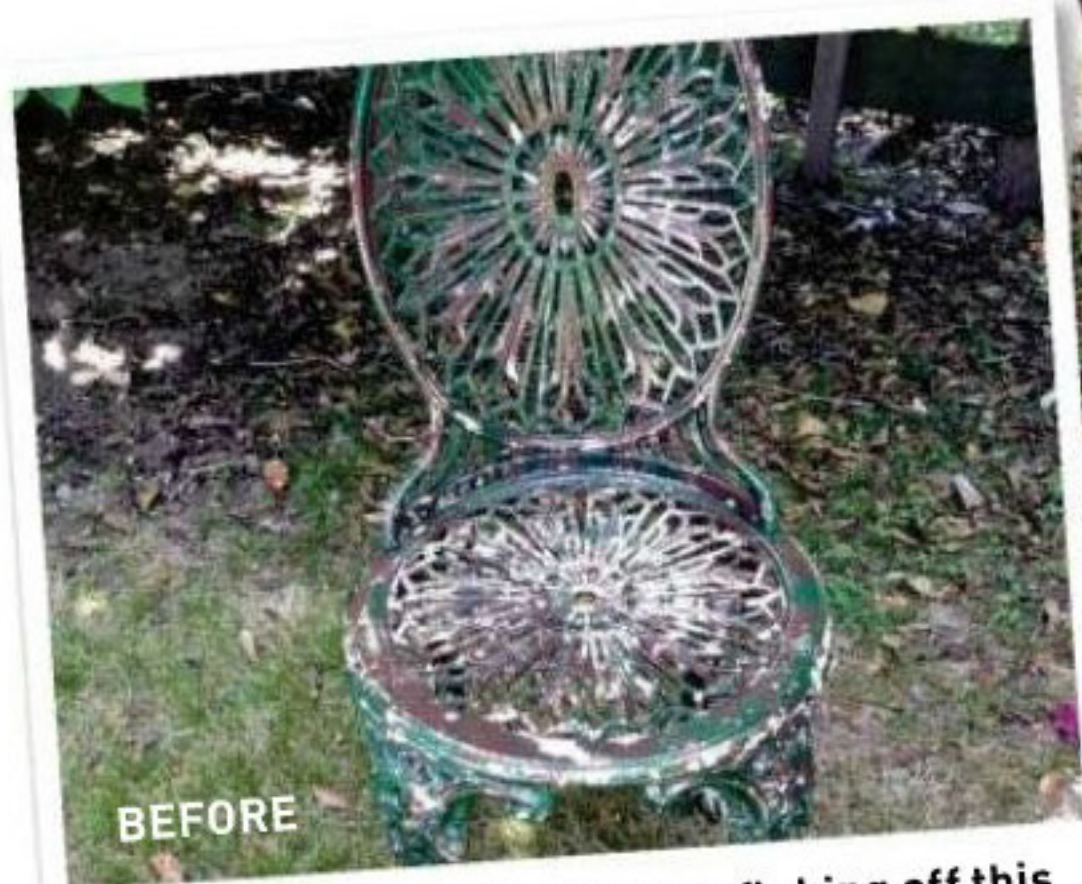
Coats of paint on metal furniture will flake and peel after a few years of wear and tear and exposure to sun and rain.

This furniture set had multiple layers of paint, which were peeling to reveal the many colours it had been painted over the years.

While removing flaking paint is essential, intricate designs make it harder to strip.

Coating the metal with a bonding agent seals any flaking paint and rust to create a clean surface ready for painting.

**Squirts Spray Paint 310g, \$10.**  
[whiteknightpaints.co.nz](http://whiteknightpaints.co.nz)



**BEFORE**

Multiple layers of paint were flaking off this chair, making it look shabby and decayed.

**AFTER**  
 Proper surface preparation ensures the new coat of paint will last longer.



WIRE BRUSH



BONDING AGENT



SPRAY PAINT

● **REMOVE FLAKING PAINT** and rust from all surfaces with a wire brush, focusing on all joints and corners, then wipe down with a clean cloth.

● **APPLY A BONDING AGENT** such as Penetrol to all surfaces, including the underside of seats and tabletops, and allow to dry in the shade.

● **FINISH THE METAL** with two coats of exterior gloss enamel. Use spray paint on intricate designs, holding the can 300mm from the surface.



# SELLEYS NAILS IT AGAIN!

## STRONG WATERPROOF CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE





# OCTAGONAL DECK

Use a simple position-and-cut technique to build the frame and set out a striking freestanding design

PROJECT **FRANK GARDNER**

**DIY> \$2250**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$5450

**SKILL> 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME> 4 DAYS**

**T**aking two people four days to build, this 15 square metre octagonal deck is freestanding with 1800mm wide sides.

Concrete footings form the foundation for 230mm square brick piers topped with galvanised capping to support a frame and deck built using treated timber.

**TIP** Cut the parts slightly longer than the cutting list to allow for cutting mitres during assembly. The battens are cut from 100 x 50mm timber.

## CHOOSING THE TIMBER

Many builders prefer to use treated pine because it's lighter to work with and easier to cut but recycled hardwood from demolition yards can sometimes be cheaper.

If using a hardwood, consider the durability as many hardwoods fall into the highest durability of Class 1 although Class 2 is cheaper and more commonly used for a deck.

Pressure-treated timber is hazard rated from H1 to H6, with H6 the most intensively treated. Choose at least H3 for joists.

**TO USE RECYCLED TIMBER** check for straightness, remove old nails and chamfer splintered edges. Position any bows in the beams and

joists facing up and check they're flat on top using a spirit level, smoothing with a planer.

**TIP** Drill 3mm pilot holes for all nails in the frame and 2mm for decking.

## PREPARING THE SITE

Although the deck is self-supporting, draw a plan showing all dimensions and the height above ground to check with council for building approval and confirm timber standards.

Clear the building site of debris and grass, levelling it roughly with a slight slope for water runoff.

To control weeds, cover the ground with a weedmat, geotextile fabric or drain matting and add a 50mm layer of 10mm gravel for drainage. ➤

## Finishing the timber

To avoid splitting, drill pilot holes for all the nails and after assembly punch the heads below the surface, lightly sanding and wiping the surface to apply a finish.

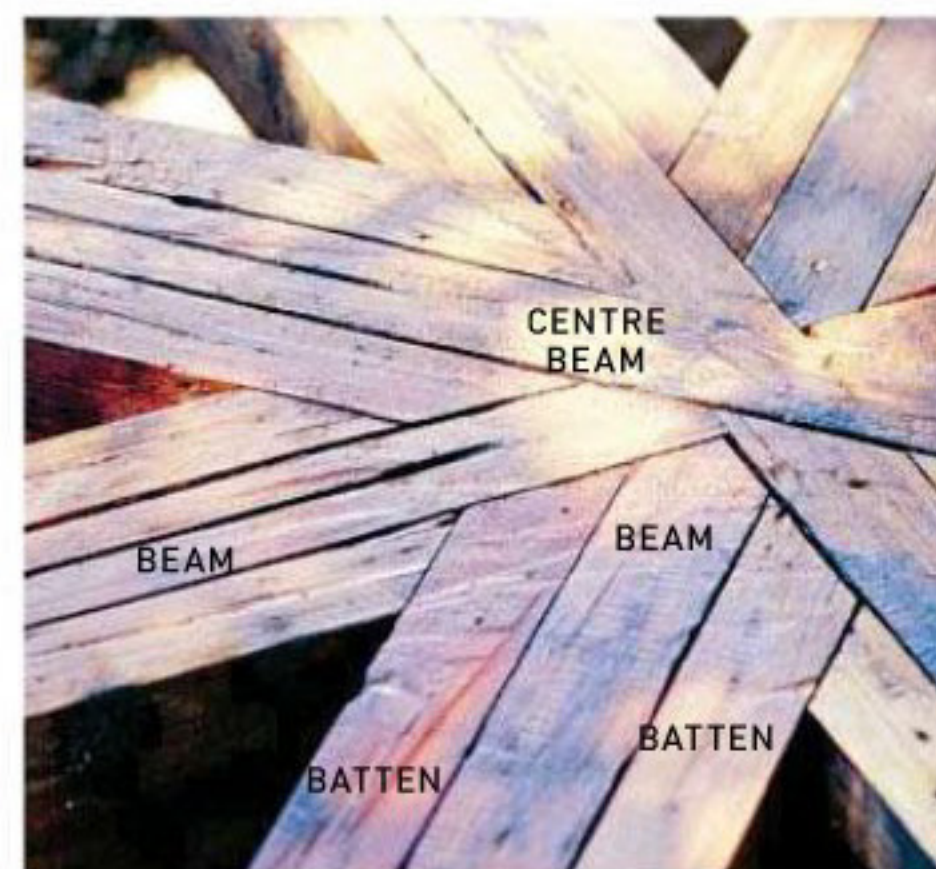
**ACRYLIC PAINT** gives the best protection, lasting at least three years but it covers the timber finish.

**STAIN** is oil-based with pigment that changes the timber colour but lasts two years before needing a recoat.

**OIL** maintains natural tones and is easy to apply. Ensure surfaces are free from dirt and grease before applying.



Cabot's Natural Decking Oil, \$76 for five litres. [cabots.co.nz](http://cabots.co.nz)



One centre beam runs the full width to support six shorter beams and battens.

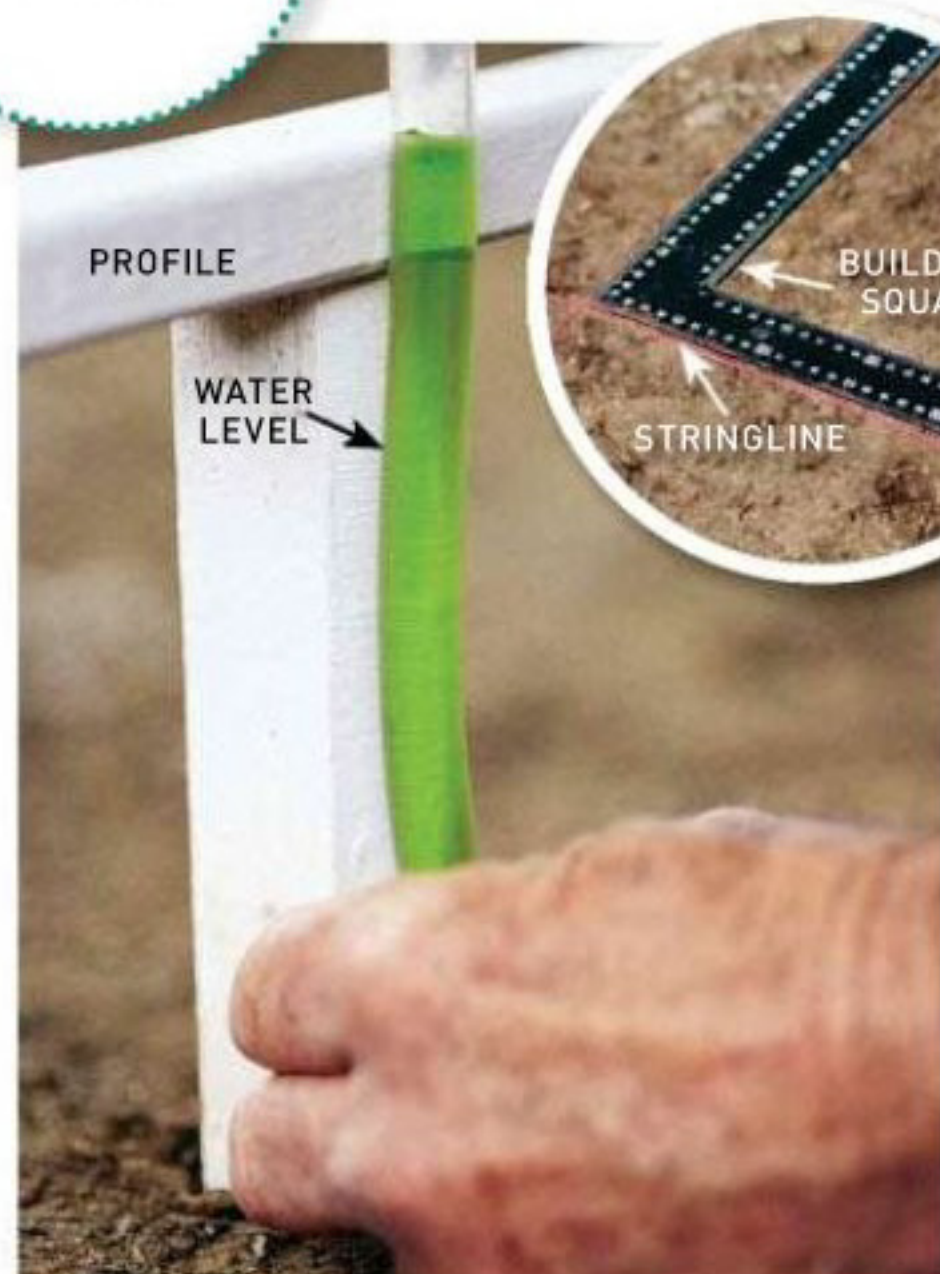




Set on concrete footings and brick piers the freestanding deck is 4800mm wide and about 300mm high, the height of a step.

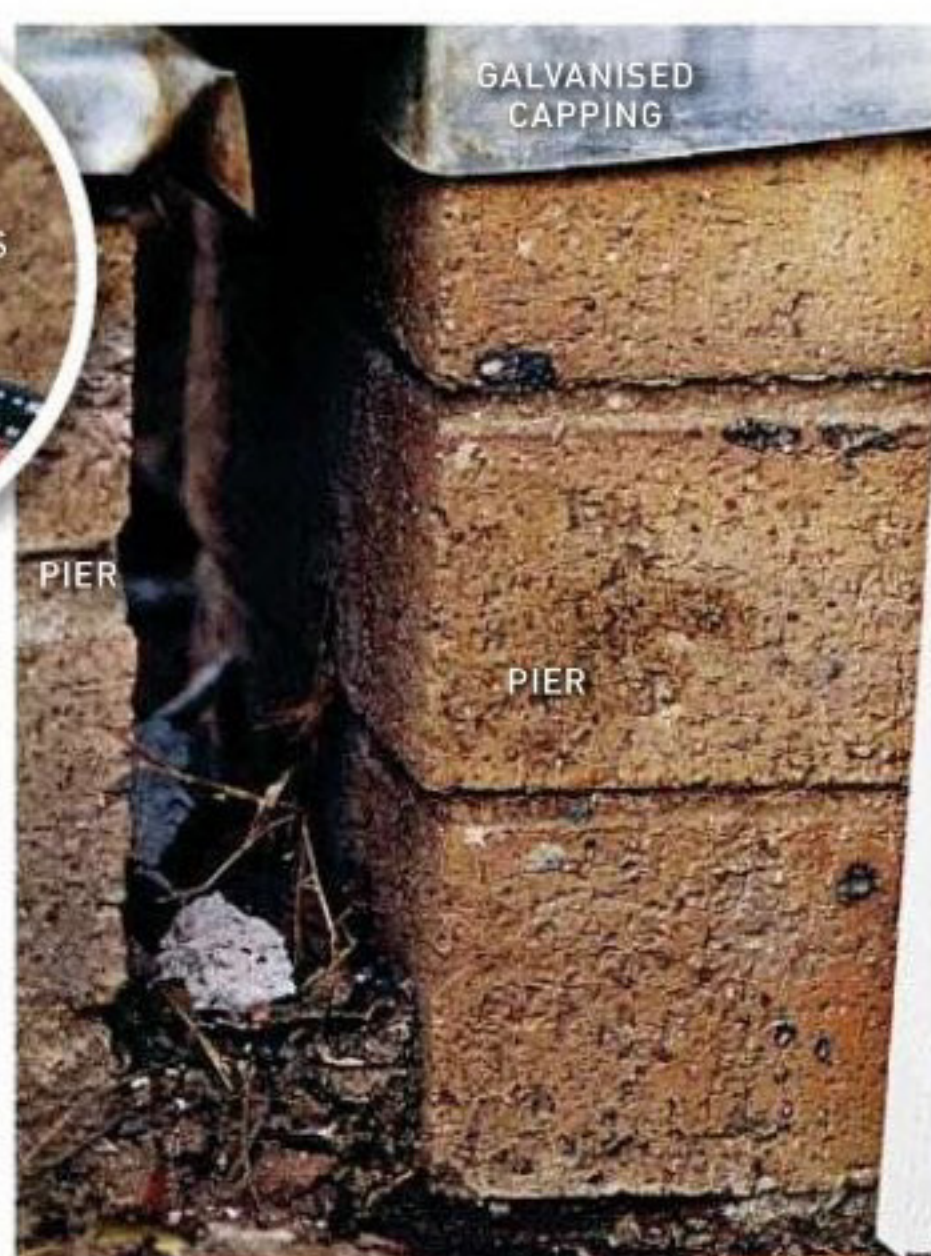


## BUILD THE DECK



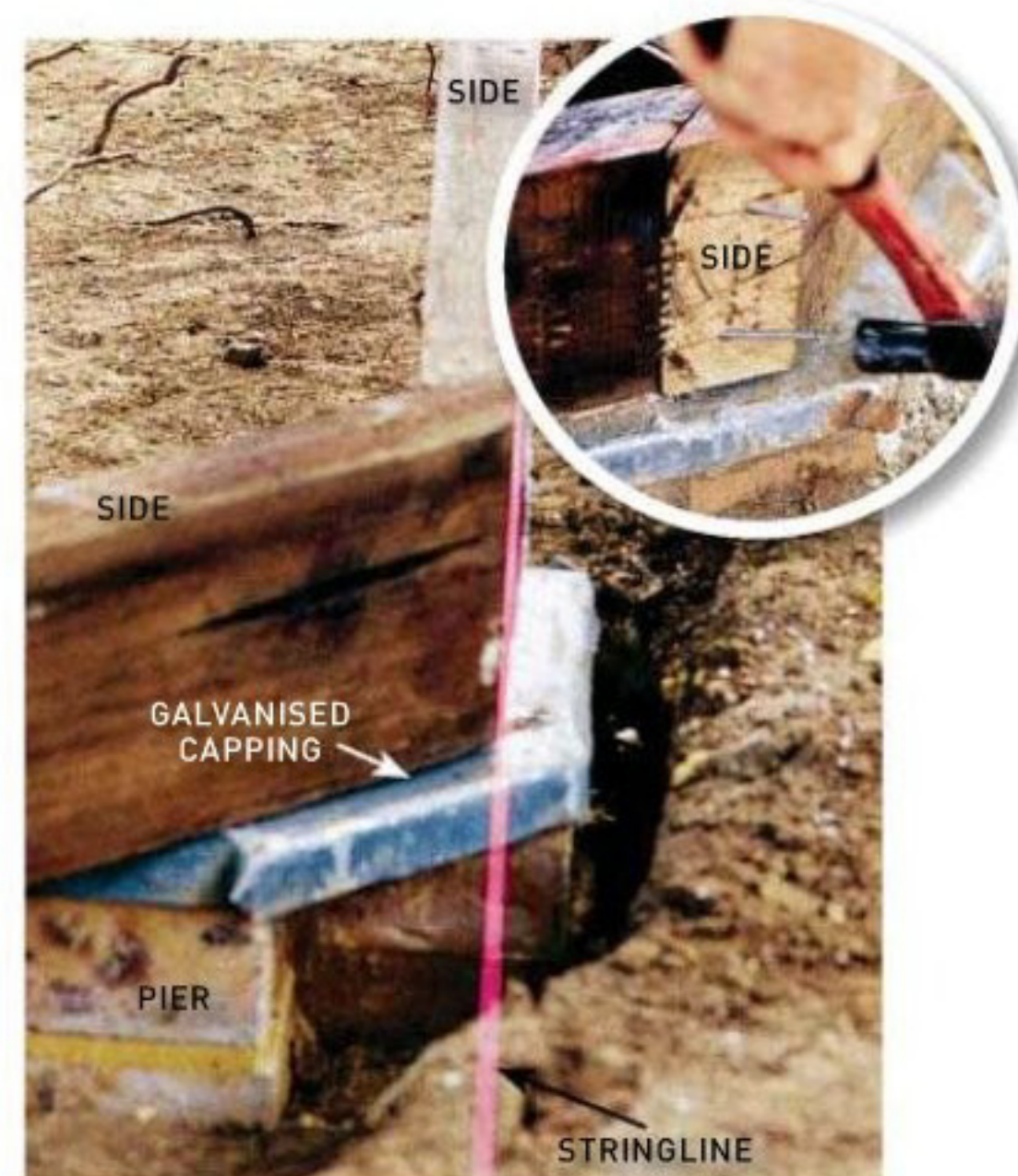
### 1 Set up profiles as guides

Mark a 4346mm square and set profiles in the corners 600mm outside the building line, using a water level to keep them the height of the beams. Use a builder's square to set parallel stringlines on the profiles, ensuring they measure 6152mm diagonally.



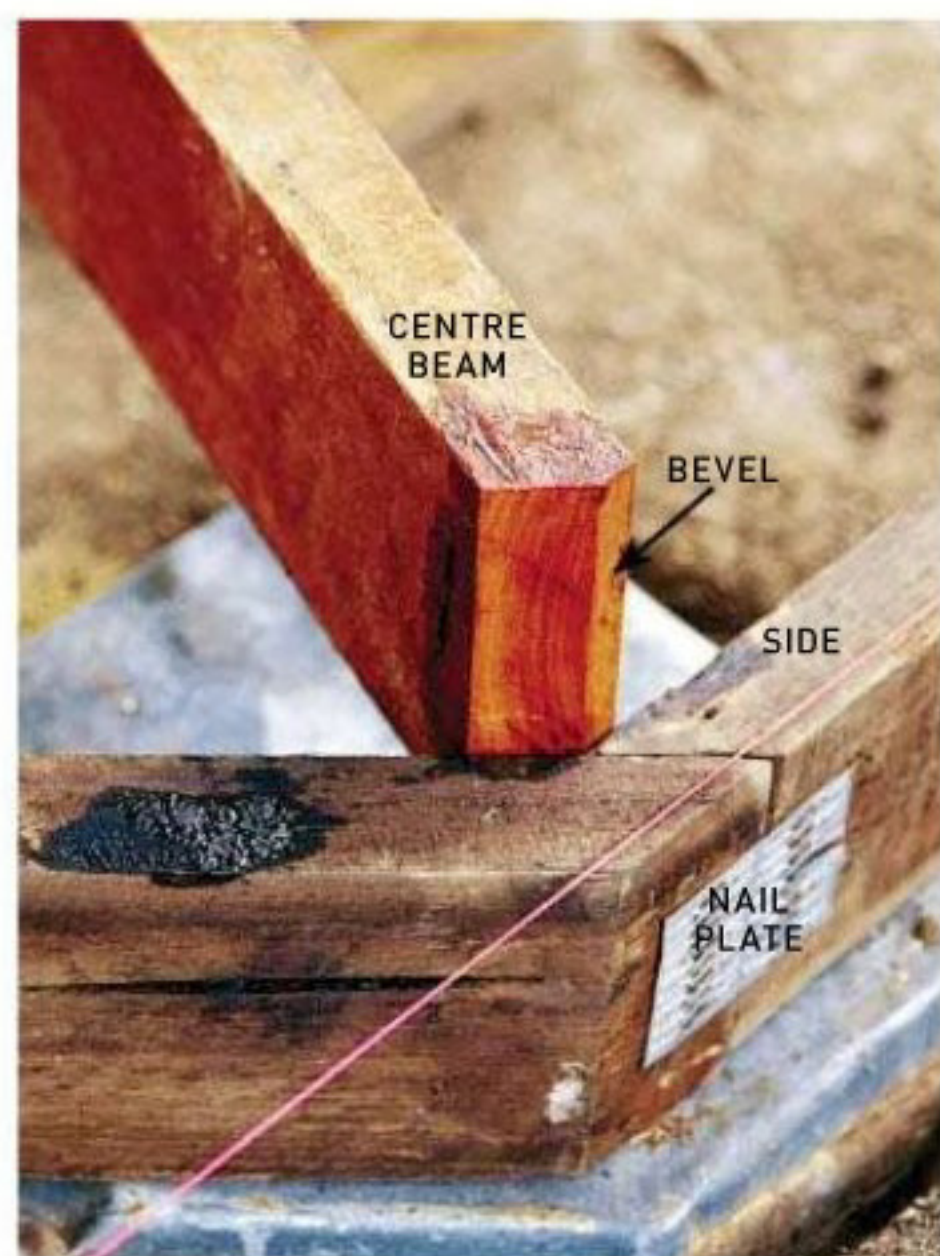
### 2 Pour footing to build piers

Dig 400mm deep holes 300mm square for the side footings and 400mm square for the centre, mix and pour concrete then leave it to dry. Lay three rows of bricks 230mm square for the side piers and 350mm for the centre then position capping on top.



### 3 Position the sides

Cut the sides 1800mm long with a 45° outward splay at the ends and position on the piers, securing with 75 x 3.75mm galvanised bullethead nails and nail plates. **TIP** The ends alternate between inside and outside adjacent sides.



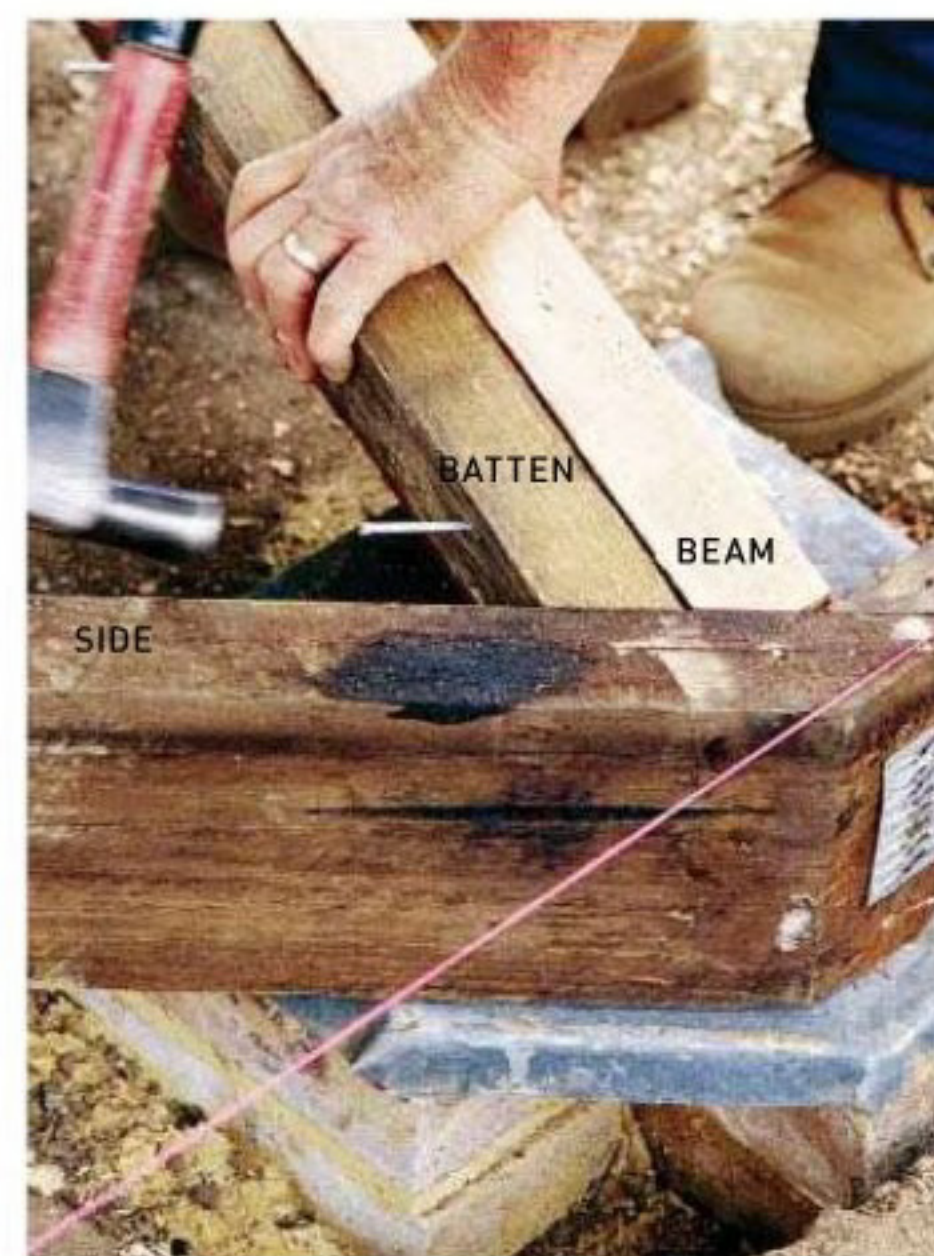
### 4 Secure the beams

Check the framework is square by measuring the diagonals then cut the centre beam to fit between opposite corners, bevelling the ends to fit and positioning it on the centre pier. Cut six beams to span from corners to the centre, securing with nails.



### 5 Add the joists

On the sides, measure equal points from the ends to position the joists then mark and cut the angles on the ends that attach to the beams. Secure the joists to the sides using joist hangers and nail them into the beams.



### 6 Attach the battens

Cut 100 x 50mm timber in half along the grain then position the battens along the beams, marking and cutting the angles, keeping the top flush and securing with nails. Plane the surface flat then coat all timber for weatherproofing. ➤



# KiwiLumber

## PREMIUM DECKING

Available at  
**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse

**Kiwi Lumber** Premium Decking is a top grade decking product which we have been proudly manufacturing for many years. Like all of Kiwi Lumber's timber, it is produced from nature's best sustainable resource – plantation grown New Zealand radiata pine.

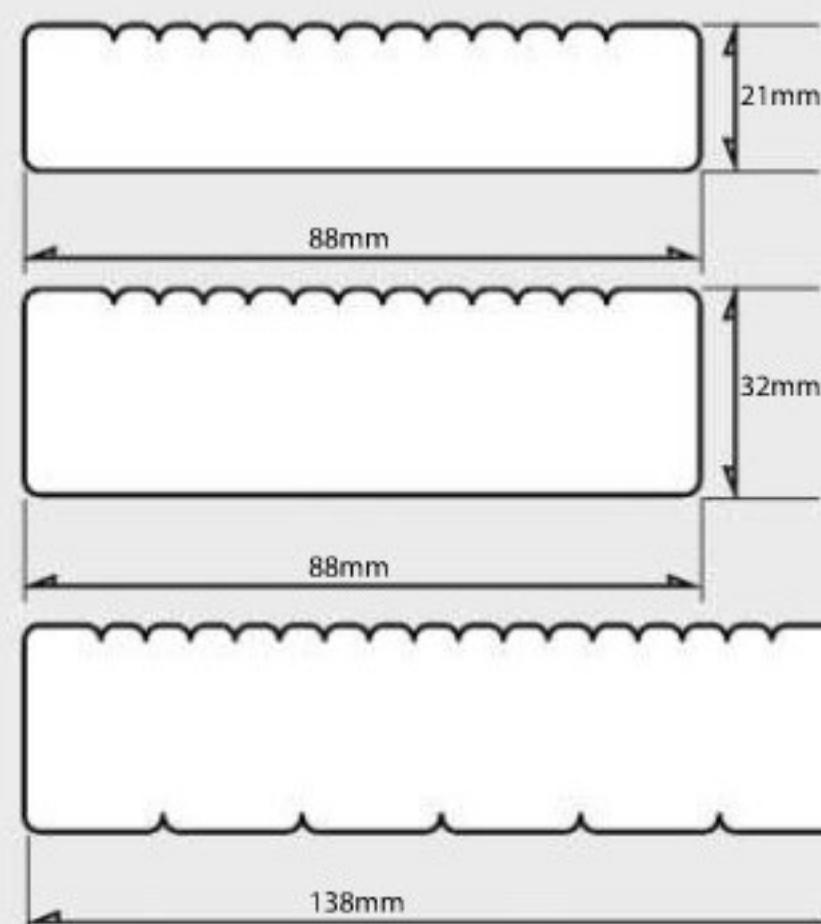
### WHY CHOOSE KIWI LUMBER PREMIUM DECKING

- Produced from New Zealand radiata pine – a legally harvested sustainable resource
- Less expensive than imported hardwoods
- CCA H3.2 treated for 50 year Limited Guarantee
- Also available in Clears and Merch grade and Kiln Dried
- Boardwalk and Smooth profiles have a Premium graded face
- Griptread Profile is graded on the Griptread face



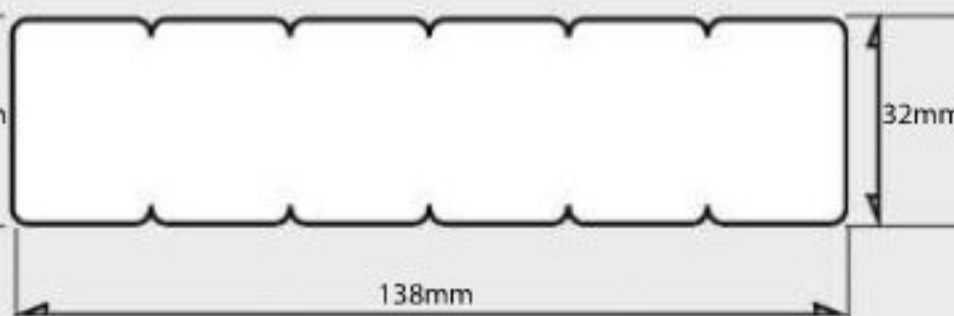
All Kiwi Lumber decking is supplied as Treated Wet, unless otherwise requested. Treated Wet products have the potential to shrink as they dry. Please ensure all guidelines are followed prior to fixing any decking product. Installation guidelines can be found at [www.kiwilumber.com](http://www.kiwilumber.com) Check local building authorities for specific building requirements.

