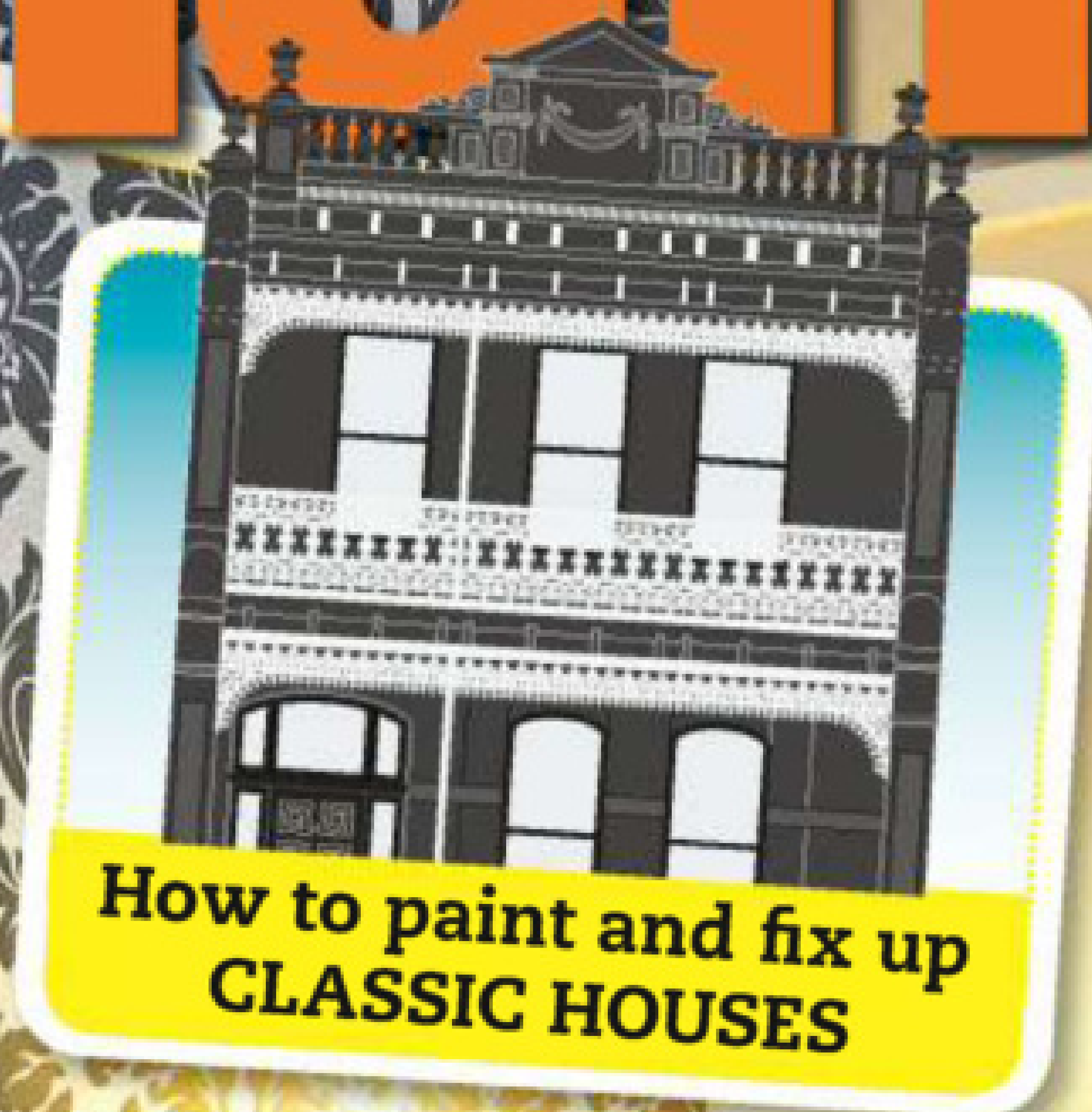


NEW ZEALAND

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Handyman

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■ Grow spring blossom trees ■ Keep house plants healthy

SEPTEMBER 2014

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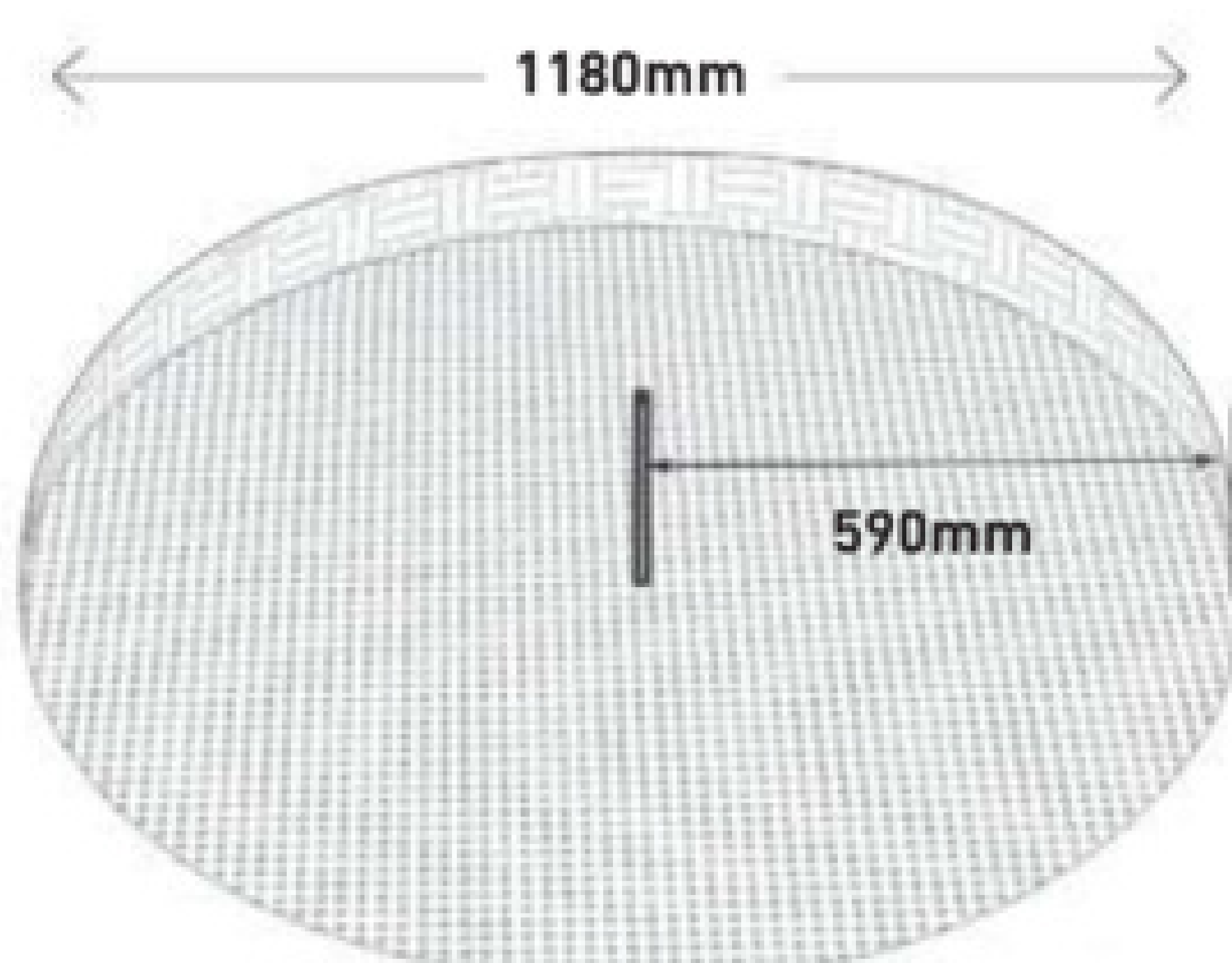


HOW TO MAKE AN EZI WALL™ PLANTER



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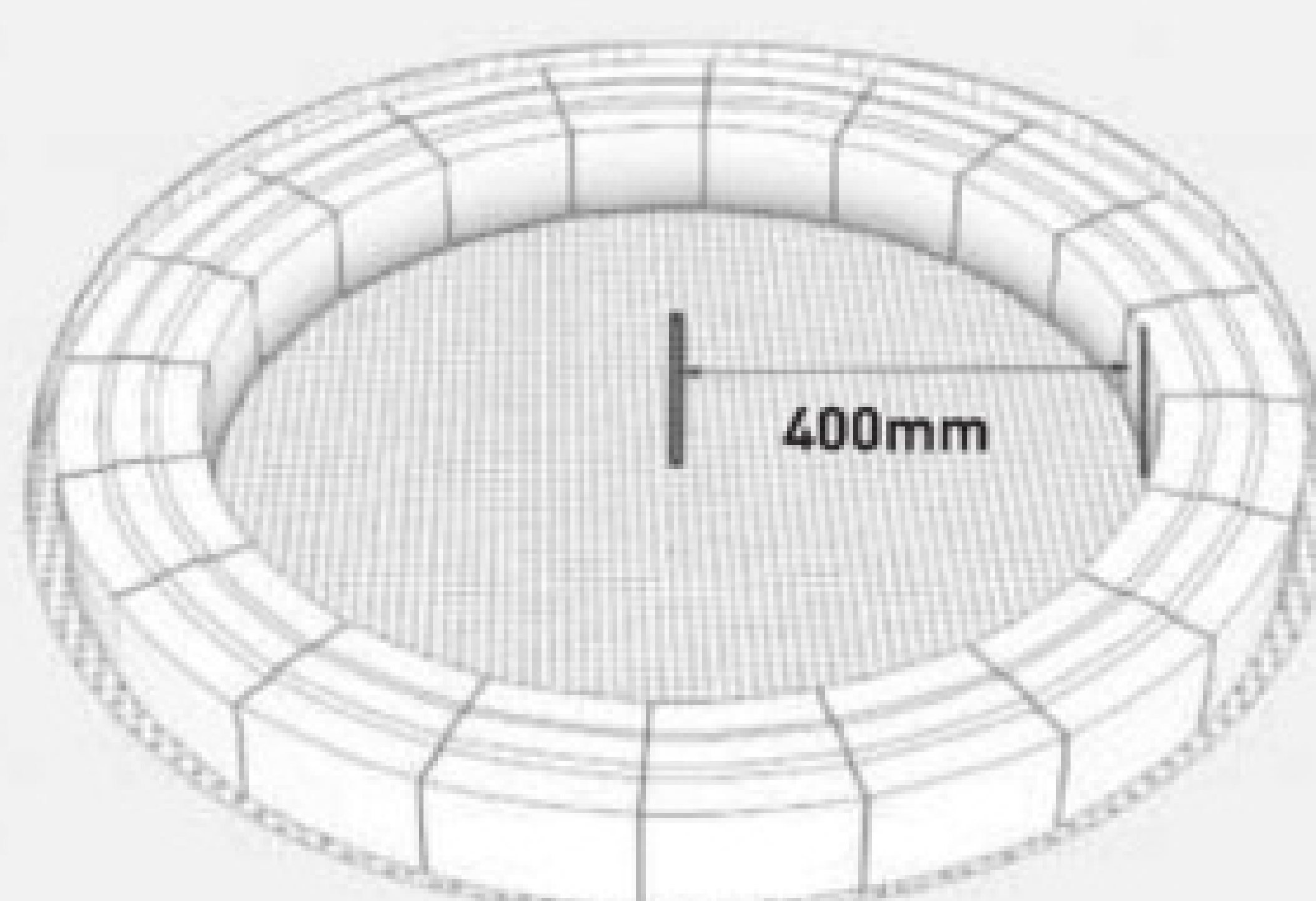
STEP 1



MARK OUT & PREPARE THE SITE

To start, hammer a spike into the middle of the planter site. Tie a piece of string to the spike and measure out 590mm from the centre. Mark out a circle - this is the outside diameter of your excavation area. Dig out to a depth of 200mm, compact using a plate compactor. Place 100mm of granular base material (gap 20 or similar) compact & level this 'base pad' to avoid settling.

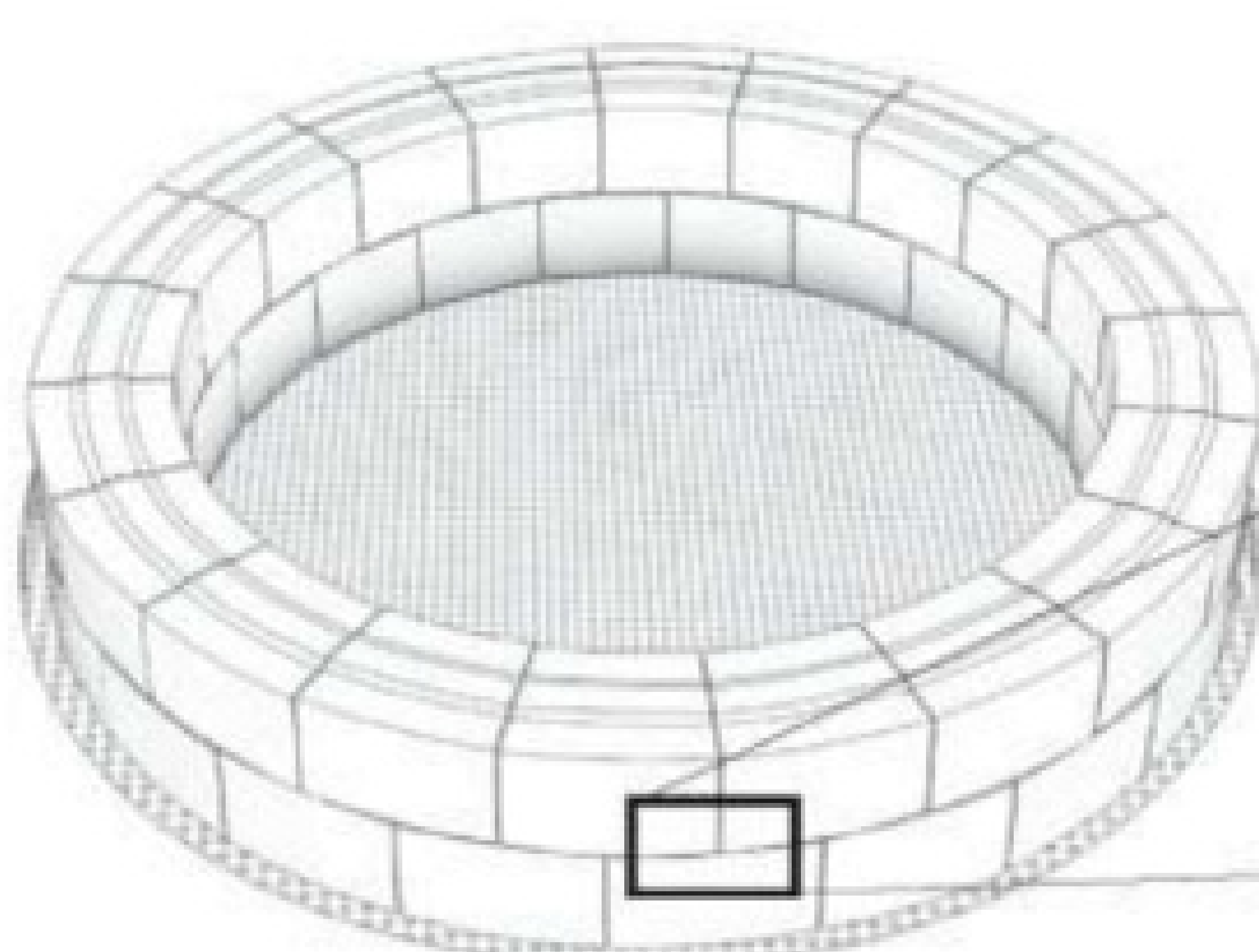
STEP 2



INSTALLING THE FIRST COURSE

Again using the centre spike and string, measure out 400mm for the inside radius. Place the first block with the 120mm end of the block face touching the end of the string. Continue around the circle using the same technique. Level each block front-to-back and side-to-side, using a spirit level, making sure that all blocks are level to each other. After placing all 20 blocks, adjust the circle to eliminate any gaps.

STEP 3

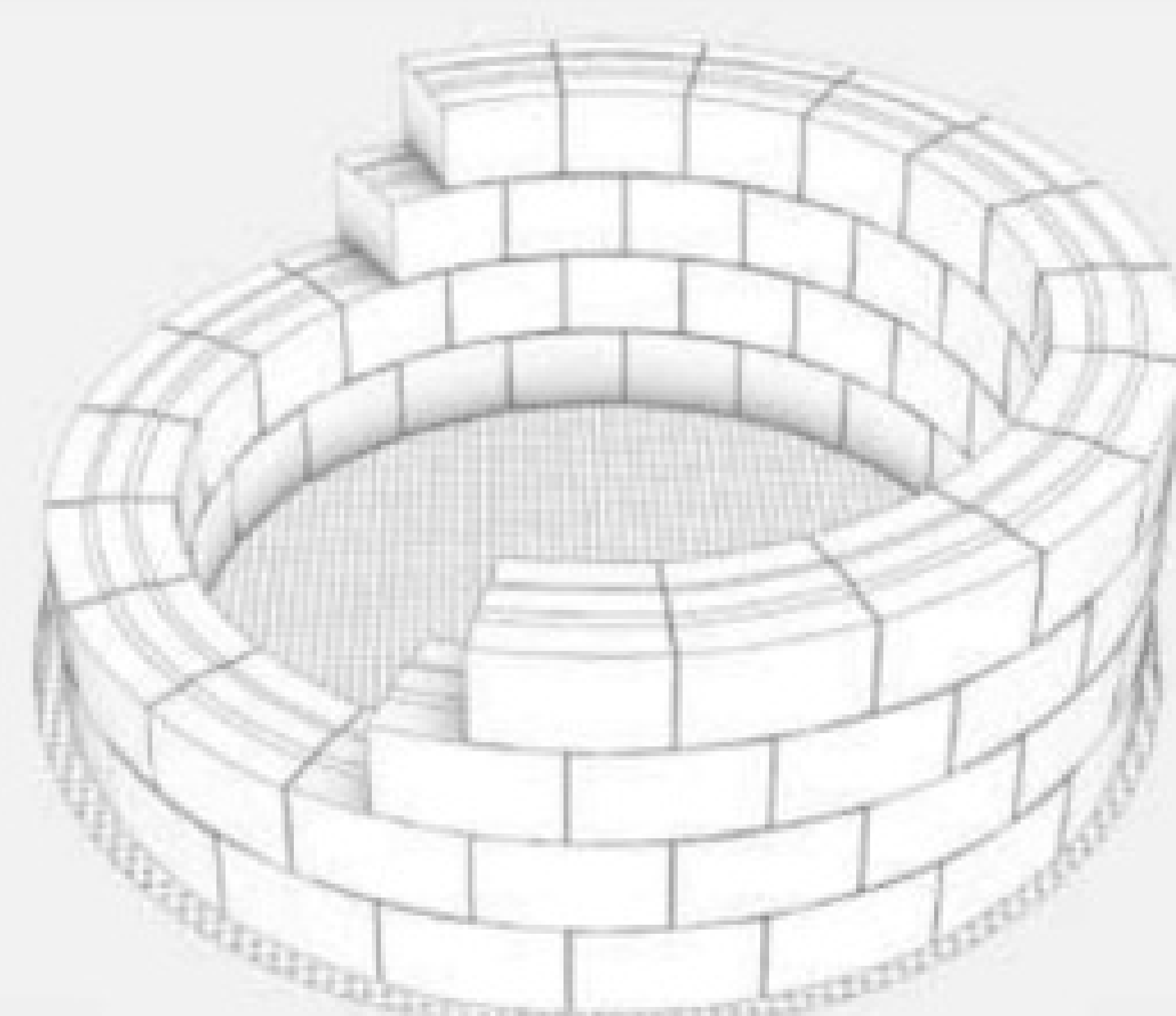


INSTALLING THE SECOND COURSE



Lay the second and further layers in a Stretcher Bond format as shown.

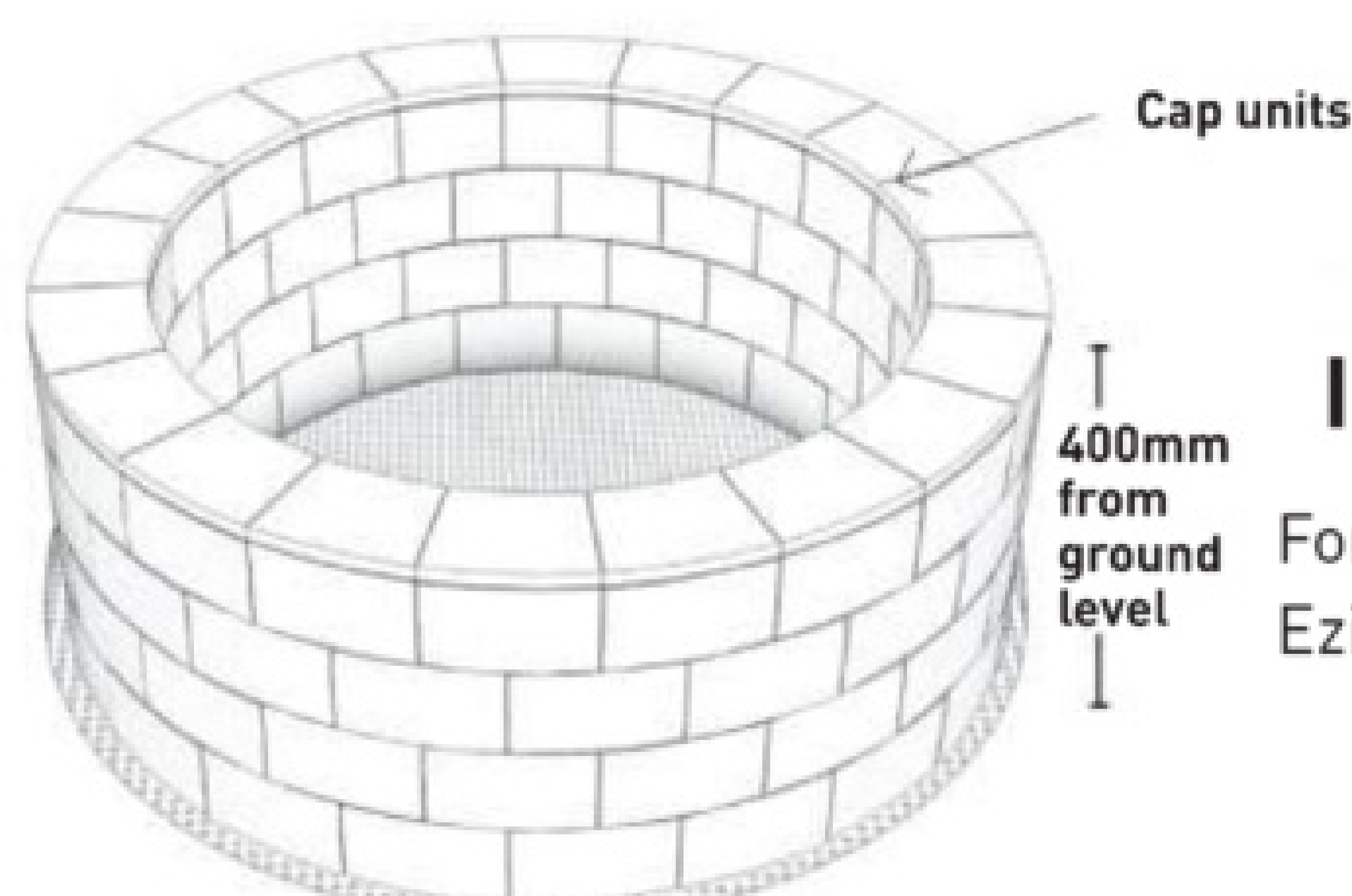
STEP 4



INSTALL ADDITIONAL COURSES

For raised planter or wishing well it's recommended to go 4 courses high. Insert a half wine barrel for a unique look.

STEP 5



INSTALL CAPS

For the last course use the Ezi Wall™ caps to finish off.



SCAN FOR AN INTRO
TO EZI WALL™

VISIT FIRTH.CO.NZ/EZIWALL FOR MORE



Now is a great time to finish off those interior projects that will make a huge impact on making over your home.

In this issue, we demonstrate how to create a feature wall with wallpaper, which will add wonderful texture, colour and warmth to any room in your home.

The transformation it can make to a room, like the one on our cover, is outstanding, and the cost and effort involved is really quite minimal.

While wallpaper used to be considered old-fashioned, new designs and easy-to-hang techniques have brought it right into the 21st century.

To add a further decorative touch to your interior, we show you easy-to-DIY bedheads and coat racks.

All of these projects give you enormous bang for your buck for an instantaneous facelift. So what are you waiting for?

Repairing old houses

I've lived in a few old houses and while they have a certain charm and character, they also come with a different set of renovation needs.

From leadlight windows to timber fretwork, wrought-iron lacework and tessellated tiling, these buildings and their materials require special skills.

New Zealand Handyman is here to help with repairs for these areas and inspiration for painting the facade.

We've searched out suggestions for traditional and modern colour schemes for terraced and weatherboard houses, as well as Californian bungalows. This special section starts on page 16.

Outdoor projects

As well as fixing up the exterior of your house, why not build wooden gates to create a dramatic entry to your drive?

Or if you'd like a permanent barrier between you and your neighbours, you could install a metal fence.

And, for extra security, you could also consider adding screens to your doors and windows.

You'll find inspiration and easy DIY instructions for these projects, and lots more, in this month's magazine. Enjoy the issue,


MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



Get creative in the bedroom with decorative wallpaper.

More inspiration

Are you planning on renovating your bedroom and need some more inspiration?

Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next DIY project.

Check out *Handyman* at pinterest.com/diyhandyman or scan this code with your phone.



Pinterest

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

When designing a new kitchen or renovating an old one, choosing appliances is half the fun, but you have to make sure they suit your needs and don't just look good.

For a stove that combines great style with superior function, it's hard to go past the Everdure

CBIE62 Induction Cooktop, \$699, featuring four induction zones so you can cook a variety of dishes at once.

Built from German Schott glass using electromagnetic vibration technology, it has an easy-to-clean surface and a child lock, making this cooktop ideal for a busy family.