#### STANDARD GRIPTREAD

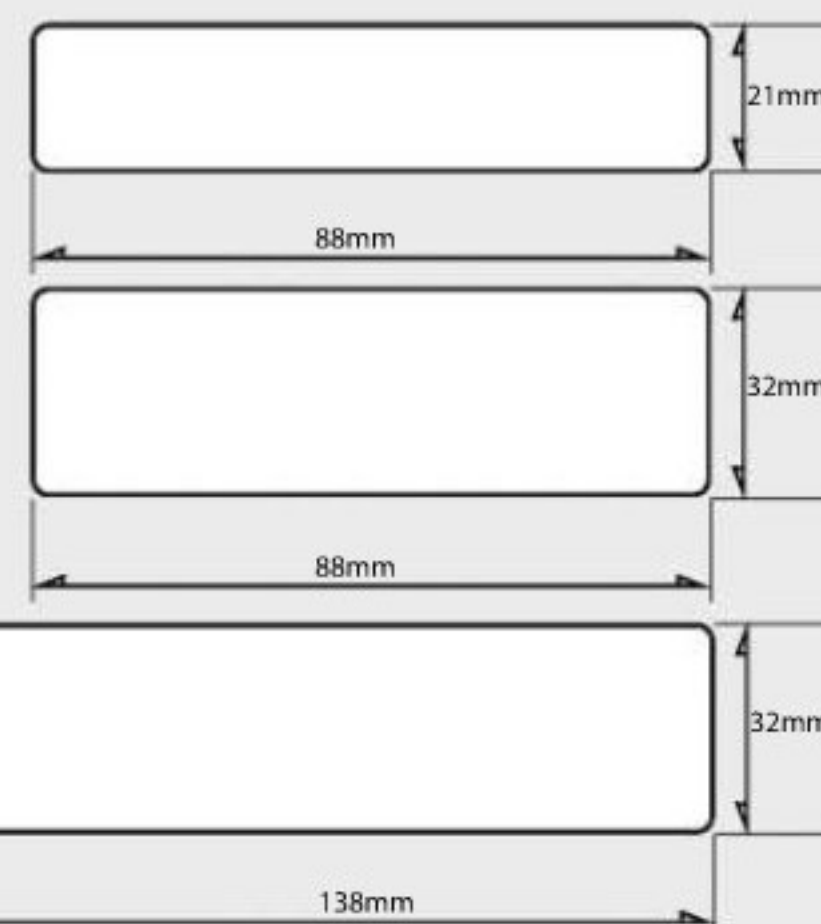


## PREMIUM DECKING

### NEW 5 GROOVE BOARDWALK PROFILE



#### SMOOTH



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Sales Manager: 0274 735 590

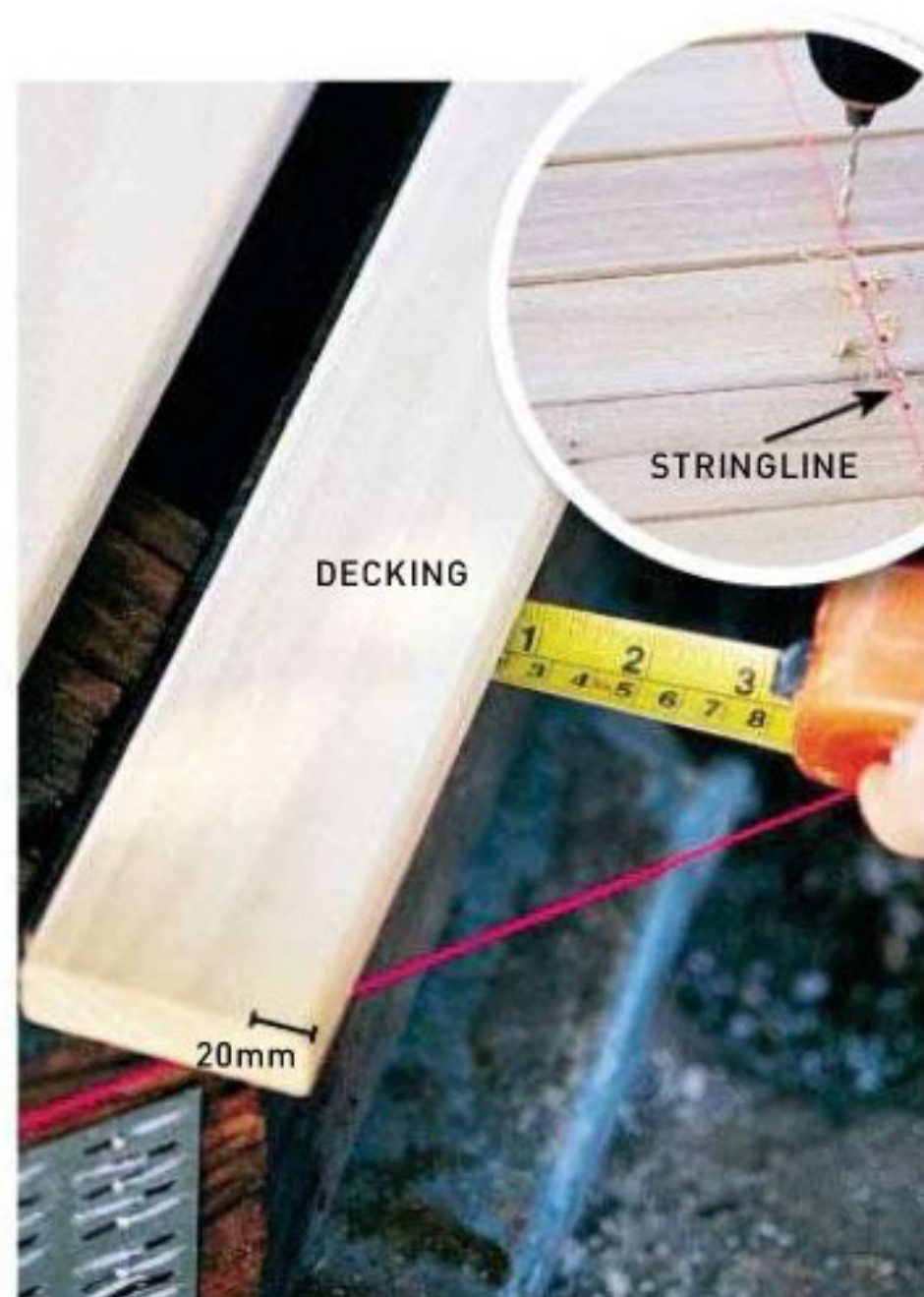
#### Southern North Island Kiwi Lumber Masterton

Sales & Dispatch, Free Phone 0800 222 610  
Free Fax 0800 455 861  
Sales Manager: 0274 918 201



[www.kiwilumber.com](http://www.kiwilumber.com)





## 7 Set out the decking

To secure the first section position the decking with 20mm overhanging the sides, temporarily securing to the joists with nails. Set stringlines along the centre of the joists and battens as a guide to drill two 2mm pilot holes in the boards, securing with nails.



## 8 Cut the section to fit

Secure a guide fence to trim the decking along the centre of the beams, setting the blade to 20mm deep and cutting to a triangular shape. Position stringlines along the battens, drilling pilot holes and securing with two nails into the ends.



## 9 Complete the sections

For the next section cut decking with 22.5° at one end to position against the first section. Trim the overhang then repeat for the next, cutting last section before securing. **TIP** To position decking with even gaps tap nails into beams as spacers.



## 10 Finish the hub

When all the sections are complete, measure and mark the centre hub in the shape of an octagon, use a jigsaw to cut then drill pilot holes to secure with nails.

**TIP** Use a nail punch to tap all nail heads below the surface.



## 11 Attach the side decking

Cover the sides one section at a time, cutting three decking boards with the ends at 22.5°. Position the first one under the overhang of the top decking, using nails as spaces to position the others, securing with three pairs of nails.

## Aligning the boards

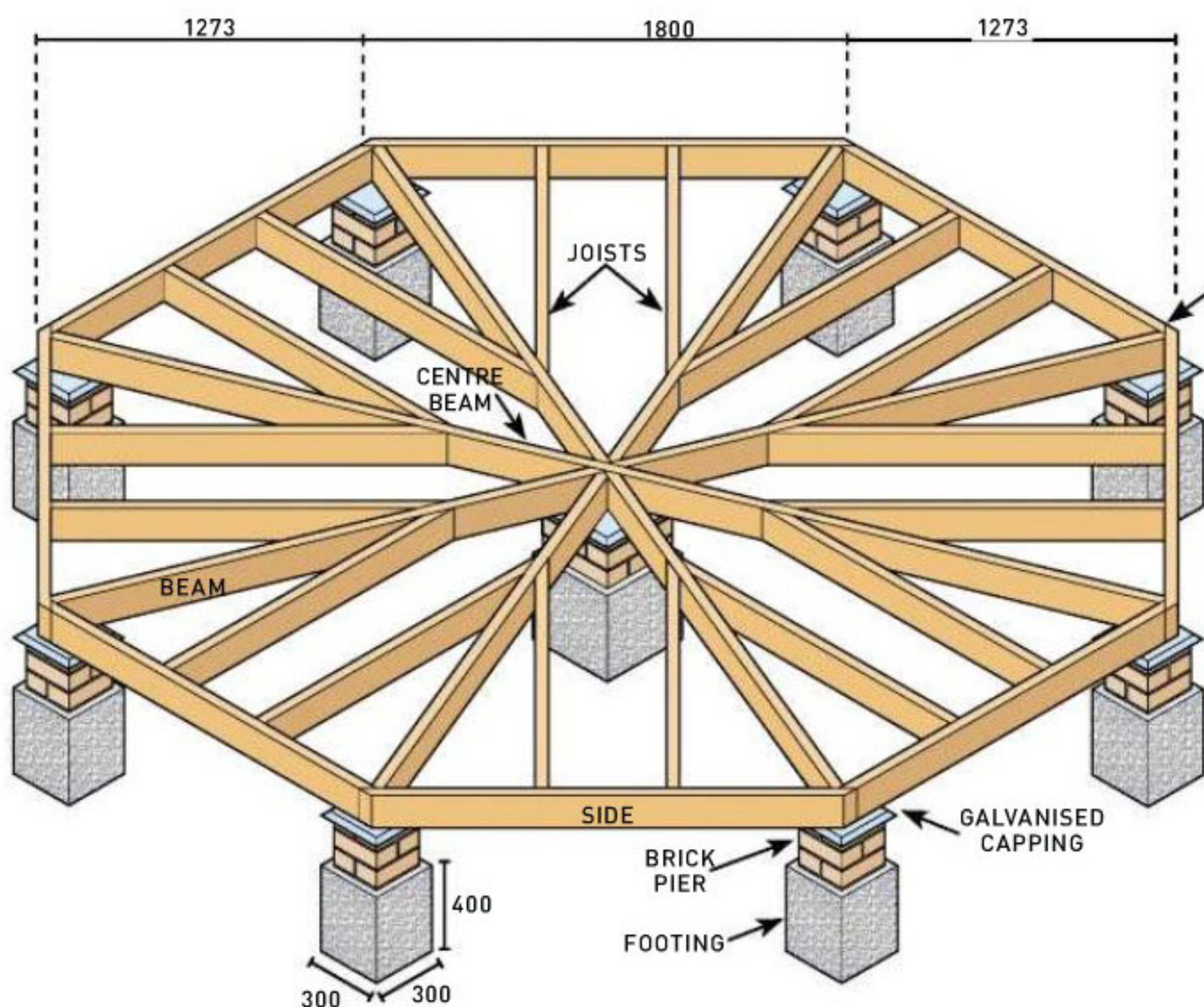


Some decking isn't quite straight and needs to be forced into line. Hammer a chisel into the joist, lever the board into position and nail before releasing the chisel.

**TIP** Tap a nail into a small timber offcut to use as a spacer.



# OCTAGONAL DECK measurements in mm



## CUTTING LIST

| PART                  | SIZE            | NO.  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------|
| <b>TREATED TIMBER</b> |                 |      |
| Sides                 | 1800 x 150 x 50 | 8    |
| Centre beam           | 4800 x 150 x 50 | 1    |
| Beams                 | 2400 x 150 x 50 | 6    |
| Joists                | 1500 x 100 x 50 | 16   |
| Battens               | 2400 x 50 x 50  | 16   |
| Decking               | 64 x 19         | 320m |

**Handymanmagazine.co.nz**

Go online to download the tools, materials and costs for making an Octagonal Deck.

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The trusted Selleys Liquid Nails range



# SELECT POOL FENCING

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

**T**he backyard pool is a big part of the New Zealand lifestyle, with 1000 new pools being installed each year.

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

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

**ALUMINIUM FENCING** is a popular choice for a pool fence, and is both low maintenance and affordable.

This type of fencing is easy to install DIY and comes in standard 2450 x 1200mm panels straight off the shelf at Bunnings stores.

Being powdercoated, it is both durable and weather resistant.

**GLASS FENCING** has become a popular choice for a minimalist and modern look that works well in any space. Fully frameless options preserve the views.

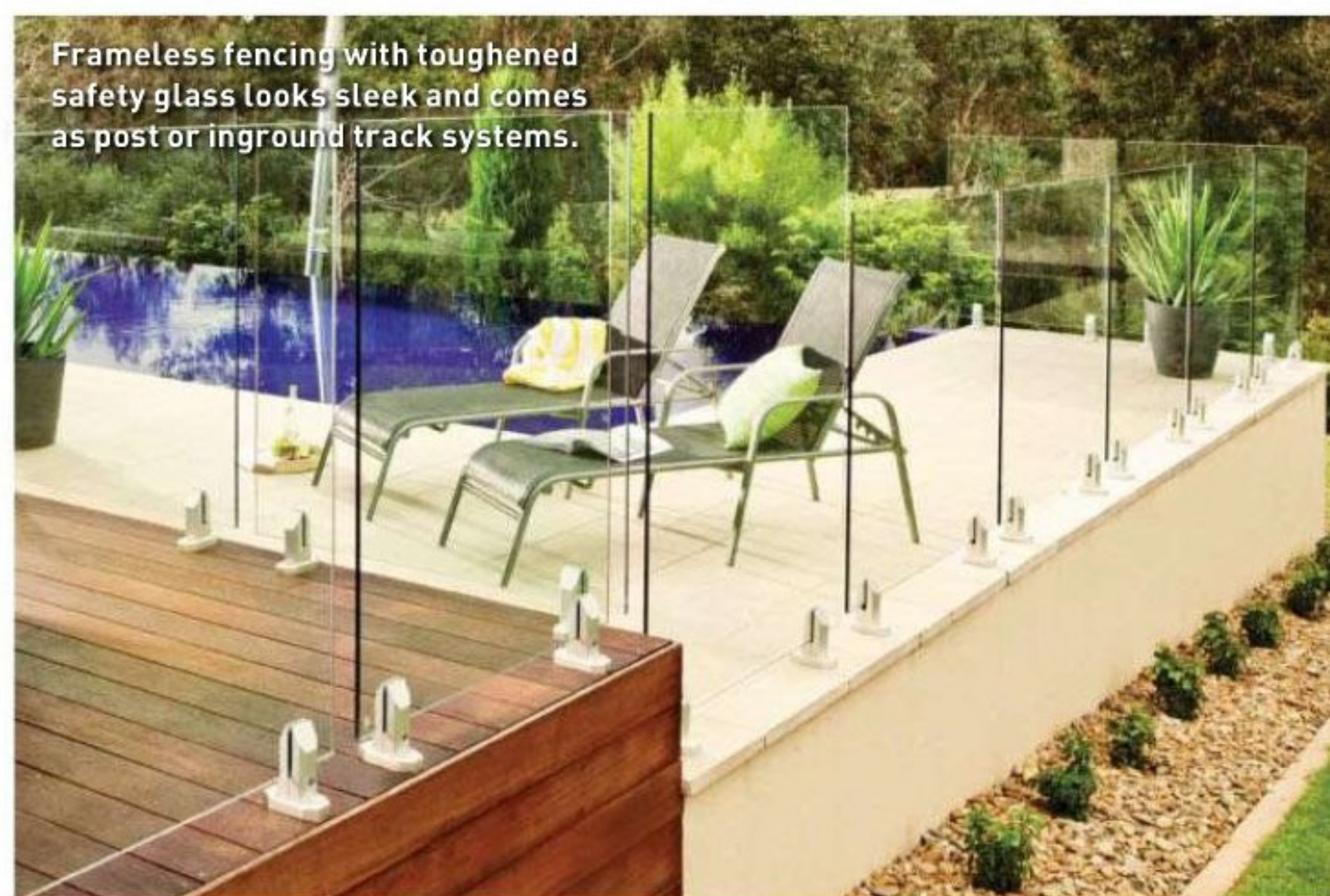
## SAFETY REGULATIONS

Alongside the increasing numbers of homes with pools, strict safety codes are enforced by local councils.

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

The space between the ground and the fence, and the gaps between posts, shouldn't exceed 100mm.

Check other specific regulations with your local council.



**SET STRINGLINE** and mark the post holes 2500mm apart. Dig holes 600mm deep and allow for one more post for any change of direction or to finish a run. When marking out the gate, allow 1000mm from inside post to inside post. Check posts for plumb.





Protector Aluminium 2450 x 1200mm  
Black Flat Top Pool Fence, from \$123.



2

**CONCRETE THE POSTS** using the stringline to keep the fence straight. Allow the concrete to dry for 24 hours then secure each corner of the fence panels to the aluminium posts using the supplied panel brackets.



3

**HANG THE GATE** using self-closing hinges so the gate opens away from the pool area. Hinges should be 80mm from the top and base of the gate. Attach a safety latch to the 2100mm high post, following the installation instructions.

## Secure the gate

A backyard swimming pool is the focus of summer fun for family and friends but safety comes first.

Water Safety New Zealand reports that each year an average of four children under the age of five drown in home pools.

It's essential that pool gate latches are positioned too high for little hands to reach. Pool gates must close and latch automatically and only open outwards.

The latch must be fitted at least 1500mm above the ground and preferably be lockable.



# A PLANET FIRST FOR POOL SAFETY



Tri Latch from G8Safe – the world's first pool gate latch with dual action safety button that prevents children using implements to push up the button.

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CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY



DESIGN  
SOLUTIONS

# SPACE *savers*

Maximise floorspace with two pieces of furniture you can build in a day







# DROP-DOWN PICTURE TABLE

Construct a wall-mounted frame that folds out to create extra entertaining space when you need it

PROJECT **JOHN BOWLER** MAIN PICTURE **SUE FERRIS** STYLING **GEMA BENEITEZ**

**DIY > \$105**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$505

**SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME > 1 DAY**

**W**orks of art are usually more decorative than functional, but this picture doubles as a practical piece of furniture.

The top of the frame can be unclipped from the wall and drops down to provide a useful work surface, with the long stiles of the frame acting as legs for the table.

When not needed it folds up out of the way, saving valuable floorspace.

In its upright position, the top of the frame is at 1750mm from the floor, an optimal viewing height. When folded down, the 1000 x 600mm tabletop is a comfortable 750mm high.

## DUAL-PURPOSE DESIGN

The tabletop is made from 16mm MDF while 90 x 19mm pine is used for the frame rails and stiles. After the frame is assembled it is cut into two sections,

with the 250mm short stiles secured to the underside of the tabletop.

The 750mm long stiles are hinged to the front edge of the tabletop, and swing down to become the table legs. Finish the table in three coats of black satin paint for a dramatic look.

To glaze the picture, cut a piece of transparent acrylic and slot it into the rebates of the short stiles.

Drill two countersunk clearance holes 15mm in from the top corners and secure the top edge with screws.

**TIP** For safety, attach a desk stay to each leg and childproof cupboard catches at the top to hold the frame. ➤

## Fasteners

Use PVA adhesive and 50 x 8mm dowels to assemble the frame.

Attach the piano hinges and the top of the acrylic with 12mm x 6g timber screws.

Secure the bearer and the catches to the wall studs using 50mm x 8g timber screws.

## Using dowels

Dowels are short, grooved lengths of timber with a circular profile.

Dowels are used to join pieces of timber together edge to edge, creating a stronger joint than one secured with adhesive alone.

The grooves allow air to escape as they are driven in.

To improve precision when drilling holes for dowels, use a brad-point bit and clamp a dowelling jig to the workpiece.

Mark matching hole positions in the second workpiece using dowel centres for a perfect fit.



**PG Dowel Jig Set, \$63.**  
toolware.co.nz



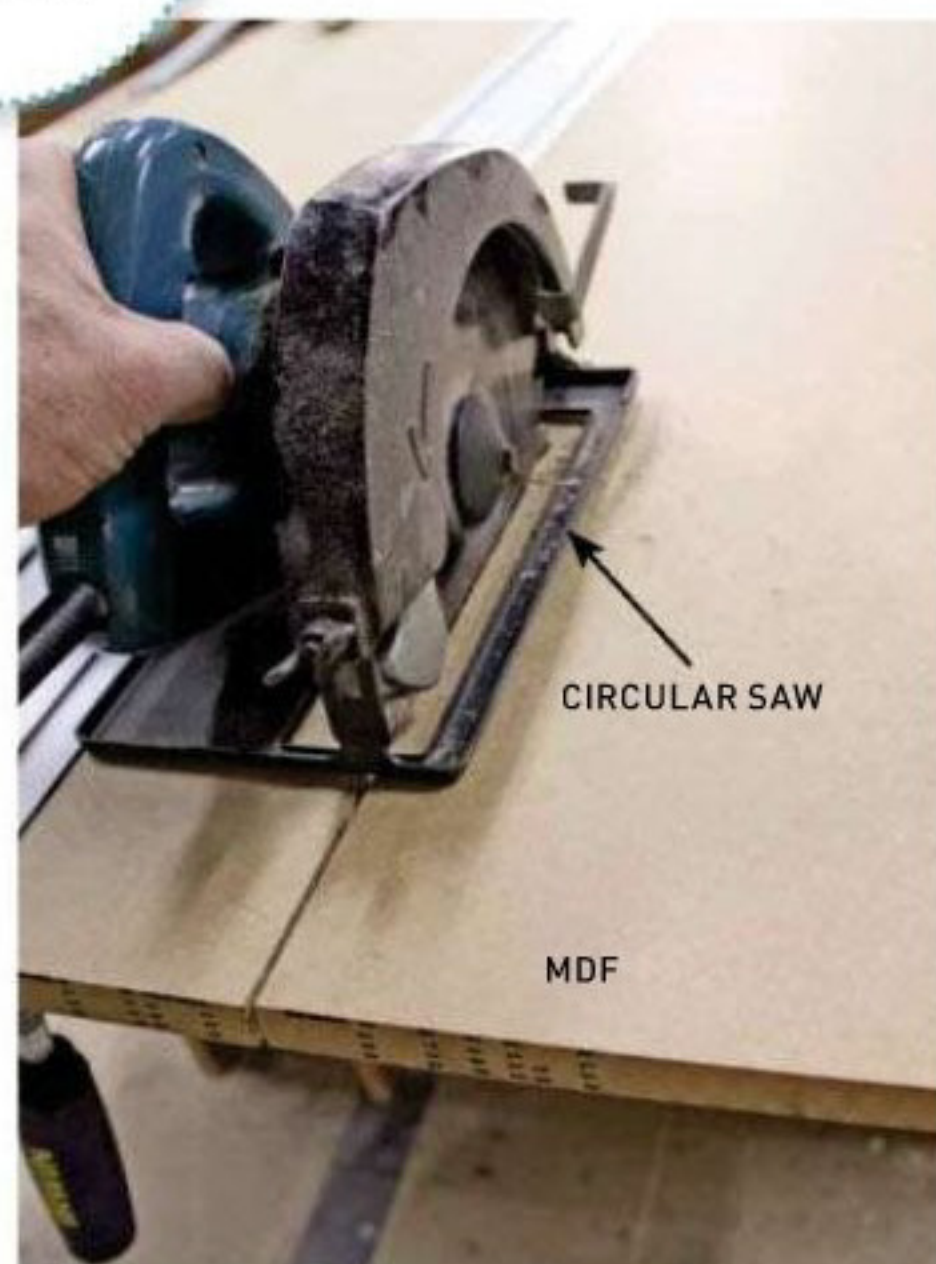


When not in use, the table tucks away as a decorative wall hanging.

Fold down the picture frame for a versatile table when guests arrive.

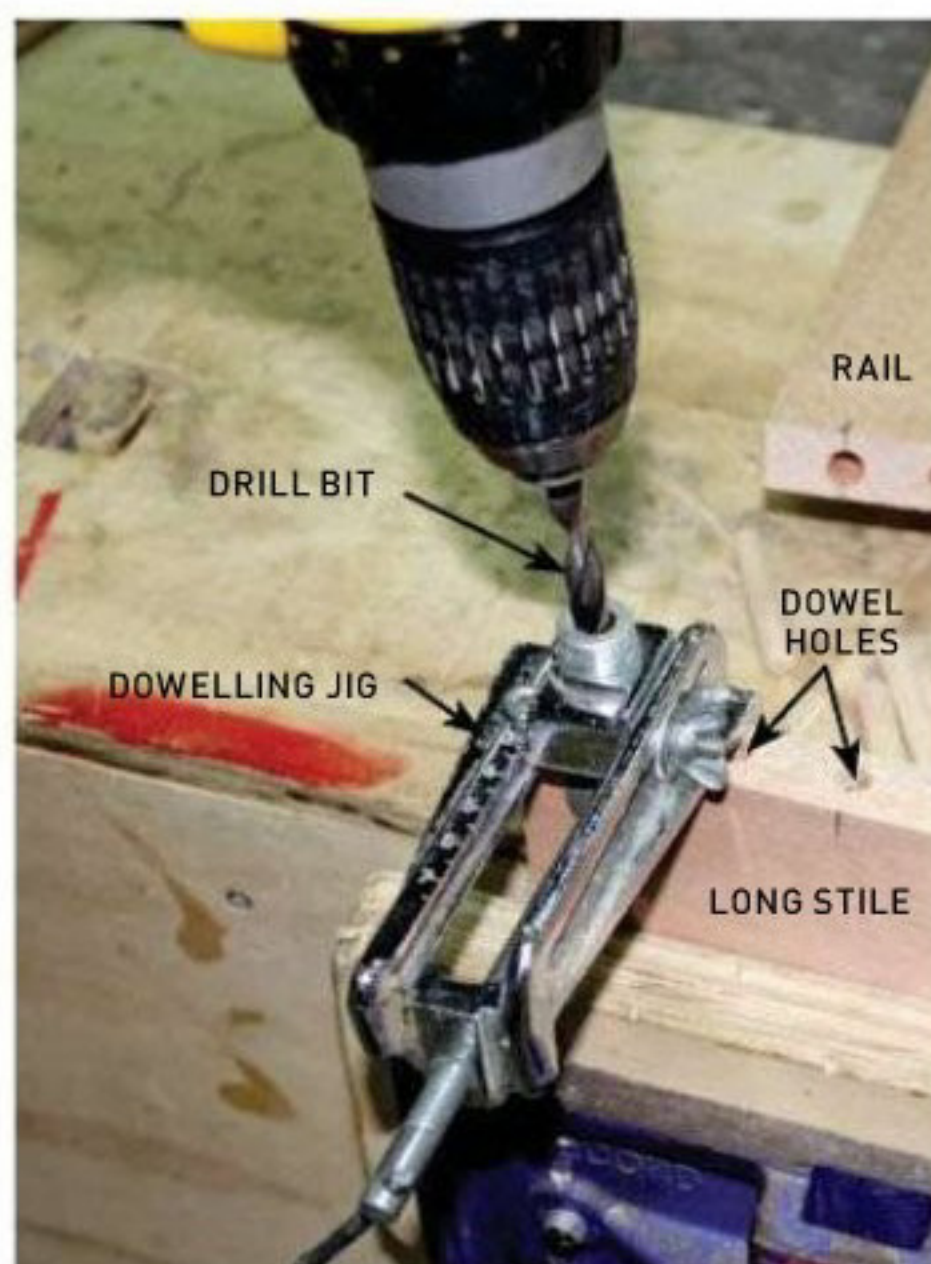


# MAKE THE PICTURE TABLE



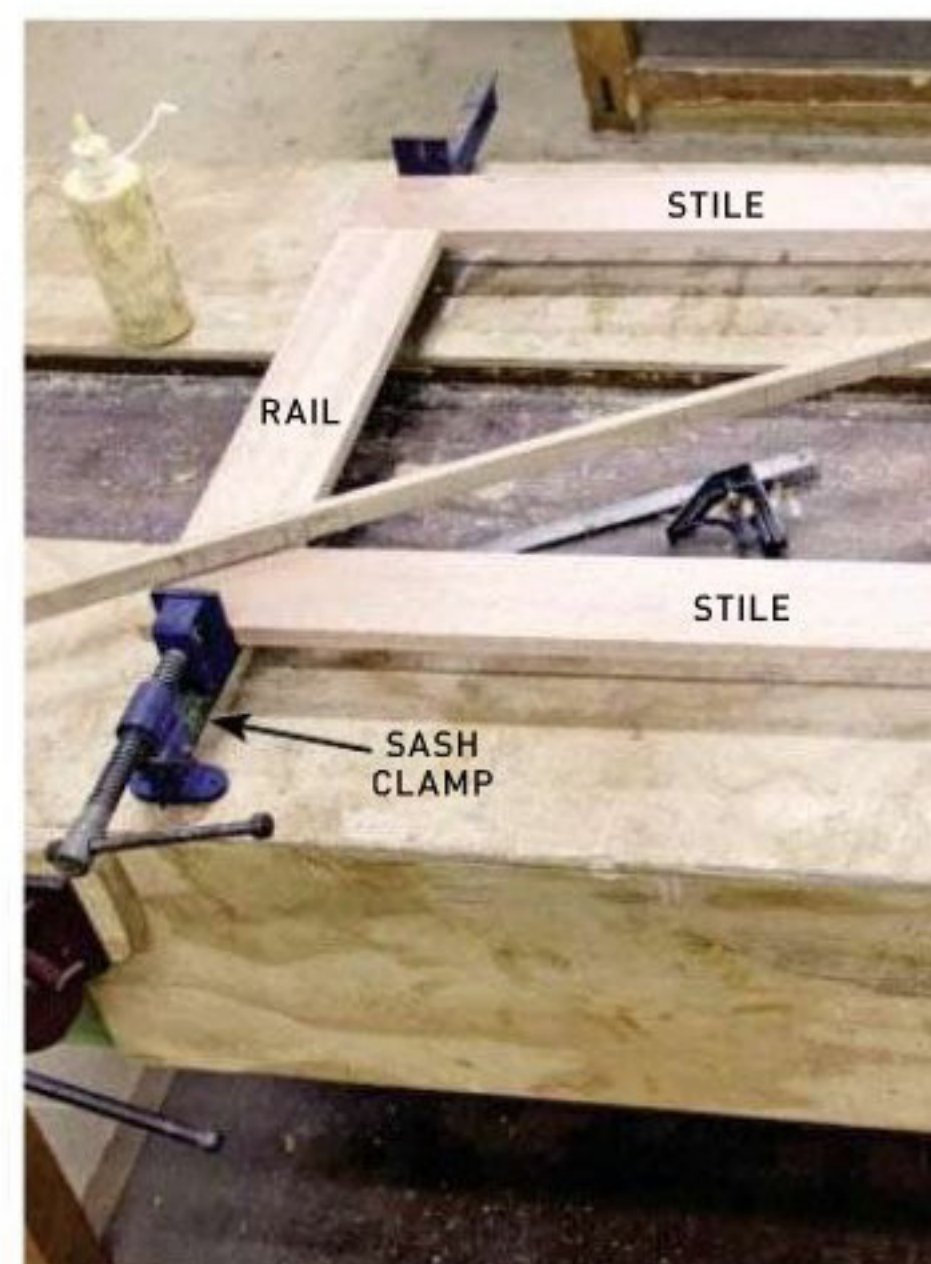
## 1 Cut the tabletop

Clamp the sheet of MDF to a pair of sawhorses then use a circular saw and straightedge guide to cut the tabletop. Clamp the piano hinge in a vice and use a hacksaw to cut it into two 600mm lengths then clean up the cut edges with a file.



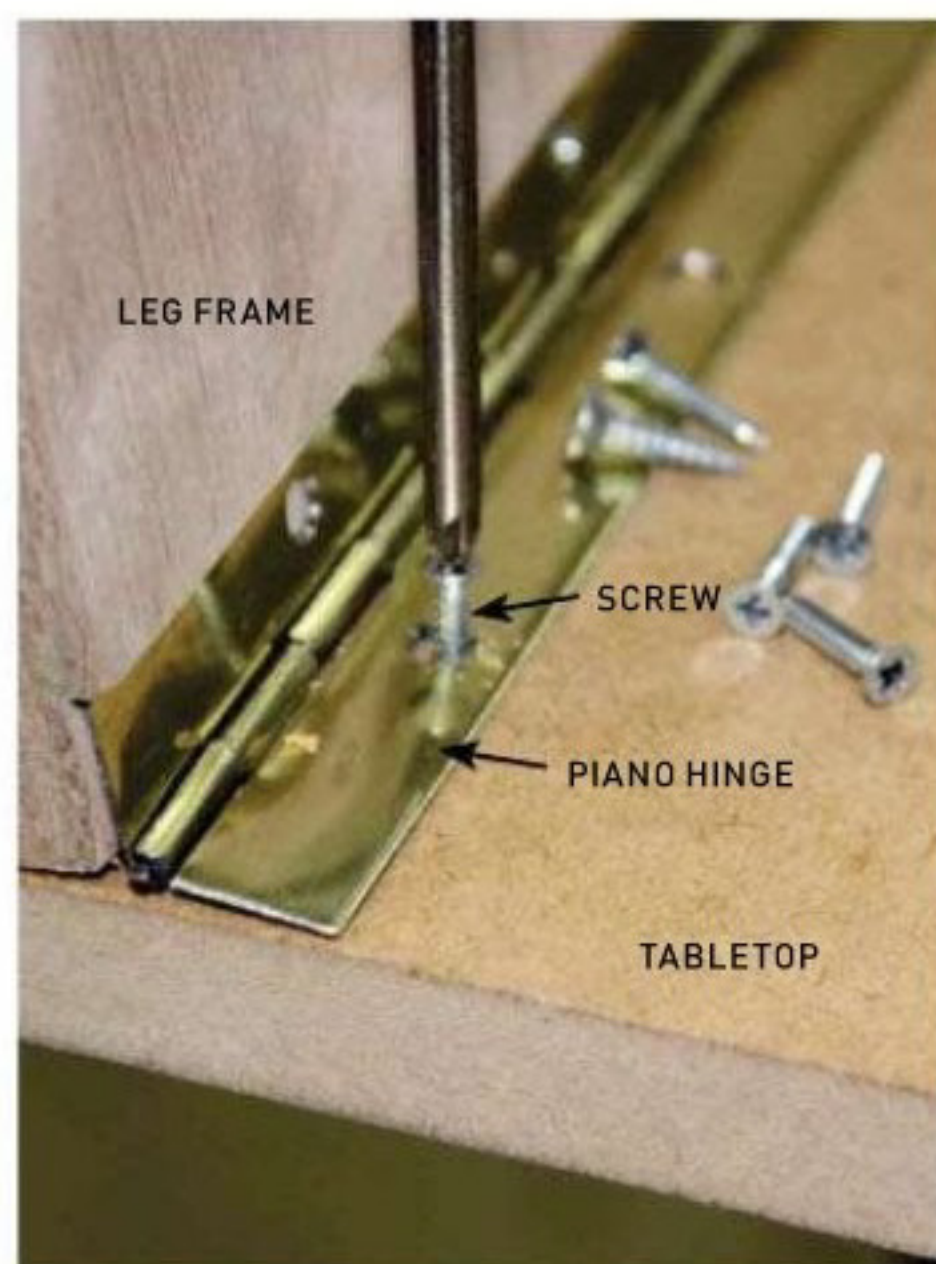
## 2 Prepare the frame

Use a mitresaw to cut the framing pieces to length. Square a line across the ends and face of the rails 20mm in from each edge then drill holes for 8mm dowels to 28mm deep using a dowelling jig for accuracy. Mark and drill corresponding holes in the stiles.