September *issue*



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS L JONES
STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

This issue

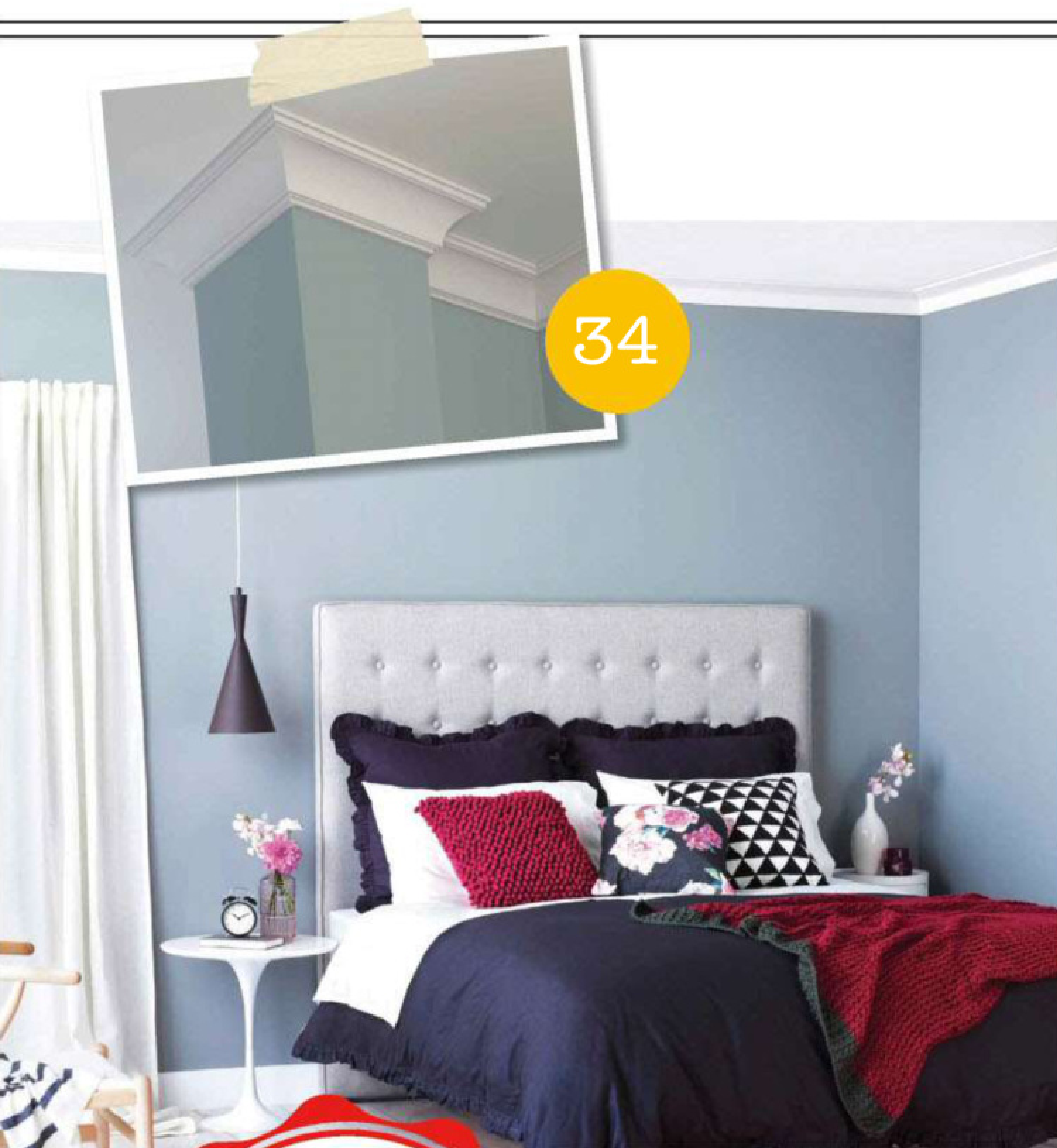
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Handyman

WE SHOW YOU HOW!

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HANDYSTUFF

Get yourself sorted and stay that way with these great wardrobe and laundry organisers

Organise your clothes so you can always find your favourite things.



Box it

Store toys, books, clothing and other bits and bobs in the Clever Cube Natural Storage Unit, about \$34. You can use it as a stand-alone container or as an insert with other Clever Cube storage systems. Measuring 350 x 320 x 320mm, it's made of woven polypropylene. handy-storage.co.nz

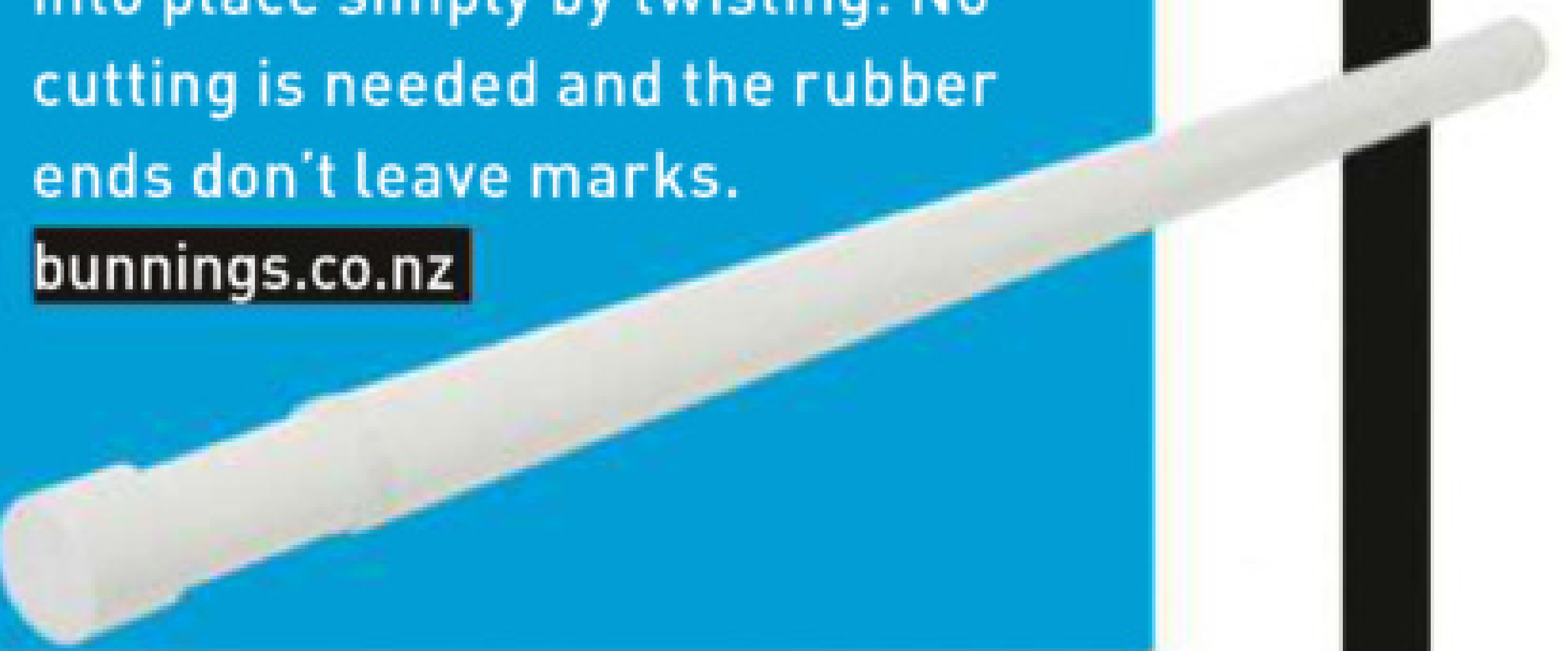
It's in the bag

Fit lots into a small area by keeping spare clothes, blankets, cushions and such things in an Award Space Saving Vacuum Bag, \$11. Simply tuck your items in the 850 x 550mm bag, then remove the air before sealing it. You'll reduce the amount of space needed by up to 80%. bunnings.co.nz

On the rail

Fitting clothes rods is made easy with the clever Italo Extendable Wardrobe Rail. Available in four sizes, from \$24, to suit the width of your wardrobe, the powdercoated steel rod locks into place simply by twisting. No cutting is needed and the rubber ends don't leave marks.

bunnings.co.nz



Tie up loose ends

Get the hang of organising with the LTW Classic Tie & Belt Hanger, \$5, from Bunnings. It measures 165 x 285mm and can hold up to 20 ties or belts. Chromed wires are slotted into an attractive beechwood centre panel. ➤





Sort the shoe collection to avoid staring at a messy stack.

Hang in there

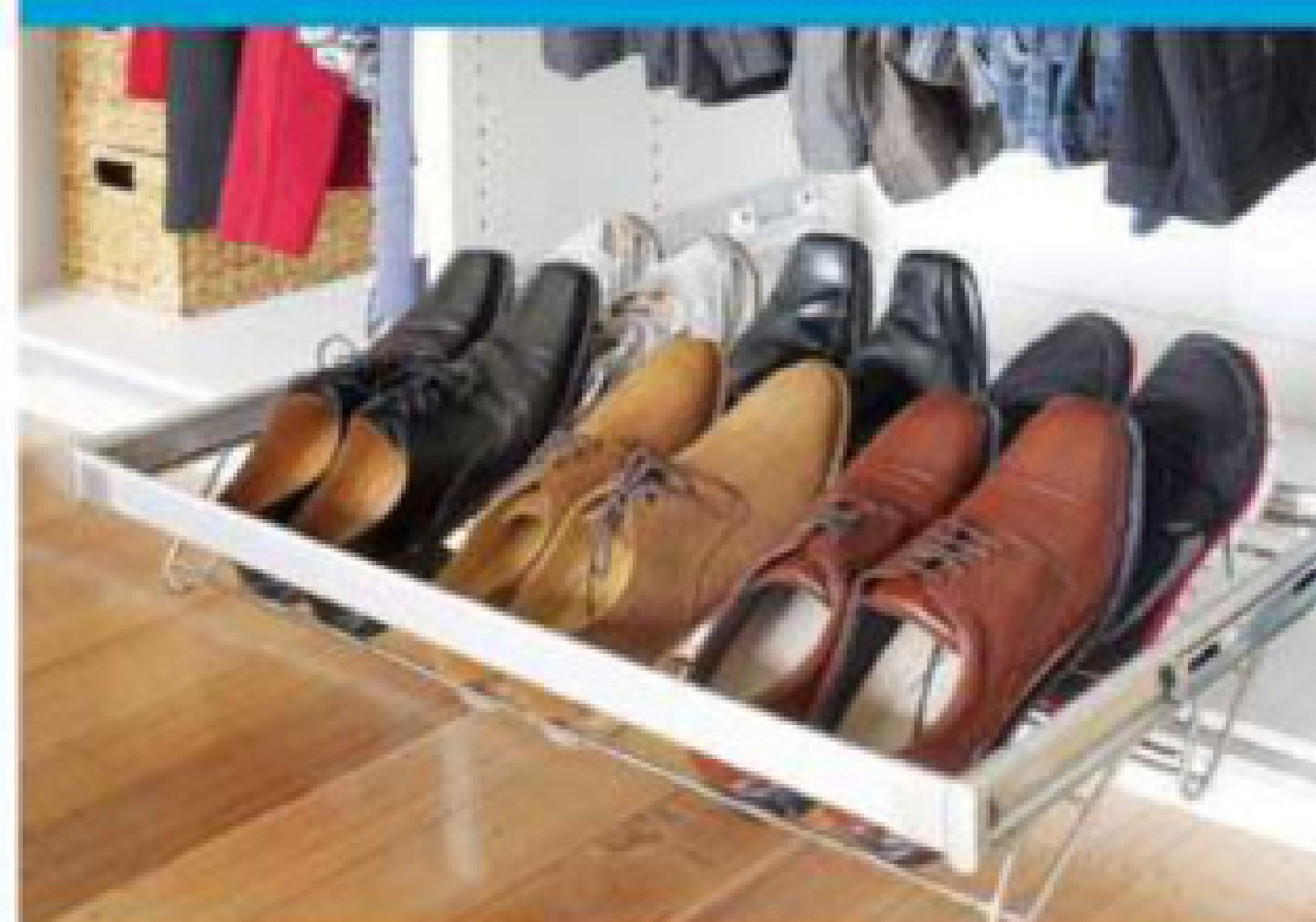
The trick to tucking more away in tight spaces is the Clever Closet Hanging Storage Organiser, \$18. At 300mm wide and 1170mm high, it hangs on the wardrobe clothes rail and has 32 angled compartments that keep clothes and shoes in place.

handy-storage.co.nz

Slide away

Keep your shoes tidy and easy to get at with the Flatpax Sliding Shoe Rack, \$212. The aluminium slide suits 900mm wide wardrobe cabinets and has full extension runners. This is the hassle-free solution to storing your footwear.

kaboodle.co.nz



Rack 'em up

Get your kicks together in one place with the Qiq Fix Three Tier Shoe Rack, \$59. It's 890mm wide x 620mm high and can hold 12 pairs of shoes. Made of silver powercoated metal rod, it's lightweight and easy to move around.

harknessyoung.co.nz



Sponge bag

Is it a bit too steamy in your closet? Take care of it with the Damp Rid Hanging Moisture Absorber, \$11. Hang the bag in your wardrobe to prevent mildew, mould or rot. It's effective for up to 60 days, depending on temperature and humidity.

bunnings.co.nz

Drying clothes is made easy with a clothes airer on castors.



Pluck out a peg

When you finally tire of scrabbling around trying to find a peg, get an LTW Peg Basket, \$10, from Bunnings. It holds dozens of pegs and hangs on the washing line. This means it will always be close at hand and save you all that bending down. Made of steel wire and polycoated for durability, it won't rust or fall apart.



All dried out

No need to fuss about the rain on laundry day if you have the LTW 42-Rail Clothes Airer, \$129. It rides on casters, so simply push it into position, put on the brakes and start hanging. It has three tiers of collapsible rails, giving a whopping 31m of drying area when fully extended.

bunnings.co.nz



Loads of washin'

If you have lots of washing, then you need the Willow Classique Laundry Hamper, \$48. It has a whopping 65L capacity and a handy two-way flip lid to keep the odd sock from falling out. Made from heavy-duty plastic, the surface is smoothed to prevent snags and tears on clothing.

eproducts.co.nz



Load up

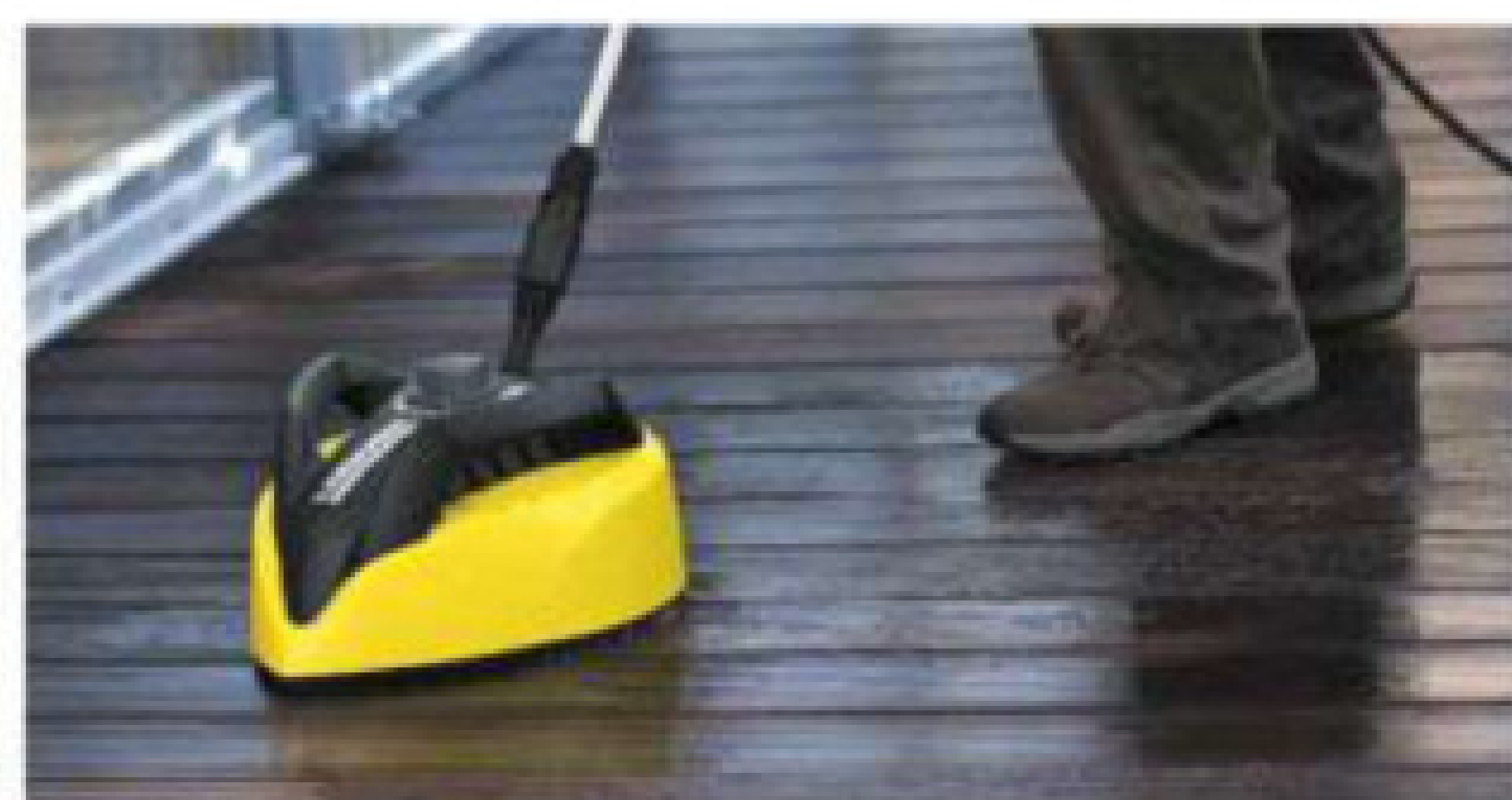
Fold your laundry straight off the washing line into the LTW Basket Trolley, \$90, from Bunnings. The lightweight powdercoated steel frame and two polycoated baskets make carting a full load to and from the washing machine a breeze. It'll also come in handy for moving other objects around the house.

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.

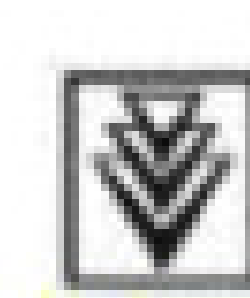
With the wide variety of Kärcher water blasting accessories that simply attach to your Kärcher water blaster, the cleaning applications are numerous and make for faster and more effective cleaning.

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.



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makes a difference

Fresh new ideas for Spring

There's nothing like a little spring in the air to make you want to get out and do something around your home and garden. So we've put together a brand new collection of products that will help you enjoy your new season's tasks.



JUST IMAGINE

When all the hard work's done, lie back and relax in resort style on the Mimosa Denarau Day Bed. Generously proportioned, it is made from hardwearing black resin wicker over an aluminium frame with comfortable UV treated polyester seat cushions and 4 throw pillows. 145W x 150D x 35/72H cm. \$797.

YOUR OWN TOUCH OF WONDERLAND

Create a romantic setting for two with the Marquee Alice 3 Piece Rustic Dining Setting. Uniquely designed, this iron framed table and two high-backed chairs has a distressed finish in antique white to make the perfect setting for a patio breakfast or sunset drinks. 80 x 73.5Hcm diameter. \$299.



COOK UP A FEAST

Use either gas or charcoal to create delicious meals for your family and friends on the Jumbuck 3 Burner Dual Fuel Hooded BBQ with cabinet. With a black powder-coated finish and stainless steel highlights and frame, it will give you a host of options for your outdoor entertaining this coming summer. \$549.



KEEP IT HANDY

Keep the Ozito 3.6 Volt Screw Driver on hand for all those quick jobs around the house. It is compact with a rotating handle that twists into one long drill to get into tricky spaces. It comes complete with 15 accessories, a docking station and two batteries. Amazing value at just \$39.95.



THE PERFECT ACCESSORY FOR OUTDOORS

Light up your whole garden with Lytworx 20 pack Solar Path Light Pack. Made in a simple stainless steel design, the 20 pack of lights require no wiring, are water resistant and charge themselves with sunlight during the day. Bulk value at just \$49.

SAVE TIME AND EFFORT

Make spring cleaning your bathroom easy with new 30 Seconds Spray & Walk Away Shower Cleaner. No more scrubbing or rubbing just spray and walk away. 1 litre pack just \$9.95.



AMAZING VALUE

The Ryobi 254mm Mitre Saw and Stand Combo features a powerful 2000W motor with Cam Lock Mitre Adjustment, Dust Tech™ Bag, Material Support Arms, Laser Cut Alignment and built-in LED Work Light. It also comes with a stand that really stacks up. It is ideal for all your home renovation projects with features you'd expect from a higher priced mitre saw and stand. Only \$399.



A CUT ABOVE

Powered by a 4.0Ah Lithium Battery, the Ryobi 36V Lawn Mower gives greater performance and up to 60 minutes runtime. It is packed with features such as ergonomically designed handles, wide 400mm cutting width, large 50L catcher and 5 cutting height adjustments from 20-70mm. 2 Year Warranty included. \$599.



CUSTOM BUILD YOUR TOOLBOX

The Ryobi Tool Blox Modular Storage System grows as your tool kit grows. Available exclusively at Bunnings, each component is fully compatible and clips together easily to stand on any level surface. It can also be wall mounted or loaded onto its braked roller base. With sturdy metal construction and secure lockable drawers, doors and cabinets, this system is another genius idea from Ryobi. From \$19.95 - \$499.



QUICK CHANGE

With spring showers on the horizon the LT Williams Freestanding Clothesline is ideal. It can be moved from outside to inside in a couple of shakes of a spring lamb's tail and folds flat when not in use. Made from tough galvanized powder-coated steel, and adjustable wire lines to prevent sagging, it takes a good size family load of washing and is big enough for sheets. Exclusive to Bunnings and just \$199.



GET PLUGGED INTO THE LATEST

With surge guards, USB ports, some with double spaced sockets, timers, co-axel TV sockets, indicator lights, long cords, short cords... or any number of combinations of each, all your electronic device needs are totally sorted with the Mort Bay Range of power boards. From \$19.98.

MAKE IRONING A TREAT

The Orbit is a complete ironing centre in one easy-to-maneuvre unit. Its world-first design includes a rotating caddy for water jug, coat hanger hooks and a leg locking device for easier storage. Other features include an anti-tangle cord compartment, large adjustable paddles on both sides of the board, for varying height options, angled wheels and protective foot caps for extra stability. The Agility and Elegance versions are also packed with features and all are built to last with a double-sided ironing board cover, heat resistant felt lining and are guaranteed for 3 years. Orbit \$99.98, Agility \$64, Elegance \$78.98.



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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 5th October 2014, or while stocks last.

Colour update

Give your home a modern makeover or traditional restoration with these exterior paint ideas

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH ILLUSTRATIONS STEPHEN POLLITT

New Zealand's inner cities and suburbs feature a mix of architectural styles dating back to the 19th century.

Renovating a period home can be tricky, but the quickest and easiest way to restore or update a classic older home is by painting the exterior.

We went in search of modern and traditional colour schemes for three styles of period homes.

Traditional colour scheme

For plaster and brick exteriors, neutrals and brown tones were the Edwardian colour scheme.

Sample colours that will enrich the traditional look of the Californian bungalow are Roasted, Wilderness and Pebble Bay from the PPG range (ppgpaints.co.nz).



TRADITIONAL



Californian bungalow

This style of housing became very popular in the early 20th century and represented an increasing influence of American culture on New Zealand society.

At one stage, these bungalows were imported in kitset form from the USA and Canada.

The cosy design is characterised by gabled roofs with overhanging eaves and a large verandah with prominent columns supporting the roof.

Front rooms sometimes feature bay windows with stained glass panels.

The architectural style overlapped with traditional Edwardian design and reached its peak of popularity during the 1930s. Thousands of the houses were built in inner-city areas as well as in developing suburbs. ➤



Modern colour scheme

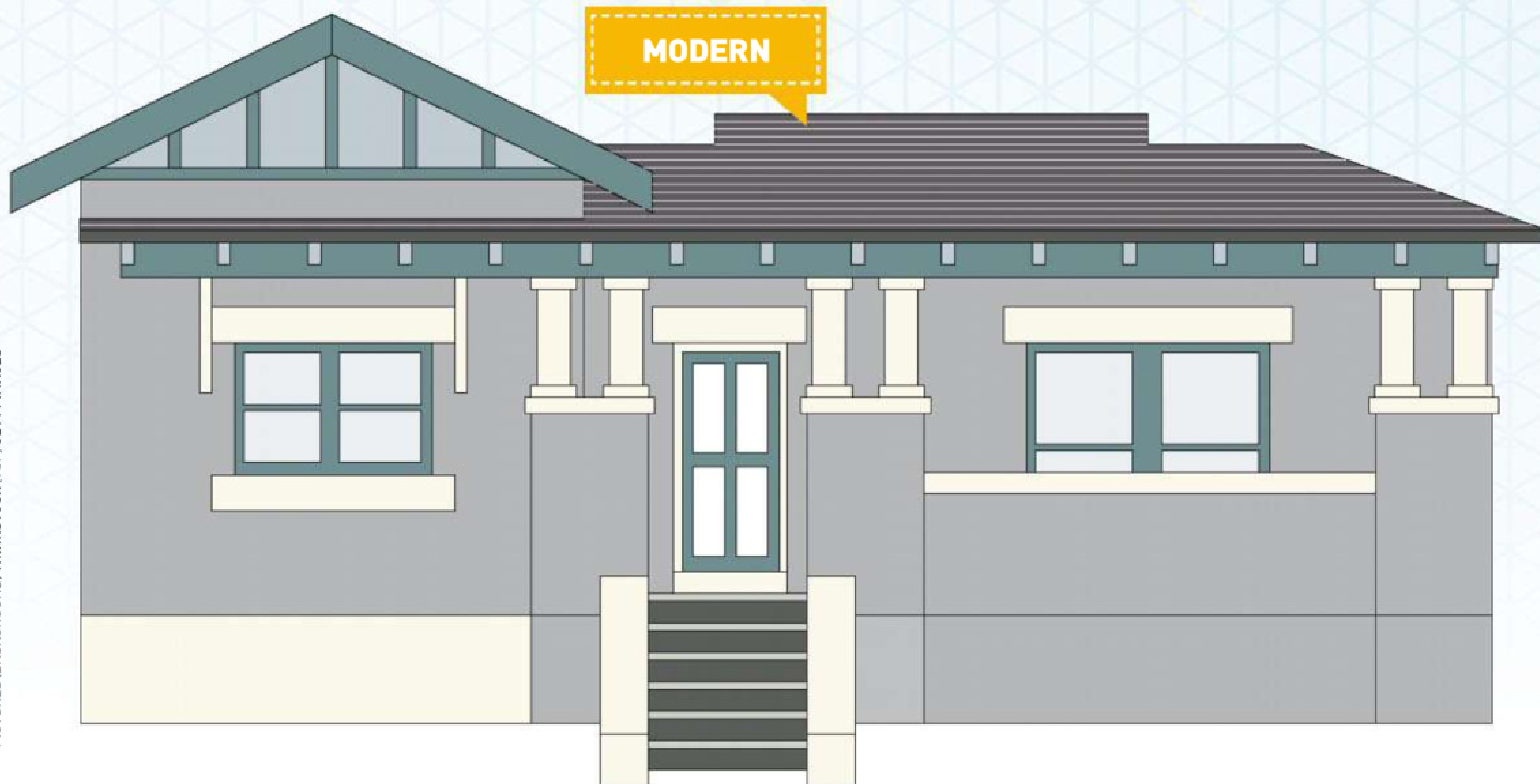
To create a new fresh look, paint the roof in dark grey and contrast this with white for the trim.

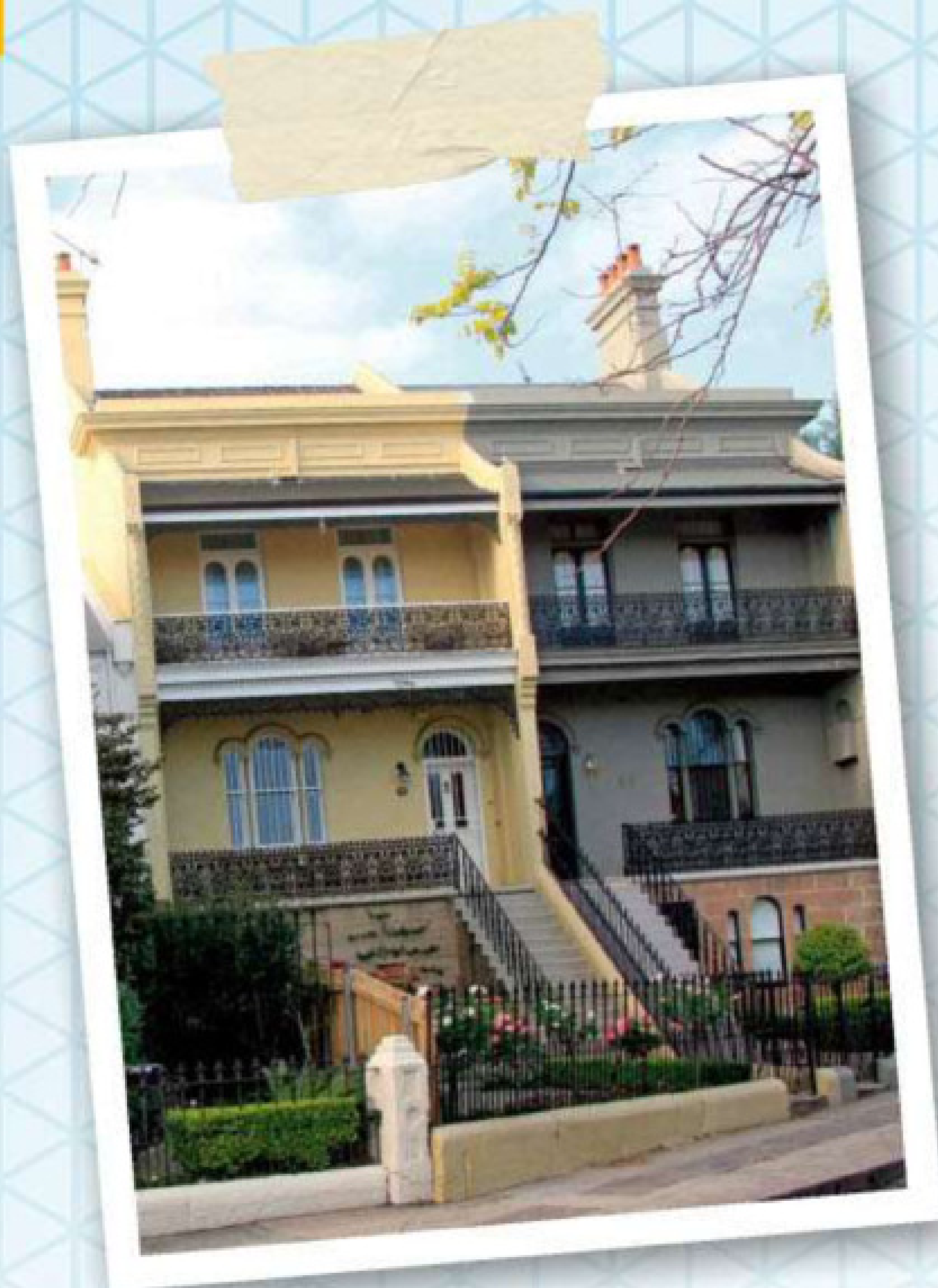
The accent of a deep teal-like colour on the gable is a modern version of the traditional green.

TIP Try Woodland Grey, Secret White and Old Time from PPG.



MODERN





Terrace

A reminder of New Zealand's links to Britain, terrace houses were first built here in the mid-19th century.

They were constructed using mainly bricks or stonework and were built for the emerging middle class.

As a result, they are characterised by ornate external embellishments such as iron lacework, plastered walls, and decorative brickwork. Gates and fences often include wrought iron spears, and stone or concrete piers.

The predecessors of today's townhouses, terraces are normally single, double or triple-storey buildings and usually built in rows of several dwellings. They are set close to the street and commonly feature timber verandahs and small gardens.

While many examples were demolished during the early 20th century, remaining terraces are now sometimes heritage listed and highly sought after in gentrified suburbs.

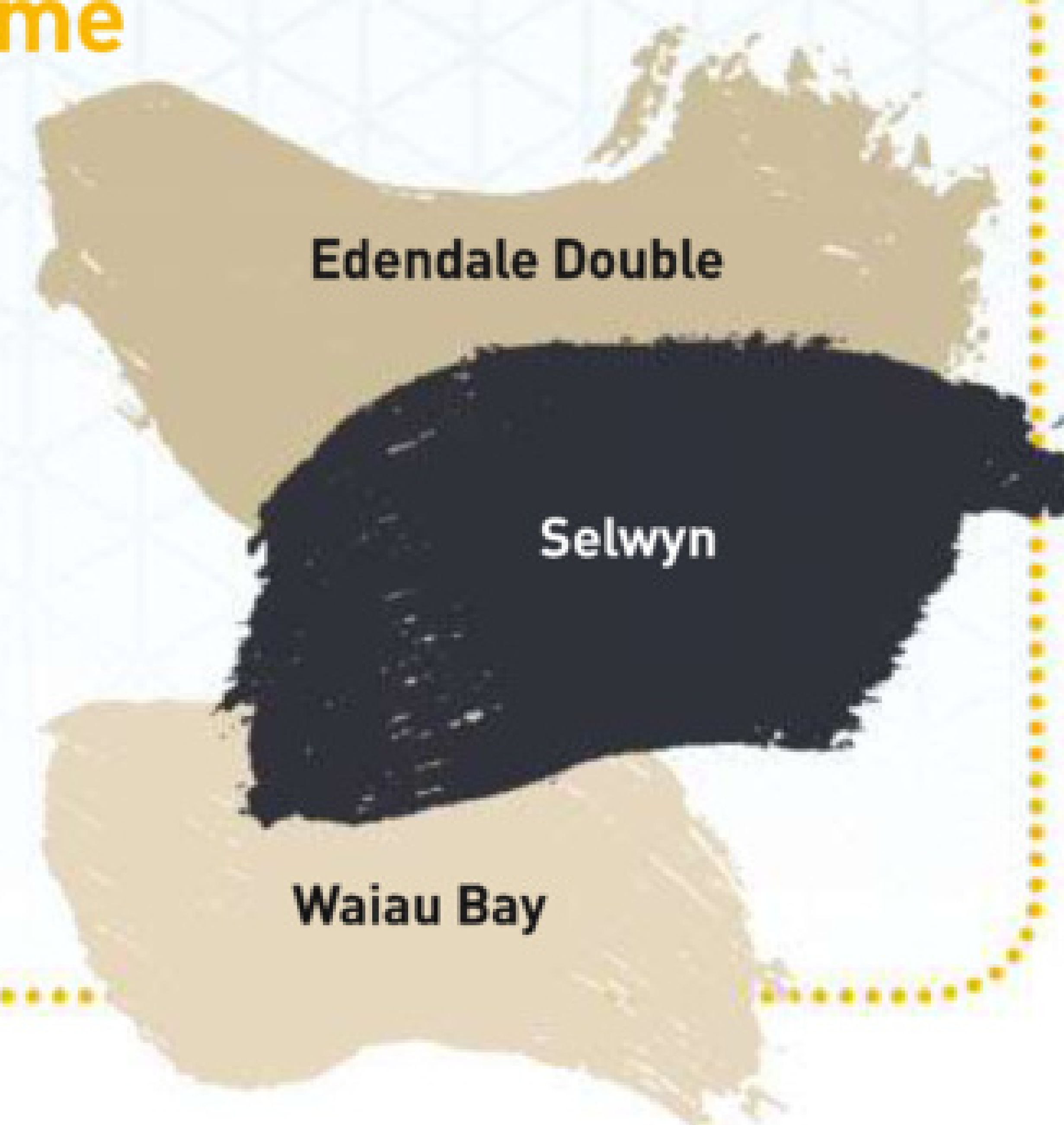


Traditional colour scheme

For a traditional style, choose a stone colour for the plastered walls, dark blue for the timber doors and white for the ironwork.

Sample colours are Edendale Double, Selwyn and Waiau Bay from the Dulux range (dulux.co.nz).

Selecting such colours from the traditional palette ensures you are keeping the house in the period of its construction era.





Modern colour scheme

To give your terrace an up-to-date look, try a dark grey for the walls, white for the wrought iron and black for the doors. This darker palette with a contrast automatically gives it a contemporary feeling.

When highlighted in white, the details will really stand out against the darker grey backdrop.

TIP Try Rawene, Waitoa Half and Blackwood Bay from Dulux. ➤



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Weatherboard

An economic downturn at the end of the 19th century was reflected in residential architecture with the use of more austere building materials and less ornamentation.

While brick was the material of choice for homes of the wealthy, inexpensive weatherboards were favoured among the working class.

As a result, weatherboard cottages were built in the areas where factory workers and labourers resided, particularly the inner city.

Weatherboard bungalows and villas also gained popularity during this Edwardian period.

They are less symmetrical than Victorian houses and often feature corrugated iron roofs and L-shaped verandahs with modest timber fretwork on support brackets.

In the early 20th century, this was the most common type of house in New Zealand. Today, they are very popular targets for DIY renovation or professional makeovers.



TRADITIONAL

Traditional colour scheme

Classic weatherboard cottages, villas and bungalows are part of New Zealand history, so choosing the right paint colours is important.

A contrasting colour scheme will stand out and look authentic. Try

white for the weatherboards, mid-blue for the trim and charcoal for the roof.

Sample colours to achieve this effect are Smiley White, Onyx Lustre and Glazed Blue from the British Paints range (britishpaints.co.nz).

Smiley White

Onyx Lustre

Glazed Blue

Love Note

White Beam

Poodle

Modern colour scheme

To give a weatherboard house a modern look, try two different shades of white. Opt for a lighter shade for the exterior walls and a darker shade for the roof. Stick with a mid-blue for the trim, then

add impact by selecting a bold and vibrant colour for the front door.

TIP Try Love Note, White Beam and Poodle from British Paints. For the front door, try Red Alert.

MODERN



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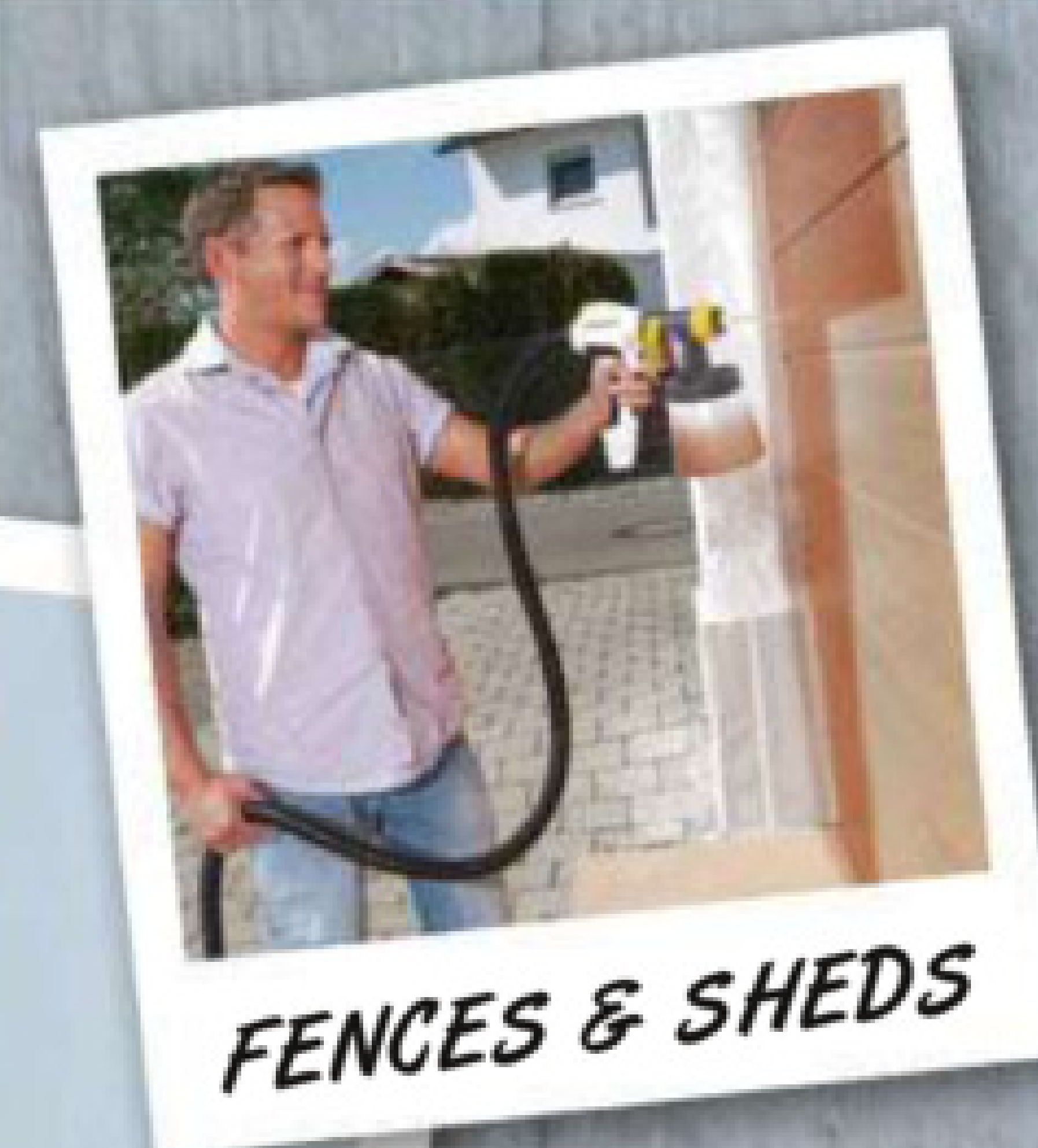
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Restore leadlight windows

Treat your precious stained glass panels with TLC to keep them in tiptop shape and shining bright

Glass has been around for thousands of years, with eastern Mediterranean cultures using silica, sand and ash to make it more than 3000 years ago.

They discovered that adding impurities such as metal oxides stained the glass a range of colours.

The Romans then began putting it into windows about 2000 years ago, giving rise to the stained glass window.

Over the last 1000 years, the making of windows from stained glass and leadlight has changed little.

Today, many glass studios offer tuition for the keen amateur.

Most stained glass and leadlight windows we see in New Zealand are those beautifully coloured and detailed ones in old residences.

STAINED GLASS is glass that has been treated with a stain, with 'yellow stain' being among the most common treatments. It is created by staining the surface of the glass with a silver nitrate solution. The glass is then fired in a kiln to produce a variety of colours from pale lemon to rich orange.

LEADLIGHT is a term used to describe a window panel with pieces of glass bound together with slender bars of lead commonly known as cames, solder and a special cement.

The Victorian era love of colour and detail made itself apparent in many forms. Decorative glasswork consisted largely of leadlight panels using stained or etched glass.

These became more elaborate at the end of the 19th century, with very

colourful and elaborate leadlights often fitted in front entrances of homes.

At night, the beautiful colours can be seen at their best, illuminated by soft indoor lighting and offering a warm welcome to any visitor.

By day, stained glass is best enjoyed from the inside, with sunlight streaming through the windows to bathe the room in colour.

Stained glass windows can also be painted with vitreous paints made up of a black or brown pigment. These are mixed with powdered glass and gum, along with iron or copper oxide.

These paints are typically thinly applied and used to create decorative motifs or the scenes depicted in church windows. The panes are then fired to fuse the paintwork to the glass. ➤



Many old houses were built with colourful leadlight windows as a decorative feature.

PICTURE ALAMY

Cut the glass

To repair leadlights, new glass will need to be cut safely and accurately. You'll require a glass-cutter and glass square, or a non-slip ruler, for this job.

An oil-filled, wheeled glass cutter costs about \$70, and this will have you cutting accurately in no time.

When working with glass, wear goggles and keep your workspace free from glass splinters and dust.

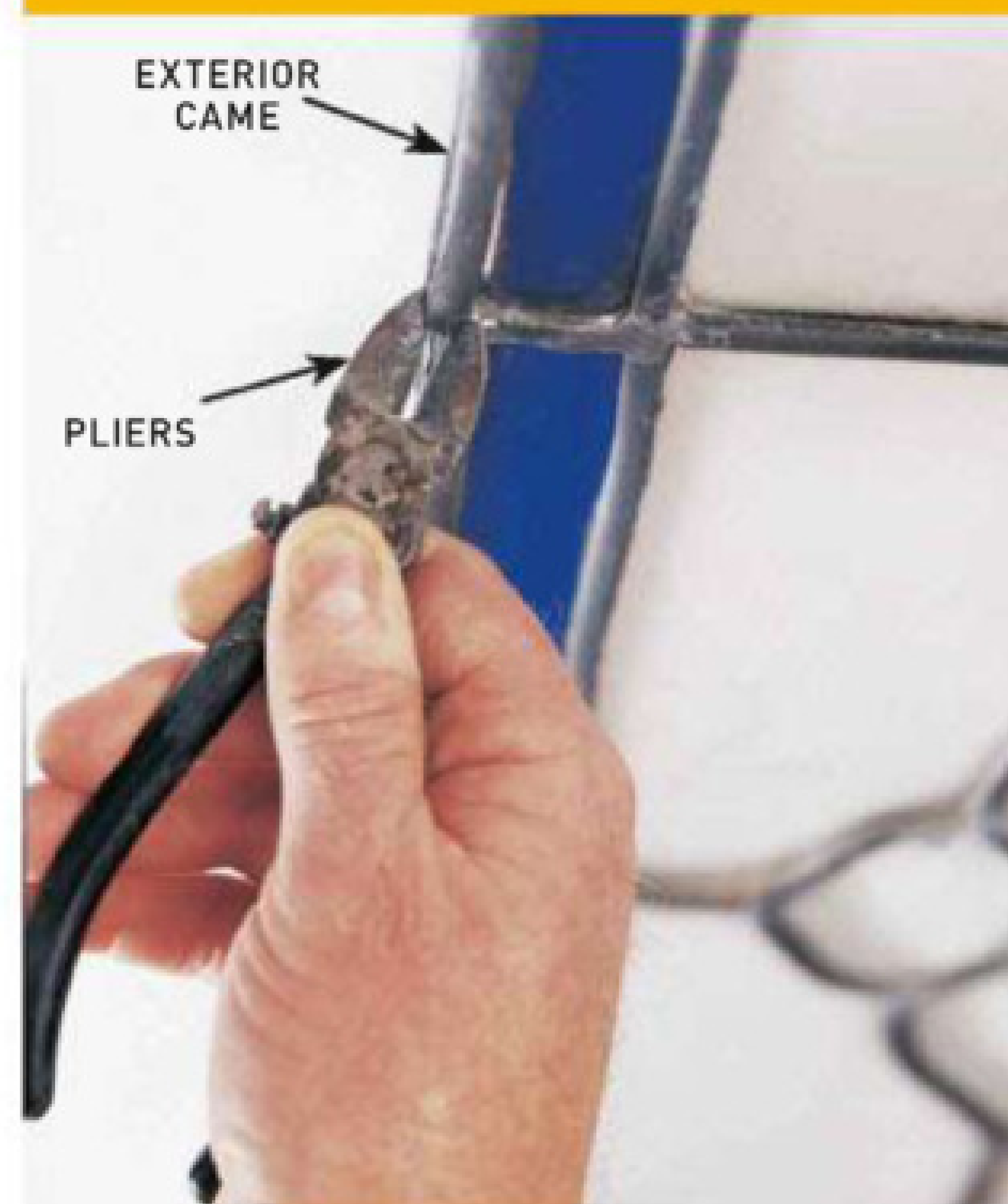
Start with the cutter about 3mm from the edge opposite you. If you start on the edge, it may run forward and chip the glass. Draw it slowly towards you with a firm, even pressure until a line is scored the full width of the glass.

It takes practice to get the pressure just right. Too much and the cutter will dull quickly, not enough and the glass won't be scored correctly and will break unevenly as a result.

When glass is being scored correctly, it will hiss slightly as the cutter is drawn across the surface.



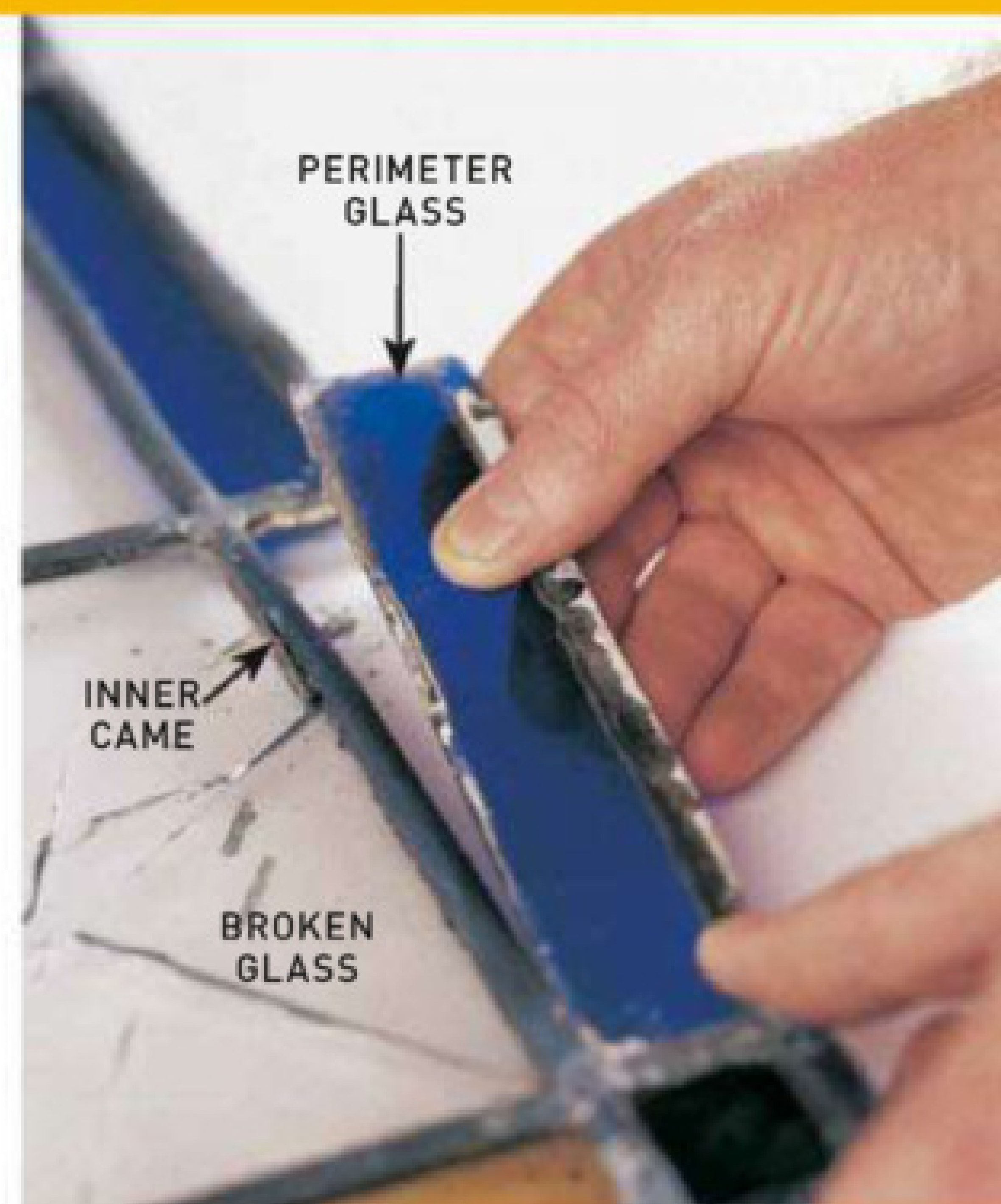
Install new glass and comes ▼



1 Cut out the lead comes

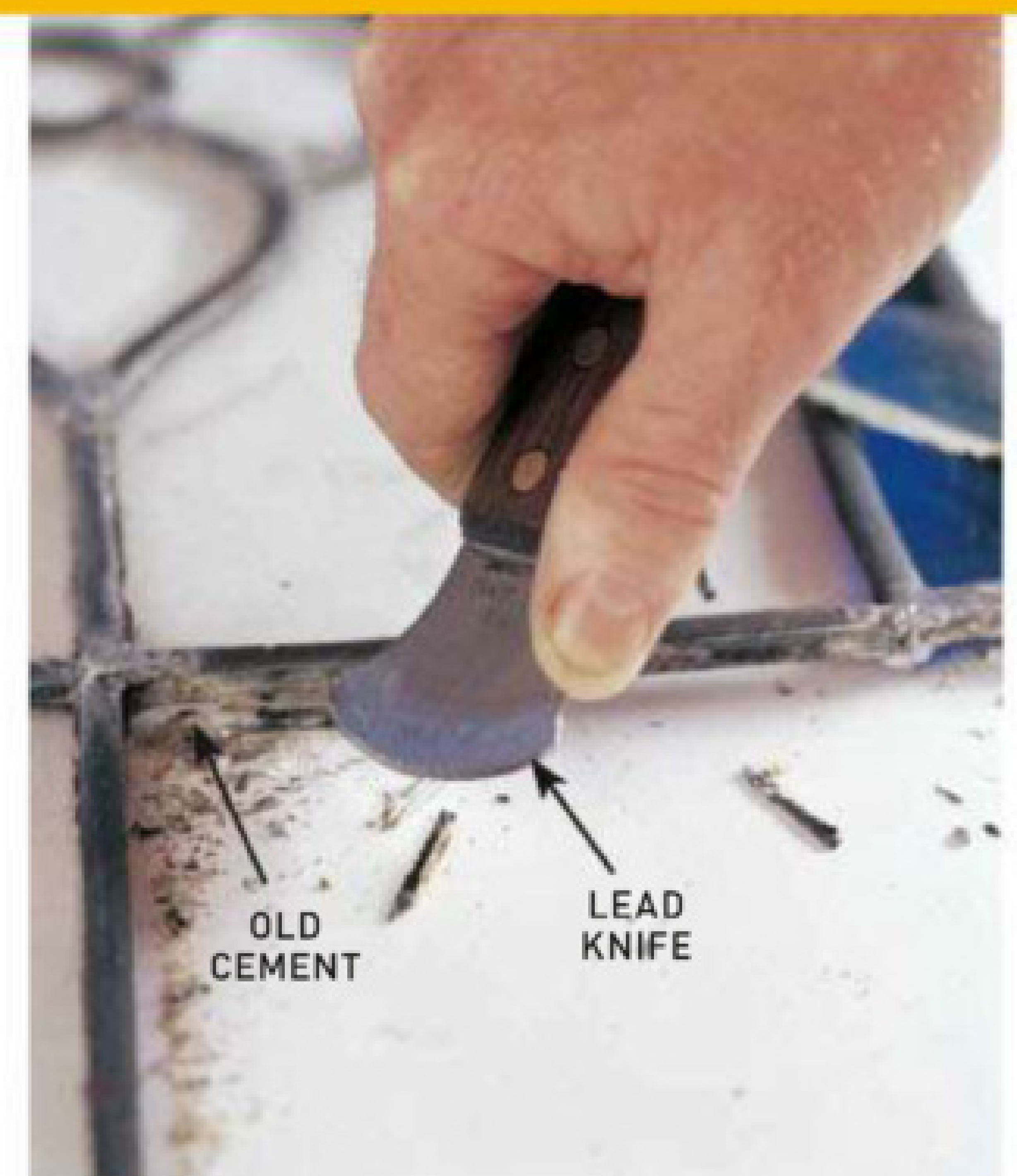
Using side-cutting pliers, snip the lead came at the soldered joints at each end of the section containing the broken glass. Carefully pull off the exterior piece of came.

TIP Try to retain the damaged piece as a template for cutting the new glass.