## 3 Assemble the frame

Sand the framing pieces with 180 grit abrasive paper, apply adhesive in the holes and on the end grain of the rails then insert the dowels. Assemble the frame and apply pressure to the joints with sash clamps. Remove excess adhesive and check the frame is square.



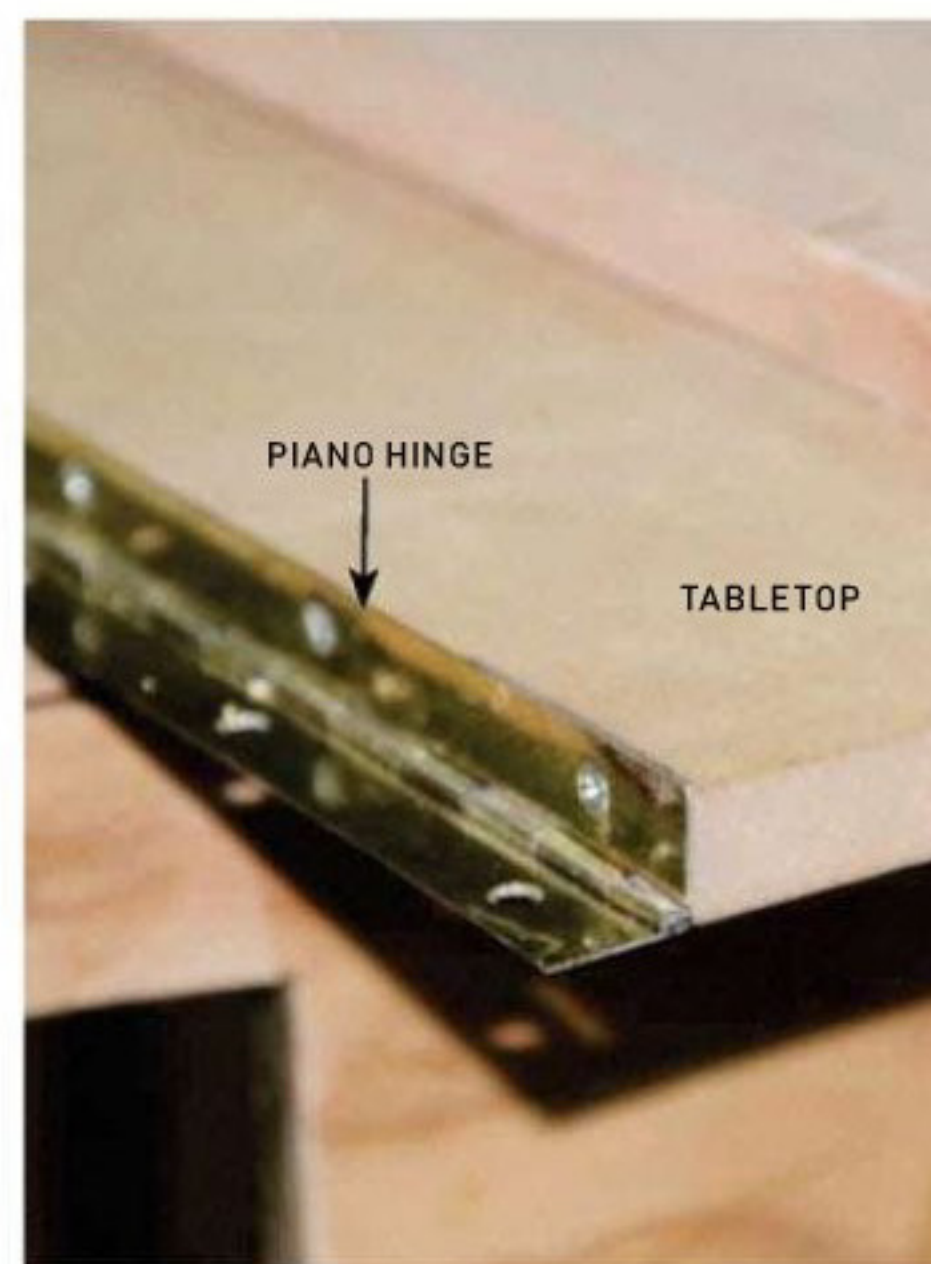
## 4 Attach the legs

Rout a 3 x 3mm rebate around the inside of the frame using a straight cutting bit, square up the corners with a chisel then cut the frame into 750mm and 250mm parts. Align the leg frame flush with the tabletop, drill 1.5mm pilot holes and attach the hinge.



## 5 Mount the bearer

Attach the remaining frame section to the underside of the tabletop using adhesive. On the wall, mark a level line 750mm from the floor, then use a stud finder to mark the stud locations. Drill pilot holes and secure the bearer with screws.



## 6 Secure the tabletop

Attach the second piano hinge to the edge of the tabletop and the inside face of the bearer. Secure desk stays to the legs, fold the table into its upright position then mark the location for hook catches to hold it against the wall, securing them to the studs.



# DROP-DOWN PICTURE TABLE

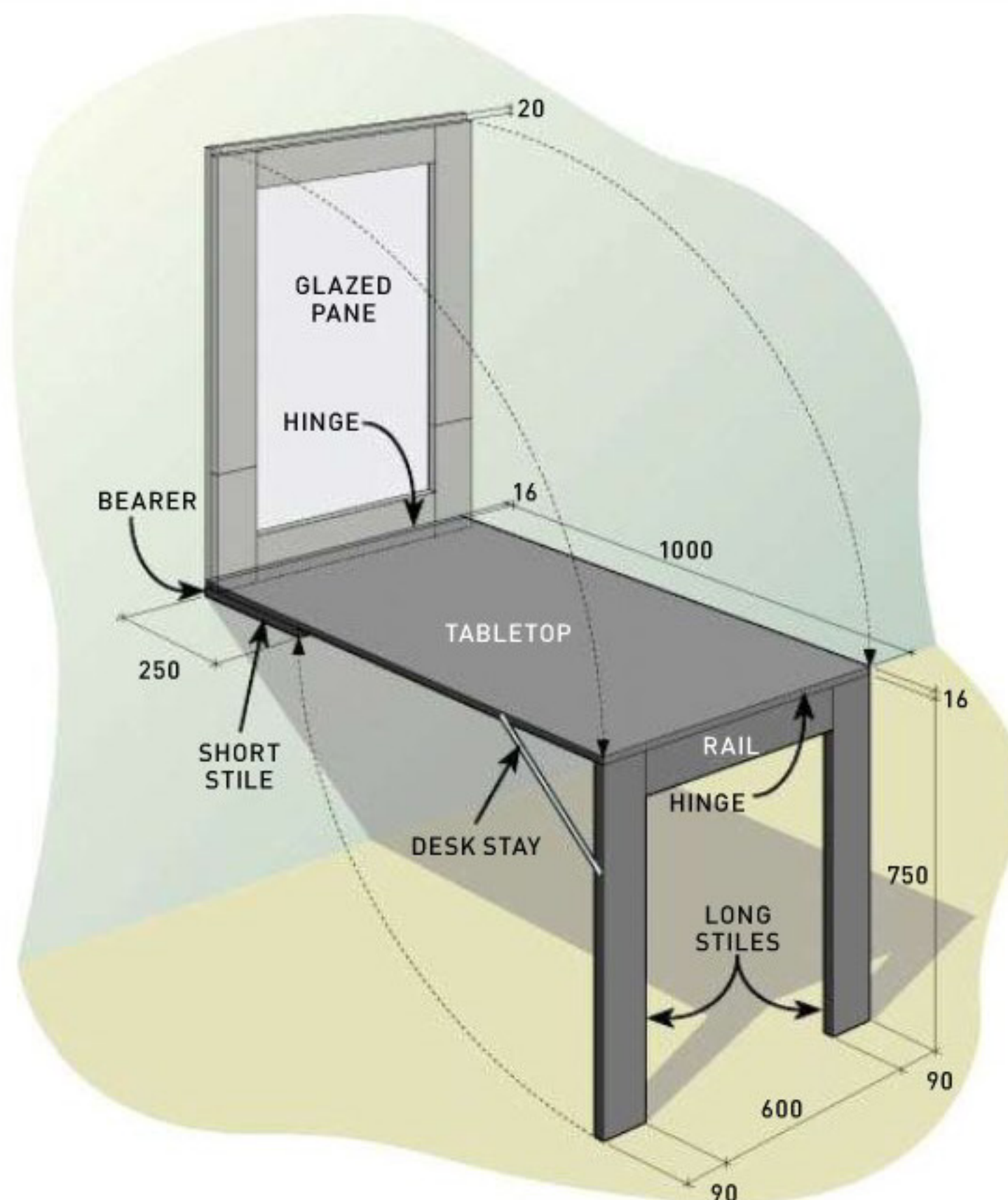
measurements in mm

## CUTTING LIST

| PART           | SIZE            | NO. |
|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| <b>MDF</b>     |                 |     |
| Tabletop       | 1000 x 600 x 16 | 1   |
| <b>PINE</b>    |                 |     |
| Long stiles    | 750 x 90 x 19   | 2   |
| Short stiles   | 250 x 90 x 19   | 2   |
| Rails          | 420 x 90 x 19   | 2   |
| Bearer         | 600 x 16 x 16   | 1   |
| Piano hinge    | 1200 x 20       | 1   |
| <b>ACRYLIC</b> |                 |     |
| Glazed pane    | 825 x 425 x 3   | 1   |

[Handymanmagazine.co.nz](http://Handymanmagazine.co.nz)

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials for making this picture table.



# SOLA

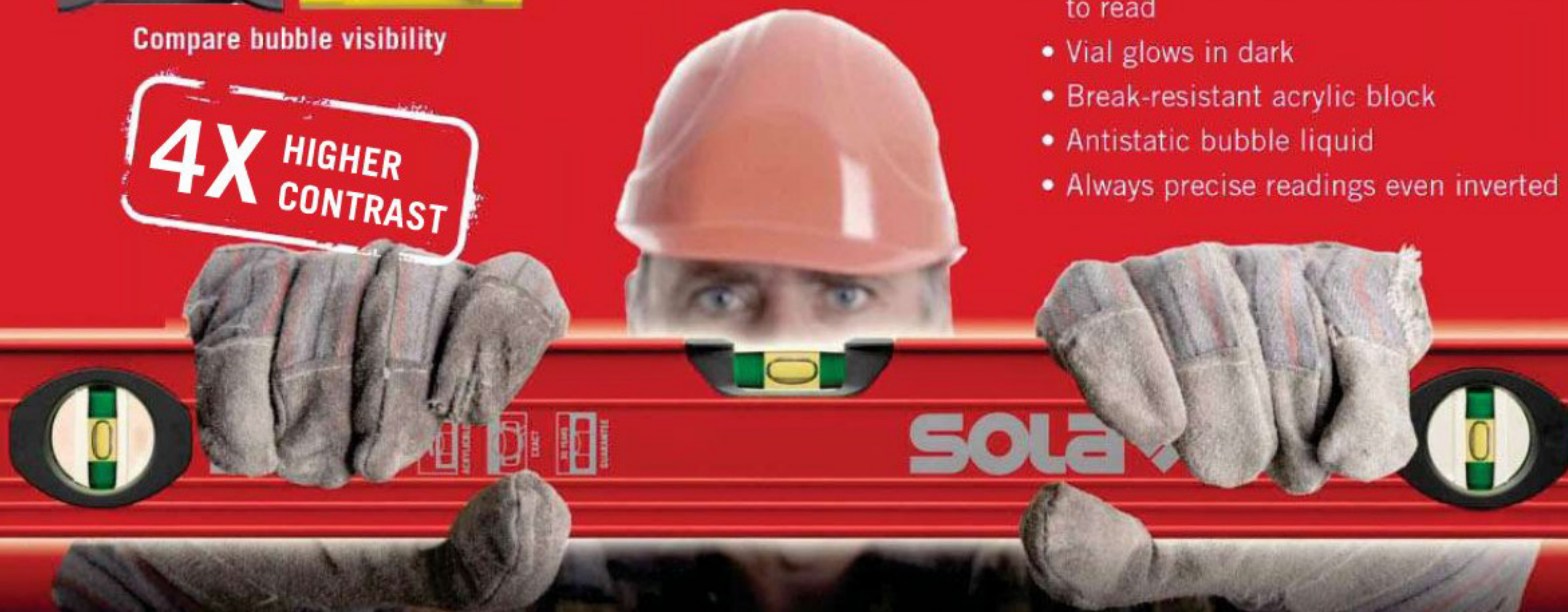


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PORTABLE  
STORAGE

# TWO-DRAWER COFFEE TABLE

Make a low-line timber table with built-in storage and castors to make the most of a compact living area

PROJECT **JOHN BOWLER** MAIN PICTURE **SUE FERRIS** STYLING **GEMA BENEITEZ**

**DIY > \$330**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1130

**SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME > 2 DAYS**

**T**his space-saving coffee table is also a neat storage unit. It has open shelving for cushions or decorative items and two drawers to keep magazines, or to use as a place to hide the remote controls.

Adding four castors to the base makes it easy to tuck the table out of the way when space is needed.

Measuring 720mm square the table stands 450mm high and has two shelves and two drawers that are reversed on opposite sides to make the assembly balanced and strong.

The table is built from laminated pine panels with DAR pine used for the 250mm deep drawers and 3mm plywood for the drawer bases.

Biscuits are used to join the parts of the table so no fasteners are visible once the table has been built.

To finish the coffee table, apply two coats of clear polyurethane and add slimline handles to the drawer faces.

## MAKE THE DRAWERS

The drawers are simply boxes assembled using screws with a face attached then runners secured to the sides.

Drawer runners range in length and are supplied as two parts per side. They are easy to fit to box-style drawers.

A gap of 12.5mm is needed on each side with one part secured to the drawer and the other to the table.

You can find standard 250 to 550mm long runners at hardware stores. They are available in metallic or powdercoated in black or white and rated for a specific weight. ➤

## Using a biscuit joiner

A biscuit joiner is like a small angle grinder with a baseplate and sliding carriage. A tungsten-tipped blade cuts a curved slot into an edge or face of material to be joined in corresponding positions and heights.

To hold the joints together, adhesive is applied to biscuits which are then inserted into the slots.

**TIP** Biscuits come in three different sizes, numbered 0, 10 and 20.



**Ryobi 600W Corded Biscuit Joiner,**  
\$150. [ryobi.co.nz](http://ryobi.co.nz)

## Fasteners

Join the components of the table using number 20 biscuits and PVA adhesive. Attach the castors to the base of the table with 12mm x 8g timber screws.

Use 32mm x 8g timber screws to make the drawer boxes and secure the drawer bases with 25 x 1.6mm flat head nails.

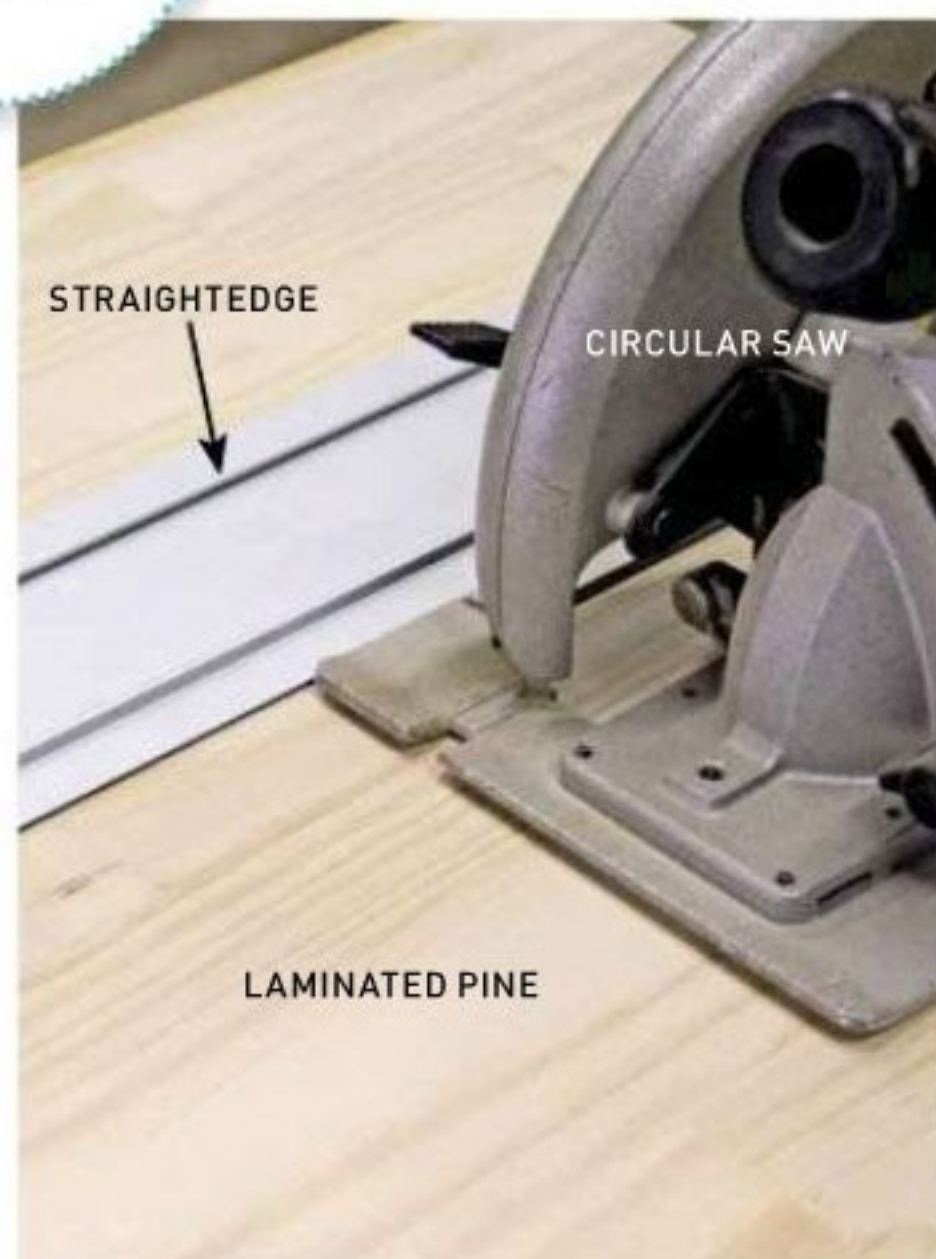




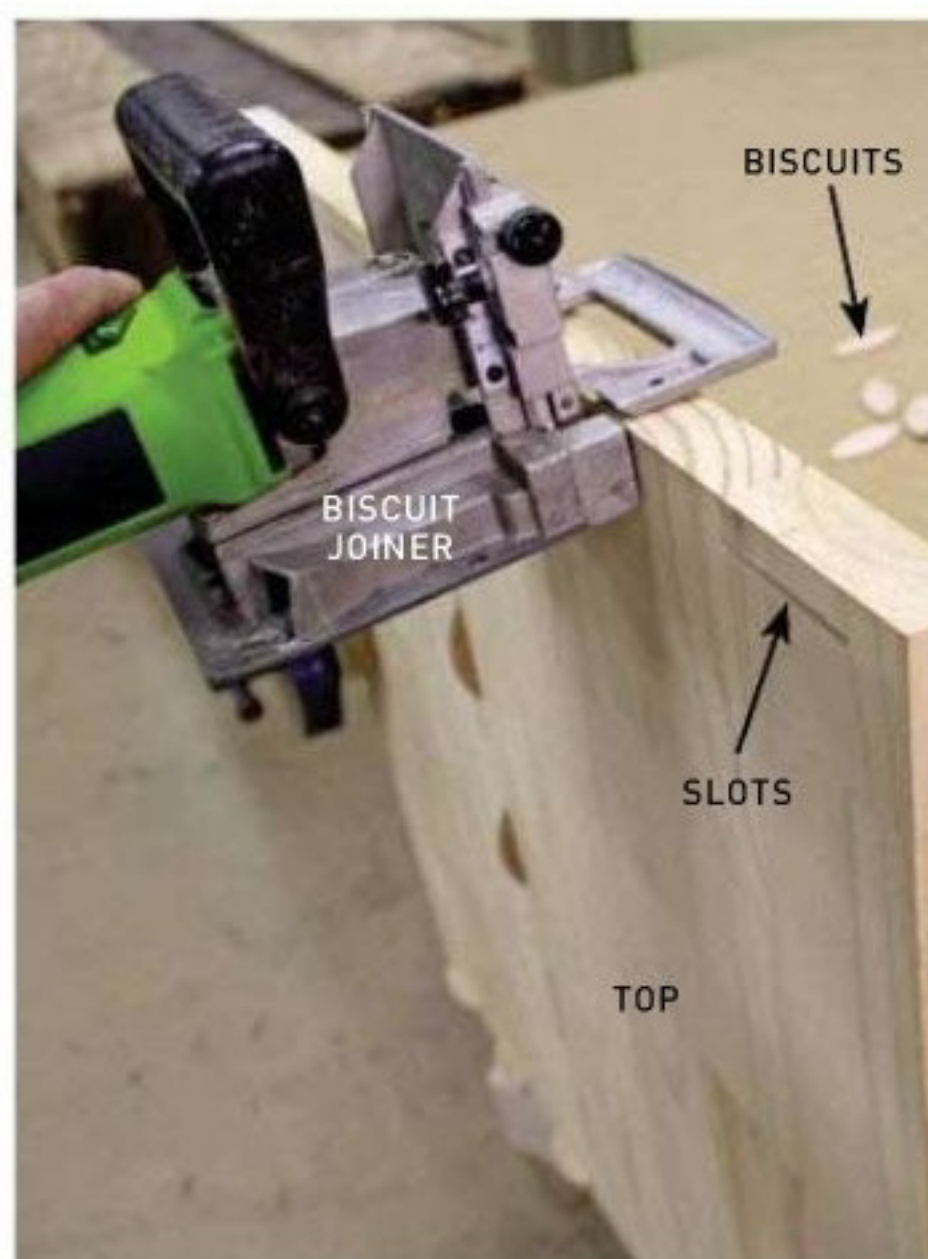
Multi-tasking furniture is a must when living space is at a premium.



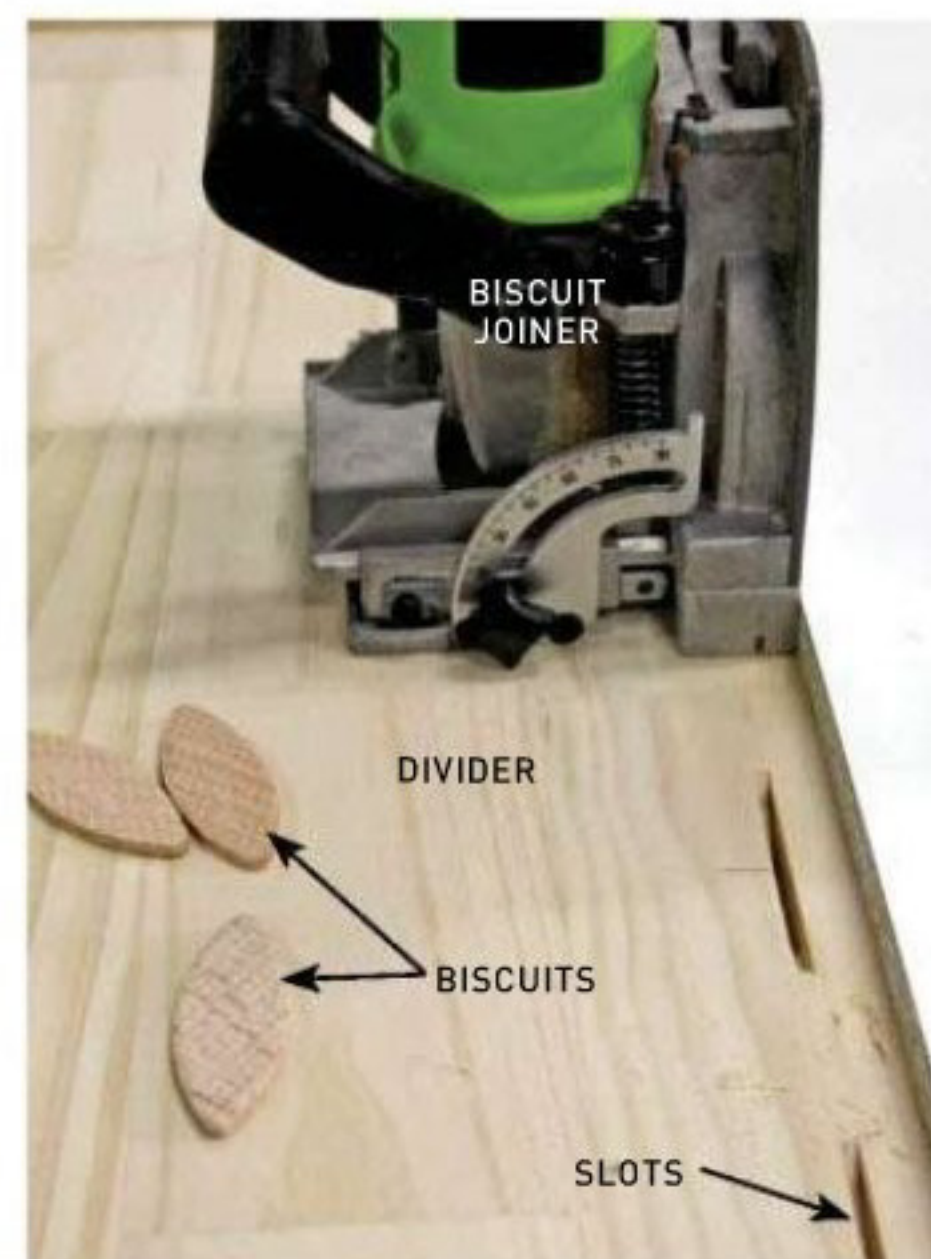
# MAKE THE COFFEE TABLE



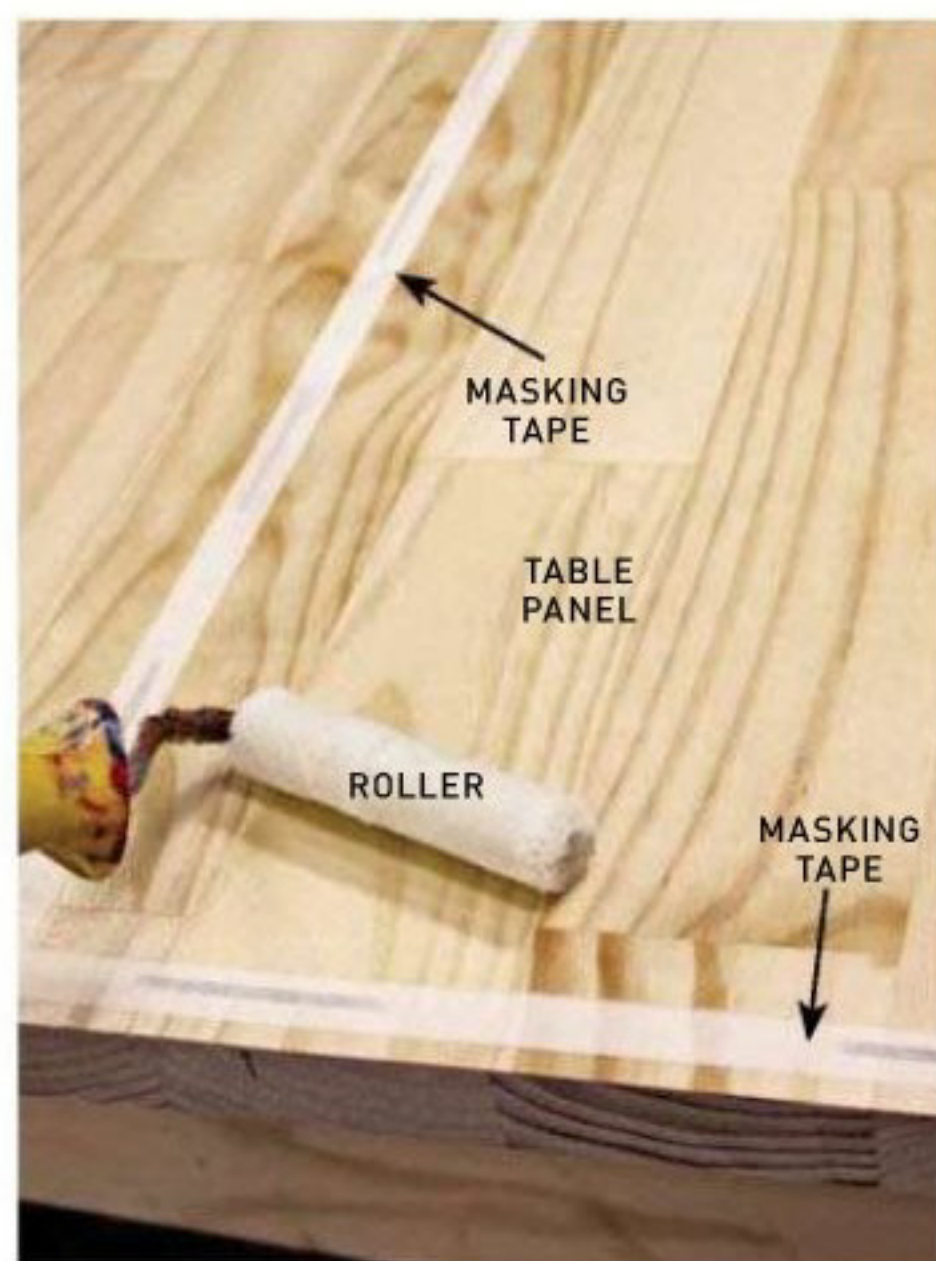
**1 Cut the panels to size**  
Mark the cut lines on the laminated pine panel and clamp a straightedge as a guide to cut the table parts using a circular saw, allowing for the width of the blade. Check for square with a builder's square and combination square. Sand the cut edges smooth.



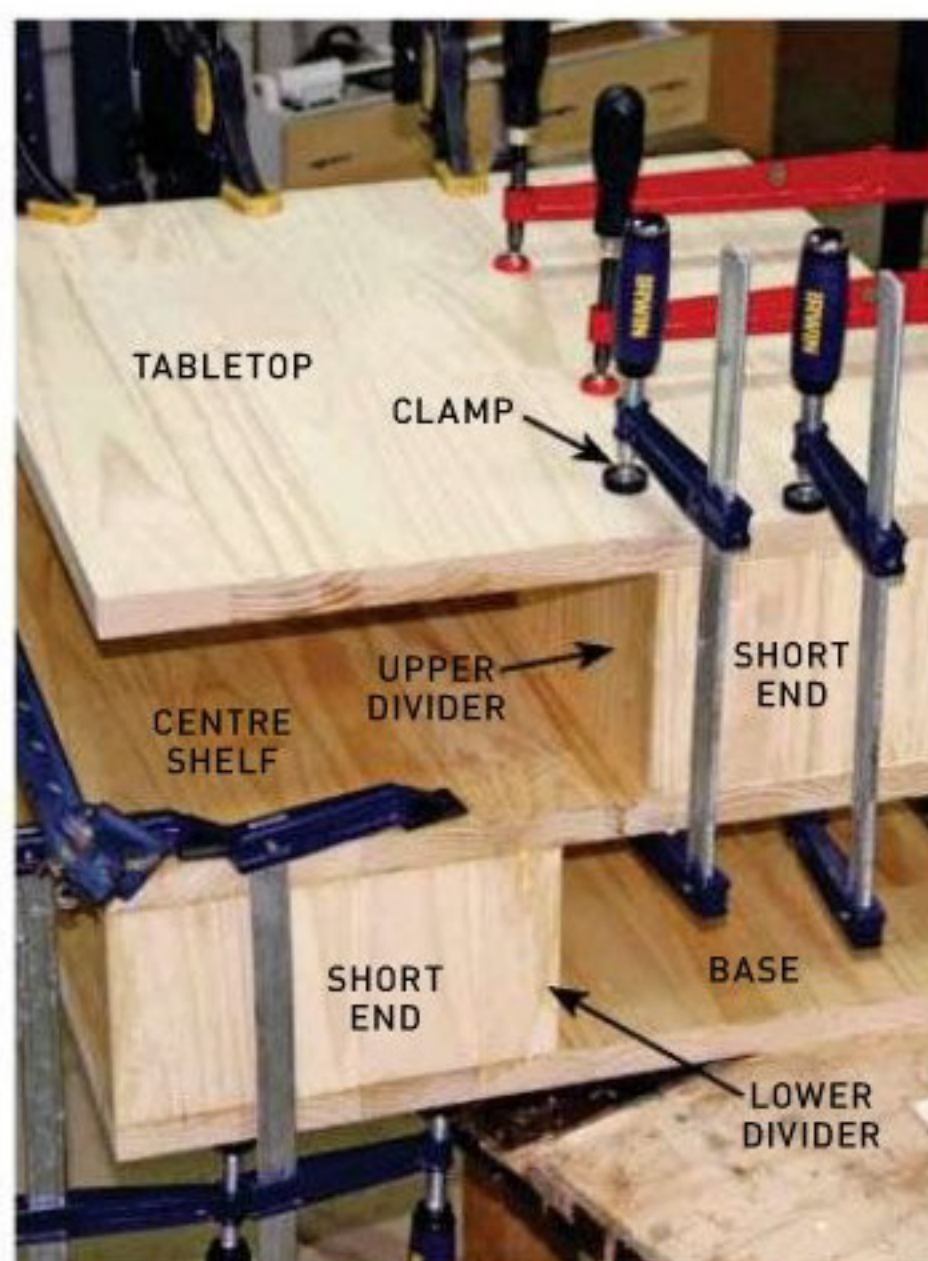
**2 Make the biscuit slots**  
Set out five evenly spaced biscuit slots on the edges of the full end panel starting 75mm in from each end. Align the panel between the top and base to transfer the setout onto the inside faces. Adjust the biscuit joiner to cut in the centre and machine the slots.