2 Take out the glass

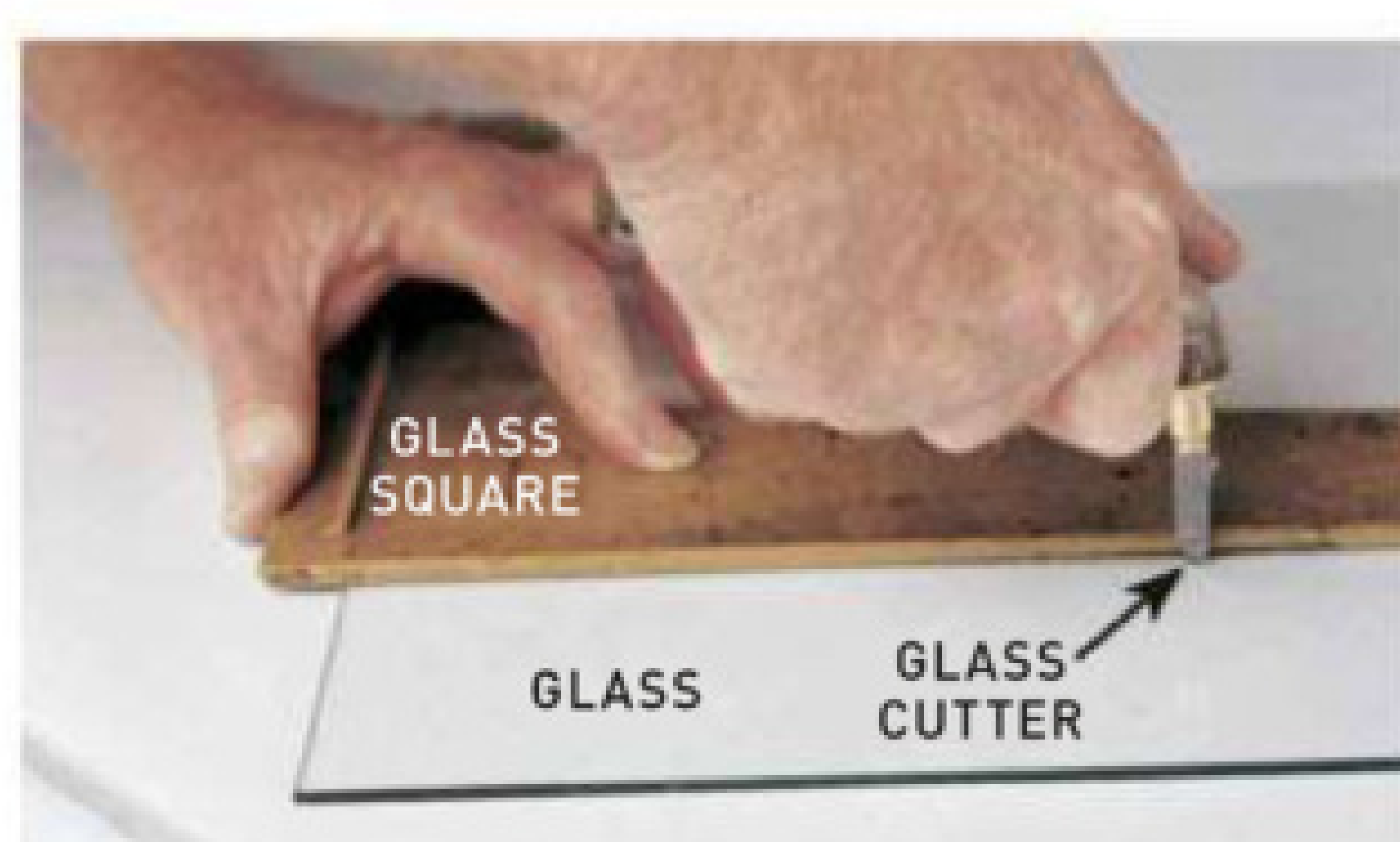
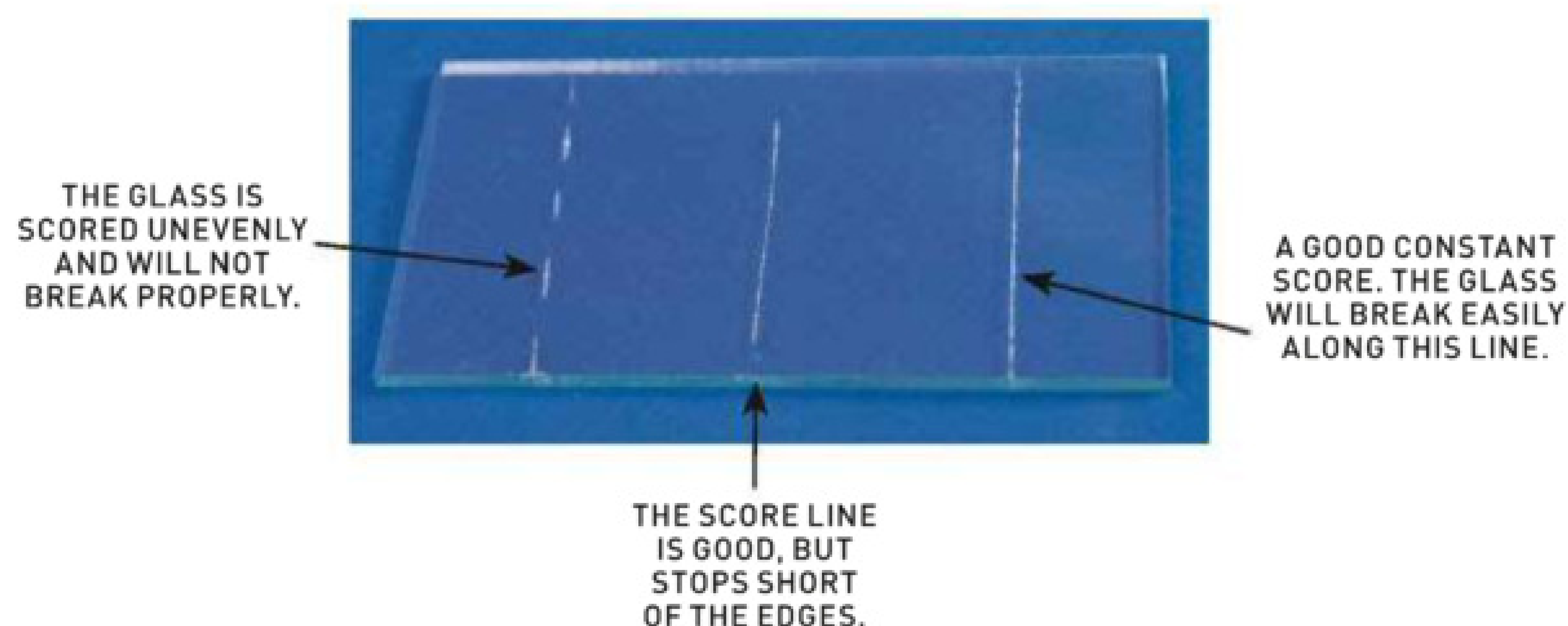
Carefully remove the perimeter piece of glass from the window frame, setting it aside to use again when replacing the glass. Cut out the piece of inner lead came at the soldered joints at each end using side-cutting pliers.



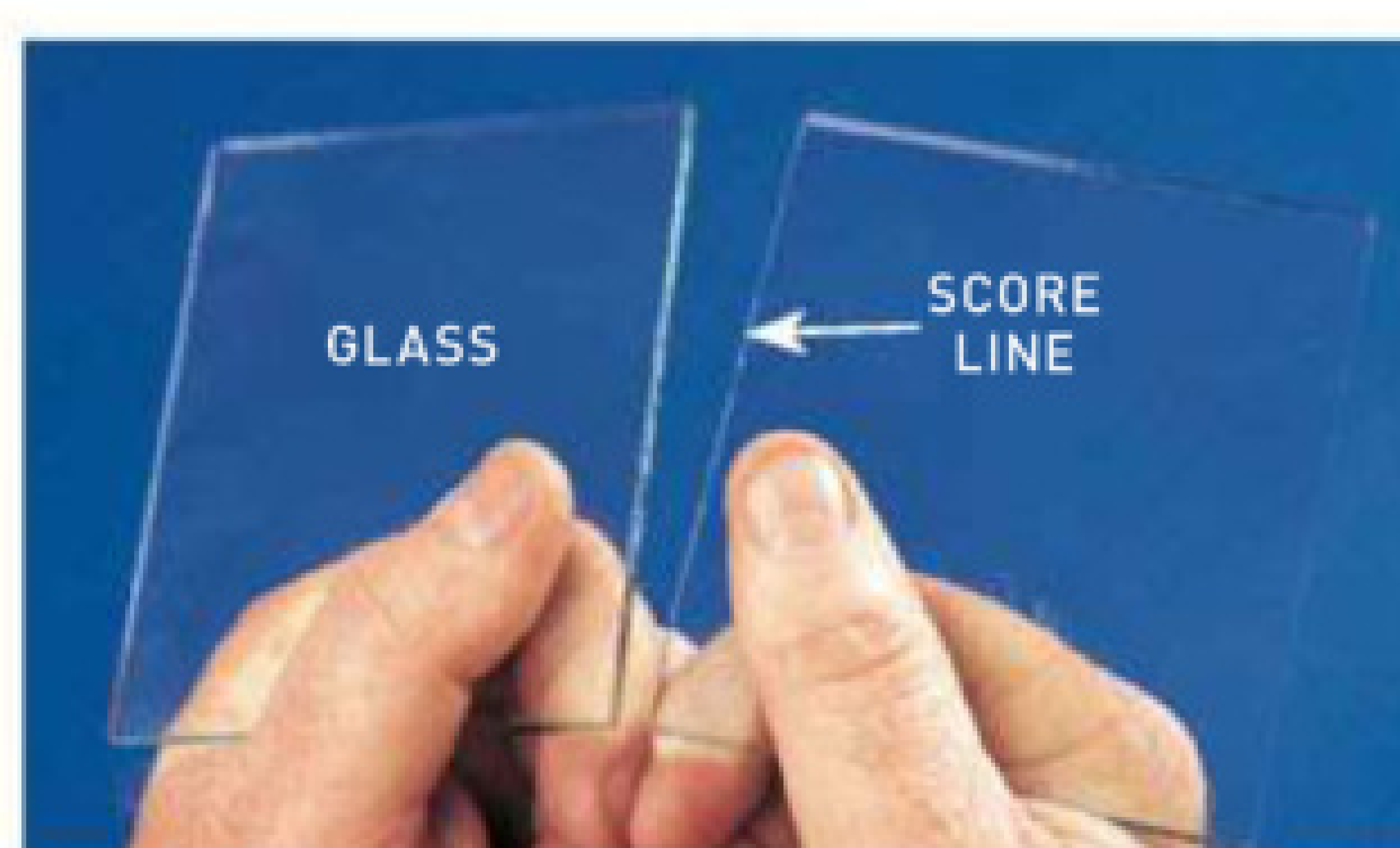
3 Clean the lead comes

Gently knock out all the broken glass from the section, taking care you don't cut yourself. To clean the came, remove all the old cement and the shards of glass from around the lead comes using a lead knife or small flat drive screwdriver.

THE RIGHT CUT



1 HOLD THE CUTTER perpendicular to the glass. Starting about 3mm from the edge of the glass, draw the cutter towards you with a firm, even pressure.



2 GRASP THE GLASS at each side of the score line, then roll your wrists and press down with your thumbs. A quick snap should give two even pieces.

Removing a pane

When you are removing the putty and glazing bead from the frame to release the glass, you need to proceed very carefully.

If you're removing putty, chip it gently from the frame using an old chisel and a hammer. Don't use a heat gun or you may damage the surrounding paintwork.

Use long-nose pliers to remove any nails in the rebate holding the window in the frame.

Expose the leadlight and move it to a clean, flat surface.

To remove the broken piece or pieces, work from the outside of the leadlight to the inside by gently snipping out the lead comes around the broken piece.

If the broken piece is in the middle of the leadlight, remove the pieces between the damaged piece and the perimeter.



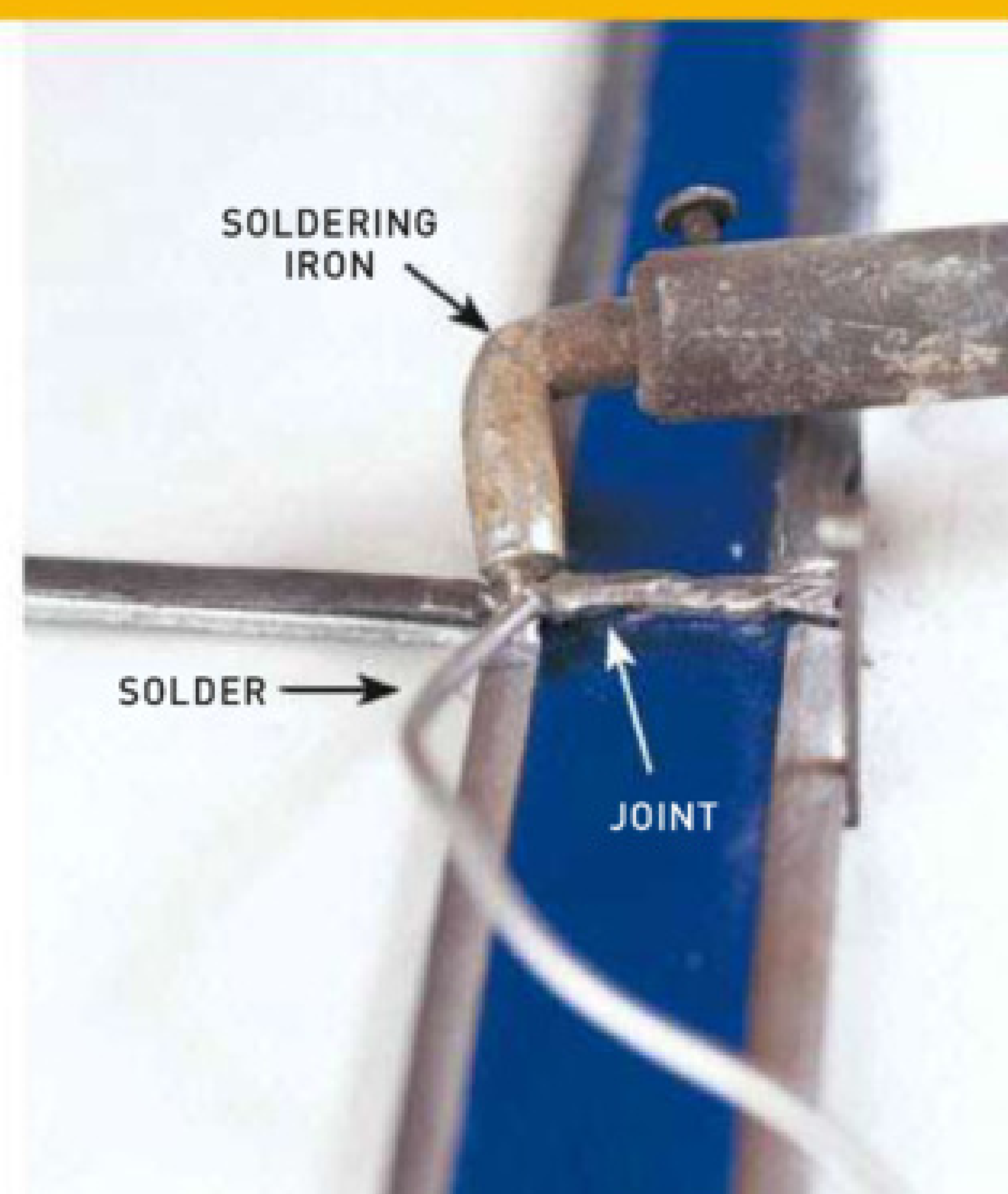
4 Replace the glass

Cut a piece of glass to size, then carefully slide it into the lead comes. Cut and fit a new piece of interior lead, butting it tightly against the glass. Replace the perimeter piece of glass, then cut another piece of lead and butt it tightly against the glass.



5 Polish the metal

Use a nail to hold the exterior came in position, then rub the joints to a shiny finish with a wire brush. To clean and etch the metal, apply solder flux, available from leadlight suppliers, to the joints to be soldered using a small paintbrush.



6 Solder the joints

Melt the solder on the tip of the preheated soldering iron. Touch the tip of the iron onto the fluxed joint, then lift the iron slightly and add solder, as required. When cool, clean around the joint with a soft cloth to remove any flux residue. ➤

Finish the panes

After replacing a broken pane with new glass and soldering new lead comes, you need to strengthen and waterproof the window frame.

This is a very messy job, so wear a mask, rubber gloves and coveralls.

The cement that is used on the comes is impregnated with carbon black, a fine powder that gets into everything and is hard to remove. You'll also need putty whiting.

TIP These products are available from stained glass and leadlight product suppliers, such as leadlight.co.nz.



3M N95 Particulate Respirator, about \$11. 3m.co.nz



Cement and polish the comes ▼



1 Apply the cement

Roll a little cement in your palm, knead it until soft, then push it under the came leaves on each side. Scrape off the excess with a flat drive screwdriver. Sprinkle putty whiting onto the glass, which helps dry the cement and remove any residue.



2 Work in the whiting

Gently rub the putty whiting over the cemented area using a brush with medium-stiff bristles. Wipe off the excess and let it cure for 12 hours. Rub a little black stove polish on the comes, avoiding getting any on the glass, then leave it to dry for 20 minutes.



3 Buff the lead comes

Using a soft-bristled brush, about as stiff as a shoe brush, buff the lead comes until you achieve a satin finish. Continue buffing using a clean, soft cloth for a finer polish. The more you buff, the better the result will be. ➤

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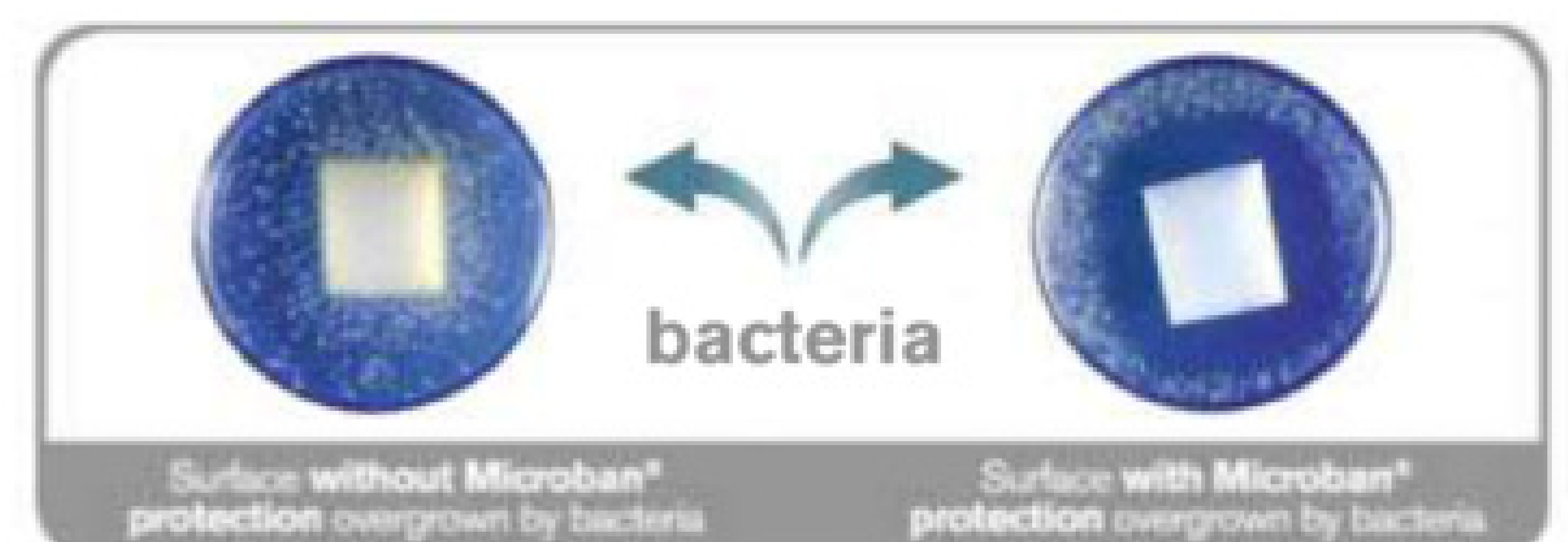


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Entrance door reno

When *Handyman* contributor Rachel Smith bought her house, she asked leadlighting expert Ray Barlow to give her front door a revamp with new leadlight windows.

There was space for three windows, consisting of a main panel and two small squares. Ray drew the design to the actual size, then taped it to the window to choose the colours.

To make the glass panels, Ray cut the coloured pieces to size for each section, then assembled them using lead came that he soldered together.

Once the leadlight had been buffed to a shiny finish, the old windows were removed and new ones installed, with the inlay mouldings replaced as well. To finish, the door was given a glossy coat of water-based enamel.



TradeFlame Handyman Soldering Torch Kit, \$88. pandn.co.nz



SOLDERING

The window's colours were carefully chosen before any glass was cut.

Painting the door

The entrance to your home is the first thing visitors see, and faded, peeling paint along with cracked, dated leadlight windows were making a bad first impression.

The first step is to remove the old inlay mouldings and stained glass, then strip and undercoat the door before installing the new leadlight windows.

Finish by painting the door using a water-based enamel, which helps seal the leadlights. Choose a vibrant colour that complements your home's decor while adding a modern twist.



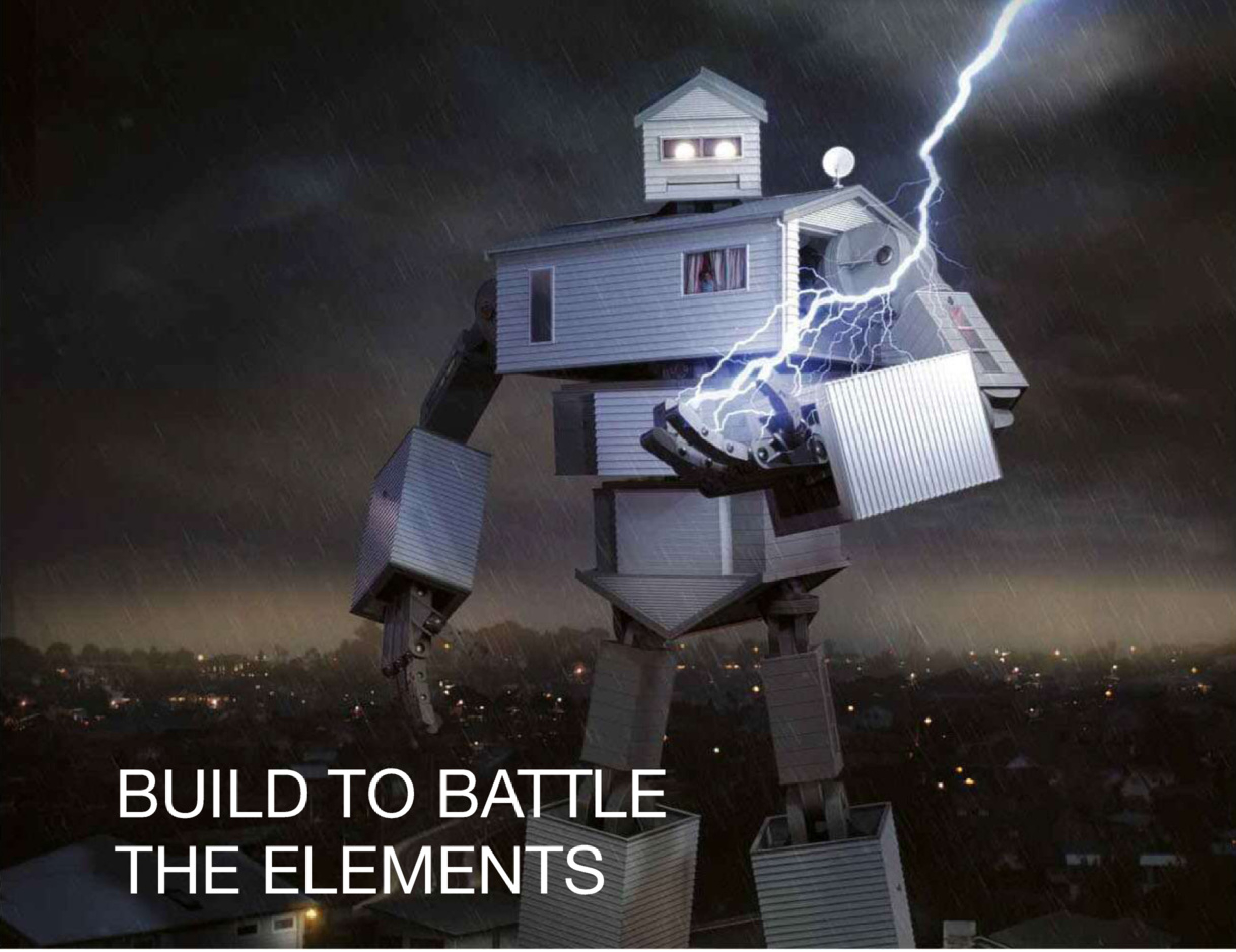
Before

Peeling paint and dated leadlight windows made an unwelcoming impression.



After

Each morning, the hallway is flooded with colourful streams of light.



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Maintain a period home

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WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Restoring the decorative details of an old home is just as important as maintaining the structural elements of the building.

Decorative timber, tiling and metalwork help define the style of a home and add character. A lovingly maintained period home will always continue to increase in value.

Timber fretwork is a design element often seen on bungalows and villas. It usually consists of decorative brackets or panels underneath verandah roofs.

Cleaning and repainting fretwork regularly will ensure it lasts for decades. If the timber begins to rot, the fretwork will need replacing.

Simple designs can be reproduced with a scroll saw, but if the original is prohibitively intricate, then use a store-bought replacement instead.



Decorative Fretwork Ply Corner Bracket, 570 x 363mm, about \$56, from Bunnings.



Intricate fretwork can be supplied by a specialist and installed DIY.

PICTURE (MAIN) GETTY IMAGES

Tessellated tile floors

In this tiling method, small squares, blocks or triangles are arranged in chequered or mosaic patterns.

This technique was first used by Cistercian monks in the 12th century, who made earthenware tiles. It was a common feature on homes built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The tiles are quite plain on their own, but add vibrant colour when laid out in geometric patterns.

MATCH new tiles to old tiles by removing the damaged tile and taking it to a supplier.

LAY new tiles in less visible areas. Remove tiles from out-of-the-way spots to replace prominent ones.

REPLACE a damaged screed base by mixing four parts sand with one part cement, then add water to bind the mix without making it wet. Trowel into the area and level off.

Repairing tiling

Tessellated tile floors were often laid on a rubble base, which is relatively unstable and can cause tiles to subside, becoming cracked, uneven and loose.



1 REMOVE BROKEN TILES using a cold chisel and mallet, without damaging the base material or other tiles. Remove debris from the sides and corners of tiles with a scraper.



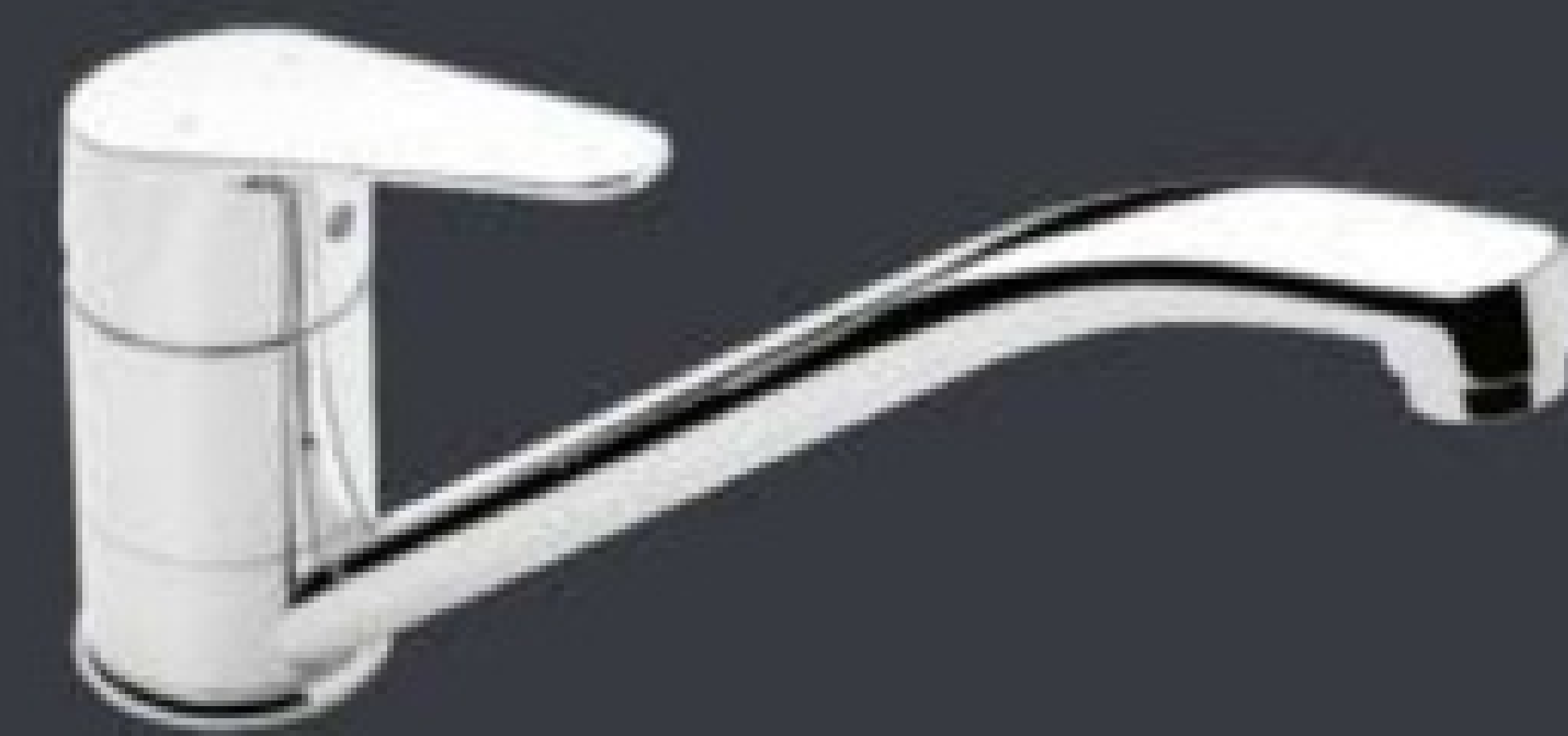
2 ROUGHEN THE BASE with a cold chisel, then vacuum out debris and dust. Use an offcut to apply tile adhesive to a narrow space or a notched trowel for a larger area.



3 LAY THE NEW TILES in position without pressing too hard, gently tapping them with a rubber mallet, if necessary. Wipe away any excess adhesive with a damp cloth. ➤

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Wrought iron lacework

Ornate ironwork is a feature found on many older properties, especially those dating from the Victorian era.

Restoring it can totally transform the look of the house, as well as help protect the metal to prevent rust.

Often, all it takes to improve the condition of ironwork is a good clean. Spider webs, dirt and road grime can all be removed with a stiff-bristled brush and soapy water.

Over time, paint can flake from wrought iron, leaving it looking shabby and devaluing your home.

The best way to restore flaking ironwork is to strip off as much paint as possible, then apply a rust converter and repaint the surface.



White Knight Rust Converter, \$30 for 500ml. whiteknightpaints.co.nz



Painting ornate metalwork instantly enhances the appearance of a house.

Restoring ironwork

When revamping wrought iron, removing paint from detailed areas is essential. Old metal often has multiple layers of paint that obscure the details and create an uneven surface. Dispose of any paint scrapings carefully, as they may contain lead.



1 APPLY PAINT STRIPPER, then cover it with a plastic sheet and leave for half an hour. Scrub with a wire brush dipped in water to remove the paint layers. Clean with soapy water.



2 REMOVE REMAINING PAINT and flaky rust with an angle grinder fitted with a wire cup brush. Wipe the surface with methylated spirits to remove residue.
TIP Use a flat wire wheel for tight spots.



3 APPLY RUST CONVERTER to the remaining rust, then two coats of rust-proofing primer. Allow to dry, then apply two coats of exterior enamel paint. Leave to dry.

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DIGGERS

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Add character with a cornice

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Great for a kid's room, a cornice gives you a chance to introduce more colour.



The word 'cornice' conjures up an elegant period property.

And in the late 1800s, it could take sculptors and masons months or years to handcraft these works of art.

With the industrial revolution, came the discovery of moulds and concrete, which meant that cornices could be mass-produced.

So today, whether your home is old or modern, it's fairly inexpensive to install this decorative feature.

GIB produces a variety of cornice profiles for home decor (gib.co.nz). ➤

The finishing touch

A simple, yet often overlooked, way to give a room architectural or designer flair when it comes to renovating is to install cornicing.

Cornices add decorative detail and enhance the aesthetic appeal of a room, with styles ranging from art deco, plain and heritage charm to a modern slick look.

They provide the perfect finishing touch when balanced with the room's decor and interior design features.

So when it's time to fill the gap between the wall and ceiling, first consider the desired look you want to achieve with a room.

Now simply select the cornice that suits the decor from the range of profiles available.



GIB Cove Bond 45 Plaster Based Adhesive, \$26 for 20kg.



A cornice with clean lines is ideal for a simple bedroom setting.

Putting up the cornice

In this room, the damaged and outdated cornicing was removed and the pieces were used as templates to measure up the required lengths of new cornice. It was installed DIY using cornice adhesive.



1 CUT THE CORNICE by measuring the old cornice and marking the new pieces to cut them to length. For an internal corner mitre, position the cornice upside down in a mitre box and cut with a handsaw.



2 APPLY THE ADHESIVE by mixing it in a bucket until it is a creamy consistency, then use a steel trowel or float to apply it to both back edges of each length of cornice, finishing at a depth of about 20mm.



3 SECURE THE CORNICE by lifting each length into position. Press firmly and fill the joints with adhesive. Use a spatula or putty knife to scrape the adhesive from the joints, then wipe away any excess with a damp cloth.

After

Mason's room has been styled to reflect his love of comics and skateboarding.



Room reno

On moving into their dream home, Katie Vagg and her partner Ben Spry found that they needed an extra bedroom. With three kids under 10, they hoped each child could grow up with their own space.

The solution was to divide the timber-panelled family room to create two separate bedrooms for their two oldest children, Mason and Tayah.

Katie and Ben used plasterboard walls with Alto cornices, transforming one awkward room into two functional bedrooms that reflect each child's personality.

Tayah's room features a built-in wardrobe and desk, while Mason's room includes a chalkboard wall and unique storage ideas.

Get more online

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz for our Guide To Plasterboard.



Before



After

Tayah's room includes a built-in desk for writing, drawing and colouring.



TIME 4 HOURS
SKILL BASIC

DIY \$150

TOOLS UTILITY BLADE,
SPIRIT LEVEL, BROAD
KNIFE, ROLLER

Picking a pattern

Wallpaper patterns reflect the personality of the room's owner.

When choosing a design, take your time and hang up samples to see if you can live with the pattern.

Trend-wise, dull paisley designs are out while bold shapes and

botanical patterns are in. For a subtle effect, choose a small geometric design and for more impact, go with a larger pattern.

For a modern take on a classic style, we've used a metallic damask pattern in this bedroom.

On the wall

Use the latest generation of easy-to-put-up wallpaper to give a room an instant facelift

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ MAIN PICTURES CHRIS L JONES

The true test of a marriage, it's been said, is whether a couple can survive hanging wallpaper together. But with the new generation of easy-to-apply products available, your relationship is now safe!

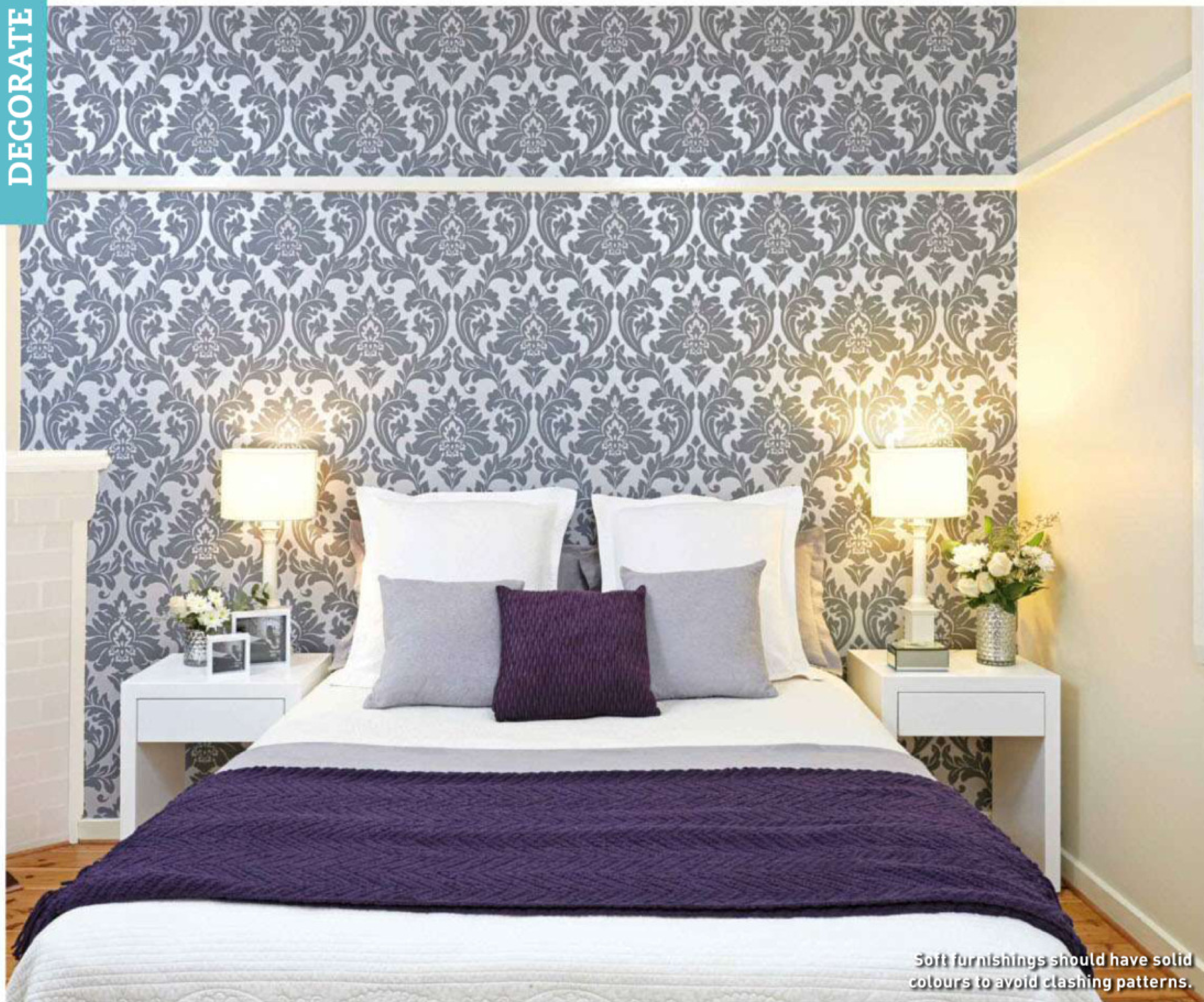
Struggling with heavy, wet and sticky rolls is a thing of the past, as new wallpaper products allow you to apply paste directly to the wall, making papering an easy two-person job.

When you want to redecorate, the wallpaper can be easily removed. ➤

After

Papering just one wall makes a bold statement without being overwhelming.

Before



Soft furnishings should have solid colours to avoid clashing patterns.

Prepare the room

To calculate the number of rolls of wallpaper needed, measure the length and height of the wall.

This 3.3 x 2.4m wall required two 10m rolls of 52cm wide Superfresco paper, which allowed for 20% wastage when matching the pattern.

Before you begin, move furniture from the room and lay drop sheets.

The walls in this bedroom had been painted recently, so they only needed to be washed to remove any dirt or grease. For bare plasterboard walls, apply a primer and allow to dry.

To hang the wallpaper, we used a kit that included the paste, a plumb line, smoother, roller and tray.

TIP Remove old paper with a steamer or scraper, then sand and wash the wall.

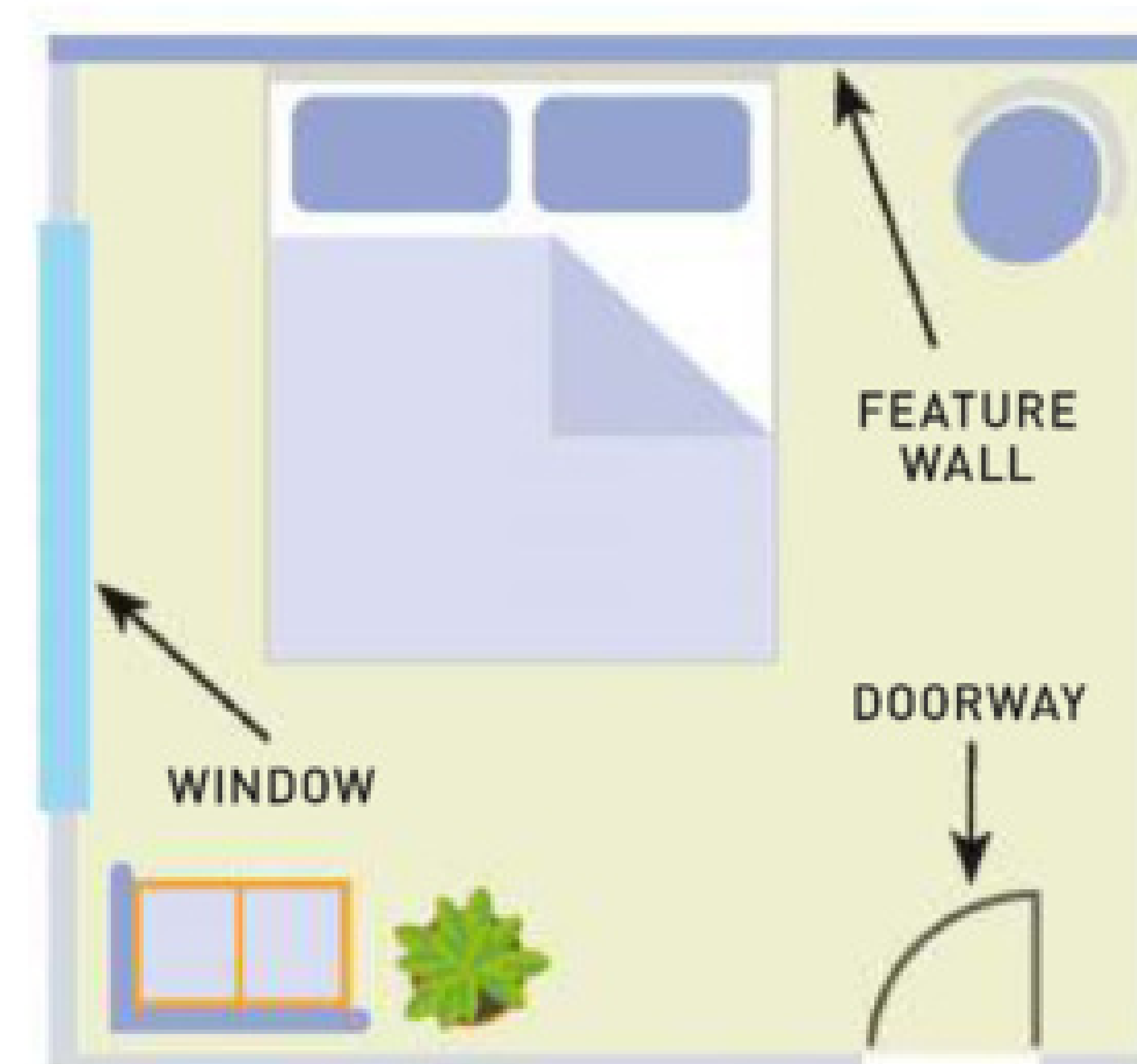
Make a feature wall

Papering a single feature wall adds interest to a room without overwhelming the space.

As it is intended to be the most dominant visual element and sets the mood and feel of the room, a feature wall needs to be selected carefully.

Determine which wall your eye is naturally drawn to when going into the room. Avoid choosing a wall with a door or window, as this can detract from the impact of the pattern.

A feature wall can often be used to provide a backdrop for a piece of furniture such as a bed



or sofa. If this is the case, stick with solid-coloured furnishings to avoid heavily clashing patterns.

Take into account the available light in the room. Designs that look great in pictures may appear dull unless the wall is adequately lit. ➤



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Hang the wallpaper



1 Mark a starting line

Deduct 20mm from the width of the wallpaper then, starting from the corner, mark that measurement on the wall. Use a plumb line or spirit level to draw a perfect vertical line.

TIP This line is used for alignment, as walls are rarely perfectly straight.



2 Paste the wall

Mix the paste according to the instructions. Pour it into the tray and use a roller to apply it to the wall, starting at the corner and overlapping the marked line by 50mm. Smooth the paste to an even consistency and wipe any excess from the skirting boards.



3 Hang the first sheet

Decide where you want the top of the pattern to begin and cut the roll so there is 100mm of excess above this point. Have a helper unroll the paper while you position it on the wall, lining it up with the pencil line and ensuring there is excess at the top.



4 Trim the excess paper

Smooth out any imperfections with a broad knife, then trim the excess paper at the corner, top and base of the wall with a utility knife. Use the broad knife as a guide, if necessary.

TIP Use a utility knife with a snap-off blade to keep the tip sharp.



5 Hang the next drop

Position the paper on the wall and align the pattern with the first drop as you unroll the paper. Butt the second drop precisely to the first and smooth into position. Continue hanging paper across the wall, trimming as you go and wiping away any excess paste.



6 Work around obstacles

When wallpapering around window frames, powerpoints or other obstacles, use scissors to cut out the sections first, leaving 50mm of excess. Carefully trim the edges with a utility knife until the wall is completely covered.

You will need

Equip yourself with the right tools and enlist a helper to make hanging wallpaper much simpler.



Superfresco Easy Majestic Wallpaper, \$60 for 10m.
from Bunnings.



Haydn 200mm Plastic Broad Knife, about \$7.
haydn.co.nz



Trojan 900mm Box Level, \$45.
trojantools.com.au



Stanley FatMax Retractable Knife, \$23.
stanleytools.com



Lufkin 8m Ezy-Read Tape Measure, \$40.
toolware.co.nz

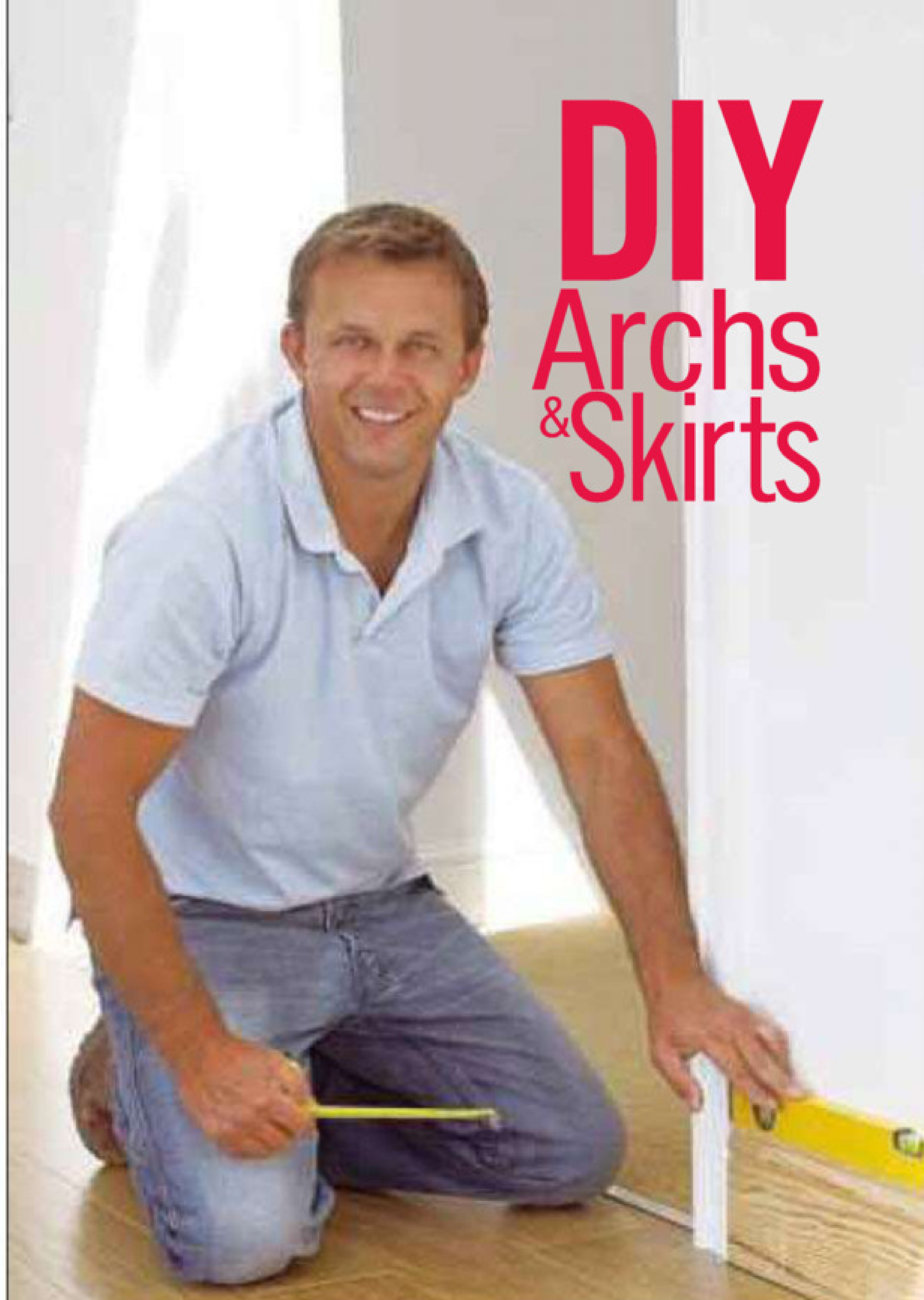


Monarch 230mm Wallpaper Hanging Kit, \$15.
austbrush.co.nz



Zinsser DIF Wallpaper Stripper, \$26 for 650ml.
haydn.co.nz

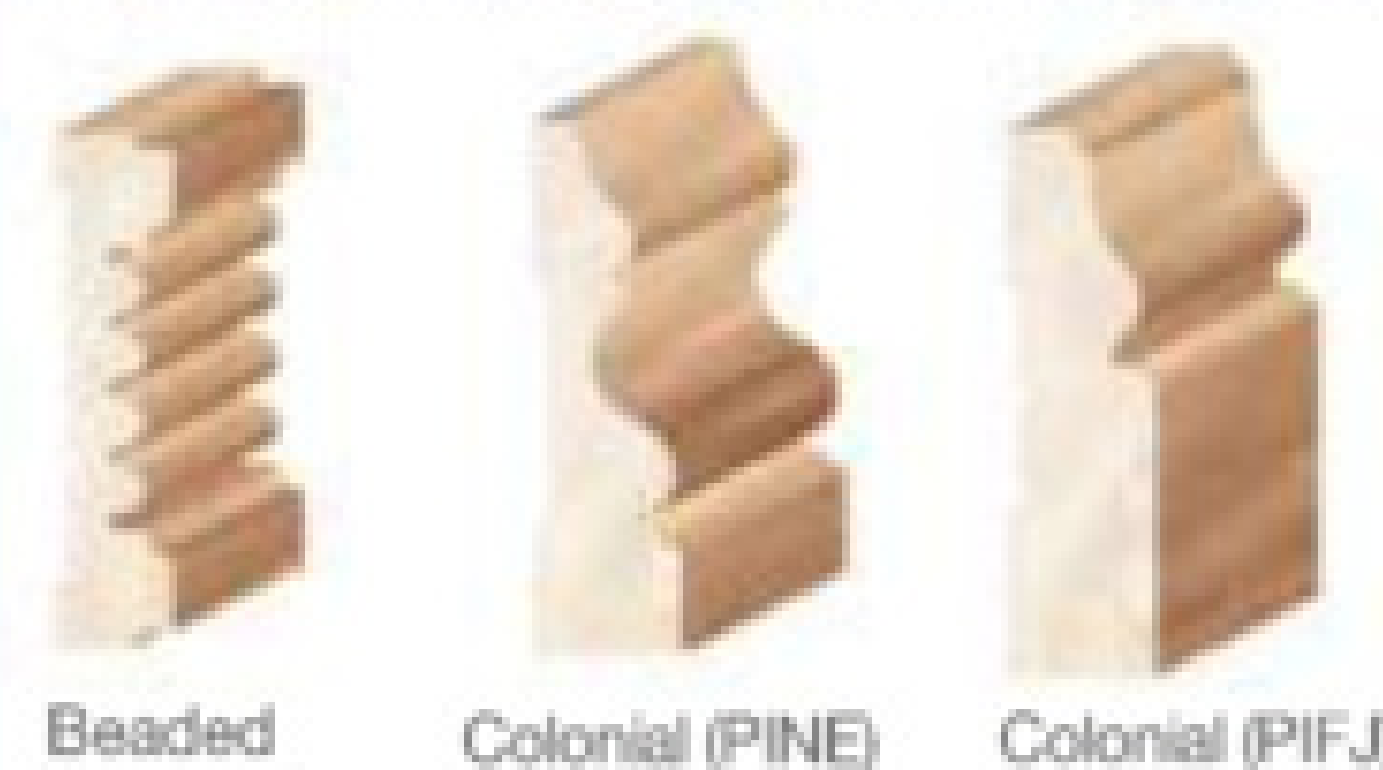
DIY Archs & Skirts



DIY Archs & Skirts from Porta

Manufactured from radiata pine (clear, finger-jointed & pre-primed) Porta has a variety of modern and classic archs and skirts to help update your home. To view the full range and installation instructions visit www.porta.co.nz. Available from Bunnings' and other major hardware stores.

Decorative Architraves & Skirtings



Beaded Colonial (PINE) Colonial (PIF-J)

Modern Architraves & Skirtings



Bevelled Bullnose Bullnose (10mm) Double Bullnose Pencil Round

TIP 1: A painted finish will only require light sanding with 150 grit sandpaper. Then use a good sealer or primer then lightly sand once. Apply two coats of acrylic and for a tougher finish use an oil based enamel.

TIP 2: It is advisable to "acclimatise" your archs & skirts prior to installation. Acclimatise at room temperature for 24 hours before installation.



portamouldings

Spruce up your bedroom

Turn an ordinary bed into the focus of attention by adding a decorative headboard

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

A bedhead can help transform a room, adding interest to a blank wall behind the bed and making the space feel cosier.

They can be purely decorative or can incorporate shelves or lighting to make them more functional.

Padded bedheads can even provide comfortable back support when sitting up reading or relaxing in bed.

You can spend hundreds of dollars purchasing a brand-new headboard, but it's easy to make one DIY, and it will cost you a fraction of that.

Here we show you how to create your own unique bedheads using just a few basic materials such as paint, plywood and fabric.

Gate bedhead

Give your bed a metal headboard by upcycling old gates. Scrape off any flaking paint with a wire brush and apply rust converter to seal any rusted areas. Sand, apply primer and spray with paint.



PICTURES AUSTRAL



Fabric headboard

For a vintage look, make a bedhead and cover it with French-style toile fabric. Cut a piece of MDF to the desired shape using a jigsaw, then attach a piece of 50mm foam using spray adhesive. Cover the foam with fabric, wrapping it around the back of the headboard and securing with a staple gun. ➤

Letter backdrop

Mount different-sized letters on the wall behind the bed for a unique and eye-catching bedhead.

Use DIY polystyrene letters and MDF or papier-mâché store-bought letters, then decorate them to match the colour scheme.