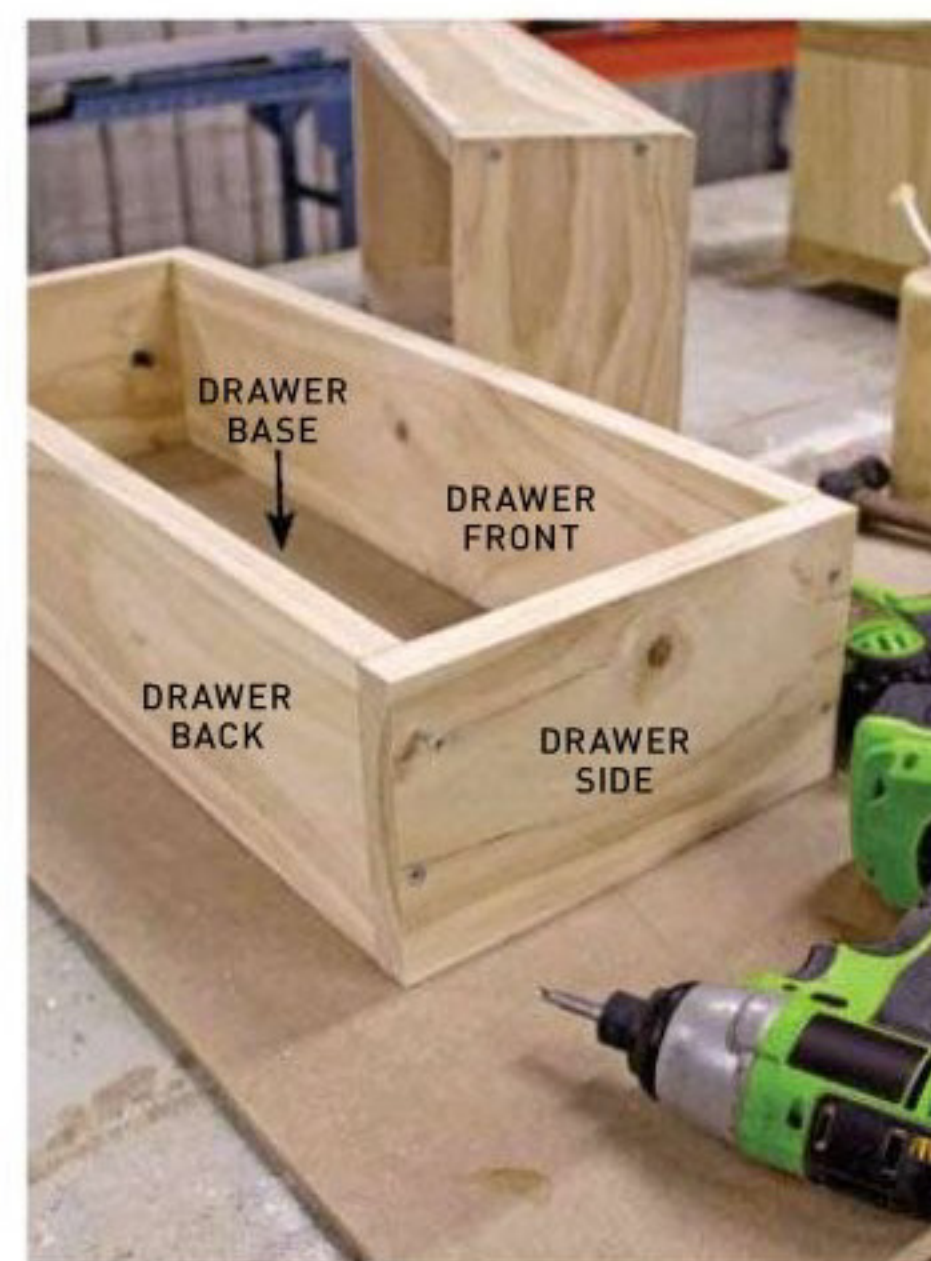
**3 Prepare the dividers**  
Clamp an offcut to the base to act as a guide for the lower divider. Set out five slots on the divider edges and transfer the setout onto the base and lower face of the shelf. Cut the slots then repeat for the upper divider. Cut the biscuit slots for the short ends.



**4 Finish the inside faces**  
Dry assemble each biscuit joint and mark the outside face of each part on its corresponding component. Remove each and attach masking tape over the slots. Apply two coats of clear finish over all the inside faces of the table panels, sanding lightly between coats.



**5 Assemble the table**  
Apply adhesive to the slots in the base, tap in the biscuits and position the lower divider, short end, full end and centre shelf then clamp. Position the upper divider, short end and tabletop then clamp. Wipe off excess adhesive and leave to dry.



**6 Make the drawer boxes**  
Cut the drawer components and position the front and back between the sides. Secure with adhesive and screws. Attach a base to each box with nails. **TIP** These drawers will suit 250mm runners, allowing 12.5mm between each side and the ends of the unit. ➤





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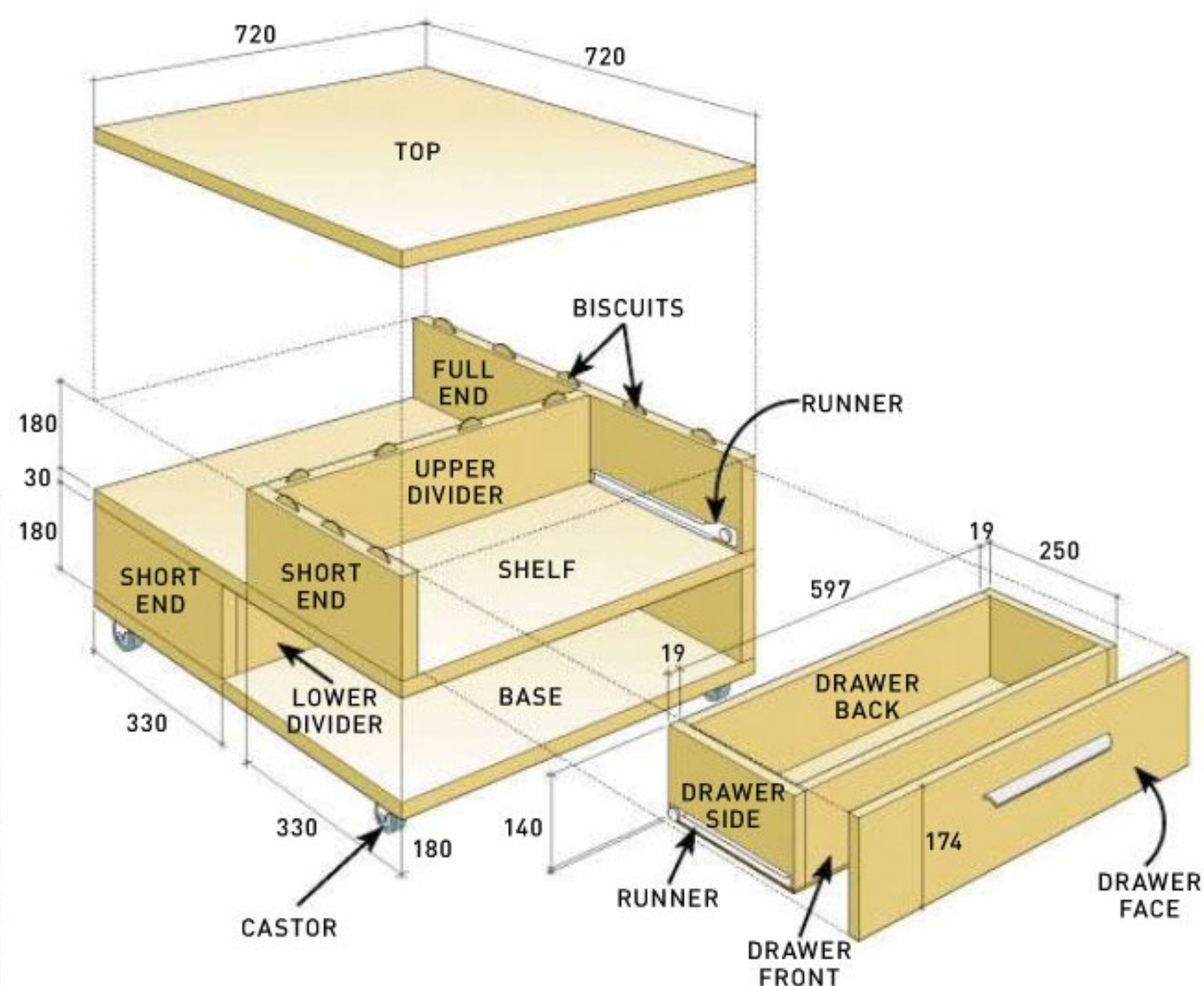


## TWO-DRAWER COFFEE TABLE

measurements in mm

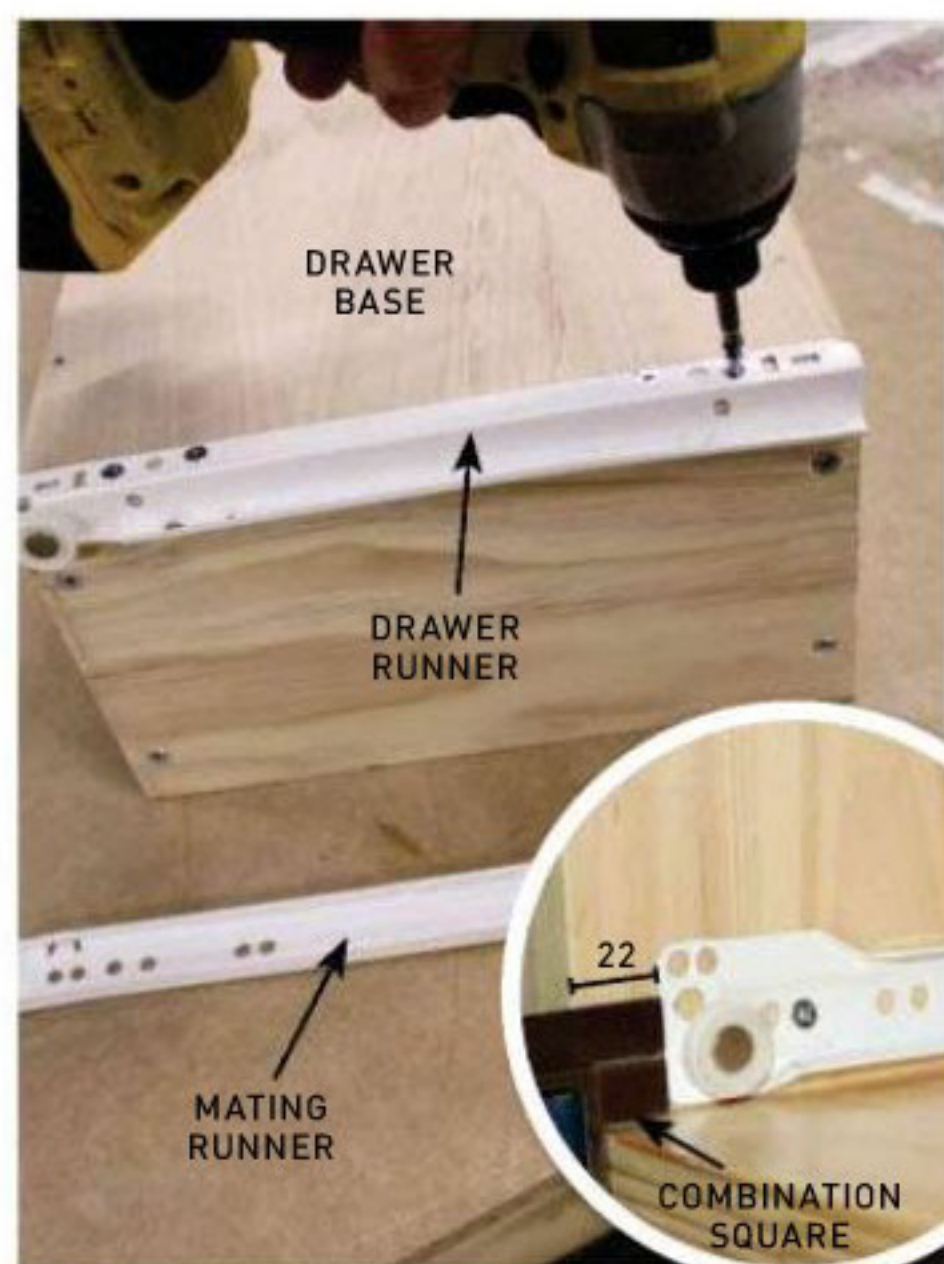
### CUTTING LIST

| PART                        | SIZE           | NO. |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----|
| <b>LAMINATED PINE PANEL</b> |                |     |
| Top                         | 720 x 720 x 30 | 1   |
| Shelf                       | 720 x 690 x 30 | 1   |
| Base                        | 720 x 720 x 30 | 1   |
| Dividers                    | 180 x 660 x 30 | 2   |
| Full end                    | 390 x 720 x 30 | 1   |
| Short ends                  | 180 x 330 x 30 | 2   |
| <b>PINE</b>                 |                |     |
| Drawer sides                | 250 x 140 x 19 | 4   |
| Drawer front/back           | 597 x 140 x 19 | 4   |
| Drawer faces                | 654 x 174 x 19 | 2   |
| <b>PLYWOOD</b>              |                |     |
| Drawer bases                | 635 x 250 x 3  | 2   |



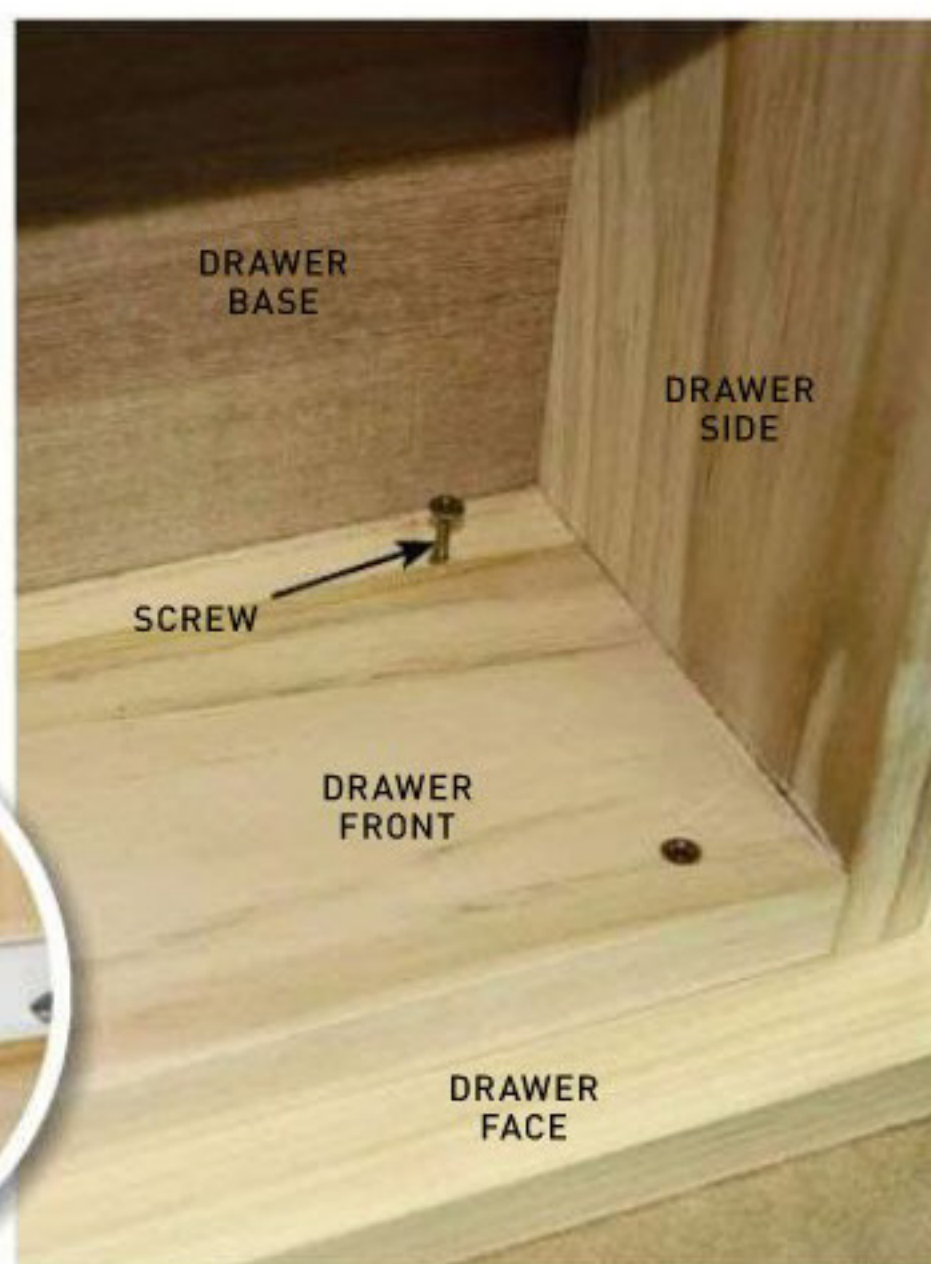
[Handymanmagazine.co.nz](http://Handymanmagazine.co.nz)

Download the tools, materials and costs for making this two-drawer coffee table.



### 7 Attach the runners

Secure the drawer runners to the base of the drawer boxes. Using a combination square as a guide, set the mating runner 22mm from the front edge of the short and full ends. Secure the runners through the pre-drilled holes using the supplied screws.



### 8 Add the drawer faces

Cut the drawer faces with a 3mm clearance on all sides. Drill 4mm holes through the drawer fronts and insert the screws so the tip just comes through. Position the drawers with the front on the face with even gaps, then secure the screws from the inside.



### 9 Secure the castors

Sand the table with 180 grit paper and apply two coats of clear finish using a roller. Turn the table upside down on a soft surface and position the castors in the corners, 30mm from each edge. Drill pilot holes and secure with screws, then add drawer handles.



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Say goodbye to garage chaos by installing a tidy row of storage towers.



GARAGE  
STORAGE

# TOWERING *genius*

Build simple shelving to hold standard plastic bins that will keep your workshop essentials organised and tidy

**DIY > \$480**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$880

**SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME > 1 DAY**

**F**inding space for tools and equipment can be challenging in a garage that also functions as a workshop and storage room.

Stackable plastic storage bins are a great way to keep your essentials tidy, but the lower ones are troublesome to access, and stacking any more than three of them can be risky.

This solution lets you arrange the bins into whatever order suits you, such as heavy items in the lower bins, without having to put items you use often in the top bin of a stack.

Each of these shelf towers can safely accommodate five storage bins, and is made from just over one and a half sheets of 17mm plywood, plus a half sheet of 7mm ply.

Three towers can be built in a day with only basic power tools, but tacking the panels together using a brad nailer before securing them with screws will speed up construction.

## FREEING UP SPACE

The towers allow you to utilise vertical space to store all your belongings, rather than taking up valuable room on the garage floor.

They are designed to hold bins measuring up to 590 x 450 x 440mm, providing plenty of capacity.

These dimensions can be easily adapted and the number of shelves increased to suit containers of a different size.

**TIP** Add sturdy hooks to the sides of these towers to create additional hanging space for garden tools. ➤

## Choosing storage boxes

There are all kinds of storage boxes available, from lightweight snap-lock containers which are useful for paperwork and smaller items, to more robust, heavy-duty crates that can cope with heftier loads such as power tools.



Kis Bi Box, 550 x 350 x 280mm, \$35.  
seymourdistrib.com



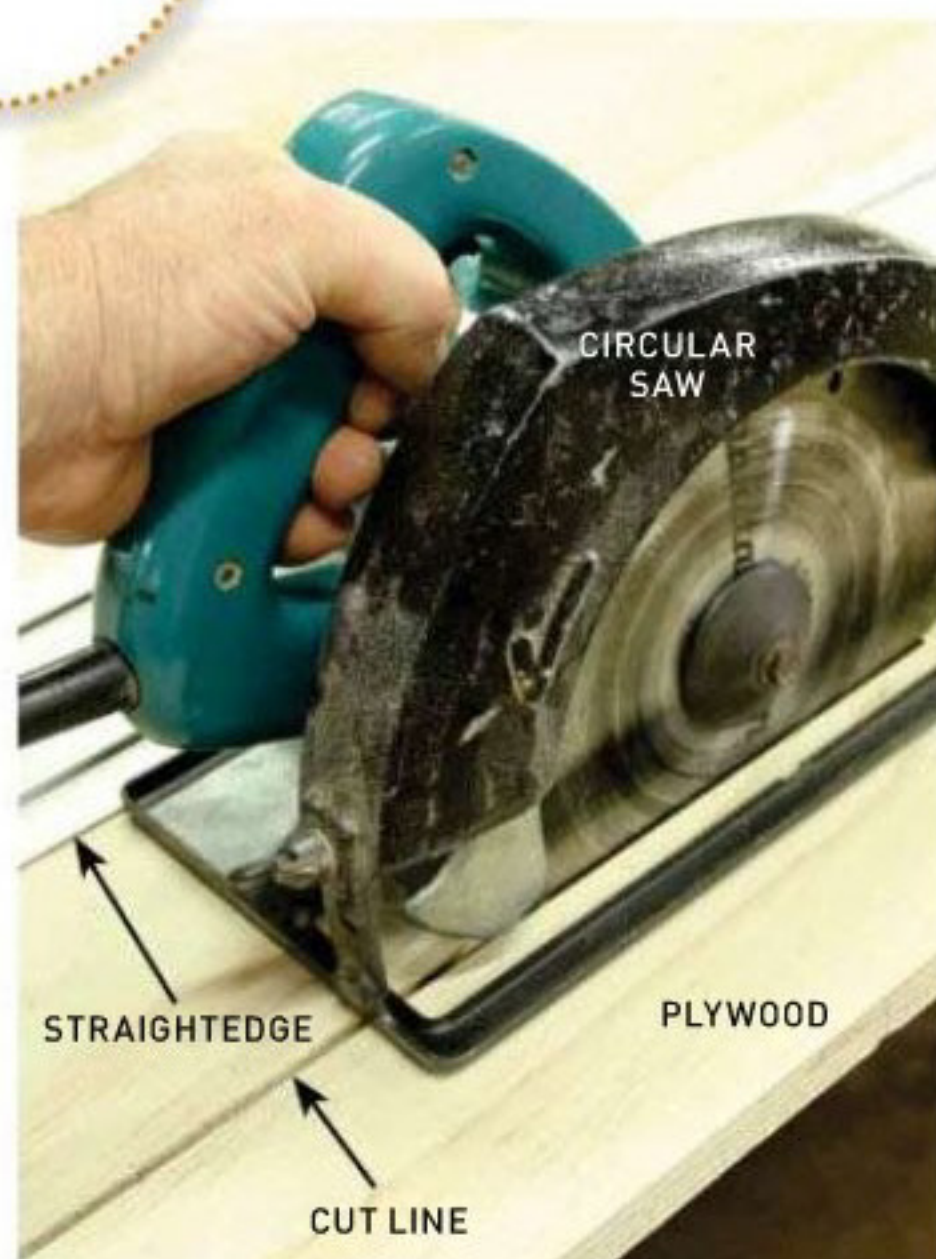
Perroplas 48L Rolling Storage Bin,  
580 x 400 x 330 mm, \$19. perroplas.co.nz



Heavy-duty 100L Storage Container,  
780 x 520 x 360mm, \$33. bunnings.co.nz

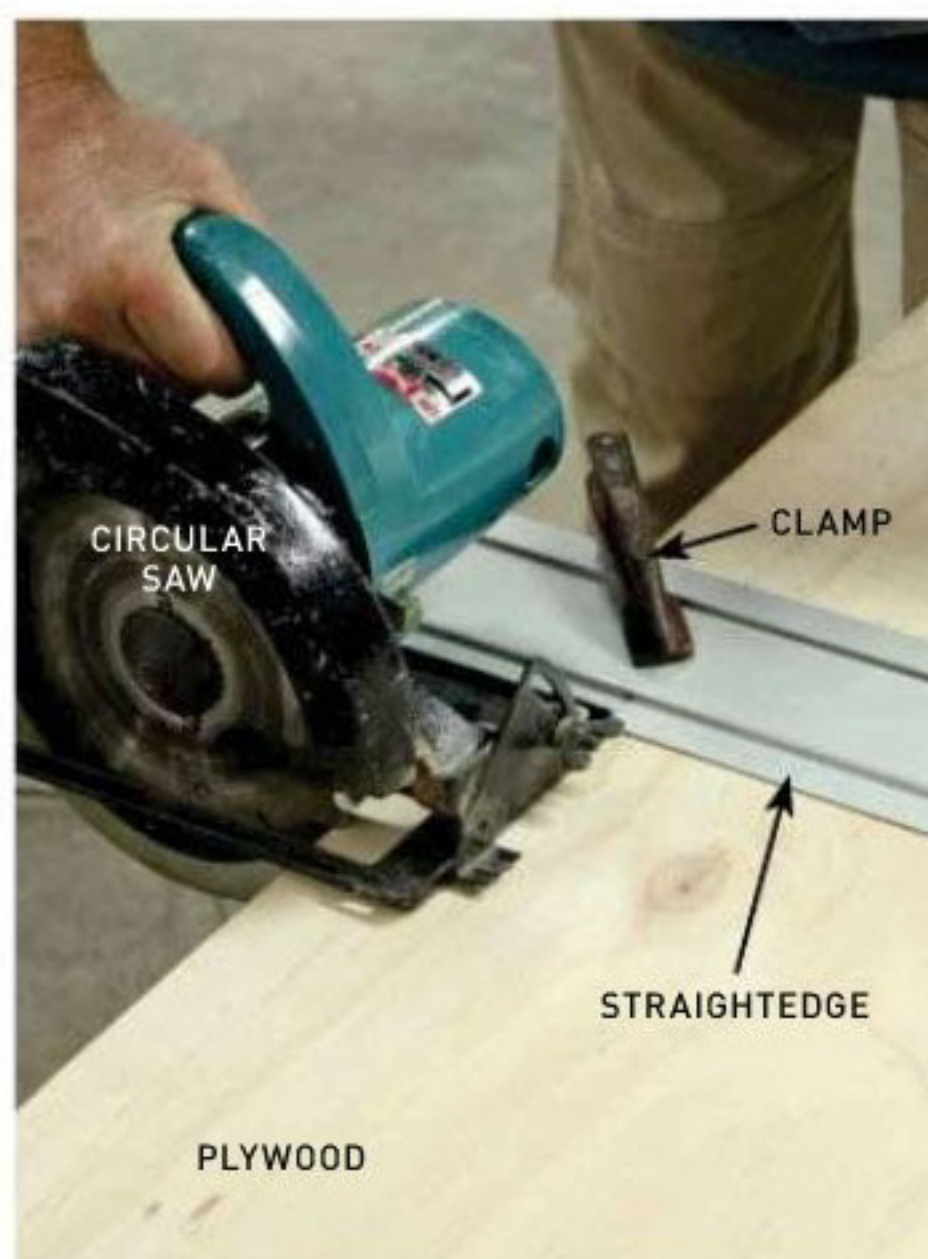


## BUILD THE TOWER



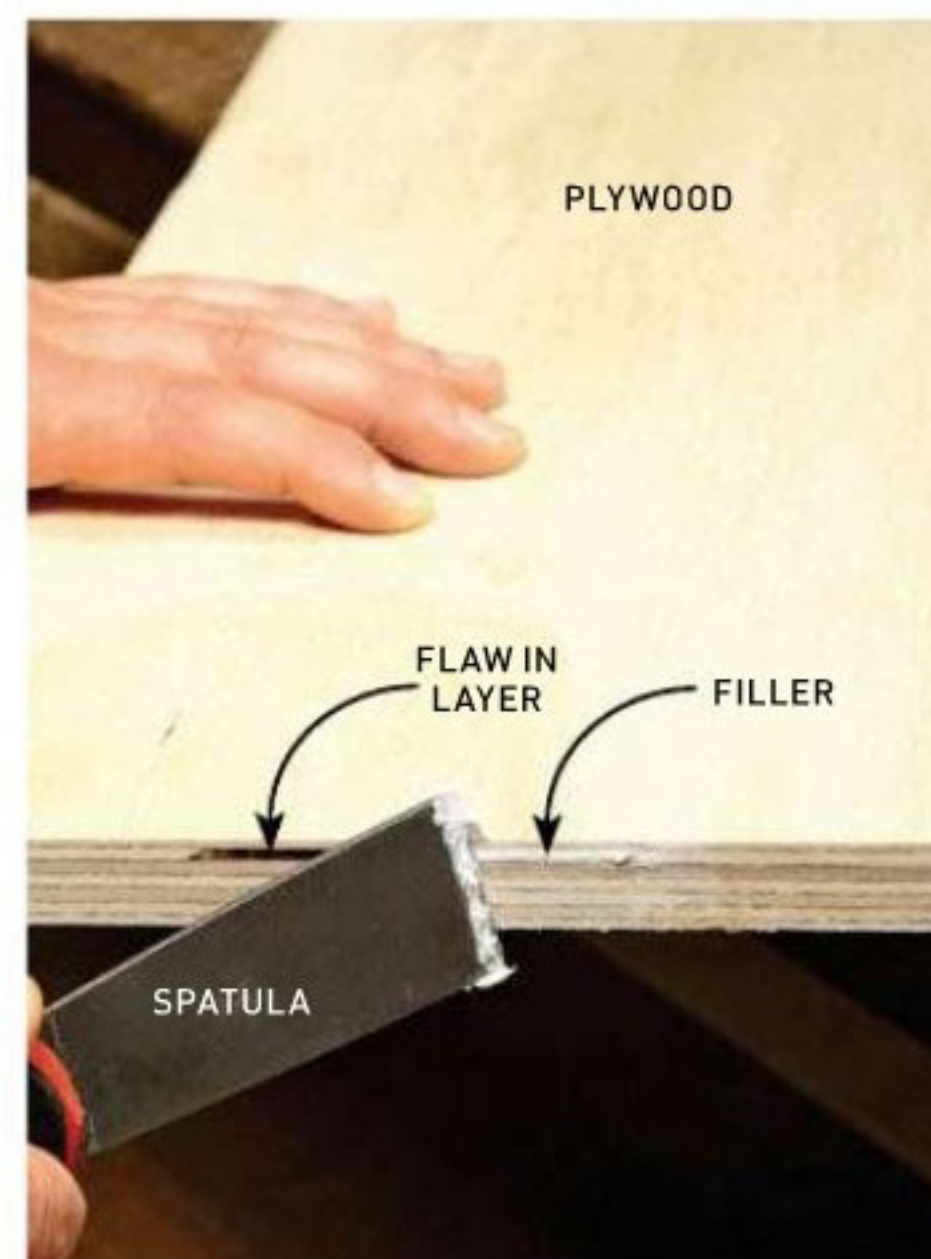
### 1 Cut the sides and back

Position the 17mm plywood on sawhorses and mark cut lines 590mm from each long edge. Cut the sides and back with a circular saw, clamping a straightedge parallel to each cut line, and offsetting the distance from the blade to the edge of the baseplate.