Hang them randomly on the wall using picture hanging strips, mounting smaller letters on larger letters at staggered heights to add depth.

Personalise a child's room by choosing letters to spell out their name or favourite sporting team and arrange them in order on the wall.



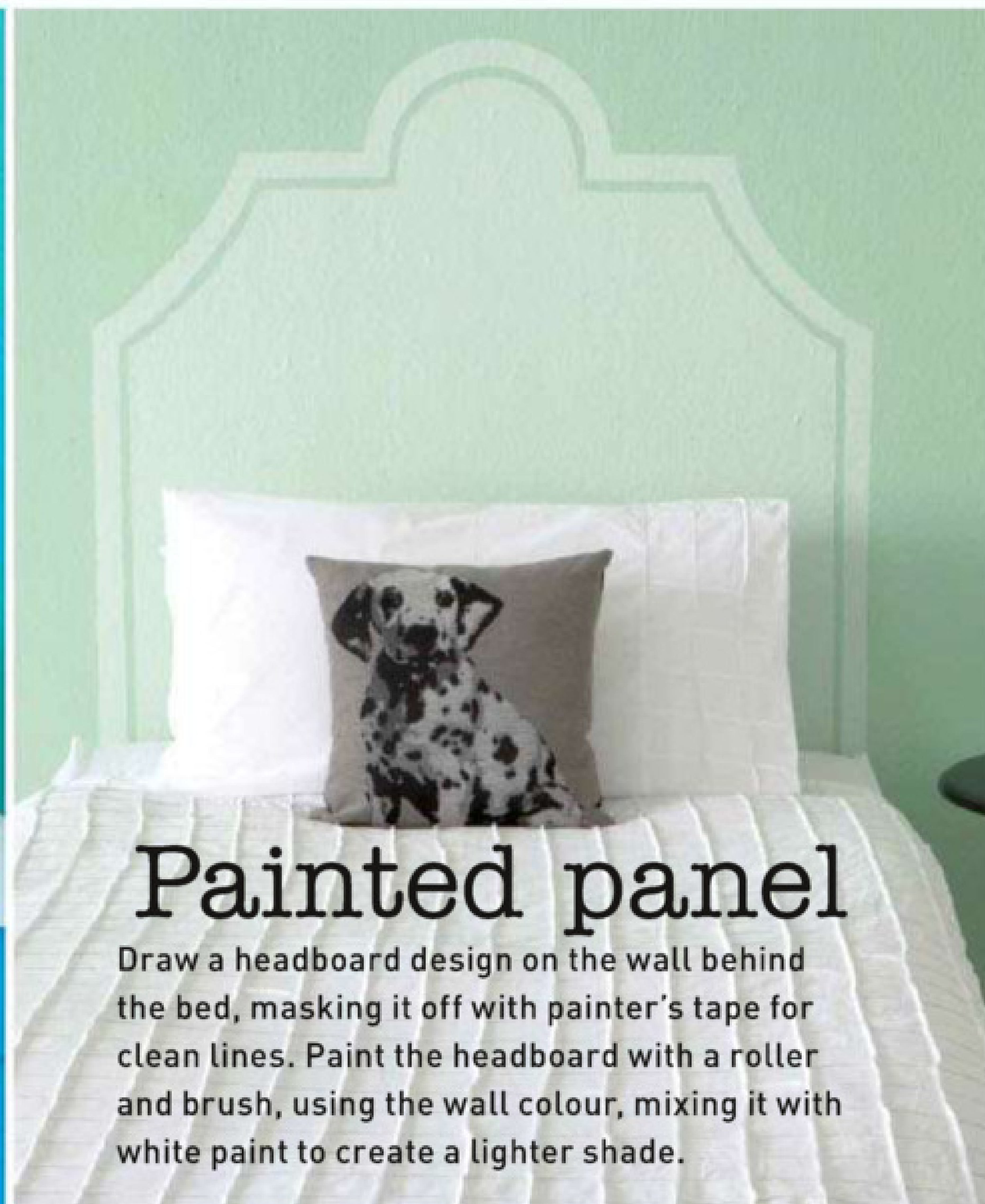
Creativ Papier-Mâché Letters,
about \$3 each. jasco.com.au

Making the letters

- 1 **PRINT OUT** different letters in large fonts, then draw the outlines on polystyrene. Cut the letters out using a utility knife. Use additional store-bought MDF letters in varying sizes.
- 2 **PAINT EACH LETTER** using acrylic paint and a roller. Use only a few different colours for a unified look. Avoid using spray paint as this will dissolve the foam.
- 3 **DECORATE THE LETTERS** by adding stripes to a couple of them. Apply masking tape horizontally across the letters, then paint in the unmasked area. Remove the masking tape after 24 hours.
- 4 **ADD TEXTURES** by attaching pieces of patterned wrapping paper, wallpaper samples and fabric using solvent-free adhesive.



Brighten up a room using decorated letters hung randomly on the wall.



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TRADE TILING RANGE



Vintage charm

Make a simple pine frame and give it shabby-chic appeal with this easy paint technique

Give a new timber frame a distressed look with a few basic painting supplies.

Build a 600 x 400mm frame using Porta 60 x 10mm x 1.2m D4S pine, cutting the mitred corners using a mitresaw (porta.co.nz).

Join the timber with PVA adhesive and 30 x 1.6mm galvanised nails.

Fill the nail holes using timber filler and sand the frame, then apply two coats of mahogany stain to seal and darken the timber.

Paint the frame with acrylic, then scrape and sand off the paint to give it a distressed finish.

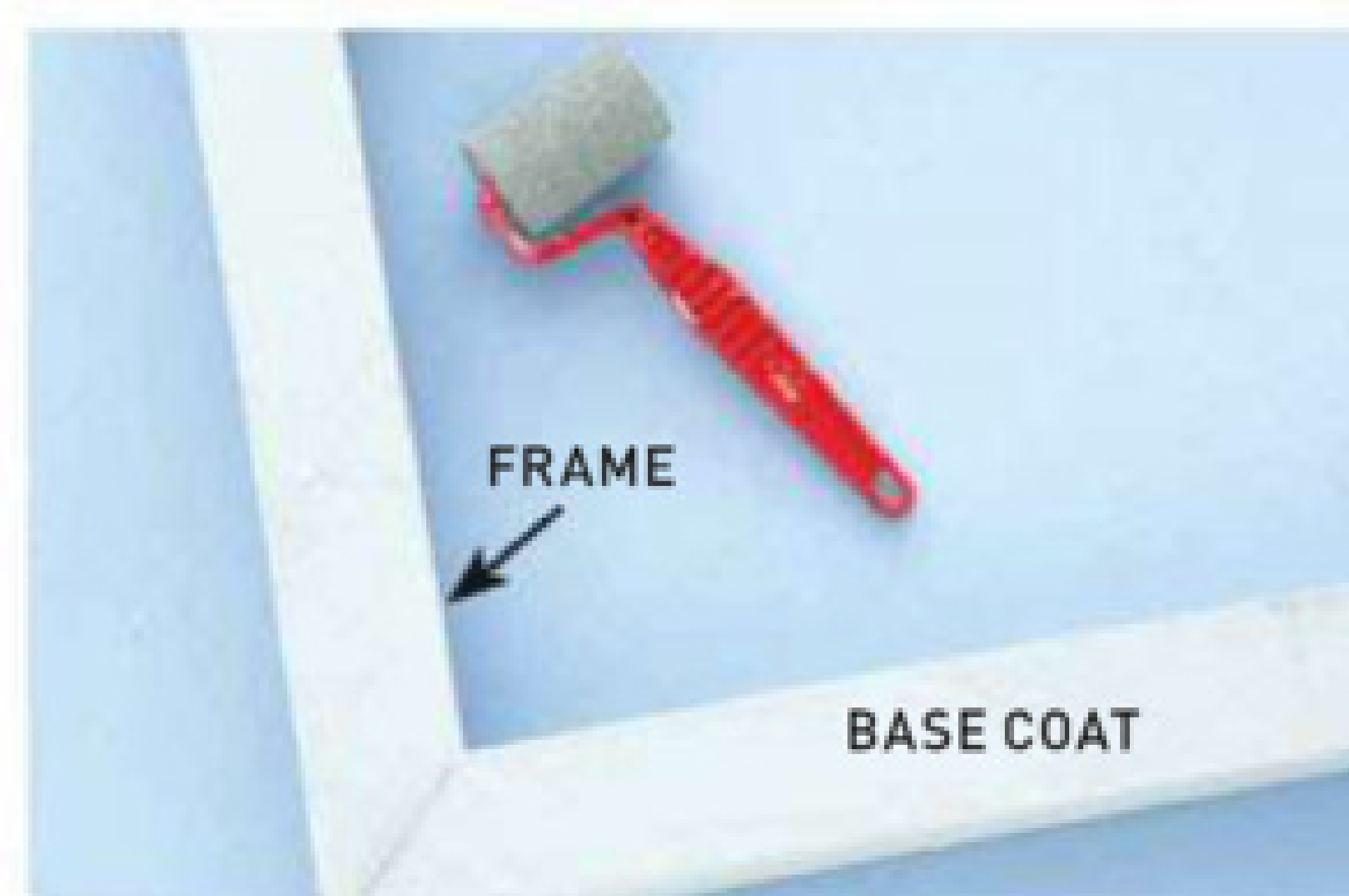
Fit a chalkboard in the frame or use it to show off black and white photos.



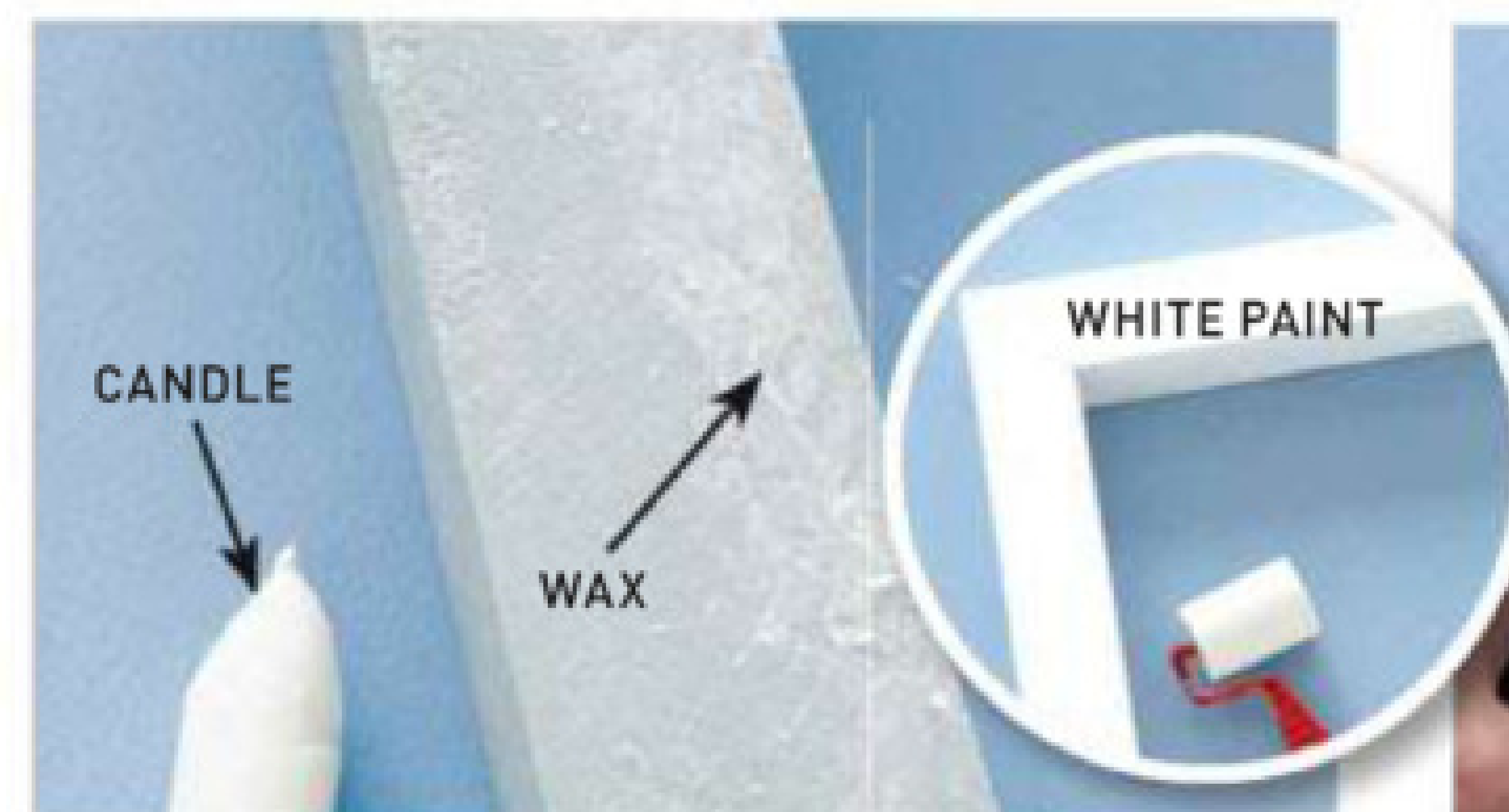
Haydn 110mm Mini Paint Roller Kit, about \$10. haydn.co.nz

Distressing the paintwork

This technique makes new timber look old by creating the impression that layers of paint have flaked off after years of use. To add further weathering, tap the frame lightly with a hammer in random areas before staining.



1 PAINT THE FRAME after staining it with a water-based acrylic and a roller. Choose a colour that suits your decor, as the base coat will show once the frame is distressed.



2 RUB CANDLE WAX on the areas where you want the base coat to be seen. Focus on corners and edges for an authentically aged look. Apply two coats of white paint to the frame.



3 SCRAPE THE WAXED AREAS with a putty knife to expose the base paint. For a more distressed look, sand areas with 80 grit abrasive paper to expose more base coat and timber.

TIME 1 DAY
SKILL BASIC

DIY \$60

TOOLS MITRESAW,
PUTTY KNIFE,
PAINT ROLLER

cheese
washing powder
coffee



Add character to a kitchen or living area with a vintage-look chalkboard.

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MAKE A COAT STAND

Need a place to hang your stuff? These functional but fun racks will do the job

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Keeping coats, hats, bags and other accessories tidy and within reach is easy if you have a rack to hang them on.

Also, by giving you more room in the wardrobe, it will help prevent clothes being crushed.

Coat stands work well positioned in high-traffic areas, such as entrance halls, or in alcoves and corners to take

advantage of small spaces. In the bedroom, they look great used as display stands for jewellery.

Generally, they are freestanding but can also be mounted on a wall or to the back of a door.

These three racks are simple to make yet create a big impact. They all require minimal materials, so they're budget-friendly, too. ➤

1



2



3





Tree-shaped rack

This quirky stand is made from two lengths of 1800 x 240 x 19mm pine slotted inside each other.

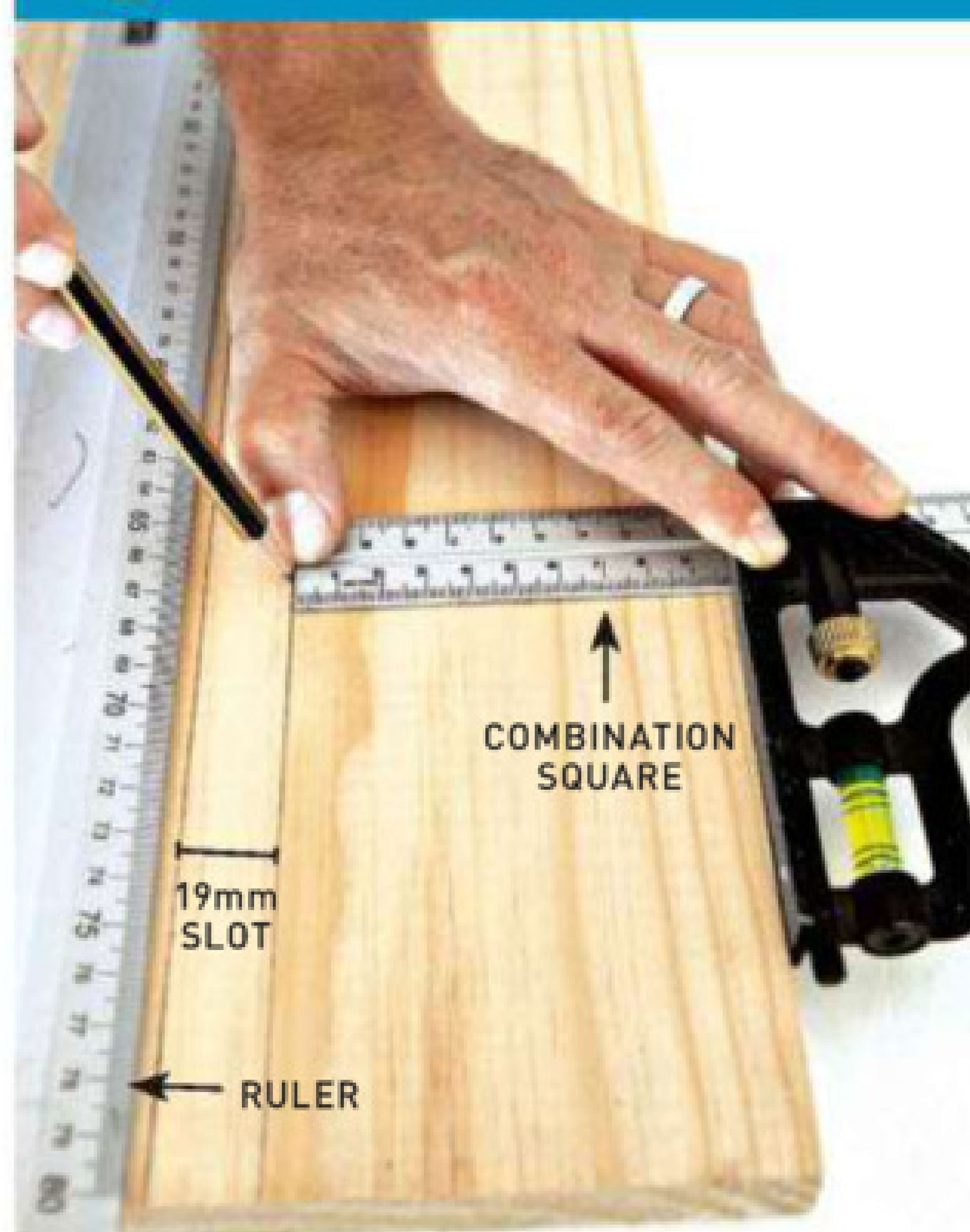
The leaves at the top act as hooks and the base features triangular feet designed to resemble roots. The slimline rack is perfect for narrow hallways or nooks.

To add depth and detail, use different shades of green for the foliage. Paint the trunk white or brown, or the colour that best suits your decor.



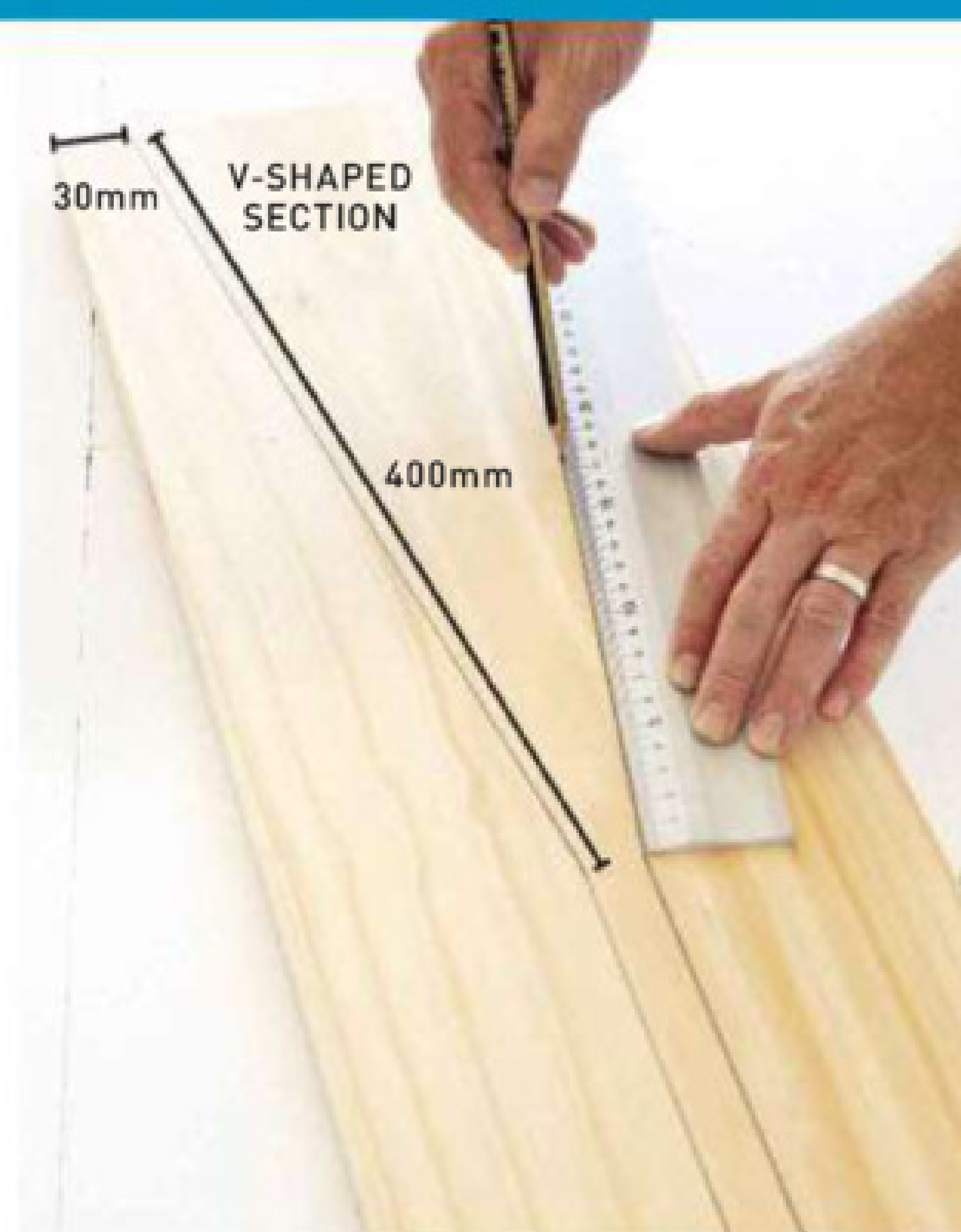
When not in use, this stand can double as a piece of artwork.

▼ Make the rack



1 Mark the slots

Cut two lengths of 1800mm timber to 1600mm, keeping the 200mm offcuts. Use a ruler and combination square to mark out a 19mm wide slot along the length of each piece down the centre, parallel to the edges. Mark the halfway point on each piece.



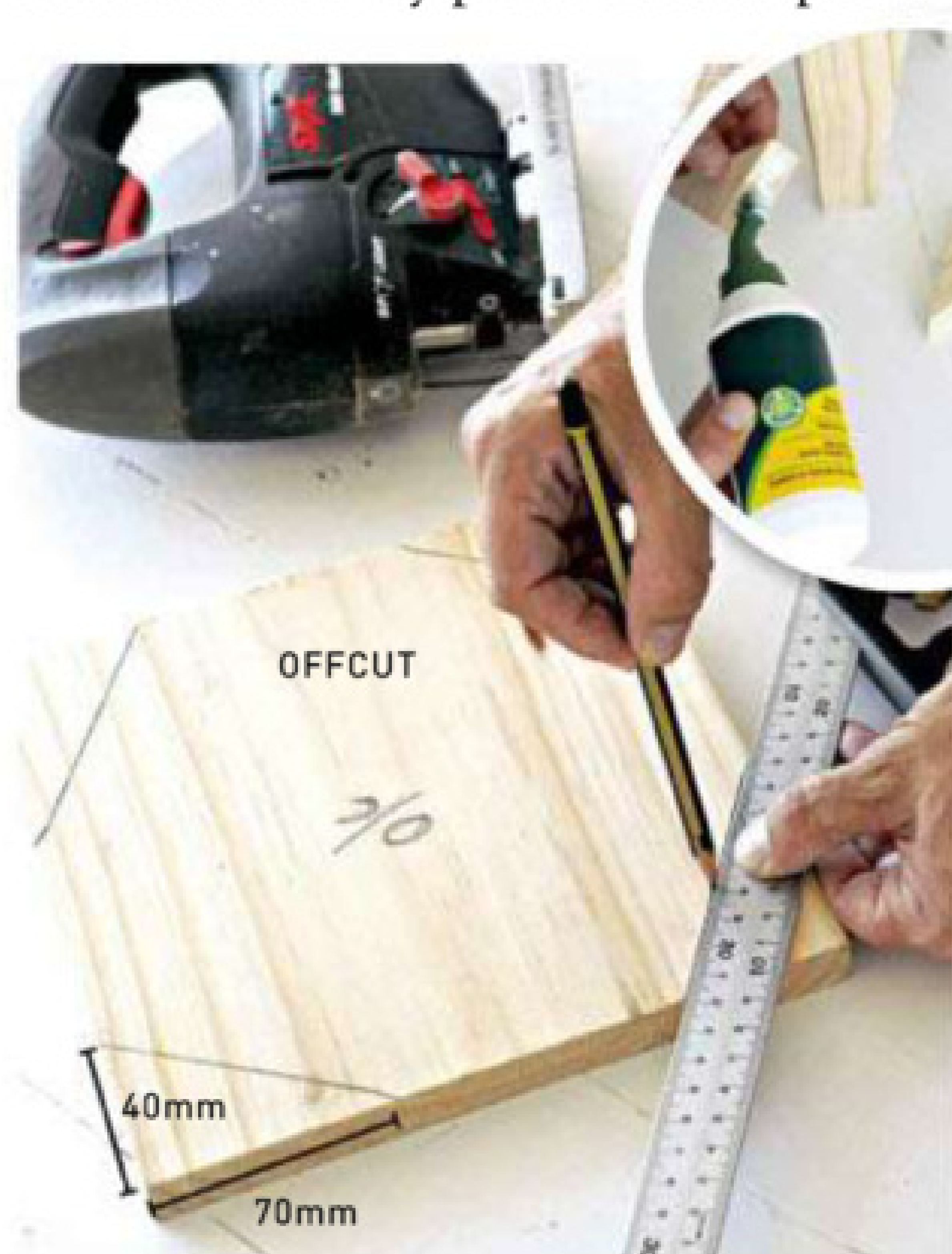
2 Mark the cutouts

Make a mark 30mm from each side at the base of each piece, then draw a 400mm diagonal line from each mark to the slot to create a V-shaped section. Remove pencil marks so the V-shaped section overlaps the slot on one piece and is opposite the slot on the other.