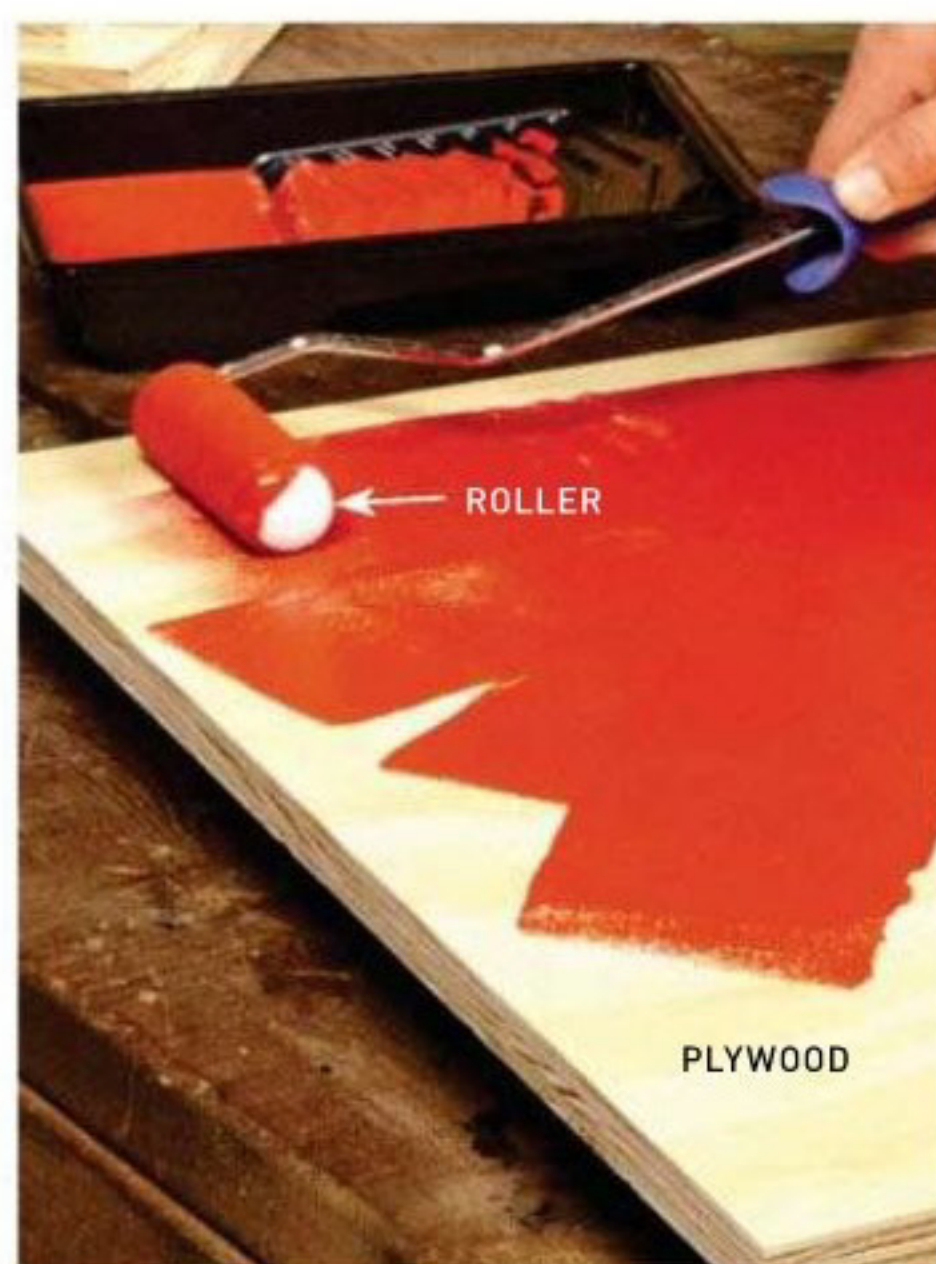
### 2 Cut the shelves

Use a builder's square to mark the top, base and shelves then clamp a straightedge and cut the pieces using a circular saw. Mark each panel after cutting the last, or measure the blade width and correct for this to mark up all the panels in one go.



### 3 Plane the edges

Clean up all the cut edges with a hand plane and check for square with a builder's square across the face and a combination square on the edges. As cut plywood reveals imperfections in the layers, apply multipurpose filler to any gaps with a spatula.



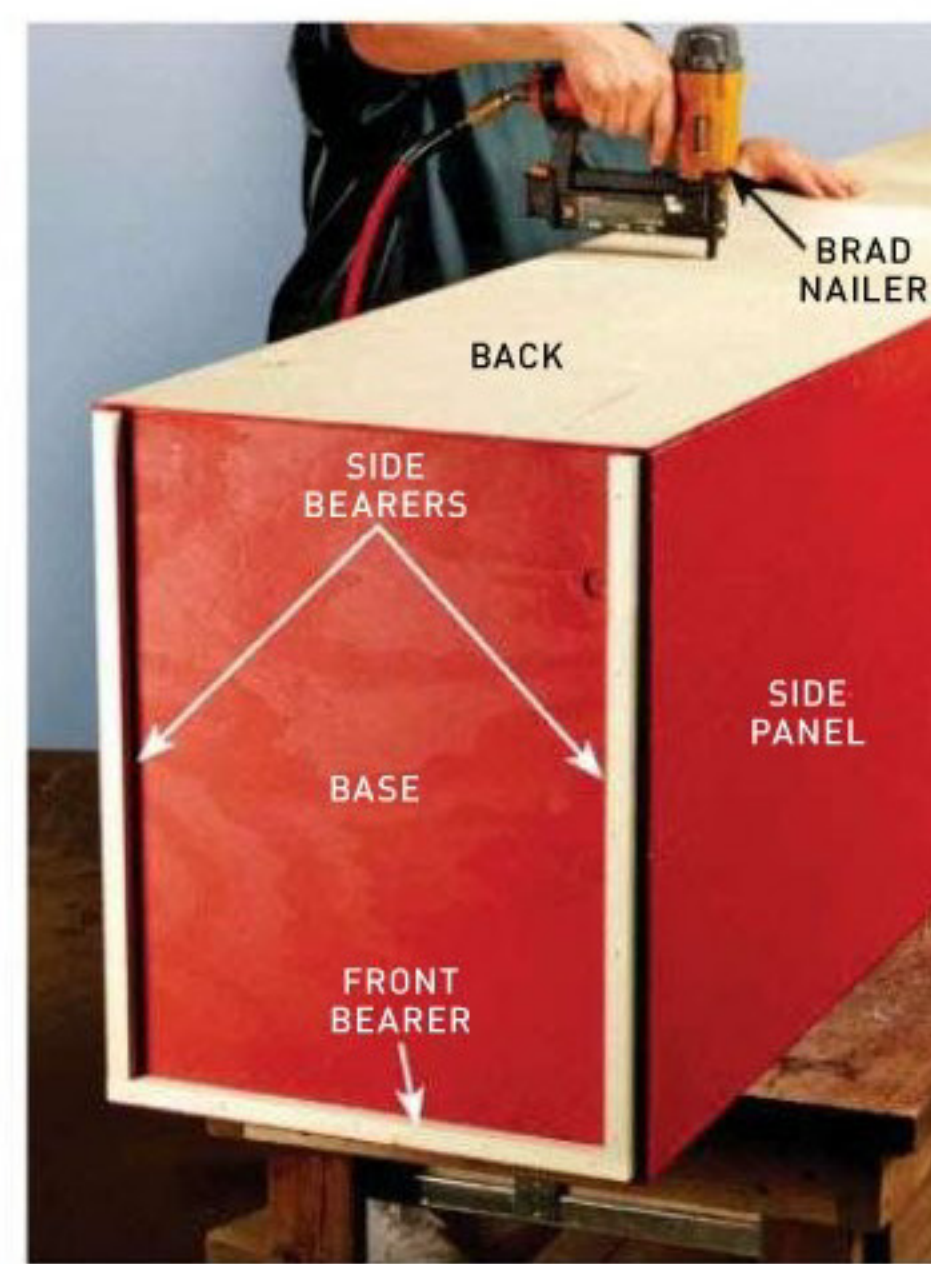
### 4 Paint the plywood

When the filler is dry, sand the edges with 120 grit abrasive paper. Apply at least two coats of acrylic paint to all surfaces of the panels and the inside face of the backing with a roller. Lightly sand between coats with 150 grit abrasive paper for a smooth finish.



### 5 Assemble the tower

Using an offcut to space the shelves with 460mm gaps between them, tack the base, shelves and top to the sides using a brad nailer. Drill pilot holes and secure with 30mm x 8g screws. **TIP** Don't use the spacer for the last gap as it will be 2mm less than the others.



### 6 Attach the backing

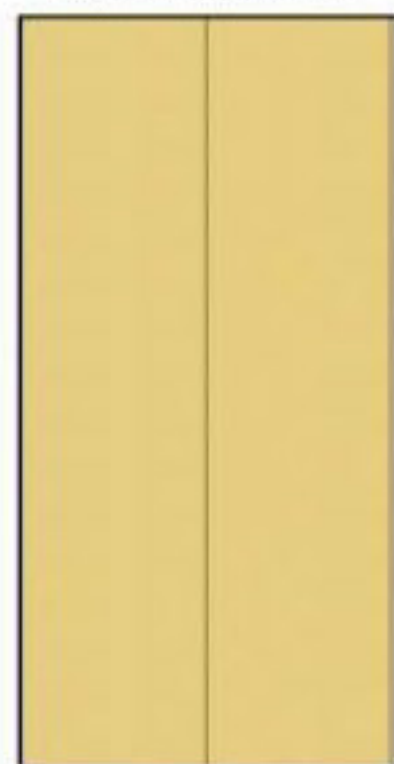
Use the factory corners of the backing to square up the tower. Start at the top and work along the side panel, securing the backing to the edges of the base, top, shelves and sides using a brad nailer. Attach the bearers using 30 x 1.6mm bullethead nails.



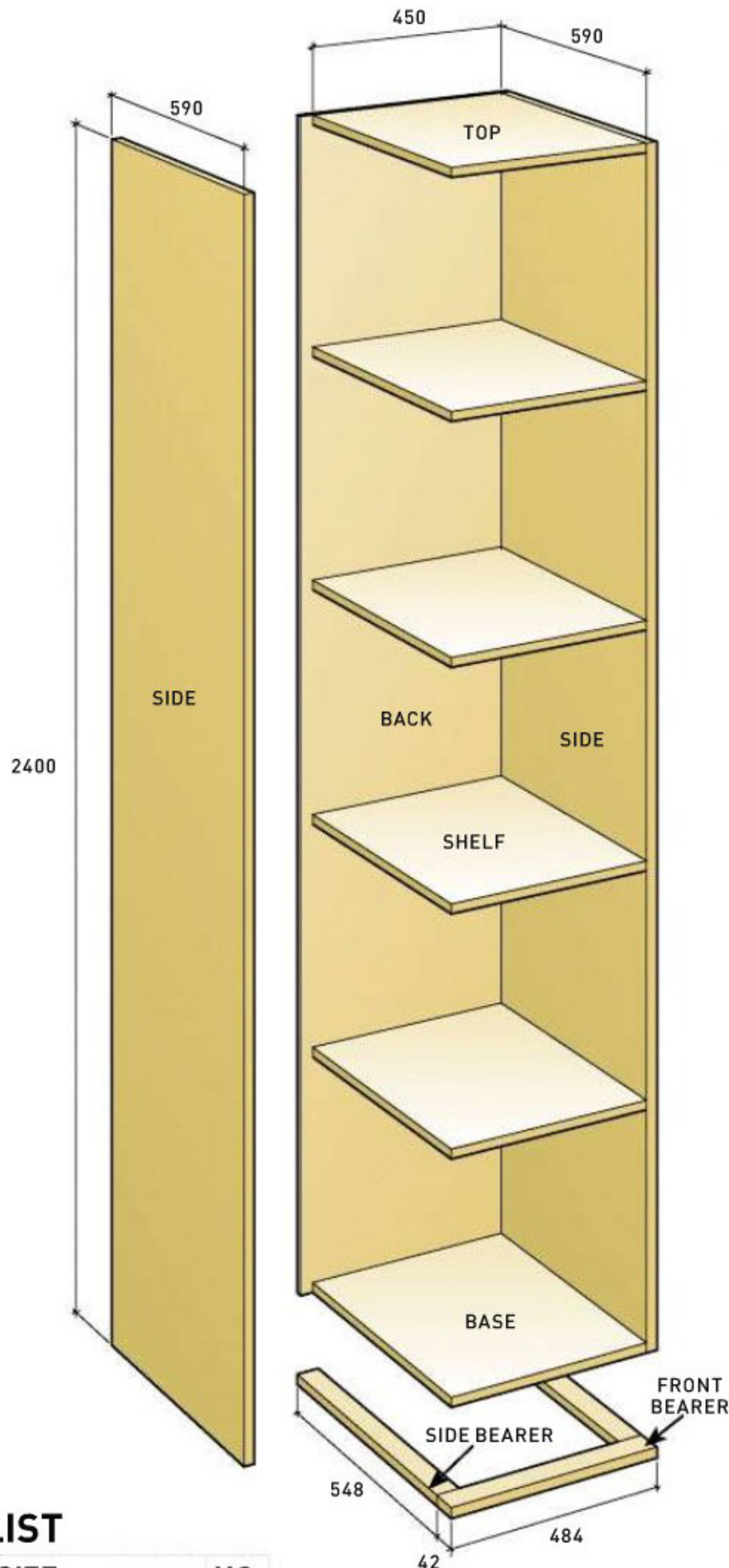
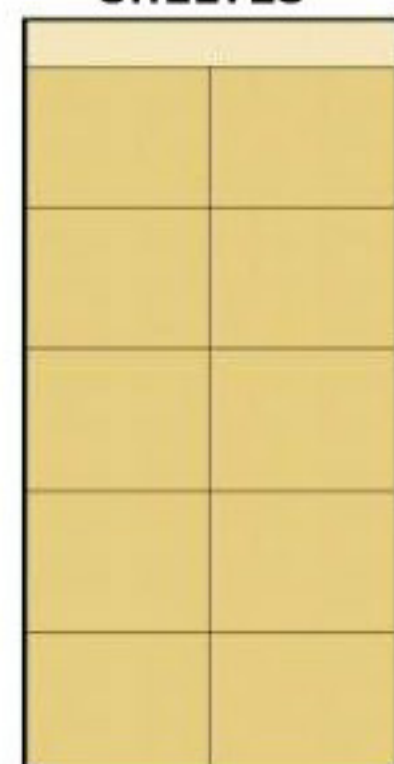
# STORAGE TOWER

measurements in mm

## SIDE PANELS



## TOP, BASE AND SHELVES



## CUTTING LIST

| PART              | SIZE            | NO. |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----|
| <b>CD PLYWOOD</b> |                 |     |
| Sides             | 2400 x 590 x 17 | 6   |
| Top/base/shelves  | 590 x 450 x 17  | 18  |
| Backing           | 2400 x 484 x 7  | 3   |
| <b>DAR PINE</b>   |                 |     |
| Front bearers     | 484 x 42 x 19   | 3   |
| Side bearers      | 548 x 42 x 19   | 6   |

**+ Handymanmagazine.co.nz**

Go online to download the tools, costs and materials to make these storage towers.

# WE'VE GOT IT COVERED



**Tigerjet Slide Shower FSL5**

All Pressures  
SKU: 189875  
RRP\$79



**Luxjet Slide Shower FSL9B**

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SKU: 203000  
RRP\$122



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SKU: 262412  
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CLUTTER  
BUSTER

# THROW-AND-GO STORAGE BINS

Organise sports gear with a practical solution that leaves the kids with no excuse to be messy

**DIY > \$240**

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$640

**SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5**

**TIME > 1 DAY**

**S**helves and cabinets are handy places for storing sports stuff, but when you're in a hurry and, let's face it, kids always are, it's much easier to just throw and go.

These roomy bins have no doors and they're not too high for little people to reach, so it's never been easier to keep your laundry and hallways clear of sports equipment, schoolbags and other clutter.

They're also handy to have in the garage where they can be lined up along the wall to hold anything from golf clubs to power tools.

They could even be used in the backyard to store gardening tools, clothes pegs and pet supplies.

Their practical design offers a decent amount of capacity but they also look good, with

an eye-catching shape that can be painted to match your colour scheme or as a feature unit.

## PREPARING THE PROJECT

This project requires one full sheet and one quarter sheet of 17mm plywood for the sides, shelves, base and top, plus a half sheet of 7mm for the backing.

The front sections of the bins are made from 135 x 19mm pine, secured with 50mm x 8g screws.

We used a brad nailer with 40mm brads to save time, but if you don't have one, just hammer in 40 x 2mm bullethead nails by hand instead.

If your bins are going to be sitting on a concrete floor in the garage or on a verandah, attach treated timber bearers to the underside to protect the plywood from rising moisture.

Fill over the fasteners and give all surfaces a light sand before applying two coats of bright semi gloss enamel.

**TIP** You can also use acrylic paint, but apply a primer first. ➤



Dulux Super Enamel Semi Gloss in Courtenay Place, 1L, \$45. [dulux.co.nz](http://dulux.co.nz)



Bosch 530W Corded Jigsaw, \$149. [bosch-do-it.co.nz](http://bosch-do-it.co.nz)

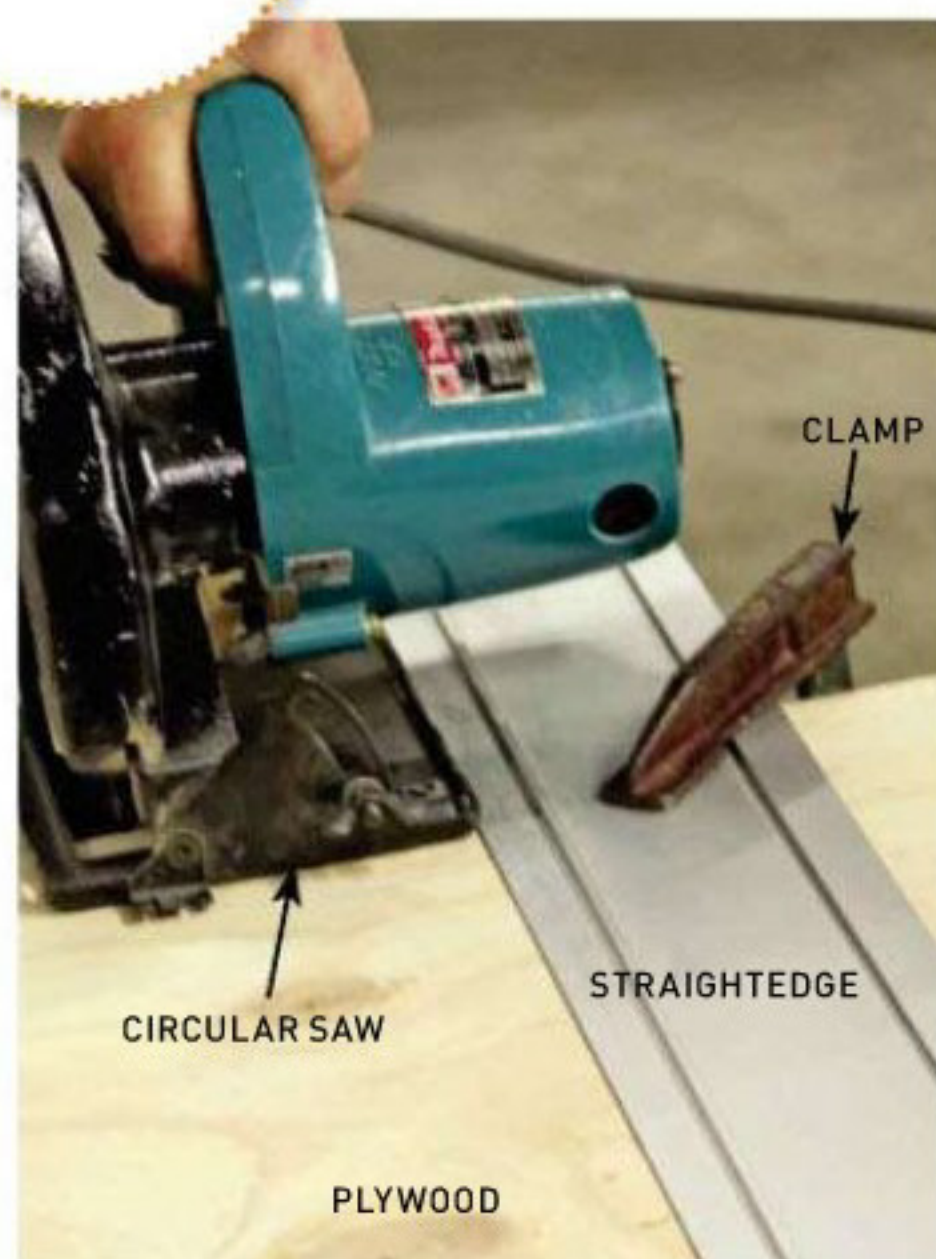




Avoid tripping over the kids' sports kits and school bags by containing them all in one tidy place.

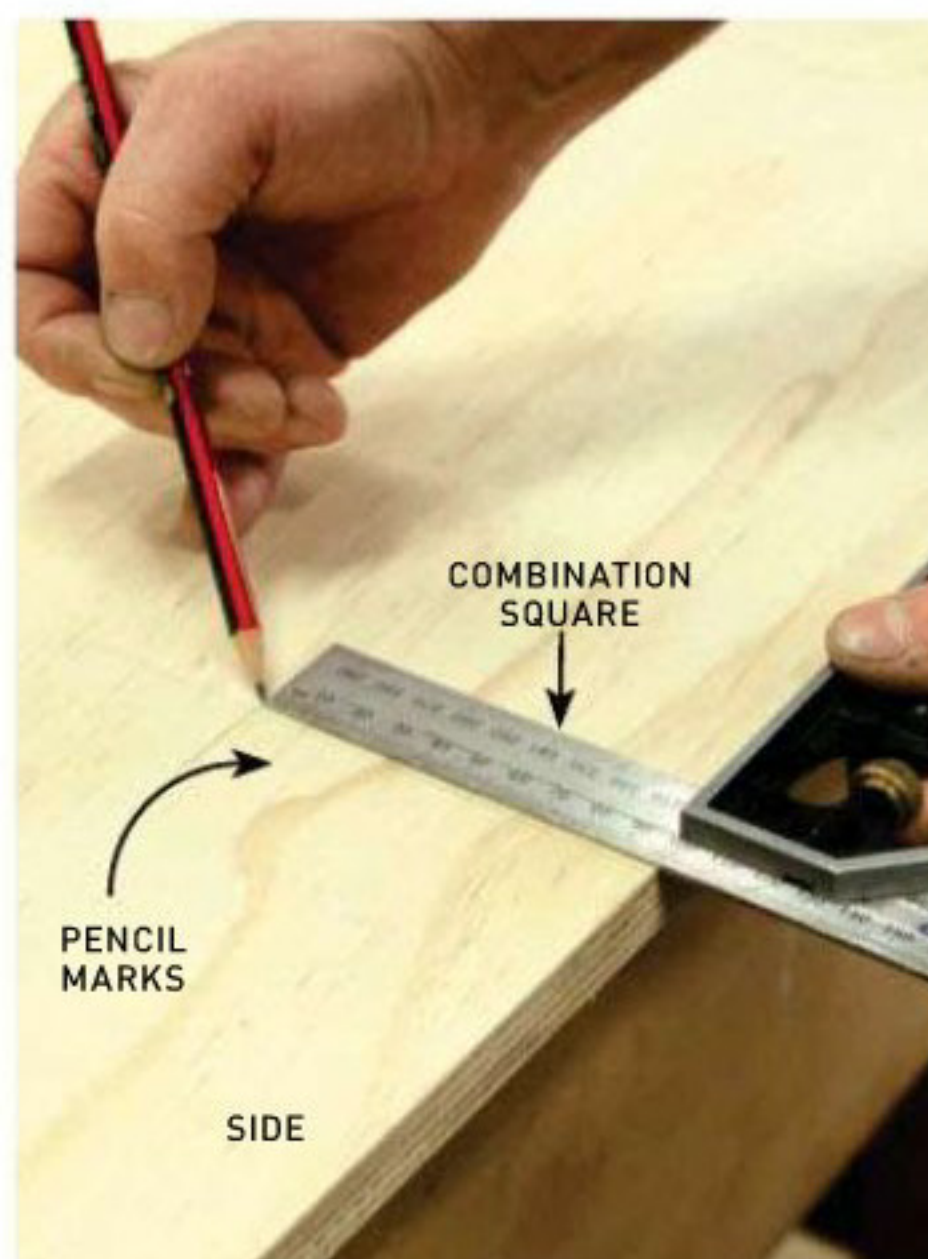


## BUILD THE BINS



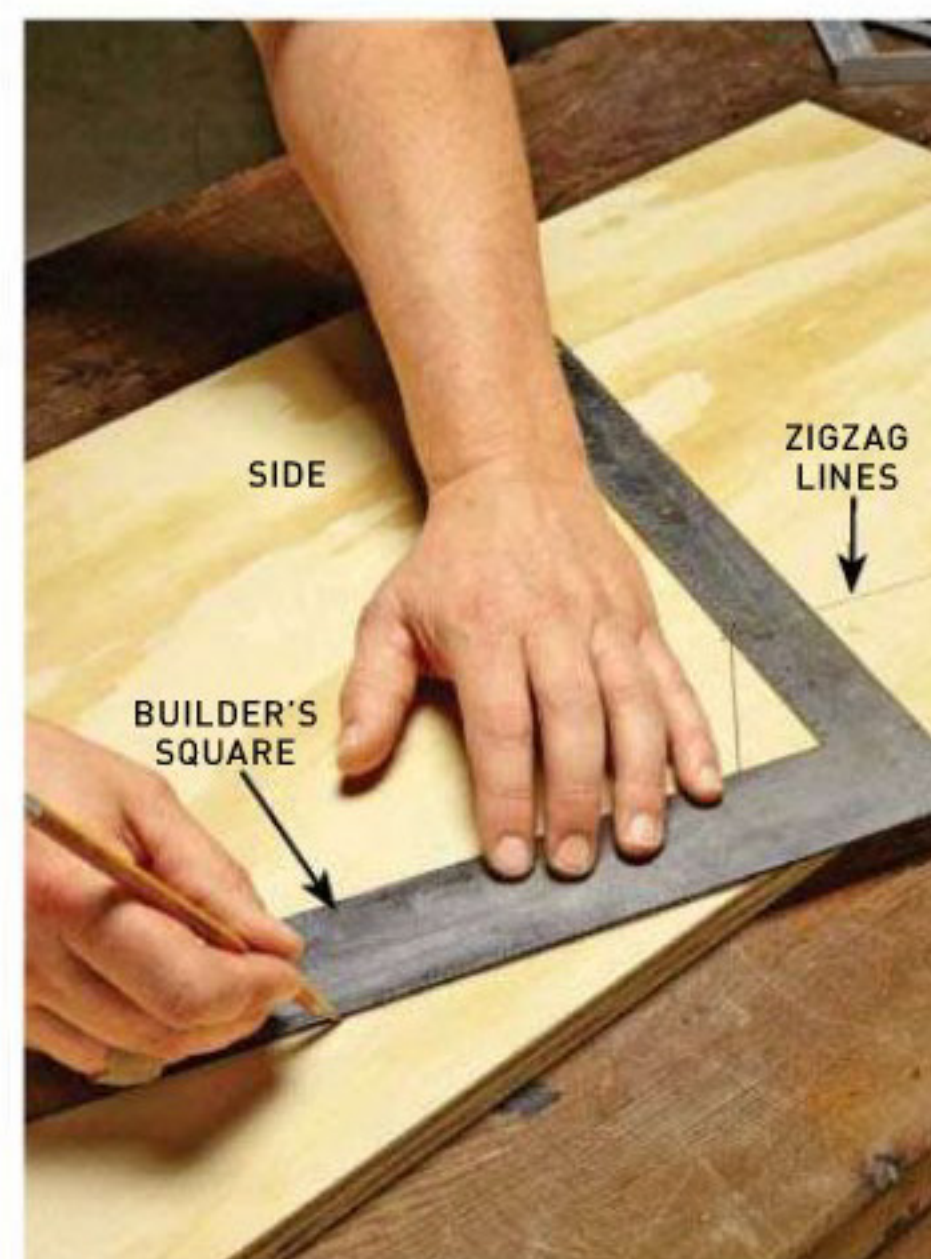
### 1 Cut the parts

Use a circular saw and clamped straightedge guide to cut the top, base, shelves and centre boards from plywood. Cut the basic rectangular shape of the sides, then use a mitresaw or handsaw to cut the front panels from pine.



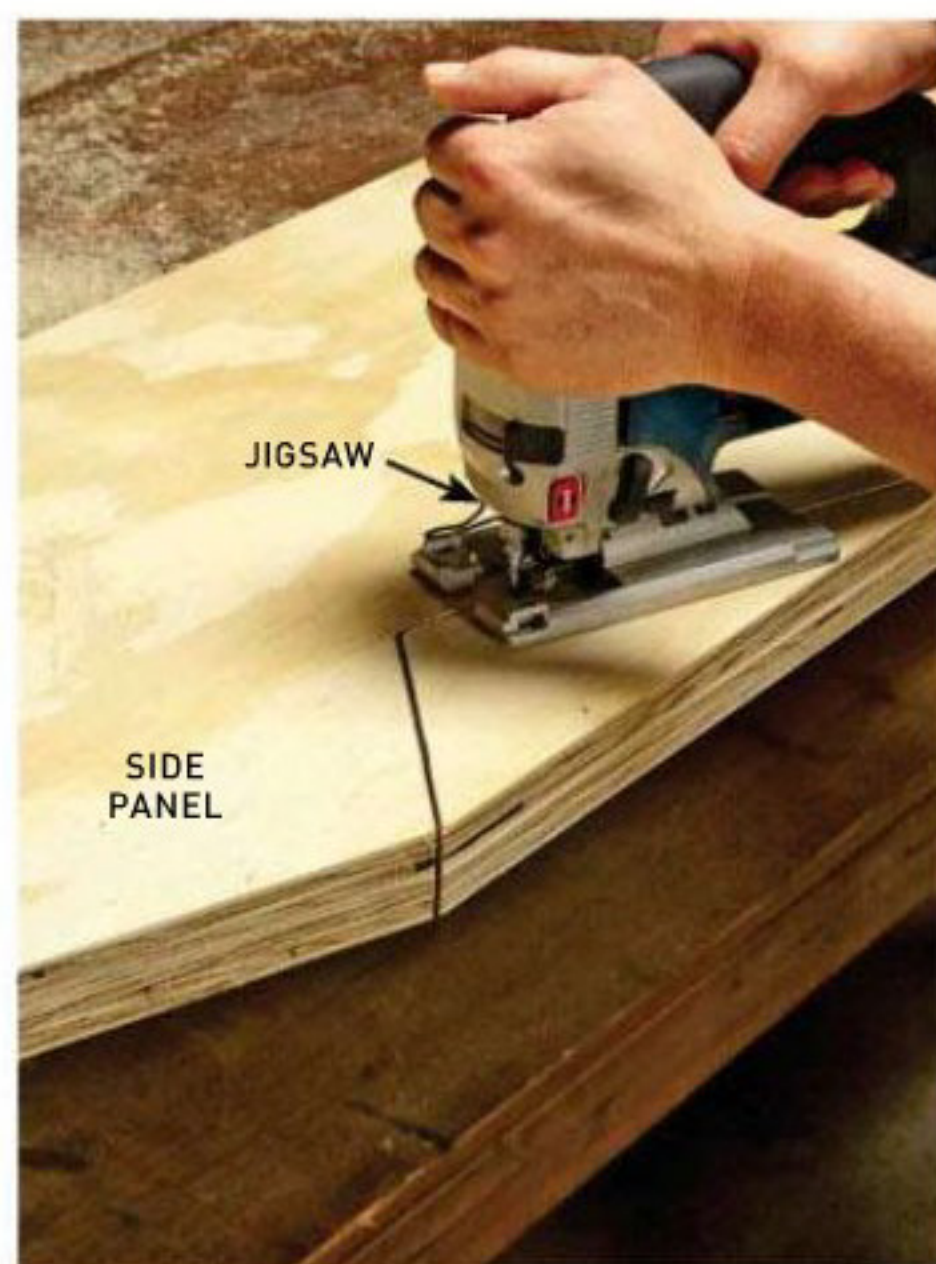
### 2 Set out the sides

Plane the edges and check for square using a builder's square on the face and a combination square or speed square on the edge. To set out one of the sides to use as a template, start by marking points 388mm and 776mm from the base, 100mm in from the edge.



### 3 Mark the cut lines

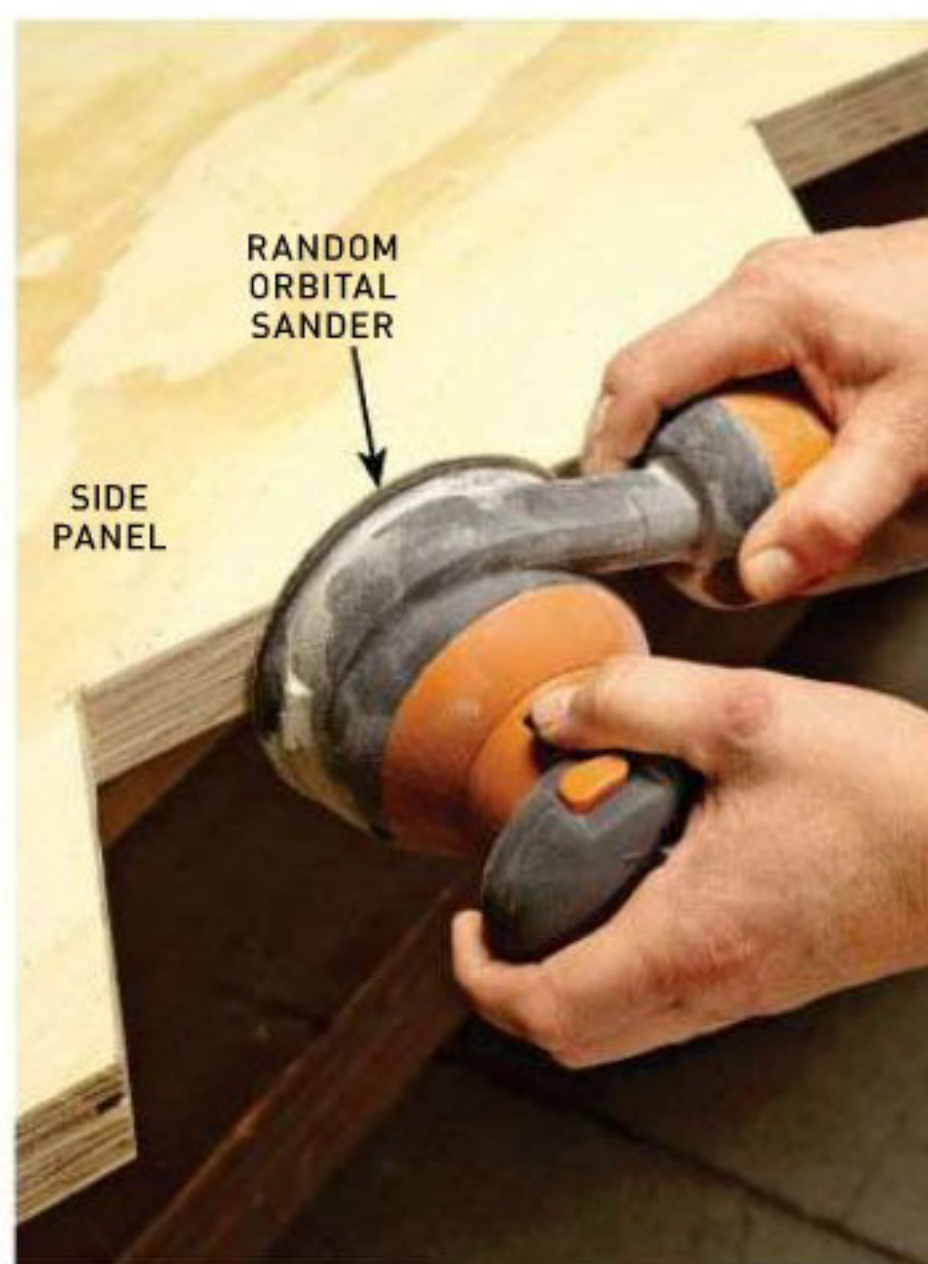
Complete the side profile by marking 100, 488 and 876mm up from the base along the edge of the side. Mark zigzag cut lines connecting these points with the previous setout points, finishing 100mm in from the edge at the base and top.



### 4 Cut the side panels

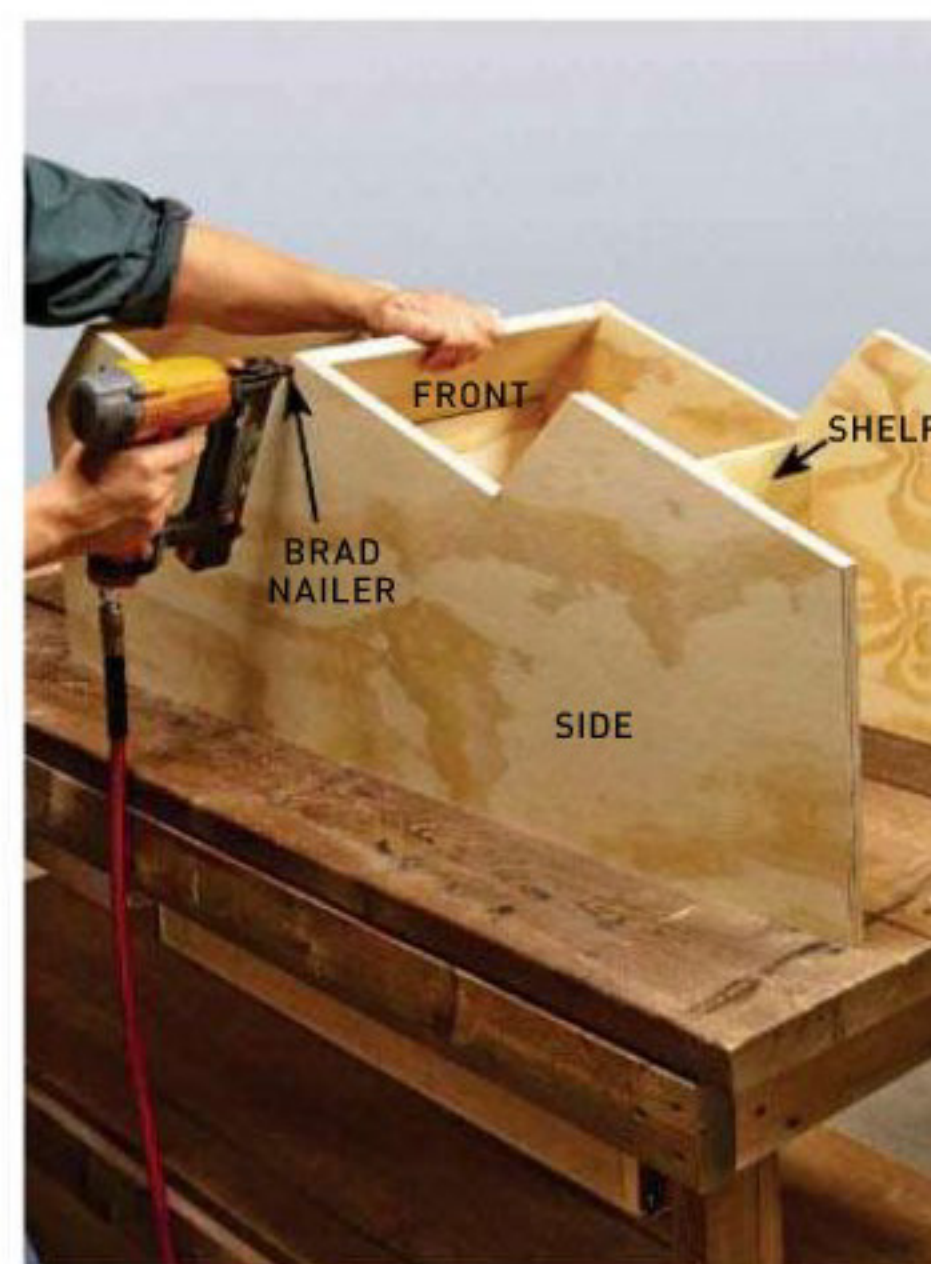
Clamp the side panels together in pairs and cut the edge profile on the first pair using a jigsaw. Trace the profile onto the second pair and cut it to shape.

**TIP** Keep the jigsaw's pendulum action switched off for a finer cut.



### 5 Match up the pairs

Use a random orbital sander to sand the cut profiles of both pairs of sides, taking care to maintain a square edge as you go. Unclamp the pairs and align them back to back then square lines for the shelves between the inside points of the zigzag edges.



### 6 Assemble the bins

Secure the shelves using a brad nailer, then tack the fronts in position with brads and reinforce each joint with screws. Cut the backing and use brads to attach it to one shelf assembly. Square it up, then add the centre boards and secure the second assembly. ➤



DON'T MISS THE  
NEXT ISSUE OF

# Handyman

ON SALE  
20 JANUARY

## Decks

Two ways to build a deck step by step: with traditional footings, bearers and joists, or with products requiring no digging at all.

## Barbecues

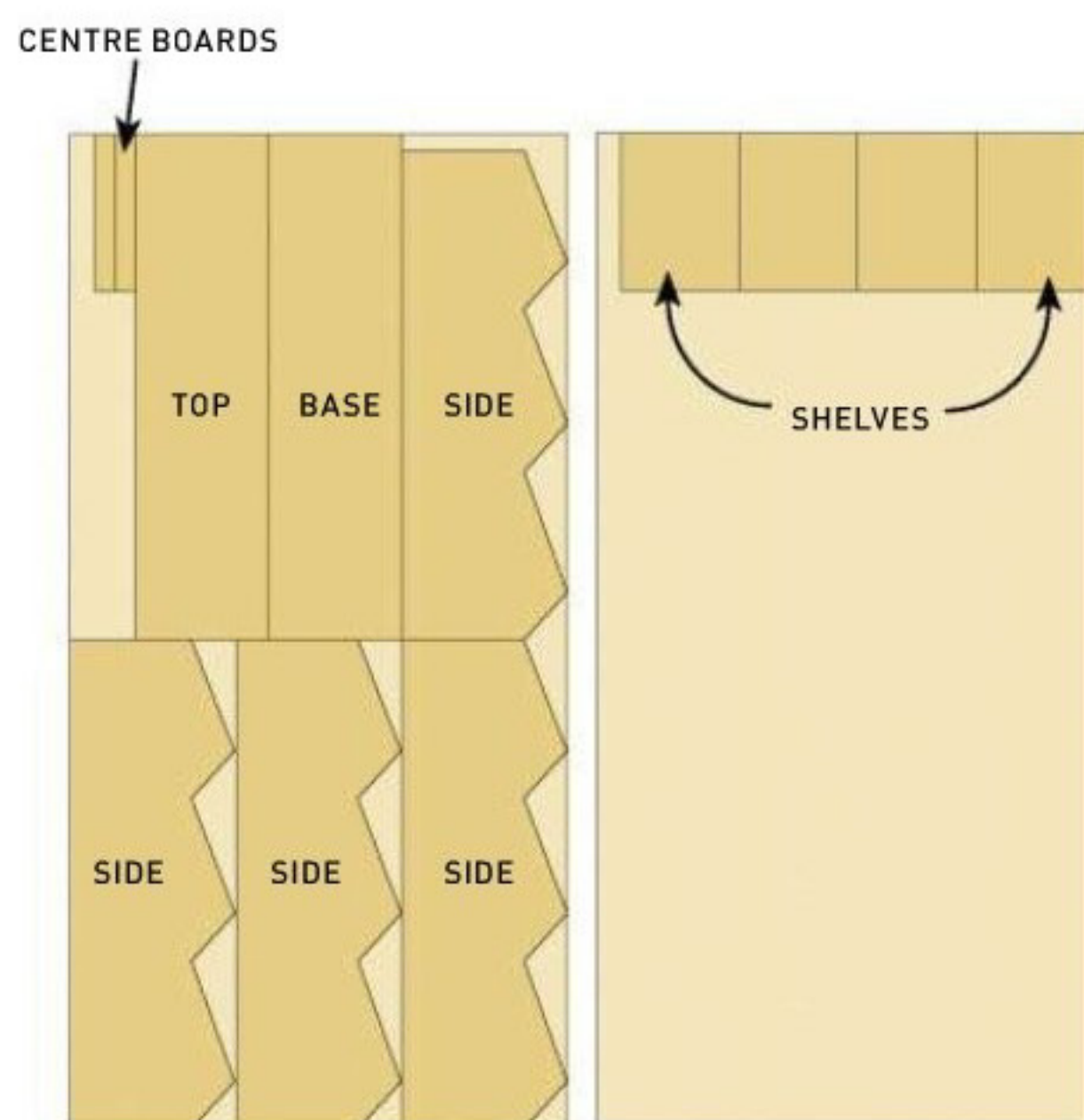
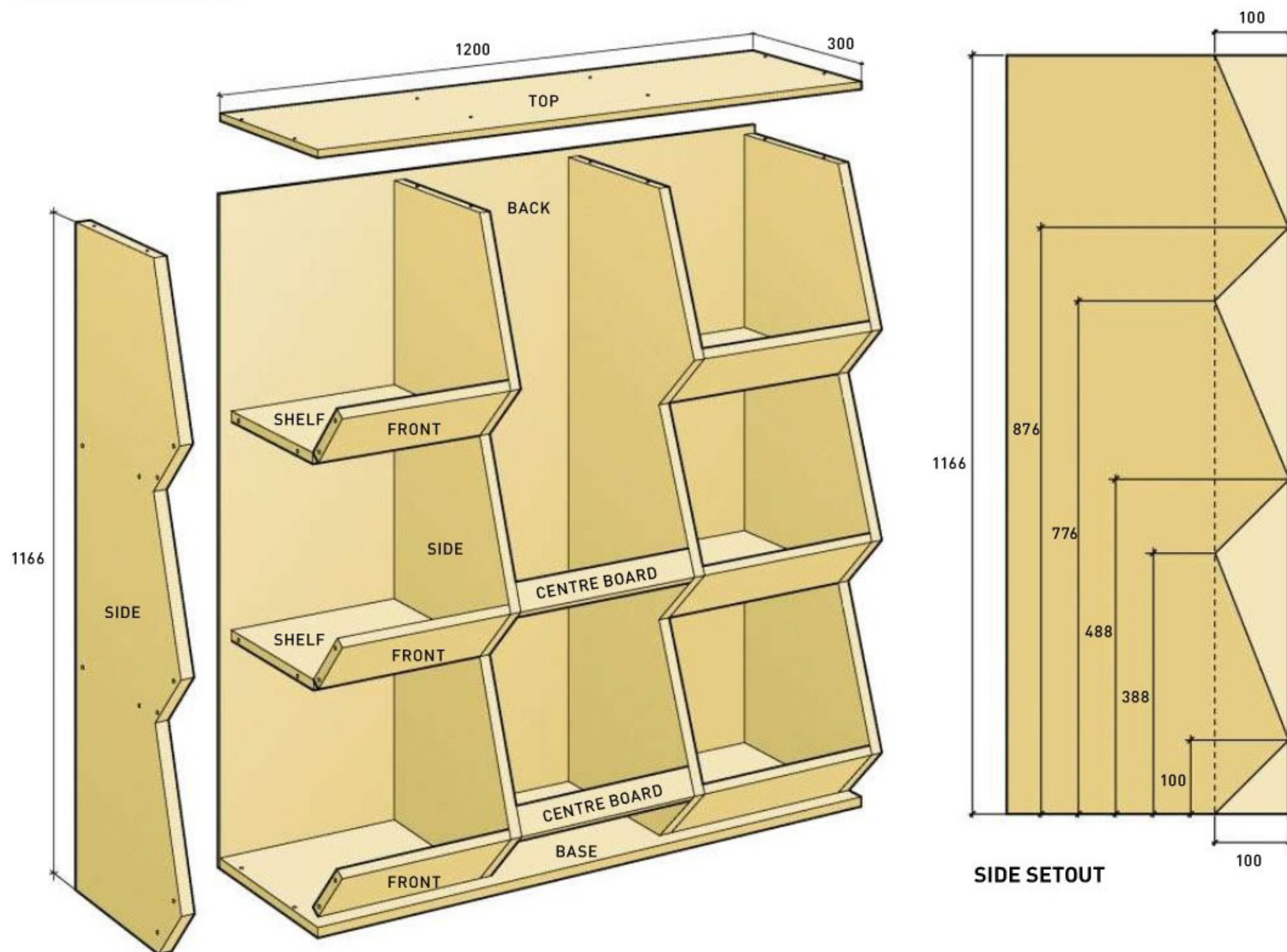
Everything you need to know about gas and charcoal barbecues and pizza ovens **PLUS** a buyer's guide to help you choose what is best for you.

## Vegies

How to grow vegetables like a pro for a bountiful harvest **PLUS** How to prevent pests from ruining your crop



# **THROW-AND-GO STORAGE BINS** measurements in mm



CUTTING LAYOUT

## **CUTTING LIST**

| PART              | SIZE            | NO. |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----|
| <b>CD PLYWOOD</b> |                 |     |
| Sides             | 1166 x 400 x 17 | 4   |
| Top/base          | 1200 x 300 x 17 | 2   |
| Shelves           | 370 x 280 x 17  | 4   |
| Centre boards     | 392 x 50 x 17   | 2   |
| Backing           | 1200 x 1200 x 7 | 1   |
| <b>DAR PINE</b>   |                 |     |
| Front panels      | 370 x 135 x 19  | 6   |

**Handymanmagazine.co.nz**

Go online to download the tools, materials and costs to build these storage bins.





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- ✓ 150, 200 & 300mm heights
- ✓ Preservative treated
- ✓ Renewable resource
- ✓ Fixed with plastic wire

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and will not rust

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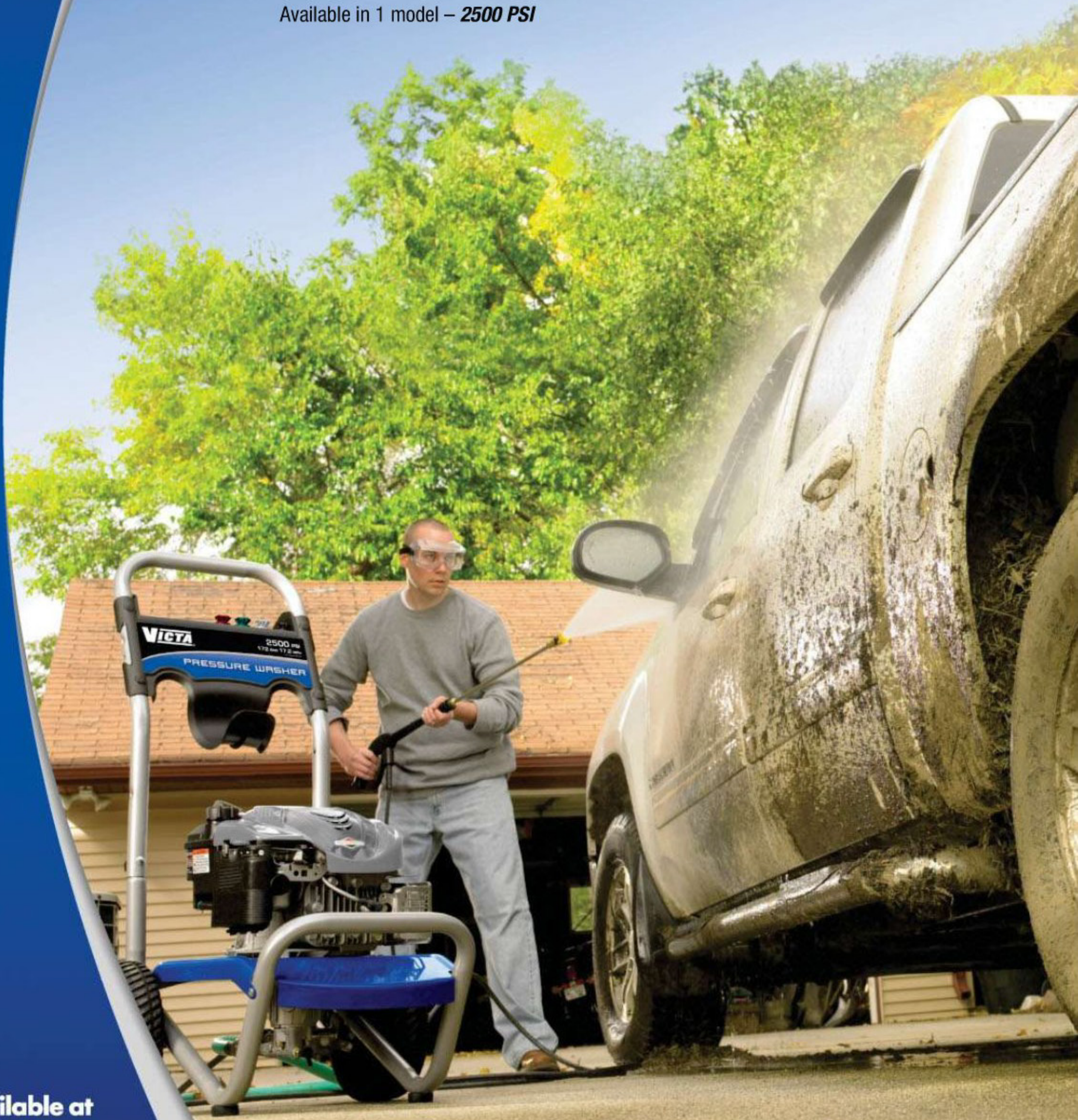
[www.victa.com/nz](http://www.victa.com/nz)

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At Victa, we're all about making outdoor jobs less of a chore and with Victa's new range of pressure washers, you'll be enjoying **the great outdoors.**



# PRUNERS AND CULTIVATORS

Trim plants to a healthy size and keep soil in tiptop shape with these garden must-haves

## KEEPING THE GARDEN IN CHECK

Whether you take pride and pleasure in trimming topiary, or if pruning is just another garden chore, it's still important to know what tools to use.

*Handyman* technical subeditor Gun Arvidssen says, 'Technology has come to our rescue, not only

for the job of pruning itself, but also for dealing with the offcuts and improving the soil.'

'Ingeniously designed power tools aside, hand pruners also benefit from clever features such as a geared cutting action to snip through the toughest branches with ease.'



MULCHER



PRUNING SAW



TILLER

## EASY MAINTENANCE

The health and prosperity of your garden depends on keeping the plants in shape and looking after the soil. Using these three tools, you can create a healthy, attractive garden. **PRUNERS** come in a variety of power and manual options to shape your plants and trees. From small bushy shrubs to thick tree branches, there is a tool for every cutting job.

**MULCHERS** can shred the offcuts from your pruning into either woodchip mulch or finer compost to mix into the soil.

**TILLERS** cut through soil to aerate and mix through organic material such as the leaves and branches you shredded after pruning them. Tillers are perfect for starting new garden beds or reviving old ones. ➤



## \*PRUNE FOR THE BEST RESULTS

Regular pruning of bushes and shrubs can be the difference between a ragged, straggly garden and an attractive, lush outdoor living space.

Every bush has a characteristic shape and size, and for each there is a pruning technique to bring out its best and encourage flowering.

For optimum results, identify your bushes and learn about their needs. **CUT THE BRANCH TIP** just beyond a new bud and the following year's growth will be channelled into the side branches, creating a much fuller appearance.

This heading-off technique stimulates growth in the smaller side branches, creating new buds that will fill in vacant areas.

Keep track of the results to gauge how much branching you'll need to do next year. **TIP** This technique works best on bushes that grow mostly from single stalks, as opposed to ones that continually send up new shoots such as hydrangea and forsythia.



Prune branches just above a bud to promote denser growth next year.

PICTURE (LEFT) THINKSTOCK

## PRUNING TOOLS

If you only have a couple of rose bushes to tidy up once a year, then a pair of secateurs or possibly a lopper is all you will need. But if you have lots of hedges and bushes, or fruit trees that need regular maintenance, you may decide to use some power tools.



**ATLAS**  
\$28

**BYPASS SECATEURS** have a single curved blade that cuts with a scissor action along a wider hook. Ideal for small neat cuts.



**McGREGOR'S**  
\$26

**ANVIL SECATEURS** have a straight cutting blade. They are great for large branches, but less neat than bypass secateurs.



**McGREGOR'S**  
\$38

**HEDGE SHEARS** resemble oversized scissors and are good on thick foliage as well as small twigs. The perfect choice for shaping topiary.



**VICTA**  
\$349

**HEDGE TRIMMERS** are the powered version of hedge shears. They have a long, narrow blade that moves back and forth at high speed.



## \*LOP UNHEALTHY BRANCHES

For bushes and small trees, start by pruning off any dead or damaged branches. Not only do they look terrible, they encourage rot and disease to take hold.

Also cut out wilted, dry or diseased branches as soon as you spot them, as the infection or pest could spread to the rest of the tree.

Branches that rub against each other should be cut back, even if

they seem relatively strong and healthy. The rubbing will wear away the bark and cause problems further down the track.

Low-hanging branches that stick out at an angle or cause an obstruction should also be removed in case they injure someone.

**TIP** When in doubt, cut it out, as pruning also thins out the bush, opening its interior to more light and air, which in turn encourages fuller, healthier growth.



Cut off dead, damaged or dangerous limbs as soon as you spot them.



## \*BUSHES THAT GROW FROM CANES

Bushes such as forsythia and hydrangea send up new canes from their roots every year. To control the bush height, the best method is to prune out the oldest wood.

Trim out newer canes to thin the interior of the plant, letting light in and helping to control its spread.

If it has become too large and is more trouble to bring under control than it's worth, you can generally cut off all the canes and the roots will send up new shoots, giving you a neat new bush within a year or two.



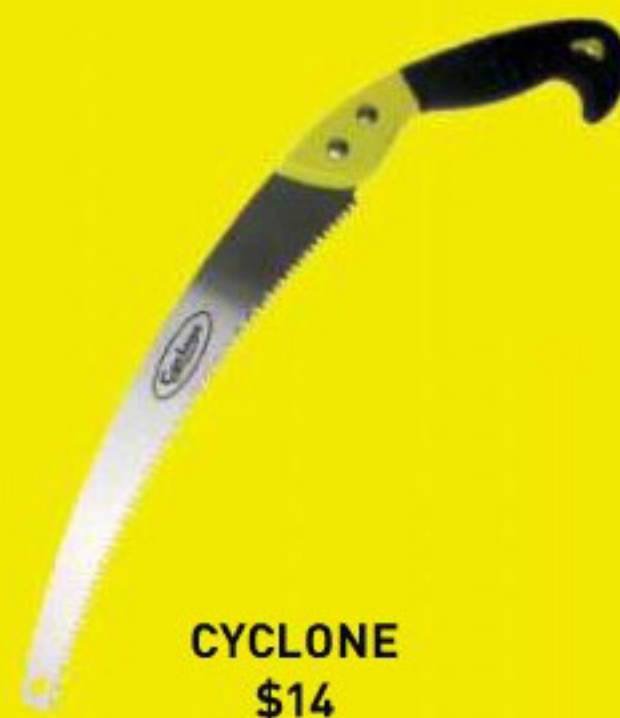
EDEN GARDENER  
\$43

**BYPASS LOPPERS** have long arms for maximum grunt and cut with a bypass action. They can handle limbs up to 40mm in diameter.



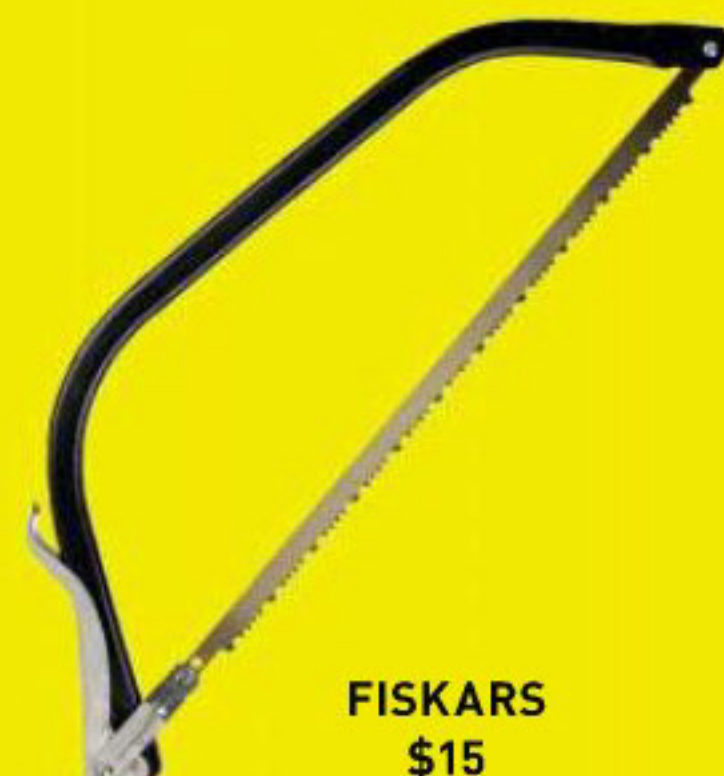
RYOBI  
\$249

**POLE PRUNERS** come in electric, petrol and battery models. Their extendable handles allow for easy access to higher branches.



CYCLONE  
\$14

**PRUNING SAWS** have an ergonomic curved design and coarse-pitched teeth for easy push-pull action and a swift, clean cut.



FISKARS  
\$15

**BOW SAWS** are great for cutting small to medium branches. Their blades have multi-serrated teeth to ensure quick cutting. ➤



## \*AVOID PRUNING JUST THE TIPS

Don't be tempted to take shortcuts by simply trimming off the ends of a bush's branches.

This flat-top haircut approach may look fine for a year or two, but it stimulates growth on the outermost branches, forces the bush to grow into an unnatural shape and fails to control size.

The bush will actually grow larger and become more difficult for you to bring back under control without it being ruined.

**TIP** This doesn't apply to hedge-type bushes such as box or lilly pilly, which respond well to tip-pruning.



## \*REMOVE WHOLE BRANCHES

Most bushes will eventually grow too large and dense if they are left to their own devices.

Within a year or two, a plant may become so overgrown that it will be impractical to prune back into shape, as there will simply be too much new growth crowding and competing for space.

If you are faced with this problem, it's best to control size and shape by selectively pruning out a few whole branches, cutting them right back to the trunk.

This opens the plant to light and encourages healthy growth at the interior.

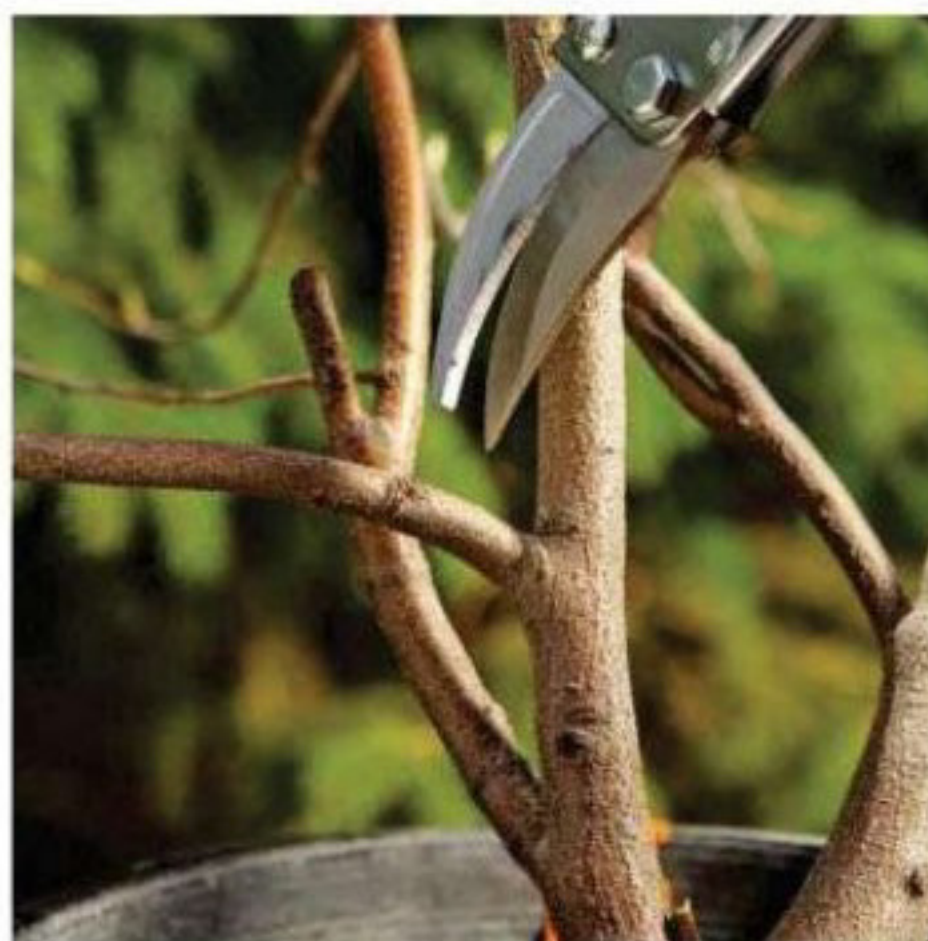


## \*SPREAD EVERGREENS

Unlike cane-type bushes, evergreens grow from their existing stems, developing a more permanent branch framework and needing less pruning.

If your landscaping was well planned, these bushes will grow to fit their spot with relatively little help.

They'll only need a light annual pruning to remove dead branches and control size and shape.



## \*CUT ABOVE THE COLLAR

Make cuts just above the collar, which is the slight bulge at the point where a branch joins the main trunk.

If left intact, this collar will grow over the cut, sealing off the wound and healing it. Make the cut square to the diameter, rather than diagonal, for the smallest wound.

**TIP** Don't leave a stub on any of the limbs when pruning, as it's likely to rot and become diseased.



## \*USING A CULTIVATOR

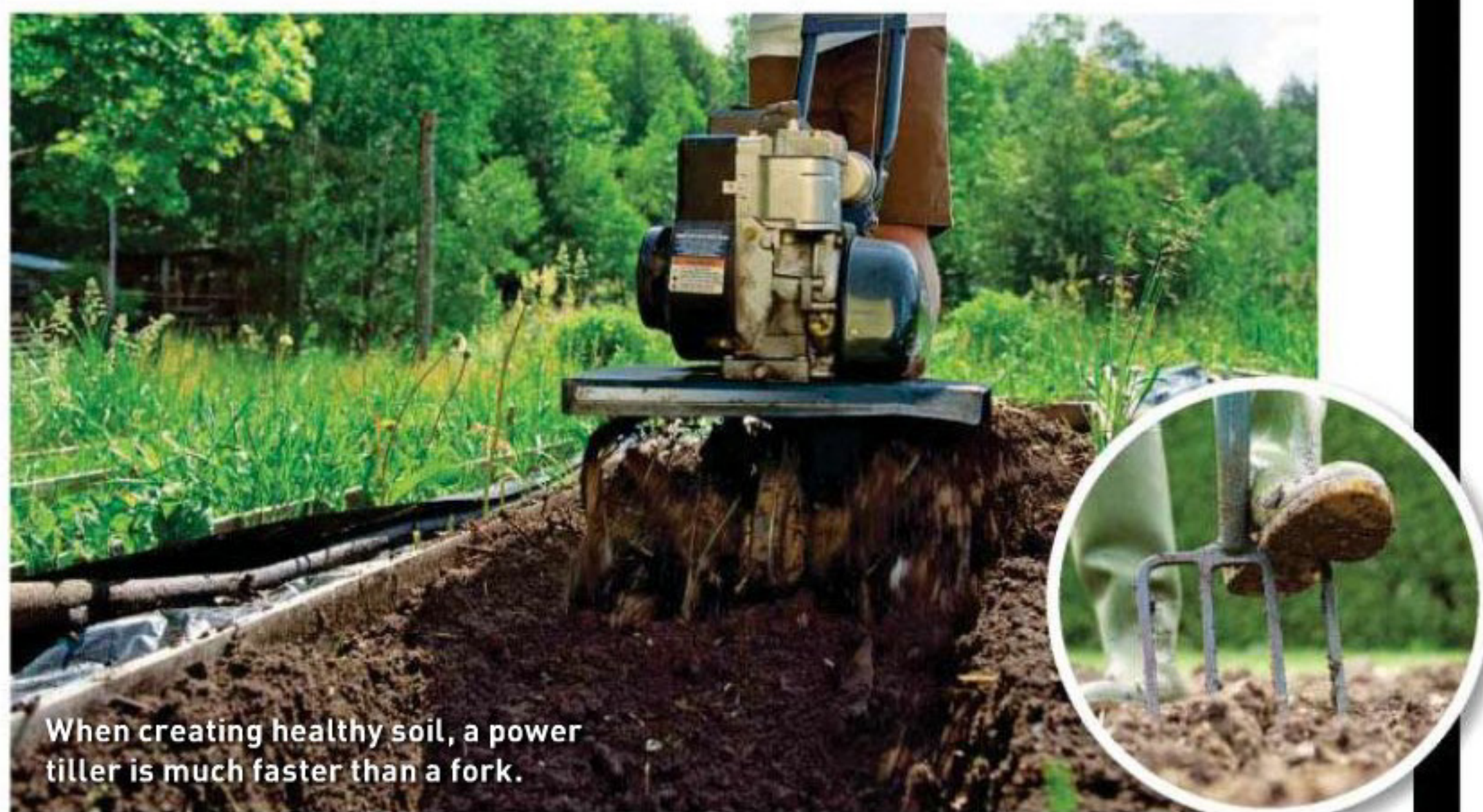
Improving the quality of a new garden bed can take hours of slaving away with a mattock and hoe to aerate the soil and mix in organic matter.