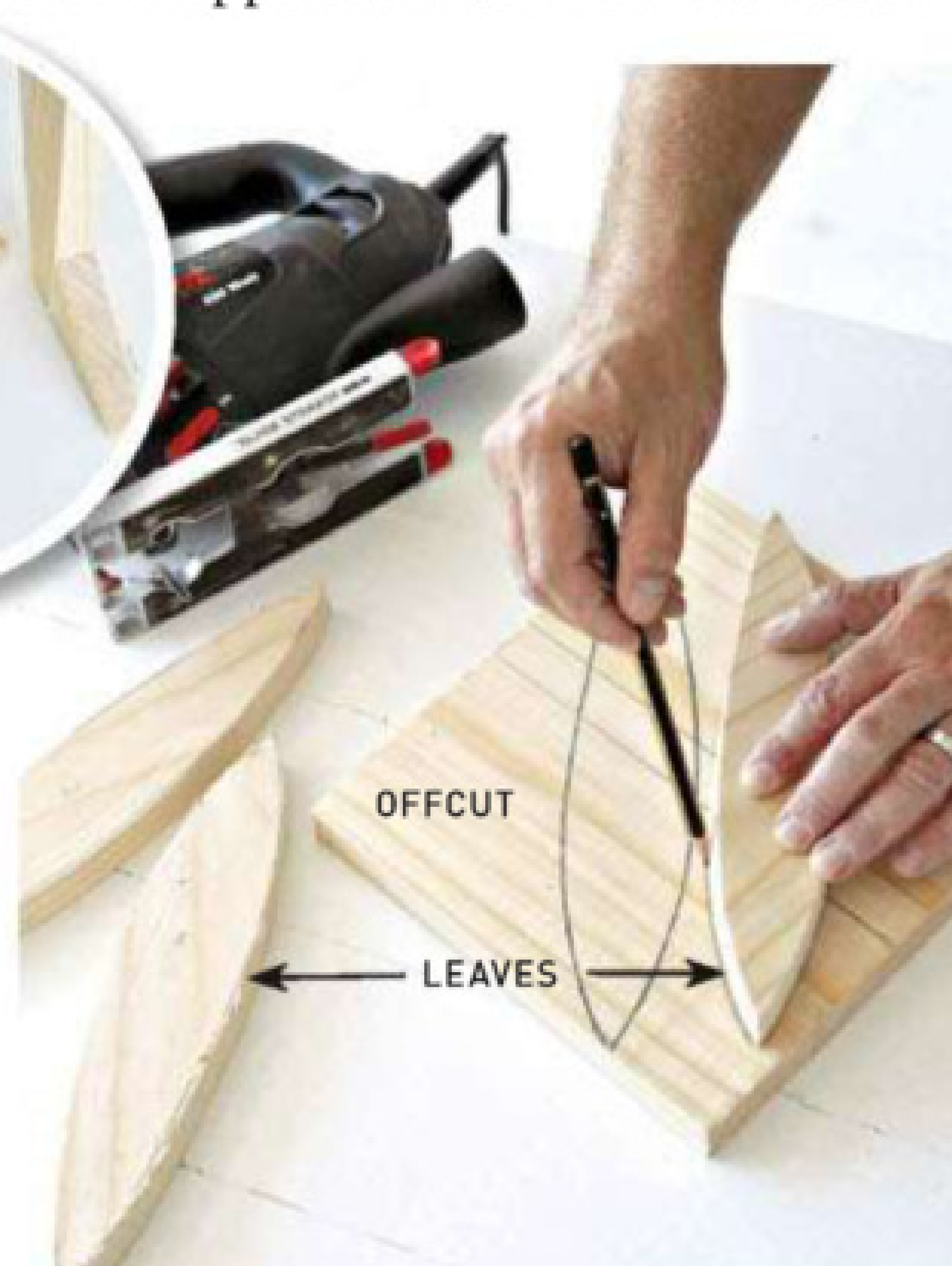
3 Cut the timber

Use a jigsaw to cut out the slots and V-shaped sections, keeping the offcuts. Apply PVA adhesive to the inside of the slots and slide the two pieces of timber into each other so the V-shaped areas form the legs. Stand up the rack assembly and leave to dry.



4 Make the feet

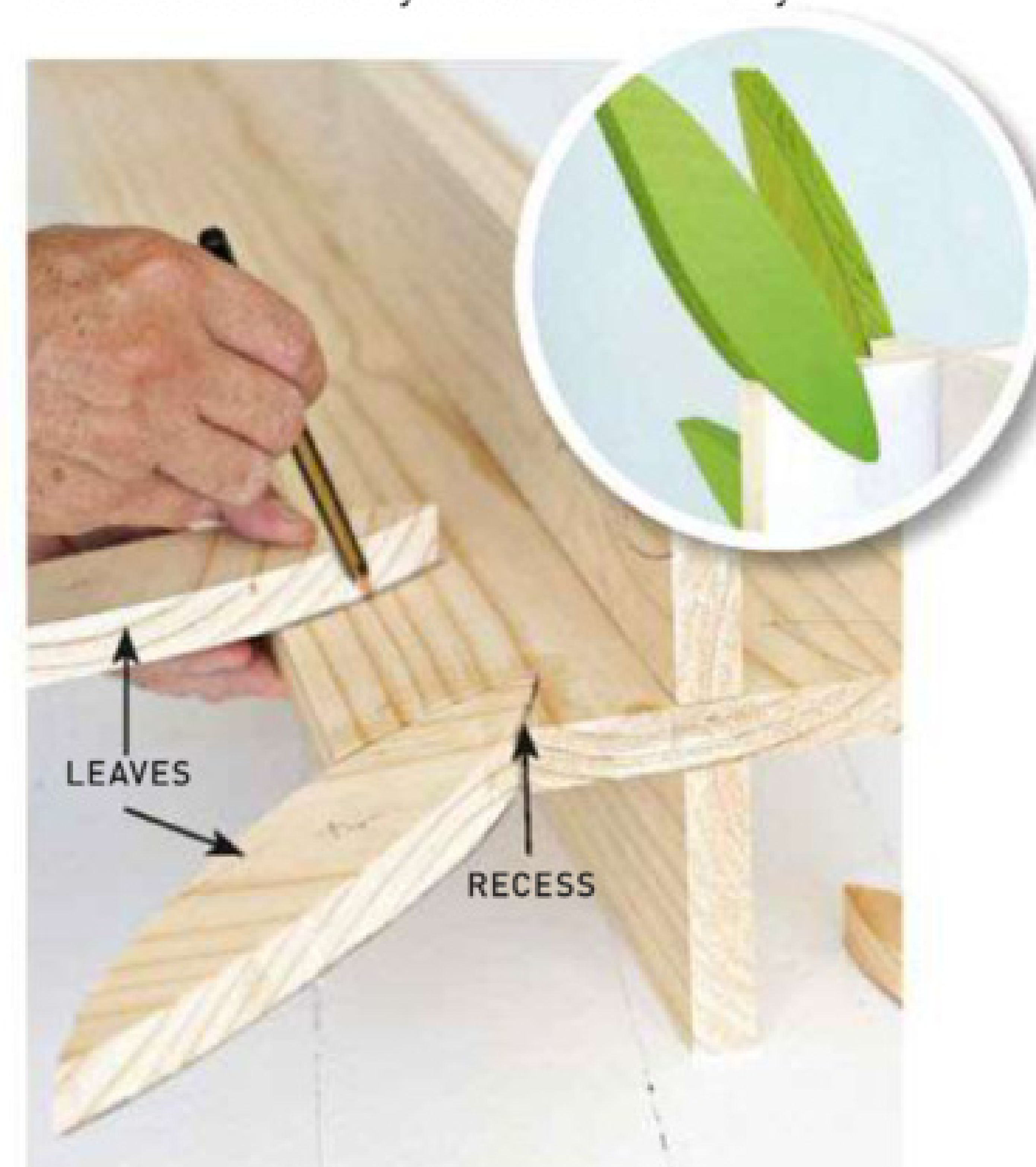
Mark four triangles measuring 40 x 70mm on each corner of an offcut, then cut them out using a jigsaw. Lay the rack on a workbench and attach the triangles to the base using PVA adhesive, then leave to dry before standing the rack up again.



5 Cut out the leaves

Draw an elliptical-shaped leaf on an offcut and cut it out with a jigsaw. Use the leaf as a template to make seven more leaves.

TIP If you need to hang more than eight items, make extra leaves from timber of the same thickness.



6 Attach the leaves

Position the leaves with one-third overlapping the rack, trace the outline with a pencil, then cut out the recesses using a jigsaw. Attach the leaves with PVA adhesive. When dry, sand the rack using 240 grit abrasive paper, then paint the leaves and trunk. ➤

Stencilled stand

The best thing about this rack is that it takes up no floorspace at all. Strategically placed hooks and the outline of a bentwood design create a wall-mounted rack with plenty of character.

To make it, choose a design that suits the space, then sketch the outline onto the wall.

Paint within the outline, using masking tape to avoid mistakes, then attach the hooks.

TIP Use a contrasting colour to make the rack stand out.

Create a talking point in a room and keep it clutter-free, too.





Rustic rack

This stand is made from one long branch, with forked branches used as legs and small branches as braces, all attached with screws.

It features antique shutter clasps as hooks, but you can use any type.

Cut a 200mm disc with a jigsaw from 19mm plywood, then cut it in half and remove the central sections to fit around the main branch.

Secure each half to the branch with PVA adhesive and screws, then apply metal primer to the hooks. Attach the hooks, then finish with black enamel.

Dulux Metalshield Premium Topcoat, \$35 for 500ml. dulux.co.nz



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TIMBER PANELS



portamouldings



TIME 1 DAY
SKILL BASIC

DIY \$165

TOOLS MITRESAW,
CIRCULAR SAW,
BRAD NAILER

Decorative shelves combine storage with display in living and dining areas.

LEANING TOWER OF SHELVES

Create simple but decorative vertical storage using lengths of plywood and pine

At first glance, this lightweight ladder-like shelving looks like it might topple over, but it's actually very stable and sturdy.

The legs are cut at a 10° angle, and the incline against the wall keeps the 2100mm high shelving solidly upright.

The tray-like shelves can hold items up to 330mm high, and each shelf is less deep than the one below to follow the angle of the unit.

The shelving can be constructed from a more expensive timber, such as maple, jarrah, rosewood or oak, to showcase the grain.

Or, it can be made from plywood or pine and finished with a timber stain to keep costs down.

This set of shelves was made out of BC grade plywood with the better B side facing up. The plywood layers at the front edge of each shelf are

hidden behind iron-on edging, while the legs, spacing cleats and shelf backs and sides are cut from DAR finger-jointed pine.

After being assembled, the shelving was thoroughly sanded with 180 grit abrasive paper and a satin stain and varnish in jarrah was applied.

TIP For a painted finish, make the shelving from MDF and apply a sealer, then two coats of acrylic. ➤

What you need



Fuller 75mm Spring Clamp, \$4, from Bunnings.



Craftright 1200mm T-Bar Sash Clamp, \$40, from Bunnings.



Bondall Stain & Varnish in Jarrah, about \$31 for 500ml. bondall.com.au



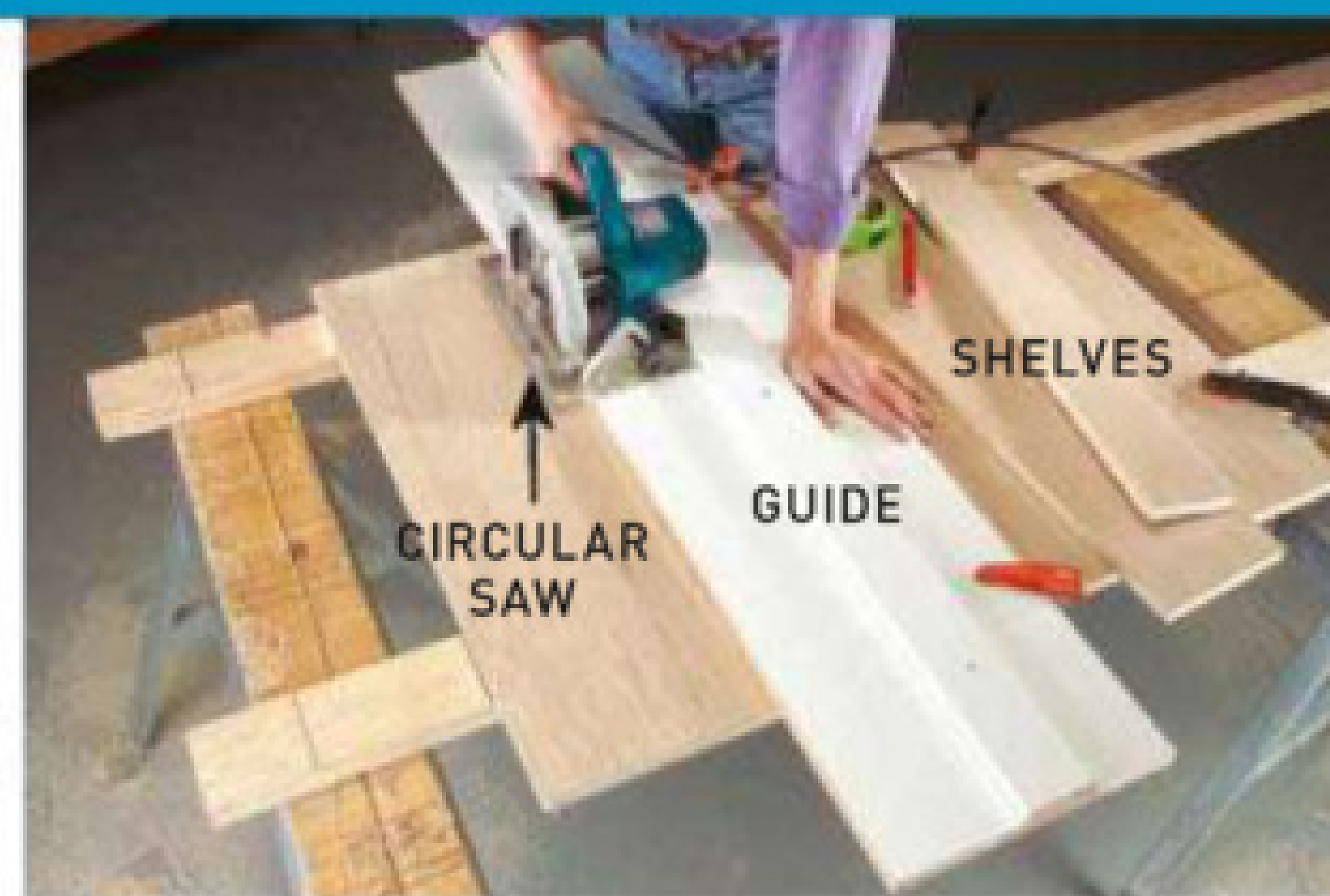
Ryobi ONE+ 18V Airstrike Brad Nailer, \$249, excluding battery. ryobi.co.nz

Build the shelves



1 Prepare the plywood

Position the plywood with the best side down, then cut it to 775mm using a circular saw and straightedge guide. **TIP** To make a guide, attach a 100mm wide strip of melamine with a factory edge to a 330mm wide piece.



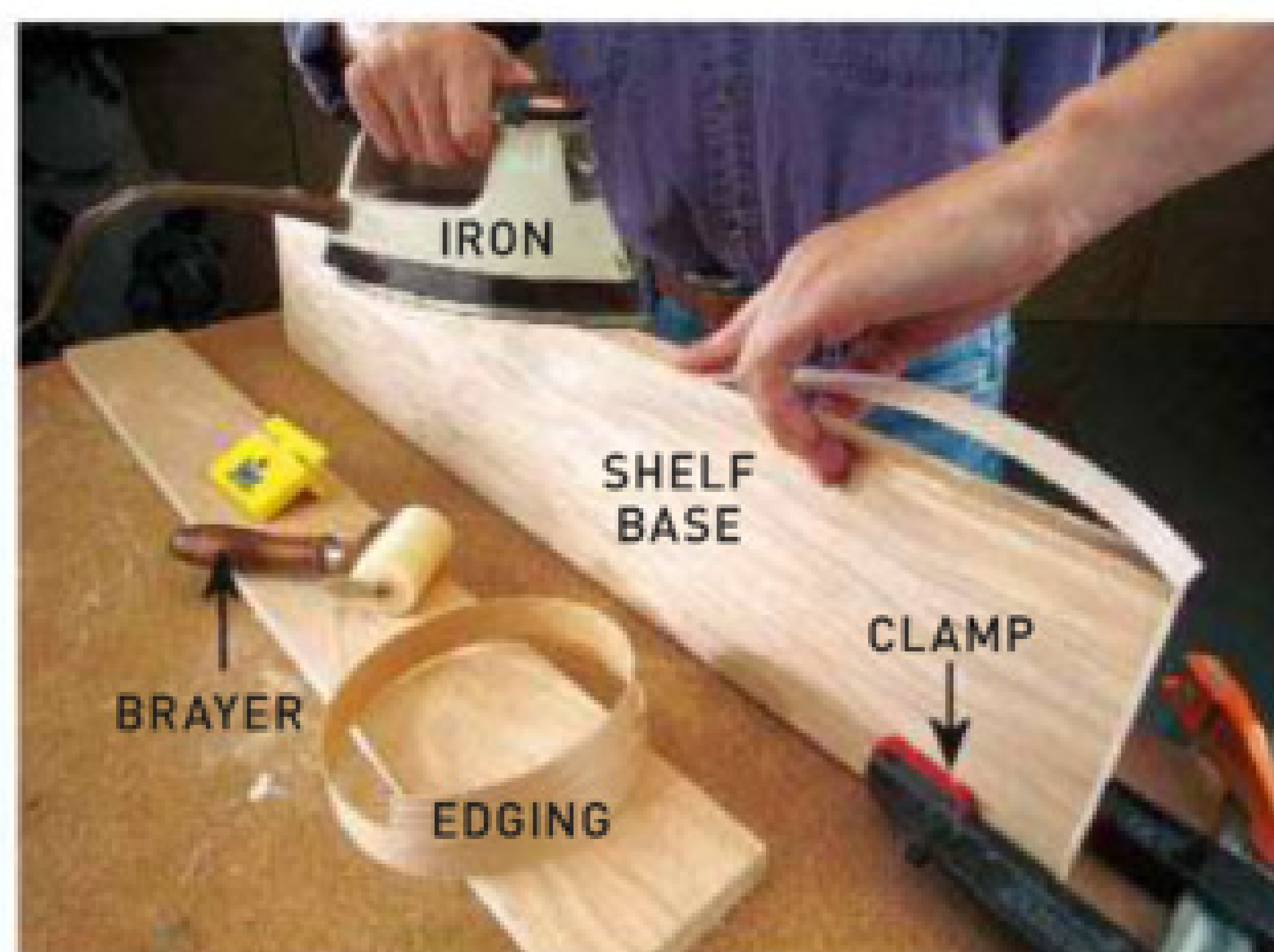
2 Cut the shelves

Rotate the plywood 90° and clamp the straightedge guide to cut the five shelves using a circular saw. Cut the narrowest shelf first to ensure enough ply is left to clamp the guide firmly when the largest shelf is being cut.



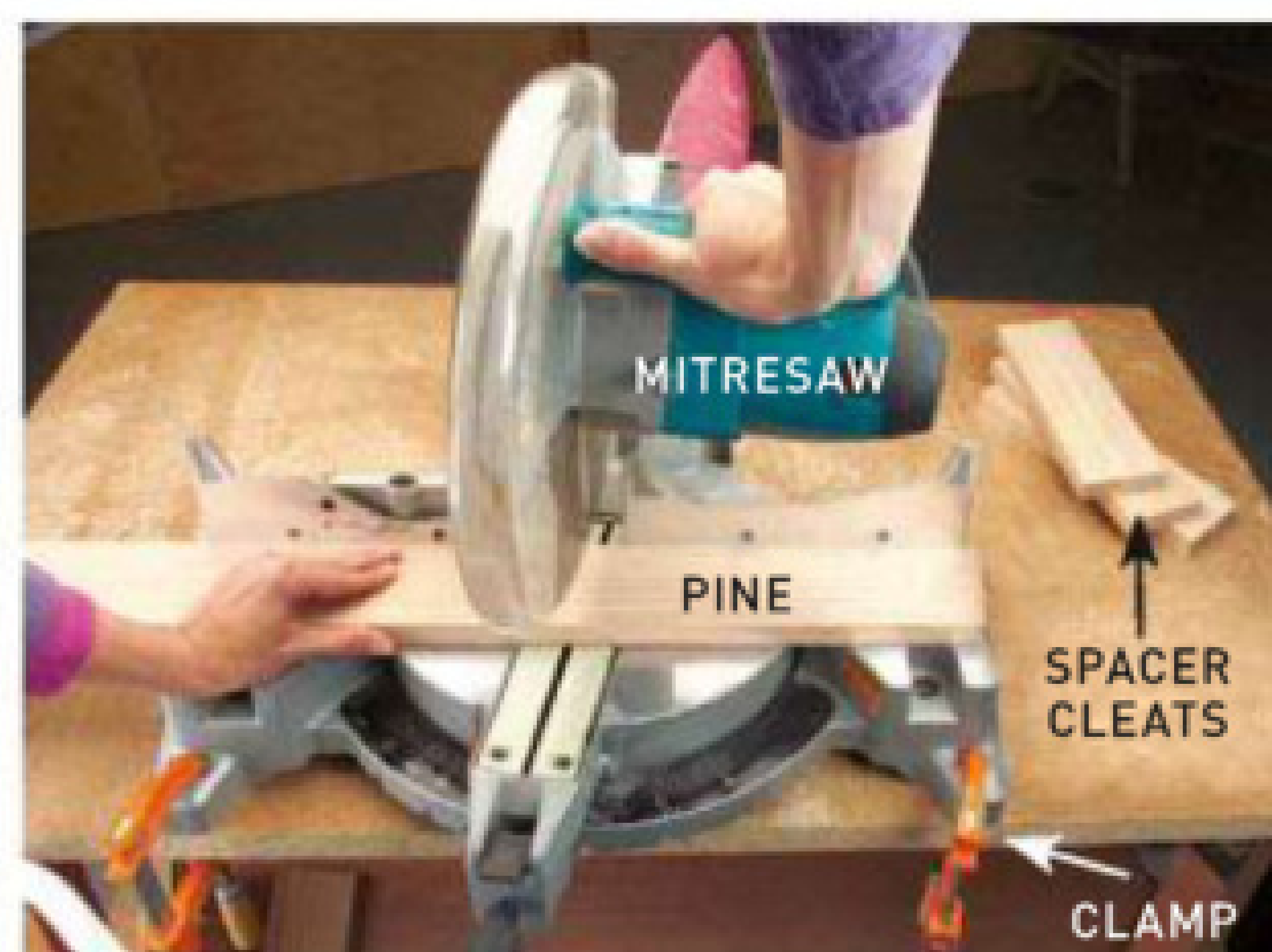
3 Cut the legs

Mark a 215mm long taper at a 10° angle on the leg tops and top spacer cleats. Clamp to a pair of sawhorses, then cut the tapers using a circular saw or jigsaw. Round over the cut edges with 180 grit abrasive paper.



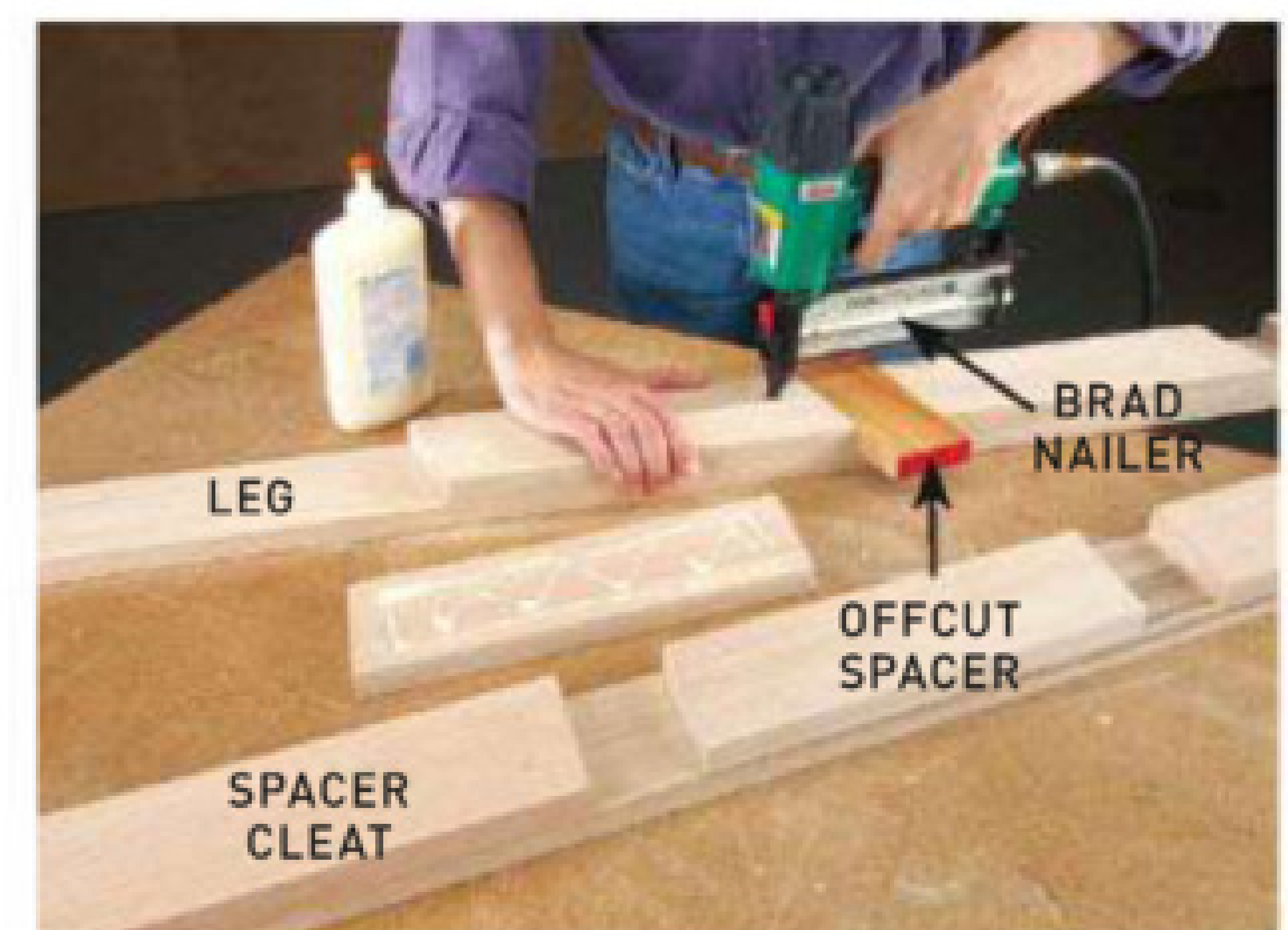
4 Attach the edging

Clamp the bases on edge to the workbench with the best edge up, then sand with 150 grit abrasive paper. Use an iron on the cotton setting to attach the edging. Go over it with a brayer, then trim the overhang with a flat file.



5 Make the angled cuts

Use a mitresaw to square-cut the shelf backs and sides to length, then rotate the saw to 10° and cut one end of each shelf side. Next, make all the angled cuts on the two pine legs and 12 spacer cleats.