A power tiller makes the job faster, and it's an easy way to add compost or mulch, increasing drainage and water-holding capacity.

Tilling also makes the soil more permeable, encouraging root growth and attracting microorganisms and worms that leave nutrients in the soil.

**DON'T USE A TILLER** in wet soil as it will clod up and dry in thick crusts. If a ball of soil sticks together when dropped, it is too wet to till.

Ensure the soil is deeply tilled. If only the top surface is ploughed, a hard layer forms below. This will



When creating healthy soil, a power tiller is much faster than a fork.

impede roots and reduce moisture intake, leading to a lower crop yield.

In addition to mixing in compost and the output from your shredder, apply plenty of organic matter over

the top of freshly tilled soil as it helps retain moisture and reduces weeds.

Keep plants growing throughout the year to avoid having to prepare the soil from scratch again in spring.

## \*CHOOSING A TILLER

There are many varieties of cultivator available, and they're all capable of different workloads. Before selecting a tiller, consider how large an area you will be planting, and how often you are likely to use it.



**MINI CULTIVATORS** are the smallest and lightest type, designed to remove weeds and turn soil in average-sized domestic garden beds.

Their manoeuvrability makes them ideal for small spaces, but they are not suited for heavy workloads.



**REAR-TINE TILLERS** are the largest, offering a tilling width of up to 700mm.

Usually self-propelled, they feature either synchronous tines that spin in the same direction as the wheels, or counter-rotating tines that turn in the opposite direction.



**FRONT-TINE TILLERS** are less expensive than rear-tine machines and are generally pushed by the operator rather than being self-propelled.

They feature similar power and tilling capacity to rear-tine models, and are great for larger planting areas. ➤



## \*CHOOSING A MULCHER

Once all your bushes and trees have been pruned to perfection, you'll need to do something about all the material you've trimmed off.

A mulcher, also called a shredder or chipper, is an invaluable garden accessory that converts the waste from pruning into a useful resource.

If you only undertake a major pruning mission once or twice a year, or if you are faced with a one-off task such as cutting a damaged branch from a large tree, hiring a heavy-duty chipper might be the best option.

But if you find yourself with mountains of prunings every fortnight during the warmer months, you might find they're just too much for the compost heap.

This is where a tool that transforms them into fine mulch will probably be a worthwhile addition to your power tool collection. **TIP** While most mulchers handle branches quite well, only the higher-end models are really effective at shredding finer material such as leaf litter.



**PETROL MULCHERS** or chippers with a powerful four-stroke engine might be the better choice for offcuts from more ambitious pruning.

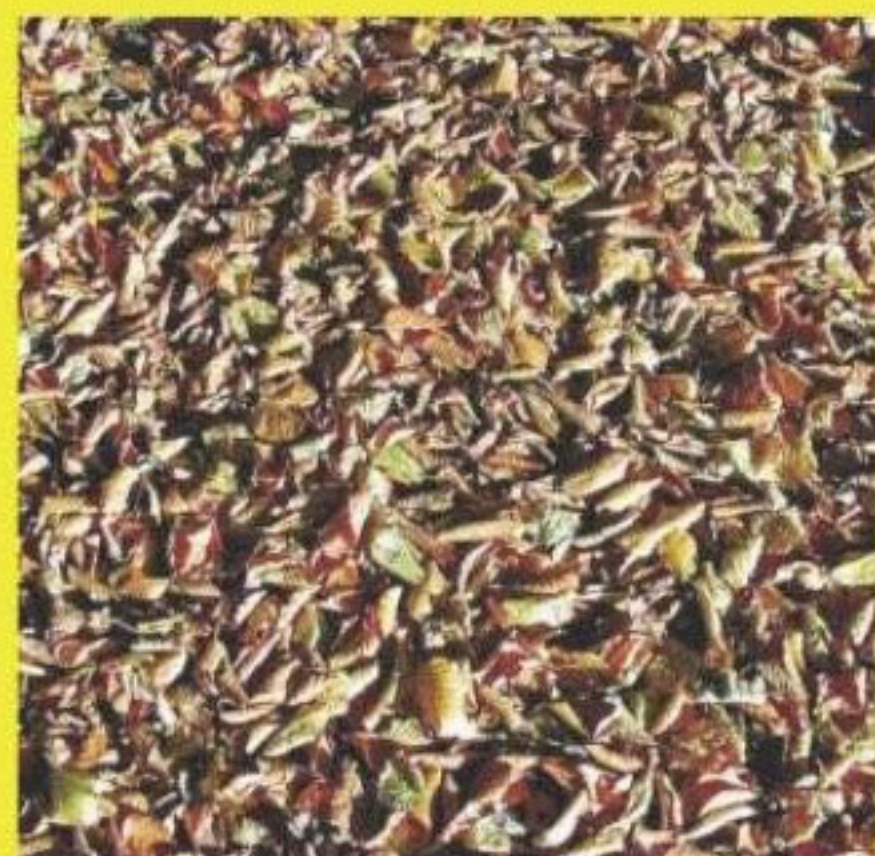
These are similar to the industrial machines used by arborists and professional tree fellers to create a truckload of mulch at a time.



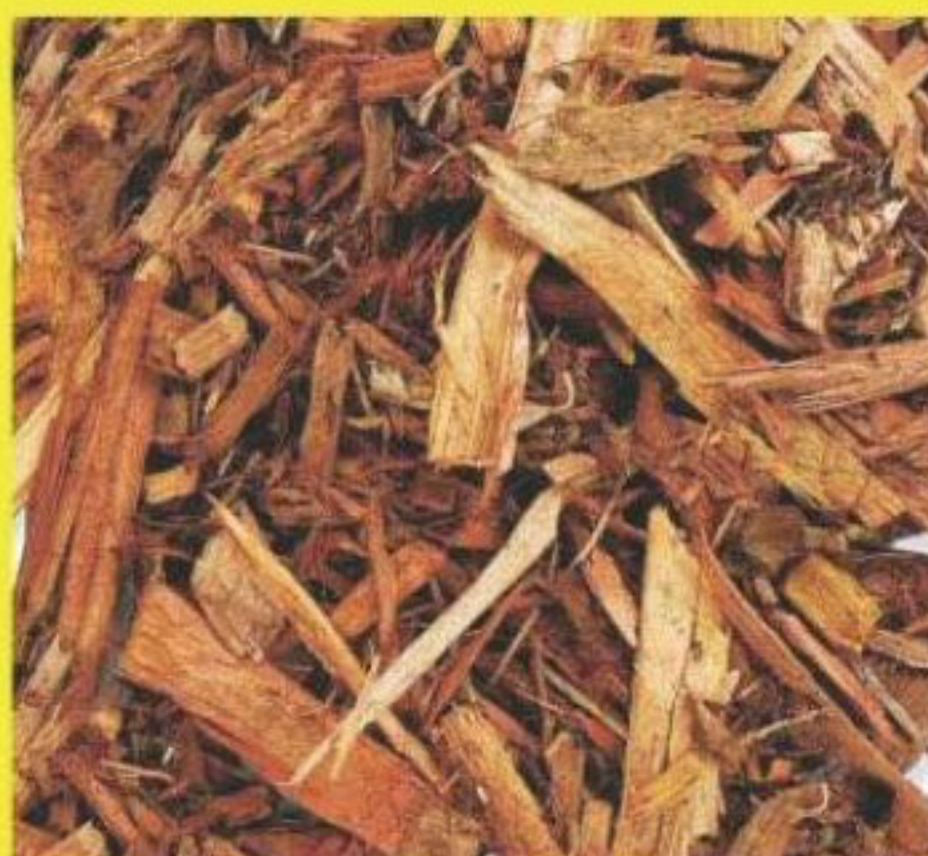
**ELECTRIC MULCHERS** or shredders are likely to be the best option unless you have a large property and regularly need to prune and maintain large trees.

These are easy to operate, require virtually no maintenance, and can easily chew through branches of up to about 35mm in diameter.

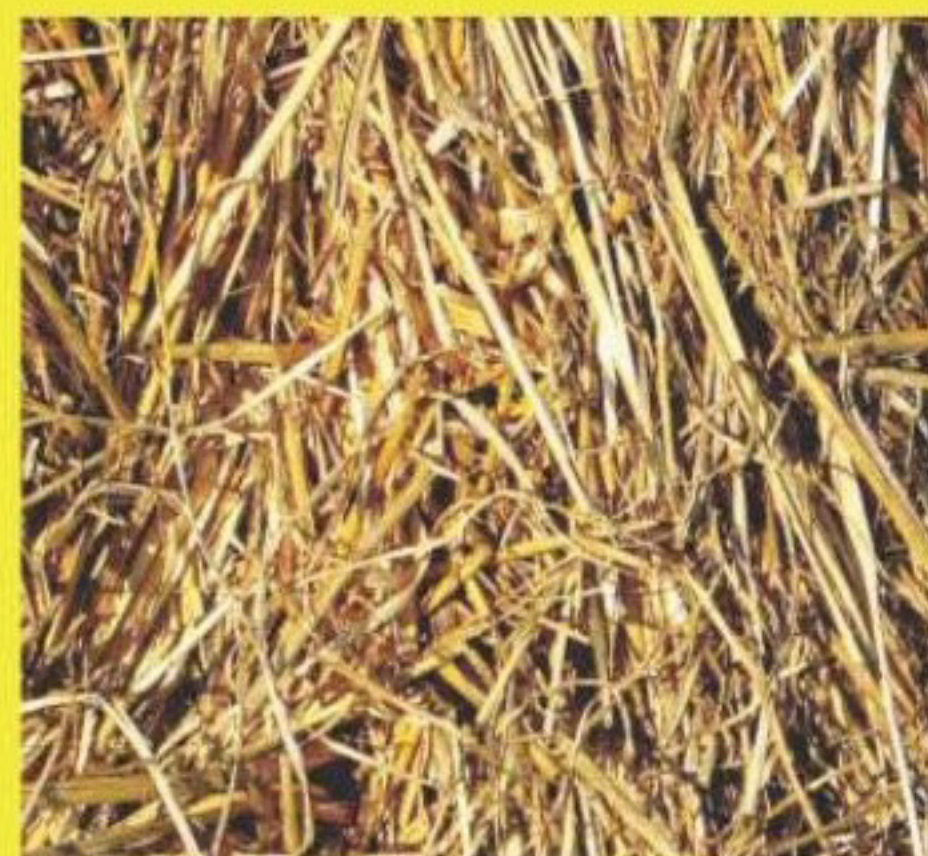
## TYPES OF MULCH



**LEAF LITTER** mixed with small shredded branches from pruning makes excellent mulch. Avoid using any organic material that might have been sprayed with chemicals.



**TREE BARK** and woodchip from larger branches drains well and its acidity makes it good for mulching around strawberries. As a general rule, don't use it on a vegetable garden.



**PEA STRAW** breaks down over time to feed the soil, which means you will have to keep it topped up. Use it around roses to help repel black spot. **TIP** Chop it up for easier spreading.





## \*PROTECTIVE LAYERING

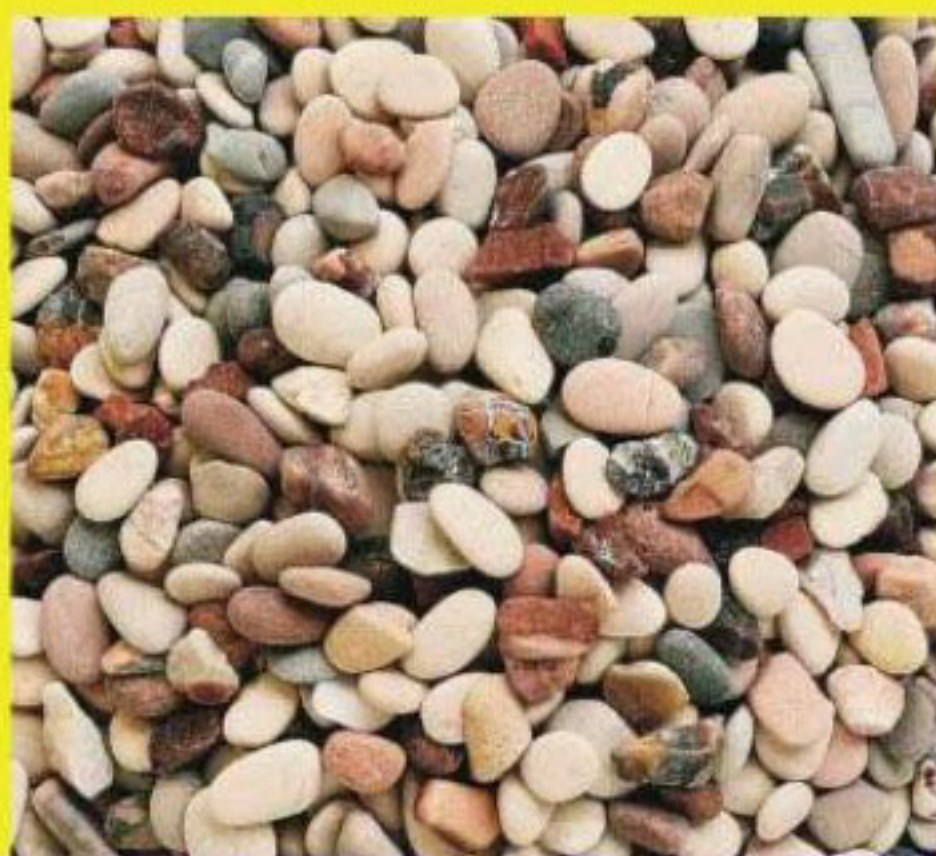
In most cases, covering areas of bare soil with a layer of organic mulch greatly simplifies your gardening chores.

Mulch reduces water loss from the soil, slowing evaporation and improving water absorption when it rains or when you use a sprinkler.

It slows weed growth while returning nutrients to the soil as it breaks down.

Mulch also protects plant roots from extremes of hot and cold weather, and evens out dramatic fluctuations in temperature.

It can also add colour and texture, which is a big improvement for areas of plain soil.



**PEBBLE MULCH** is worth mentioning as a complement to the organic material. It works well around trailing vegies such as pumpkins because it helps prevent rotting. ➤

# IN YOUR GARDEN



## PERFECT PRUNING

How and where you prune is very important. Too high and the stem may die, too low and you could cause damage to new growth. Cut on a slight angle, so water runs off and close to an outward facing bud.



### Stainless steel blade bypass pruning shears

Stainless steel precision ground blades for a long, corrosion free life.



### Ratchet anvil pruning shears

Ratchet action requires less effort with non-stick coating on blade for cleaner cuts.



### Ergonomic nyglass pruning shears

Razor sharp long life blades with an ergonomic, light-weight design and soft touch inserts for comfort.



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and garden centres nationwide.

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**MCGREGOR'S**



# BUYING GUIDE

Investing in a pruner, mulcher and tiller may be expensive, but if you have a large outdoor area to look after it will pay off through the time and effort you save. Even the light-duty options make life much easier for a very reasonable outlay.

## LIGHT DUTY

### PRUNERS



Easy to use and weighing only 3kg, this is the ideal way to give hedges a regular haircut, with a 480mm blade and ergonomic handle.

**Makita 400W Hedge Trimmer, \$169.**  
[makita.co.nz](http://makita.co.nz)

## MEDIUM DUTY



This tool features a grip for locking onto unsupported branches. It can handle limbs up to a whopping 80mm in diameter yet weighs just over 1kg.

**Bosch Keo 10.8V Pruning Saw, \$199.**  
[bosch-garden.co.nz](http://bosch-garden.co.nz)

## HEAVY DUTY



Allowing you to reach high branches, this pruner has a 2.7m extension pole, powerful two-stroke engine and 150mm cutting capacity.

**Ryobi 25cc Two-stroke Pole Pruner, \$399.**  
[ryobi.co.nz](http://ryobi.co.nz)

### MULCHERS



With a 35mm input capacity and overload protection, this mulcher has reversible blades and weighs 13kg, so it's easily portable.

**Ozito 2400W Rapid Electric Shredder, \$199.**  
[ozito.co.nz](http://ozito.co.nz)



This powerful shredder has a large hopper opening for feeding in branches and garden clippings. The tilted motor and body design prevent clogging.

**Ryobi 2400W Impact/Rapid Garden Shredder, \$299.**



This petrol model cuts branches up to 50mm in diameter and has nine flail hammer blades to reduce all your prunings to fine mulch.

**Masport 5HP Chipper, \$1399.**  
[masport.co.nz](http://masport.co.nz)

### TILLERS



Weighing just 7.5kg, this compact machine is very easy to control in smaller gardens. It tills to 240mm deep with a 285mm cutting width.

**Ozito 750W Electric Tiller, \$129.**



Powered by a full crank engine, this cultivator has a tilling width of 258mm at a depth of up to 198mm, with a sand ballast for stability.

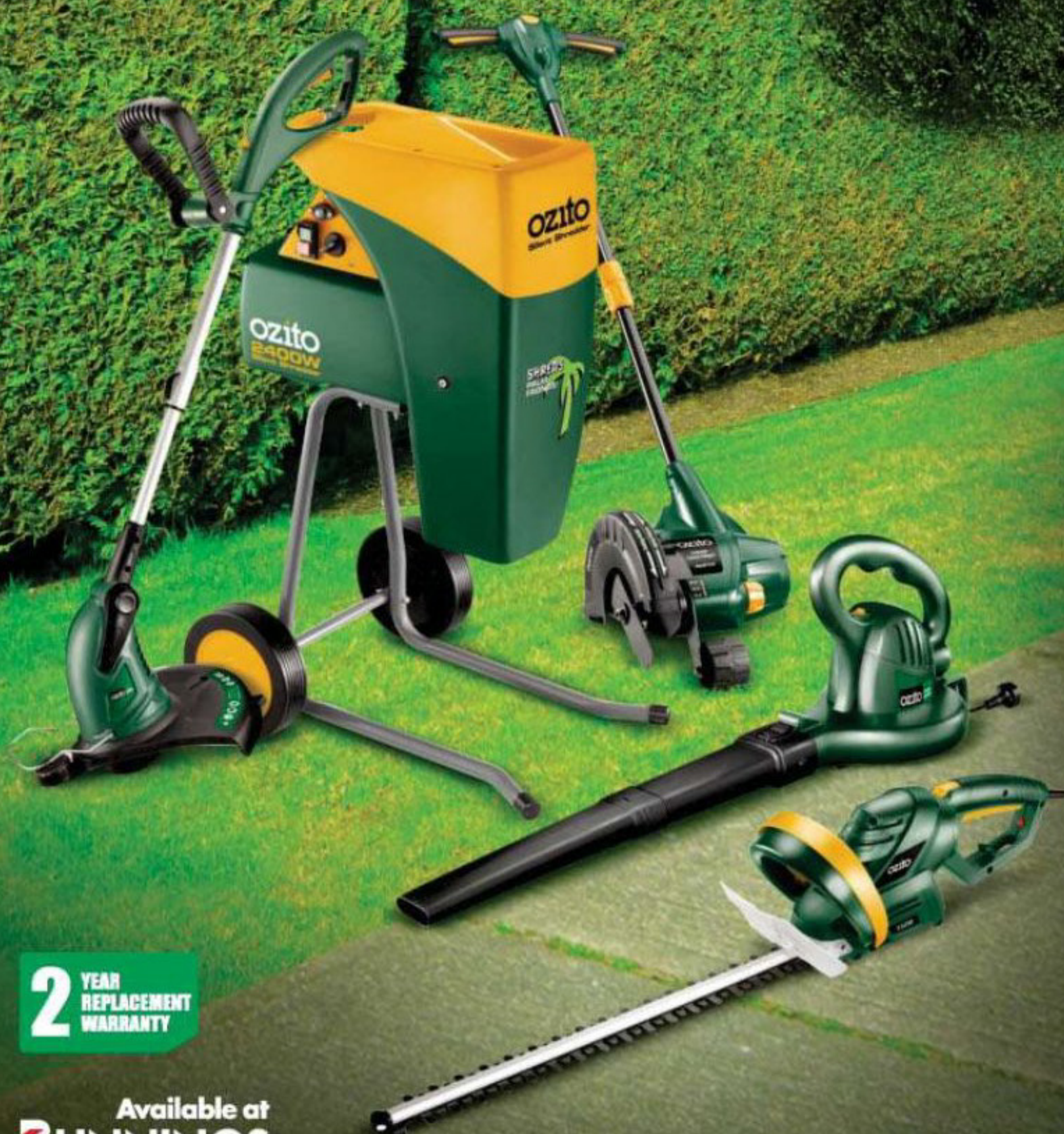
**Ryobi 25.4cc Two-Stroke Cultivator, \$399.**



With a 380mm cutting width and 250mm cultivating depth, this self-drive rear-tine unit can propel itself either forward or in reverse.

**Briggs & Stratton 205cc Cultivator, \$1699.**  
[briggsandstratton.com](http://briggsandstratton.com)





## Very handy to have around.

The extensive range of Ozito power garden tools will be very handy to have in the garden this Spring.

From edging the lawns, trimming around trees and bushes, shredding branches and cuttings, to blowing it all away!

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# Handyman

## BUYER'S GUIDE

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---

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# *Fragrant* **FRANGIPANI**

For the scent of summer, add an easy-care potted frangipani to the deck, balcony or garden.



PLANT  
PROFILE

## Add a touch of the tropics to your yard with an easy propagation technique

WORDS **JECCA BLAKE**

**B**est known as a small tree featuring fragrant white blooms with distinctive yellow centres, frangipanis actually come in more than 300 different varieties.

Native to Central America and Mexico, frangipanis belong to the *Plumeria* genus and are a small to medium deciduous tree.

Frangipanis have glossy dark green foliage, and the stems and leaves contain milky white sap. The flowers come in shades of pink, yellow, orange, red and even purple.

Relatively slow growing, the majority reach up to about eight

metres high and four metres wide, making them a great choice for small gardens. The dwarf varieties are ideal for growing in pots.

As frangipanis are frost tender they grow best in the warm northern regions of New Zealand, but with a bit of TLC can be container grown in slightly cooler zones.

They are very tolerant of dry conditions and once established they don't really need much watering except during long periods of drought.

### IN THE GARDEN

Frangipanis can cope with light sea breezes but prefer protection from strong winds. In cooler climates, it's essential to give them the warmest and sunniest spot in the garden.

If grown in pots, move them to a sheltered area in late autumn, in a north-facing position against a brick wall where at night the tree will get the heat stored from the day.

A frangipani tree is perfect for creating summer shade and letting in winter sun when its leaves drop.

Hang small baskets planted with brightly coloured pansies or petunias from the branches of a bare tree in winter to brighten up the garden.

**TIP** The variety with yellow-throated white flowers is the most commonly grown and earliest to flower. ➤



AUSTRALIAN  
FRANGIPANI

### Going native

The rainforest tree *Hymenosporum flavum* is known as the native Australian frangipani but is not related to the *Plumeria* species. It's an evergreen tree that reaches 20m and has creamy yellow, sweet-smelling flowers. It grows

well in most areas of the country. The branches spread in horizontal layers and the glossy, dark green leaves have hairy undersides.





## HOW TO GROW

Frangipanis grow well in most types of soil but good drainage is essential.

**POSITION** in a location that receives at least six hours of sun a day.

They tolerate part shade but grow faster and flower better in a sunny spot.

**WATER** young trees during the growing season until established then only during extended dry periods.

Let pot plants dry out between waterings.

**FEED** with organic fertiliser high in phosphorous when the leaves appear, to encourage lots of flowering and strong root growth.

Use a liquid seaweed solution every 14 days during the growing season.

**MULCH** the soil to keep the roots cool in summer and warm in winter, retain moisture and suppress weeds.

To avoid stem rot problems, don't apply mulch near the trunk.

**PRUNE** only to shape the tree and maintain the size during late winter or early spring before leaf growth starts.

For a compact, dense and leafy tree, prune branches back by a third to half their length, creating lots of shoots near the pruned ends.

Make cuts vertical so that the sap drips off and water can't penetrate the branch.

**WATCH FOR** stem rot caused by frost, drought, lack of sunlight or old age, pruning any dry or withered growth back to healthy tissue.

Frangipani rust causes orange pustules to appear on the underside of leaves while the tops go brown.

Gather and destroy fallen foliage, then spray the tree with fungicide in the warm months and again in winter as a protective measure.

**McGregor's Copper Oxychloride, \$13 for 200g.**  
[mcgregors.co.nz](http://mcgregors.co.nz)



PICTURE (LEFT) THINKSTOCK

## CHOOSING A VARIETY

Frangipanis are selected by colour, so visit your local nursery to buy one in flower that suits the climate of the area, or go online to buy a tree from a specialist supplier like The Frangipani Hut ([frangipani-flowers-plants.co.nz](http://frangipani-flowers-plants.co.nz)).



**BLACK RED**

- Dark red flowers
- Spicy perfume
- Grows up to 4m high
- Reaches 4m wide
- For warmer zones



**CANDY STRIPE**

- White, red and yellow to orange striped flower
- Sweet perfume
- Grows up to 9m high
- Reaches 9m wide



**CERISE**

- Hot pink blooms with orange centres
- Grows to 5m high and wide
- Peachy sweet scent
- Long, strappy petals



**MONSOON**

- Round orange flowers with a pink blush
- Red veining on blooms
- Grows to 4m high
- Highly scented



## Propagating from a stem

Frangipanis are easily propagated from a stem in early spring or winter when there is less sap movement.

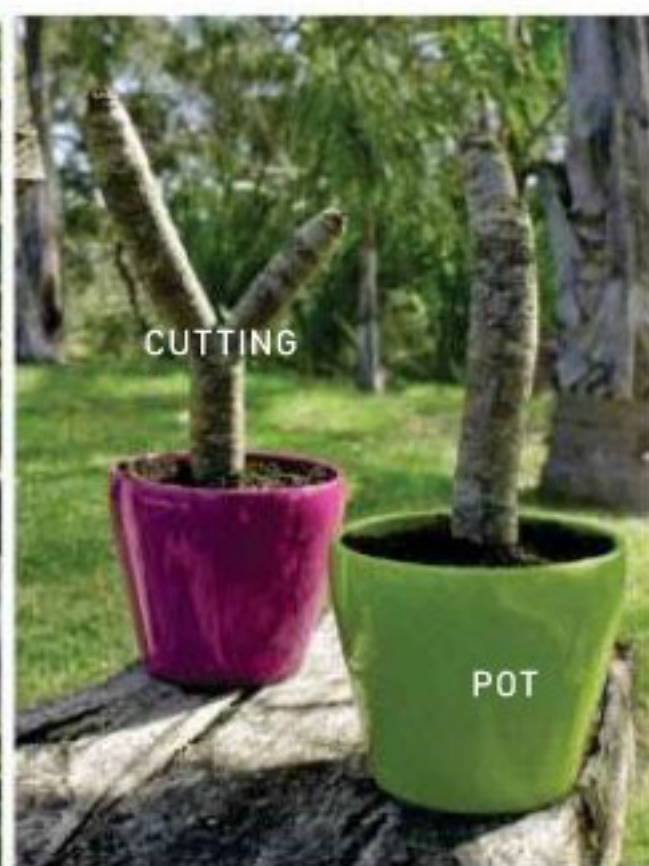
Find a broken piece of branch or cut one off the tree and trim the end. Leave the cutting outside for a couple of weeks to dry out the milky sap in the stem, allowing the cut to heal and develop a callus.

Pot up the stem cutting in a good quality potting mix and in a few weeks it will form roots and grow leaves.

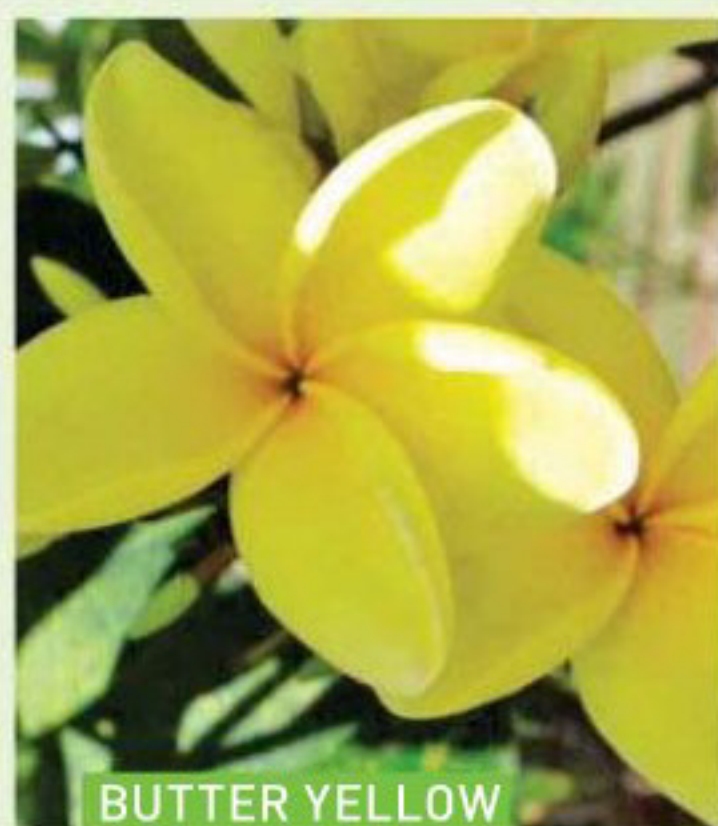
**TIP** Water regularly during the growing season.



**1 CUT OFF PIECES** of stem about 300mm long using a handsaw, being careful to not tear the bark, then scrape one end with a sharp knife.



**2 PLANT THE STEM** into a container filled with potting mix and water in. **TIP** Plant large cuttings 600mm deep in a bed and stake until established.



**BUTTER YELLOW**

- Vivid yellow petals
- Large flower clusters
- Heavy bloomer
- Sweet fragrance
- Grows up to 3m high



**SINGAPORE WHITE**

- Large white flowers
- Dark green leaves
- Grows up to 5m high
- Reaches 5m wide
- Evergreen in warm areas

MCGREGOR'S

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- P** PHOSPHORUS (P) - ACCELERATES HEALTHY ROOT ESTABLISHMENT
- K** POTASSIUM (K) - MAXIMISES FLOWERING, FRUITING AND SWEETNESS (IDEAL FOR ROSES, STRAWBERRIES AND TOMATOES)

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MCGREGOR'S



# FULL OF BEANS

Get seeds into the ground now for a bumper summer harvest of fresh, sweet and crunchy pods

WORDS **ARTEMIS GOUROS**

**E**asy to grow and tasty to eat, beans are a top backyard crop. Part of the legume family, these podded vegies are a good source of vitamins B and C, and fibre.

Fast growers, they provide abundant fresh food for little work, adding colour to the vegie patch when in full flower and laden with pods.

Late spring is the most suitable time to start sowing bean seeds for a summer harvest although you can sow any time from spring to autumn in temperate to cool climates.

Beans are at their most tasty and sweet right after picking, before their natural sugars turn to starch. Harvest pods when young to prevent them getting tough and stringy.

**TIP** Beans freeze well and varieties like kidney and haricot can be dried.

## FRENCH VS RUNNER

Beans are divided into two main types called French and runner. Both have climbing and dwarf bush plants.

**FRENCH** varieties include snap, string, kidney, haricot, borlotti and more.

The pods range from long and thin to full and fat in green, yellow, purple and red, and the beans also come in different colours.

**RUNNER** or perennial beans grow and produce all summer and autumn then die down in winter when they go dormant, emerging again in spring.

Most are climbers that feature red flowers and large seeds in green pods. Certain types have white, pink or multicoloured blooms.

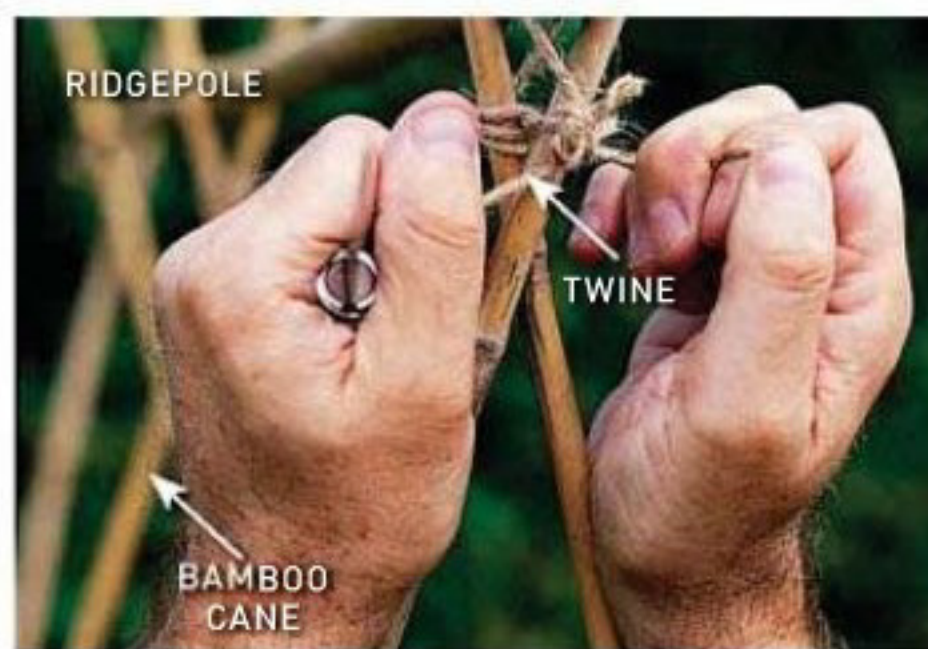
**TIP** Runner beans are hardier than French and better suited to cool areas.

## Planting runner beans

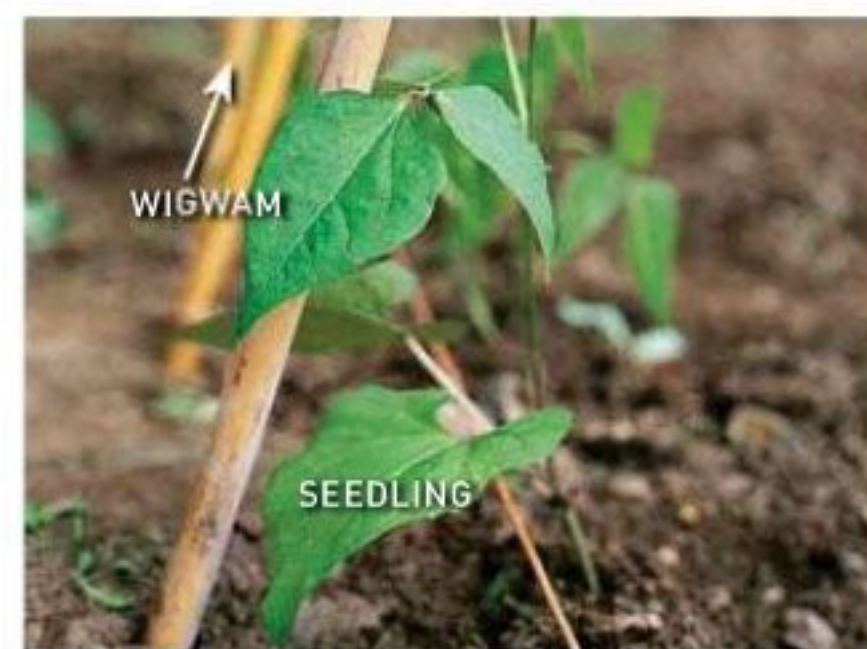
Ideal for small gardens, runner beans take up little room if they're grown on a tripod or wigwam. Plants tied loosely when they are young will usually climb naturally.



**1 PLANT SEEDLINGS** in spring every 150mm in double rows spaced about 600mm apart.



**2 MAKE A WIGWAM** by tying the tops of bamboo canes with twine to make triangles, adding a ridgepole.



**3 GUIDE THE STEMS** up the canes from inside the wigwam. Water regularly in hot, dry weather.





## Three bean salad with lemon and walnut dressing

**PREPARATION TIME** 10 mins

**COOKING TIME** 7 mins

**SERVES** 4

### INGREDIENTS

8 thick baguette slices  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
Grated zest of 2 lemons, juice of 1  
3 tablespoons honey  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
3 tablespoons walnut oil  
200g green beans  
400g can red kidney beans  
400g can butter beans

**1 PREHEAT THE GRILL** to hot. Brush the baguette slices with half the olive oil. Toast on the grill pan for 2 minutes

or until golden. Turn and brush with the remaining oil and toast for 2 minutes. Cut into croutons and set aside to cool.

**2 TO MAKE THE DRESSING**, whisk the lemon zest and juice, honey, garlic and walnut oil in a large bowl. Trim the green beans then drain the red kidney beans and butter beans.

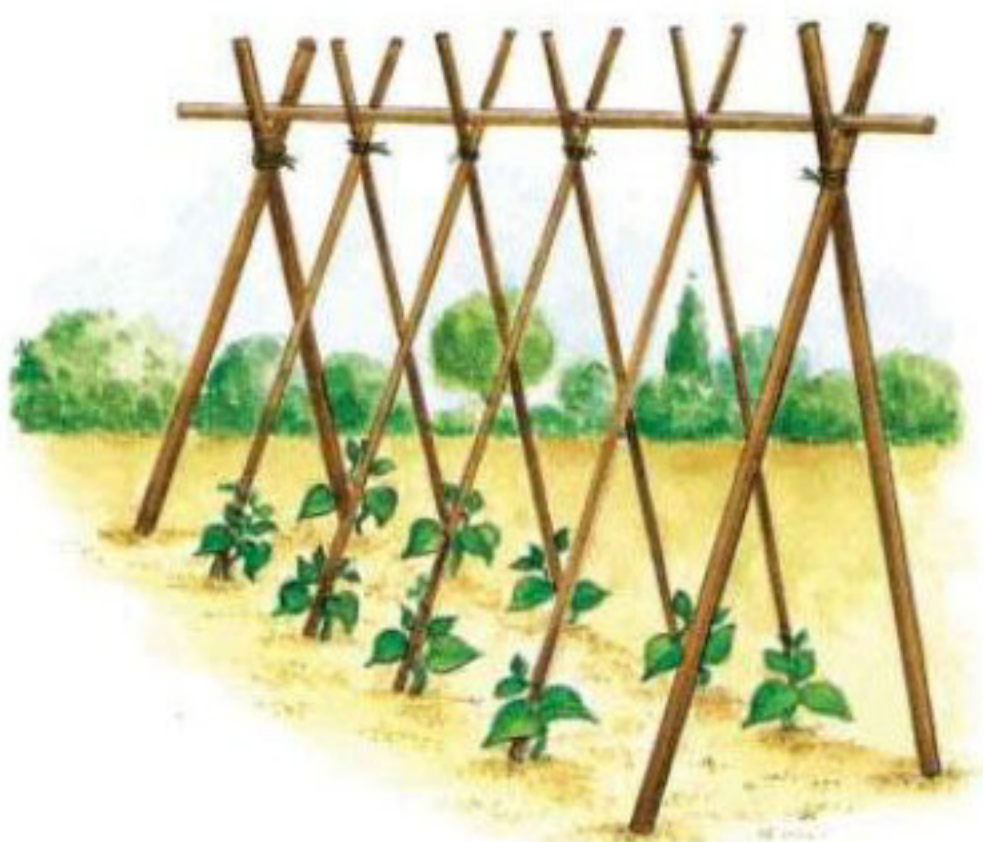
**3 PUT THE GREEN BEANS** in a pan. Cover with boiling water and bring back to the boil then simmer for 3 minutes or until lightly cooked but still crunchy. Drain the beans, shake off the cooking water and toss in the dressing.

**4 ADD THE OTHER BEANS** and toss well. Divide the salad among four bowls, scatter with croutons and spoon over remaining dressing to serve. ➤



BEAN SALAD





## HOW TO GROW

French and runner beans are frost tender, warm-season crops. Don't grow them where you have raised beans or peas in the last few years.

**SOW** seeds 50mm deep in moist soil with a pH of 5.5 to 7 in a sunny position sheltered from wind. Dig in well-rotted compost first then make a trench.

Space dwarf varieties every 200mm in staggered double rows, and climbers 300mm apart.

Earth up the soil around the stems of dwarf seedlings and give climbers some support.

**WATER** regularly in hot weather to prevent wilting. Increase water when in flower and the pods begin to swell, making sure the soil never dries out.

**MULCH** seedlings by spreading organic matter on top of the soil to retain moisture and promote growth.

**HARVEST** from eight to 12 weeks when the pods are 170mm or shorter, so they're young and tender.

Dwarf varieties crop for a shorter period than climbers.

Picking beans regularly, two or three times a week, encourages new flowers and more vegies.

**WATCH FOR** slugs and snails, picking them off the leaves of young plants.

Plants can suffer from fungal diseases like bean rust. If leaves drop, wither or yellow, and brown or red spots appear on the foliage, pods and stems, apply a fungicide.

**TIP** To prevent fungal issues, water at ground level, rotate crops and choose disease-resistant varieties.



## Harvesting seeds

Let bean pods hang on a healthy plant for as long as possible before the risk of any autumn frosts then pick and remove the seeds from the pods.

Put them in a paper bag then label and store it in an airtight container in a cool place until planting time next spring.



McGregor's Scarlet Runner Bean, \$3. [mcgregors.co.nz](http://mcgregors.co.nz)



## CHOOSING A VARIETY

Grow the beans that you like to eat, choosing a variety that is well suited to your local climate and space availability. Pick dwarf varieties for pots and grow climbers in beds with supports.



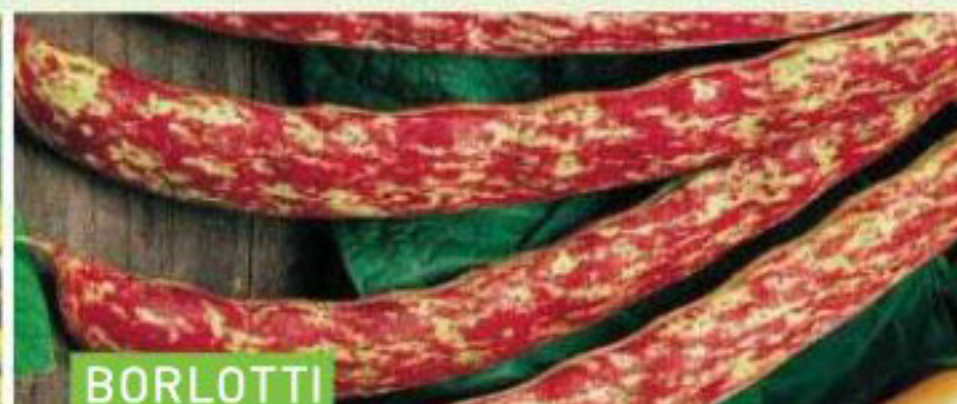
TOP CROP DWARF

- French dwarf variety
- Crisp pods up to 140mm long
- Disease resistant
- Rich flavour



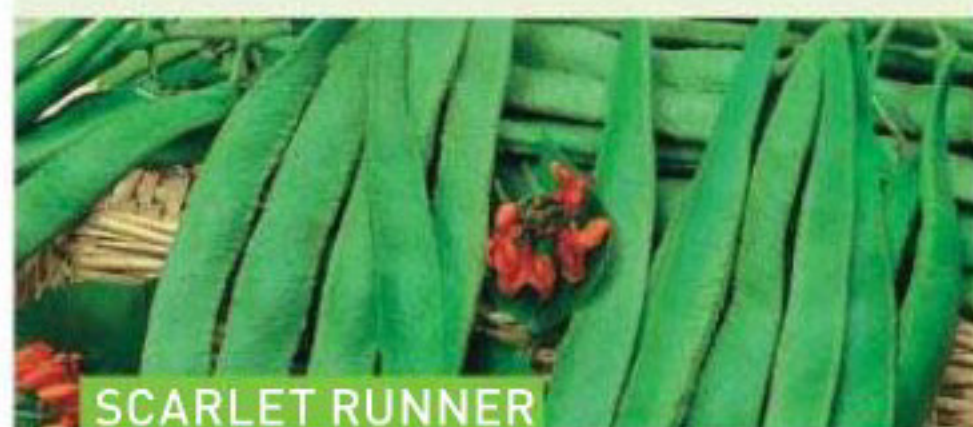
CHEROKEE WAX

- French dwarf variety
- Fleshy yellow pods
- Good yields
- Full flavour



BORLOTTI

- French dwarf variety
- Red and green streaked pods
- Pick young as a green bean
- Excellent for drying



SCARLET RUNNER

- Climbing runner bean
- Red-flowering early variety
- Large, bright green pods
- Heavy cropper that needs support



PURPLE KING

- French climber
- Long purple pods to 180mm
- Needs a tripod or canes
- Heavy bearer



PAINTED LADY

- Climbing runner bean
- Bears orange and white flowers
- Heirloom seed type
- Long, tender green pods



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LANDSCAPE  
SOLUTION

**AFTER**  
The borders of the garden beds are defined and help keep grass at bay.



# LAY TIMBER EDGING

Create a defined border between the lawn and garden in an afternoon

WORDS AND PICTURES **JECCA BLAKE**

Everyone likes a carpet of lush green grass but no-one likes runners that creep their way into garden beds and under plants, making it a constant battle to maintain a tidy edge.

A simple solution to inhibit grass invading beds is to install edging. It's affordable and can be done in half a day, dramatically decreasing the time spent on garden maintenance.

On this coastal property, treated pine sleepers were used to define a border between the hedge and grass.

A trench was dug and lengths of timber buried to half their height in the soil, with timber stakes positioned in the bed to support the edging.

A few runners may work their way under the edging but they are easy to pull out.

If after a few years the level of the edging drops too low it can be lifted out and a layer of sand added before replacing the timber.

## CUT THE TIMBER

For this project, choose H4 grade treated pine which is specifically for in-ground use outdoors. It is treated to resist moisture and rot.

We used sleepers buried to half their width underground. This created a raised edge, making it easier to use a line trimmer to cut the grass.

If the sleepers are too long to transport in your vehicle you could ask the supplier to cut them down for you, but this will make it much harder to get a straight border and affect the overall look of the edging.

**TIP** Drill clearance holes in the support stakes and use galvanised screws to secure them if there's a lot of movement in the ground. ➤



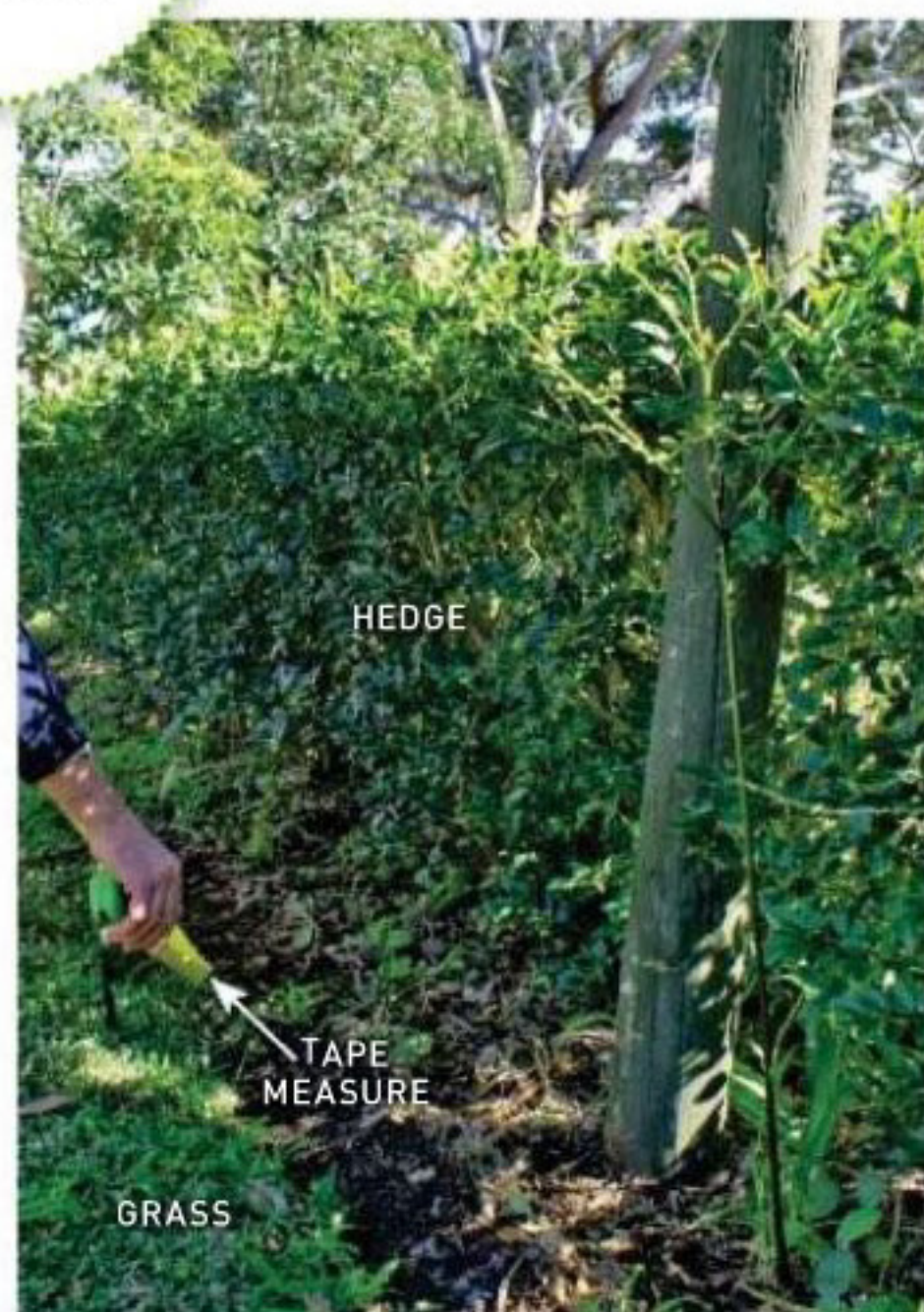
**H4 Treated Pine Sleepers,**  
2400 x 150 x 100mm,  
\$23 each, from Bunnings.

**BEFORE**

Grass creeps right up to a row of hedging, blurring the boundaries.



## INSTALL THE EDGING



### 1 Mark the border

To mark the position of the border, measure the area and set a stringline. Choose the size of treated pine to be used for the edging and carefully select straight lengths that are as long as possible to reduce the number of joints.



### 2 Dig the trench

Use a square-nose shovel to excavate a trench for the edging to a depth of half the width of the timber, making sure the wall and base is flat so the edging sits straight. Remove any large roots, rocks or debris in the way.



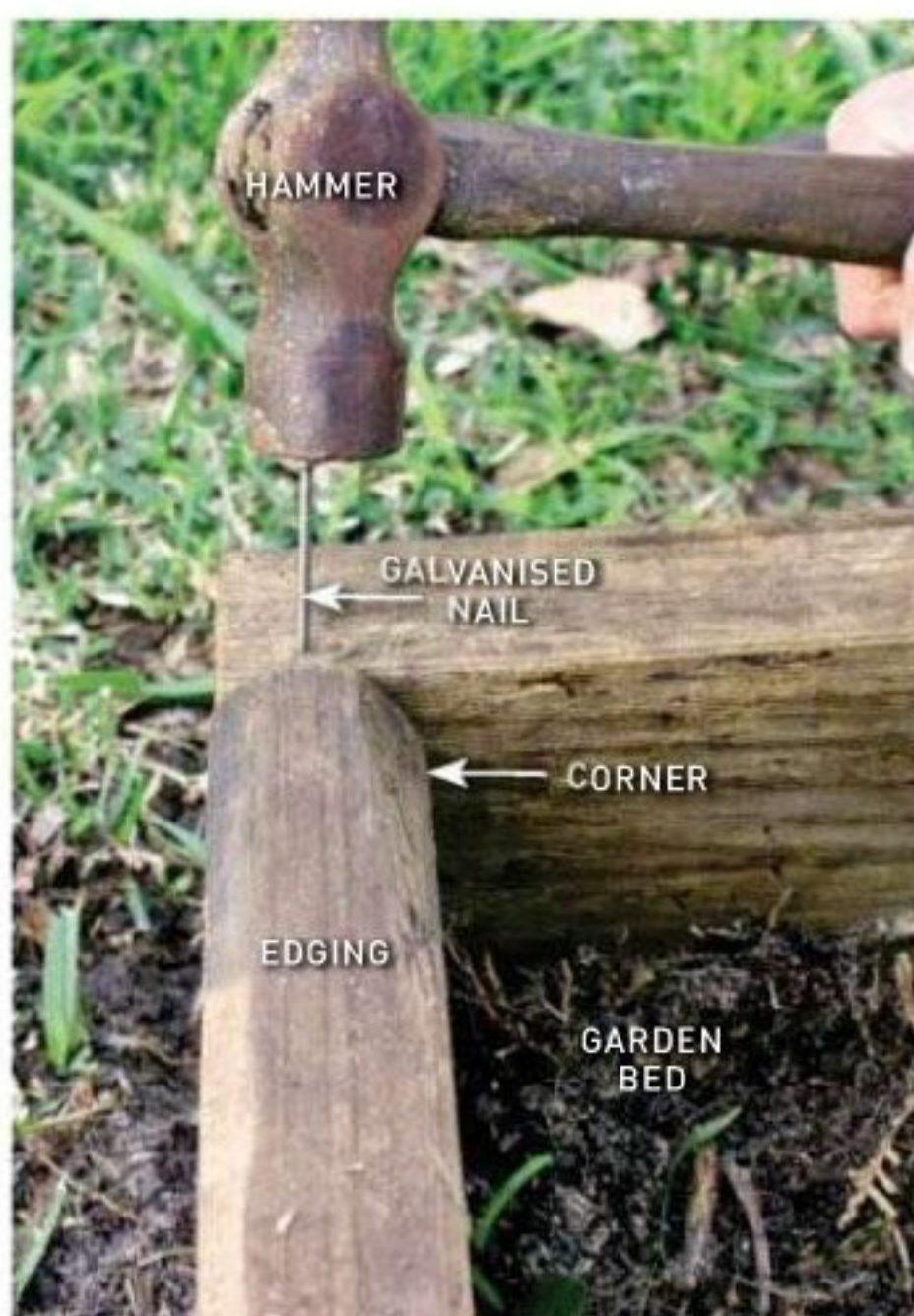
### 3 Check the level

Measure from the base to the top of the trench to check the height is uniform all the way along and use a spirit level to check the base is level, then remove or add soil in places if needed, firming it down.



### 4 Position the timber

Lay the timber lengths end to end in the trench following a set stringline and tap down with a lump hammer or mallet. Position support stakes evenly along the edging to hold it in place, tapping them into the soil.



### 5 Join the corners

Butt the end of a length of timber against the side of another to take the edging around a corner, hammering in galvanised nails skewed at 45° to secure the two pieces.

**TIP** Drill pilot holes to prevent splitting.



### 6 Backfill with soil

Use the soil that was dug up when excavating the trench to fill the garden bed behind the edging, firming it down by hand as you go. Add a layer of bark mulch in the bed to suppress weeds and retain moisture.



## Choosing roll edging



Garden edging that comes in rolls of timber slats or recycled plastic is a simple DIY option. Just cut off what you need and secure it with pegs or stakes.

Tough, durable and flexible, edging rolls are ideal for curved boundaries. Choose the material that best suits the style of garden.

■ **PLASTIC** is easy to manipulate and can be used to make tree guards. Choose a UV protected product.

■ **TIMBER** edging is treated to resist rot and creates an attractive, natural-looking border.

Enviro Fence-Line 200mm  
Garden Edging, \$55 for 10m.  
[envioreel.co.nz](http://envioreel.co.nz)



Get Growing 150mm  
Garden Edging, \$17  
for 4m. [motlum.co.nz](http://motlum.co.nz)



Wired Hardwood 200mm  
Garden Edging, \$39  
for 3m, from Bunnings.



### + Get more online

Visit [handymanmagazine.co.nz/mag](http://handymanmagazine.co.nz/mag) for instructions on how to build a raised vegie patch using timber sleepers.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

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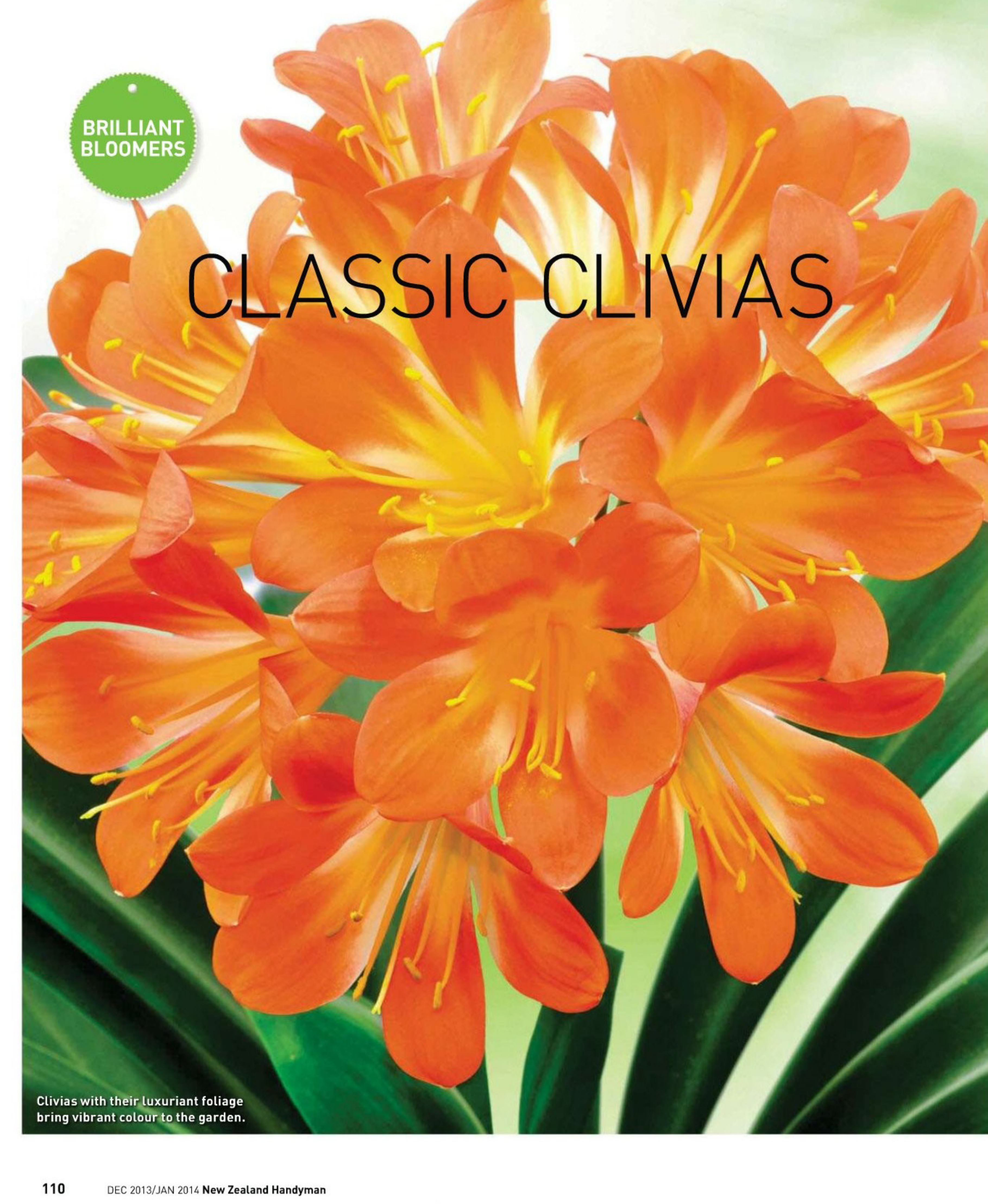


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BRILLIANT  
BLOOMERS

# CLASSIC CLIVIAS

Clivias with their luxuriant foliage  
bring vibrant colour to the garden.



# These landscape lovelies colour up a shady corner and can be divided after spring flowering for lots more plants

WORDS AND PROJECTS **ADAM WOODHAMS**

**W**hether you grow them in beds or pots, clivias are among the most versatile, hardy and beautiful plants you can include in your landscape.

Given the right position they'll reward you with luxuriant foliage and blooms with a minimum of care.

The standard colour is salmon but they also come in near white, buttery yellow and flame orange. Leaves are emerald green, varying from long and narrow to very broad.

*Clivia miniata*, the most often seen species, flowers in late winter but *C. nobilis* and *C. caulescens* can bloom a couple of times a year.

**TIP** Variegated forms are available but are costly and often unstable, reverting to plain green as the plant matures.

## A GOOD PROVIDER

Clivias are showy but surprisingly low maintenance and are easy to grow from seed or propagate by division.

Over time clivias naturally form an ever-expanding clump in beds, while in pots they can become too crowded to perform well.

After spring flowering, a large garden clump or root-bound container plant can be divided for lots more clivias that can be potted up.

Most clivias set a large number of seeds every year. These take a year to ripen so it's not unusual to see a plant flowering while holding a ripe seed-head from the previous season. ➤

## Selective breeding

Also called kaffir lily, all clivia species originally hail from South Africa and have been much sought after since their discovery by Europeans in about 1815.

They were named for Lady Charlotte Clive, Duchess of Northumberland, who first cultivated them in the UK.

Today the most desirable hybrids come from China, after decades of extensive breeding.

Certain top quality variegated forms can sell for thousands of dollars.



## Dividing a clump

To lift a plant from the garden, drive in a spade from the edge at 45°, working your way around until the entire clump comes loose then remove most of the soil from the roots. **TIP** You may need to break the pot to free a crowded plant.



**1 CUT THE ROOTS** for plants with 100mm of rhizome and a leaf set. Remove any soil and damaged roots. Trim the leaves by a third and put in a cool, dry spot until the cuts seal.



**2 ADD EACH PLANT** to a pot part-filled with potting mix, hold it upright and backfill around the roots and rhizome, firming the mix down. **TIP** Use the same method in beds.



**3 POSITION THE POTS** in a shady spot and water in the plants well. Don't keep clivias too moist while they establish, as this can lead to fungal problems and rot.



## HOW TO GROW

The roots and leaves of clivias grow from a fleshy rhizome that branches out, creating offsets or pups that in turn shoot new leaves.

Clivias need free-draining soil and don't like frost but tolerate heavy shade. In cold climates they are often grown as indoor plants.

**POSITION** in a warm, shady spot with protection from afternoon sun. The dappled light under trees is ideal.

**WATER** regularly in spring and summer but let them dry out in autumn and winter. Clivias are quite drought-tolerant but won't survive wet feet, so don't use pot saucers.

**FEED** in spring after flowering with an all-purpose fertiliser and give them regular applications of seaweed tonic.

**PROPAGATE** by division or grow from seed after flowering. Divided plants usually flower in two years while seed-grown plants take four to six.

**TIP** Wear gloves to handle clivias, as they contain low levels of alkaloids that irritate skin.



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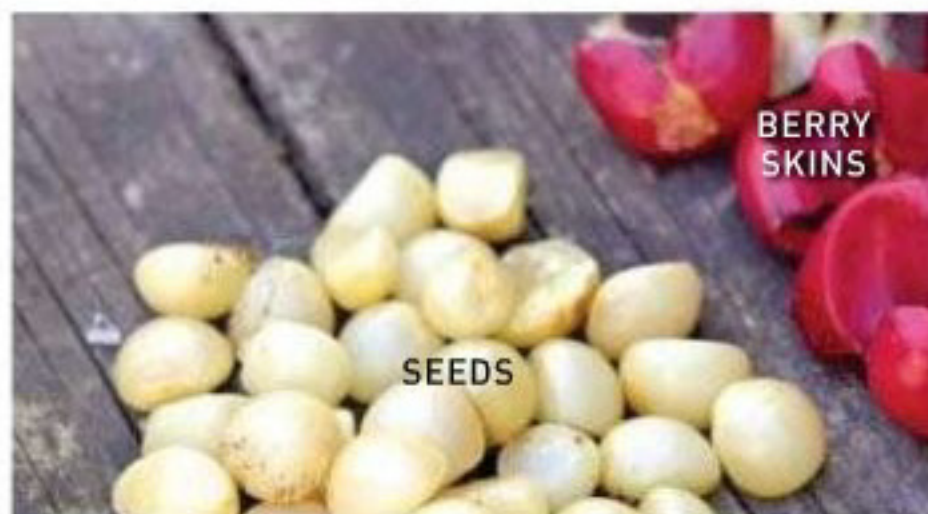
Yellow varieties can be expensive, so always buy in bloom if you want clivias in a particular colour.

## Growing from seed

Spring is when clivia seeds are ripe and ready. Sow them in pots and the first leaves should be visible in a month or two. The seeds have a high viability rate so you may be able to grow 20 or more plants a year from a single plant.



**1 TRIM THE SEED HEAD** using secateurs then remove the berries. **TIP** The ripe berry skin indicates the flower colour, with red for orange and yellow for white blooms.



**2 RUB THE BERRIES** to remove the fleshy skin and reveal a number of pearl-like seeds with near transparent skin that is also best removed. **TIP** Reject withered or very small seeds.



**3 POSITION THE SEEDS** 30mm apart in pots of seed-raising mix. Push the seeds down so a small area shows and water in. Sprinkle mix on the seeds if they become exposed.



# Clean and healthy pools

There's nothing like a dip in the backyard pool to help cool off in summer. But it's essential that your pool and the water in it are thoroughly clean.

Water is a natural breeding ground for bacteria, algae and other contaminants. In addition, swimmers introduce a number of undesirable pollutants into the water in the form of bacteria, skin particles, body oils and other excretions. Pool water needs to be sanitised and balanced to control these potential health hazards.

Sanitation should be carried out daily during summer along with regular filtration. You will also need to shock-treat your pool at least once every seven to 10 days. This means giving the water an extra dose of chlorine to burn out contaminants to keep your pool looking clear.

Balancing your water involves maintaining the pH, alkalinity and calcium levels. Incorrect pH can lead to a variety of problems including:

- LOW pH (below 7): eye and skin irritation, and swimming discomfort; excessive chlorine/sanitiser use (costly); water can eat at plaster grout, cement, metal pipes and pool equipment.
- IDEAL pH (7.2-7.6): by having the ideal water balance you use far less chemicals; more cost-effective.
- HIGH pH (above 7.6): eye irritation; poor chlorine/sanitiser efficiency; scale can form on pool walls, inside pumps, filters and other equipment causing numerous problems such as restricted water flow, poor filtration, cloudy water.

Regular testing of pool water is essential so you will also need a water testing kit as incorrect or inadequate water treatment can lead to serious problems and needless expense. Remember that the majority of pool chemicals are highly toxic and it is recommended that they are kept in a locked shed well away from children.

Correctly balanced water will protect your pool and equipment, enhance the killing power of pool-sterilising chemicals and provide a safe and pleasant swimming environment.

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