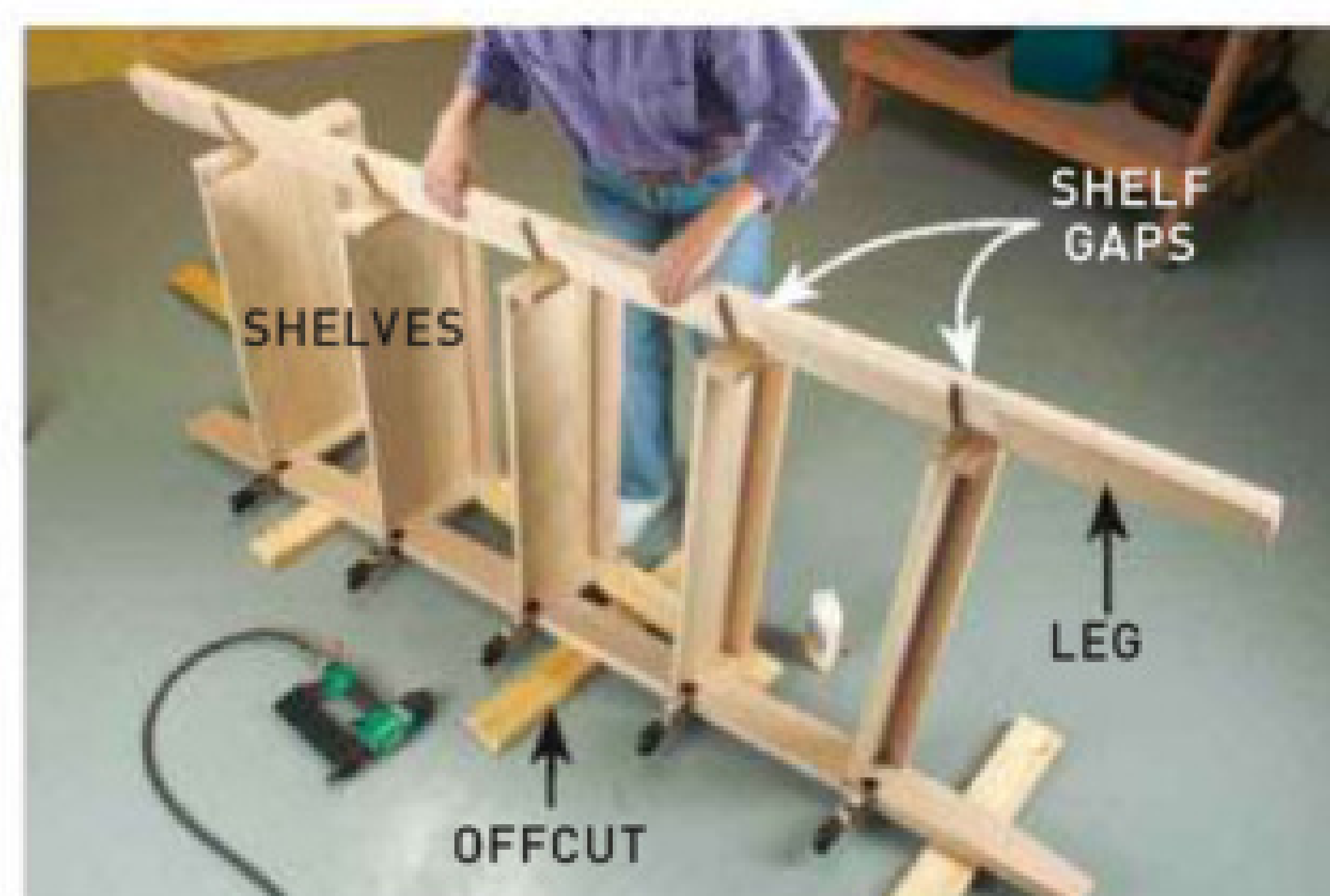
6 Secure the cleats

Position the spacer cleats on the legs to check the shelves will be level once secured. Working from the base, secure the cleats with PVA adhesive and a brad nailer, using an offcut of 67 x 18mm timber to space the cleats.



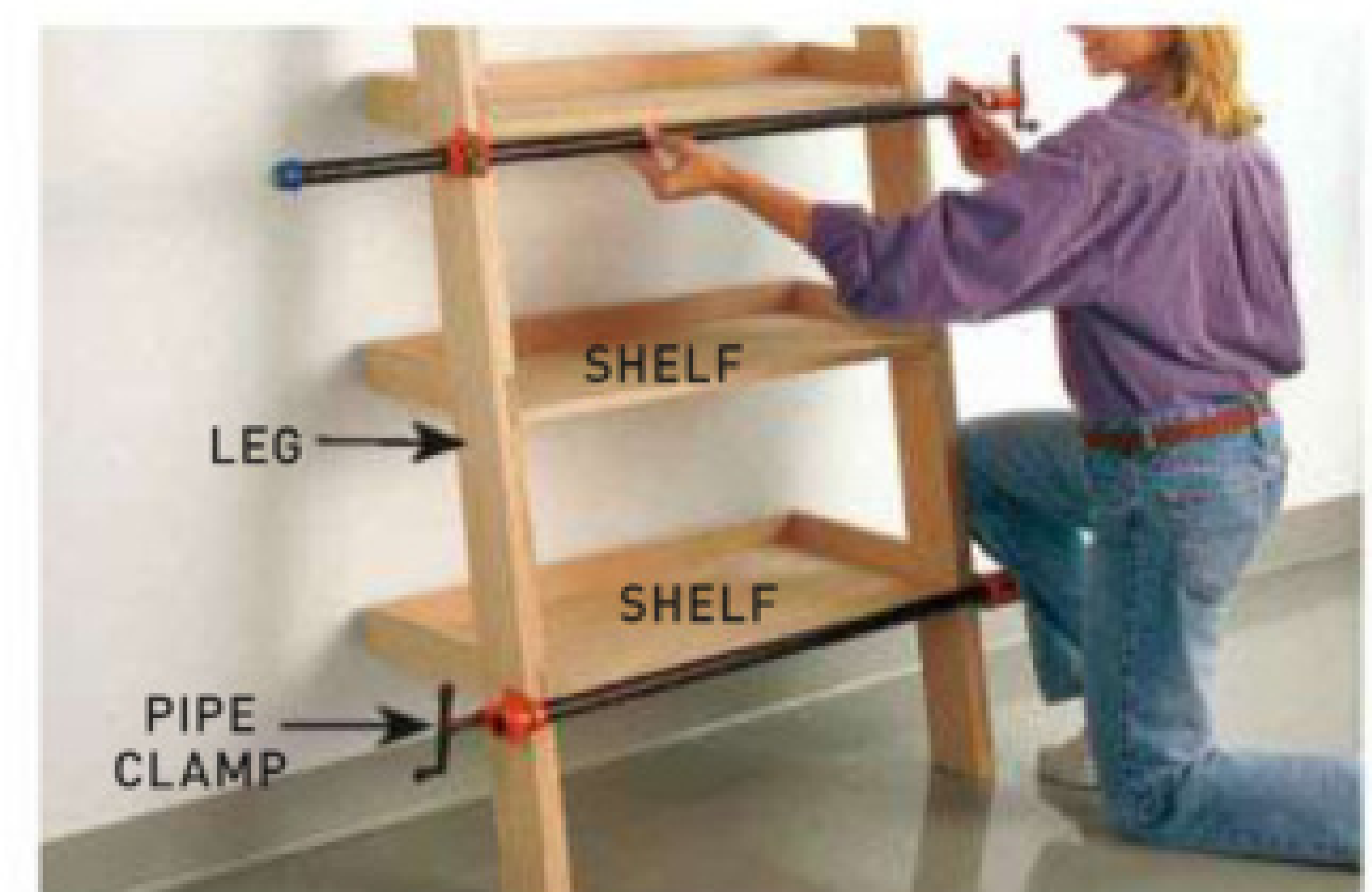
7 Join the shelves

Working on a flat surface, apply PVA adhesive to the back edge of each base. Position the backs and secure with brads at 100mm centres. Attach the sides with the angled ends at the front using PVA adhesive and brads.



8 Assemble the unit

Position one leg on three offcuts and apply PVA adhesive in the gaps between the spacer cleats. Clamp the shelves flush with the leg front and secure with nails. Apply adhesive to the other leg, position and secure.

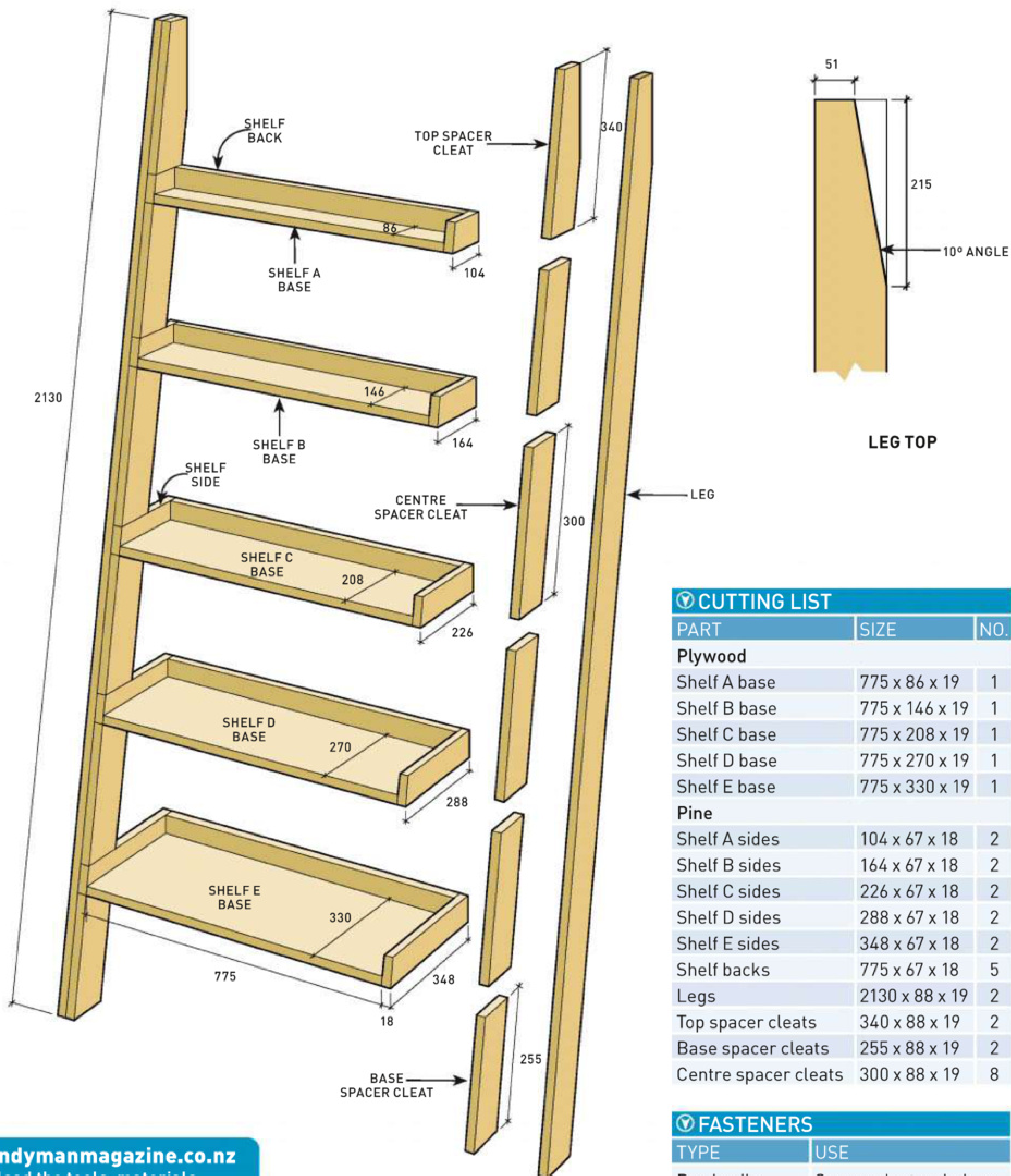


9 Finish the shelving

Position the shelving against a wall, check for square and hold it using pipe or sash clamps until the adhesive dries. Fill over the nail heads with timber filler, then sand and apply stain, finishing with a clear polyurethane.

Tower of shelves

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Plywood		
Shelf A base	775 x 86 x 19	1
Shelf B base	775 x 146 x 19	1
Shelf C base	775 x 208 x 19	1
Shelf D base	775 x 270 x 19	1
Shelf E base	775 x 330 x 19	1
Pine		
Shelf A sides	104 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf B sides	164 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf C sides	226 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf D sides	288 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf E sides	348 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf backs	775 x 67 x 18	5
Legs	2130 x 88 x 19	2
Top spacer cleats	340 x 88 x 19	2
Base spacer cleats	255 x 88 x 19	2
Centre spacer cleats	300 x 88 x 19	8

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Brad nails, 30mm	Spacer cleats, shelves, shelf backs and sides

Handymanmagazine.co.nz
Download the tools, materials
and costs to make this project.

Reader's Digest Sweepstakes announcement

WIN \$\$\$ for your next renovation

To enter our
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or look out for our invitations
in your mail or inbox.

For Ray Davis, the \$25,000 he won in the most recent Reader's Digest Sweepstakes could not have come at a better time.

Ray and his wife, Colleen, have been renovating their family home for almost 15 years and, with their prize money, they now plan to finish the project by Christmas.

'We're getting the bathroom we've been dreaming of!' laughs Colleen.

Although ecstatic about their win, Ray and Colleen still can't believe their luck.

'We've certainly proven to everyone that people do actually win these Sweepstakes!' says Ray.



WINNERS Ray and Colleen Davis
Turning their dream bathroom
and home remodelling into reality.

'The greatest thing about winning in the Sweepstakes is knowing anyone can win.'

Handyman



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STATIONARY POWER SAWS

Keep on the cutting edge with tools for everything from construction jobs to intricate detail work

BANDSAW



*MAKING THE CUT

Being able to accurately cut various timber shapes and sizes is essential to DIY, and you'll soon feel the pinch if you're using an ordinary handsaw.

'Owning a set of freestanding or bench-mounted saws is like having a stable of thoroughbreds ready to cut to the chase and get the job done with minimal effort,' says *Handyman* Technical editor Frank Gardner.

And you'll be rewarded with years of smooth cutting if you buy the best quality you can afford.

'I have had the same bandsaw for 20 years and it still runs as effortlessly as it ever did,' says Frank.

MITRESAW



SAWS AIN'T SAWS

Most DIYers are familiar with a handheld circular saw, but there is some uncertainty about stationary saws.

MITRESAWS can make square and mitred cuts up to 45°, and a compound saw can also tilt to cut bevels up to 45°.

BANDSAWS are ideal for cutting curves and making a board thinner, called re-sawing. They use a blade that is looped

around a set of wheels and runs in a continuous circuit. **TABLESAWS** can make cuts along and across the grain, called ripping and crosscutting. The saw is mounted underneath a table with the blade projecting upwards through a slot. **SCROLL SAWS** cut intricate shapes. The thin blade is stretched between two arms that oscillate up and down. ➤



TABLESAW

MITRESAWS

Make cuts across the grain, called crosscutting, with this accurate and heavy-duty tool. It is designed for square, mitred or bevelled sawing of door and window trim, roof framing, decking boards and other long pieces of timber.



*WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

While tablesaws and bandsaws are often sold with a stand that brings them up to a comfortable operating height, mitresaws are designed to be carried to a worksite, if needed.

They can then be positioned on the ground for fast, repetitive crosscutting of framing, decking, cladding and similar timber profiles.

A compound mitresaw has a circular platform that can be turned

through 90° relative to the fence where the workpiece is positioned.

The saw itself is mounted on a springloaded arm that can be swung down to cut the timber, with the blade descending into a slot in the mitre platform.

The pivot of the swing arm can also be tilted up to 45° to one or both sides, a feature described as single or double action.

*LET IT SLIDE

While a sliding compound mitresaw is more expensive, it can handle a larger variety of section sizes.

Its swing arm is mounted on a pair of sliding rails that extend the reach of the saw blade, allowing the tool to handle wider workpieces.

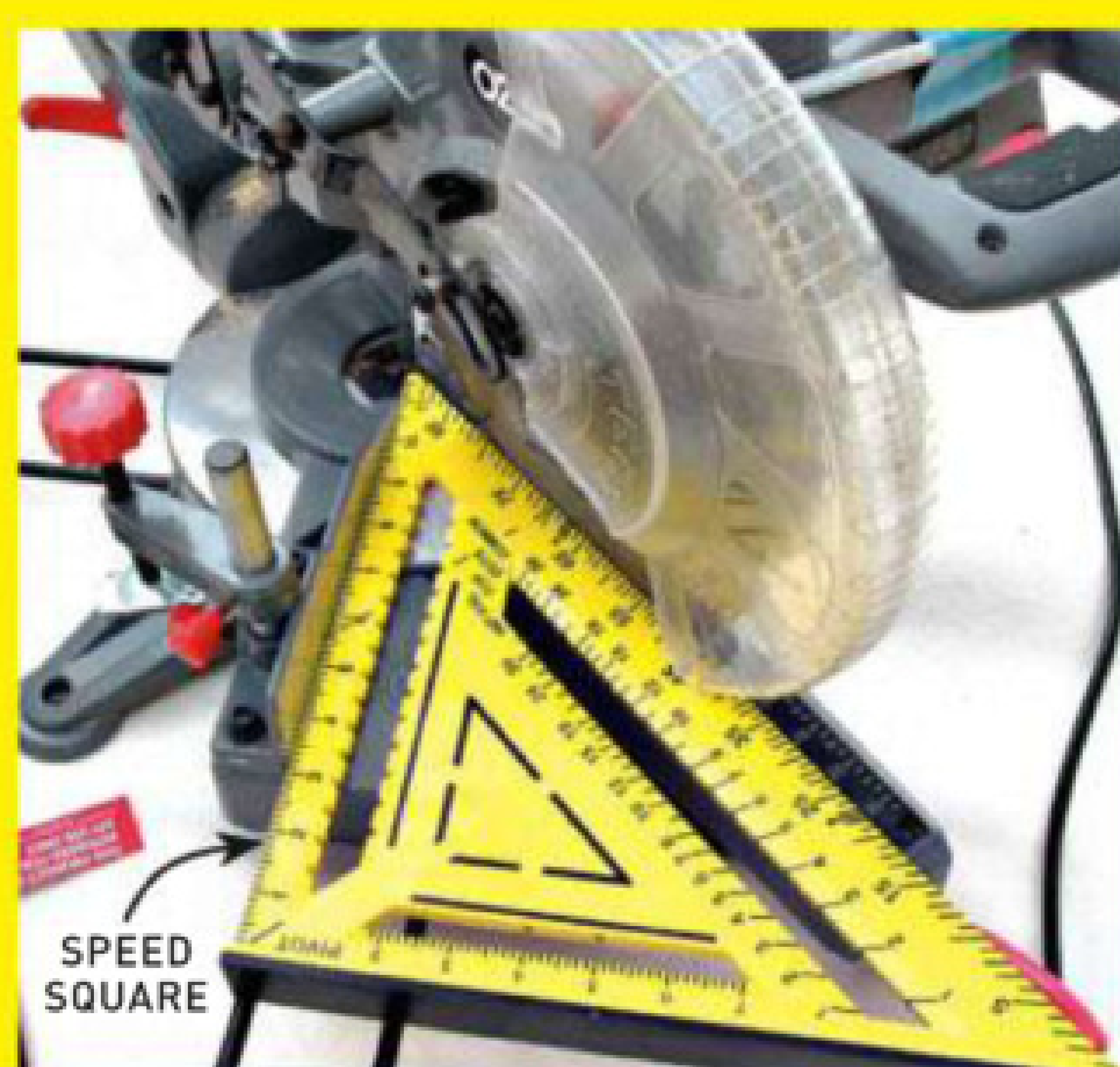
Tilting the blade makes it easier to cut bevelled edges on skirting boards and similar workpieces.

Turning the mitre platform to an angle other than 90° while also setting a bevel component results in a compound mitre cut, as required for jobs such as cornice installation.

TIP Most mitresaws have bolt lugs to allow them to be bench-mounted.



SINGLE-ACTION COMPOUND MITRESAW



CHECKING FOR PRECISION

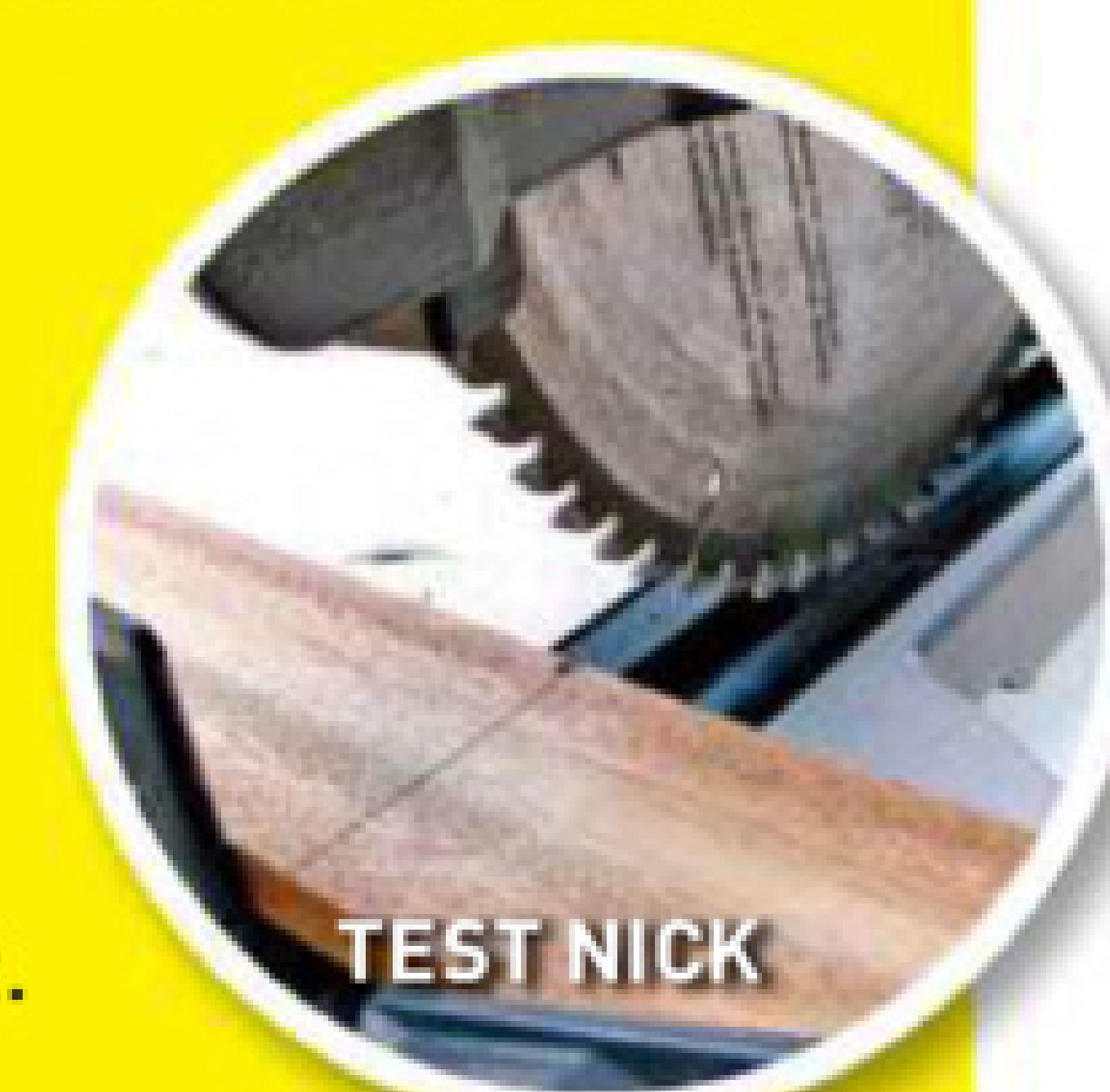
To check that the mitre platform is set to exactly 45° before making a mitre cut, unplug the saw then position a speed square between the blade and the fence.

If your saw doesn't have a laser guide, you can check exactly where the cut width, called the kerf, will be, before committing to a cut.

This is particularly useful if you have set up a stop block and

will be making repetitive cuts to the same length.

Switch on the saw and carefully lower it to the workpiece until the teeth just nick the surface. If the kerf is on the waste side of the cut line, complete the cut.



*MITRESAW SAFETY

Mitresaws feature a blade guard that is connected to the swing arm pivot by a mechanical linkage. This opens the blade guard automatically

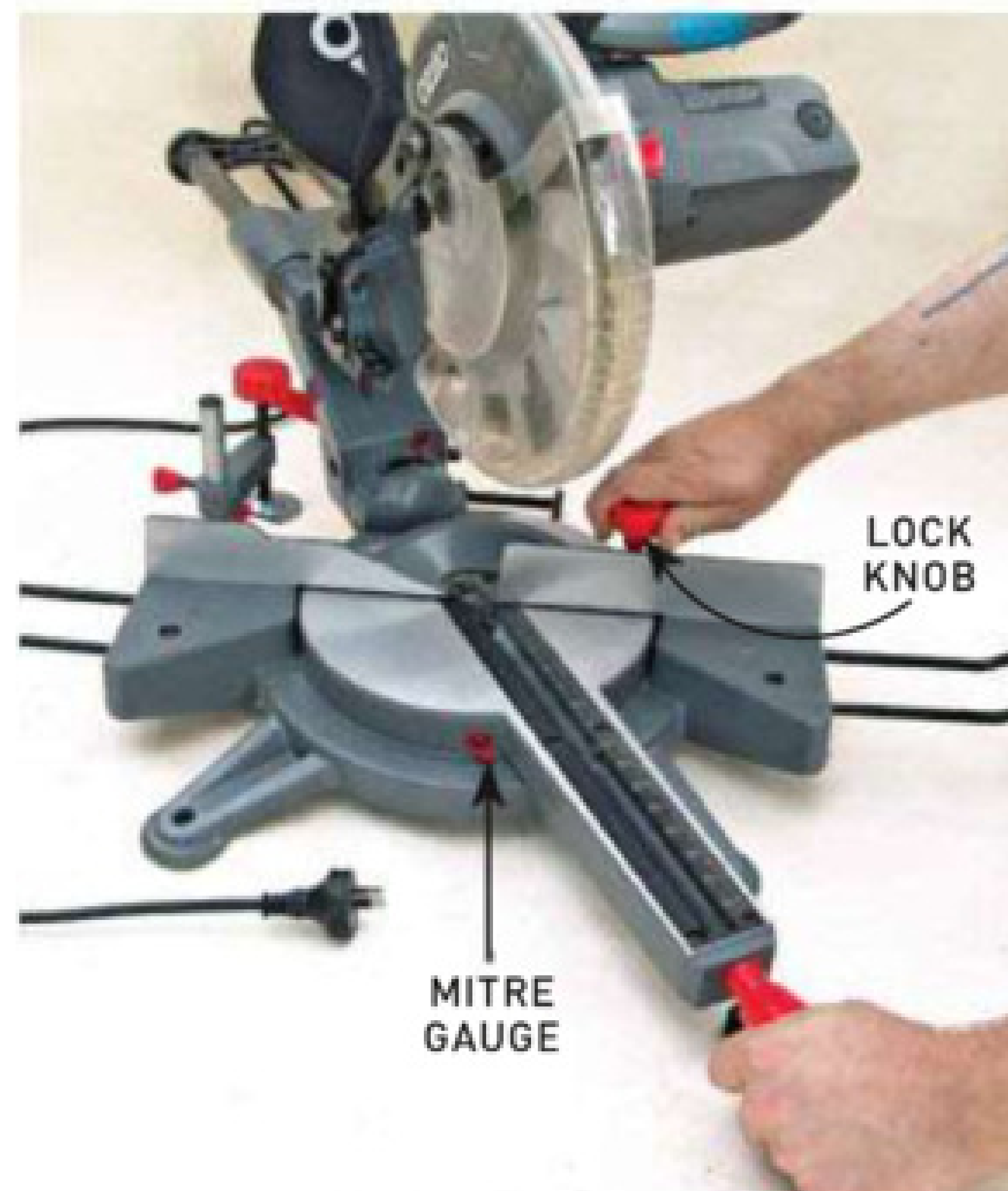
as the saw is brought down towards the workpiece and closes it again once the cut is completed. Always unplug the saw before making any adjustments.

*SQUARE CUTS

Keeping the mitre platform and the bevel pivot at the default 90° setting, align the timber so the saw blade is on the waste side of the cut line.

Switch on the saw and let it spool up to full revs, then push it down to the workpiece. If your mitresaw has a slide feature, move the saw forward smoothly and slowly to complete the cut.

TIP Use the integrated clamps, if available, to hold the workpiece you are cutting to length.



*MITRES

Unlock the mitre platform and rotate it so the saw blade is orientated at the required angle, which is indicated on the mitre gauge.

Tighten the lock knob or quick-release lever, then start the saw and cut the timber.

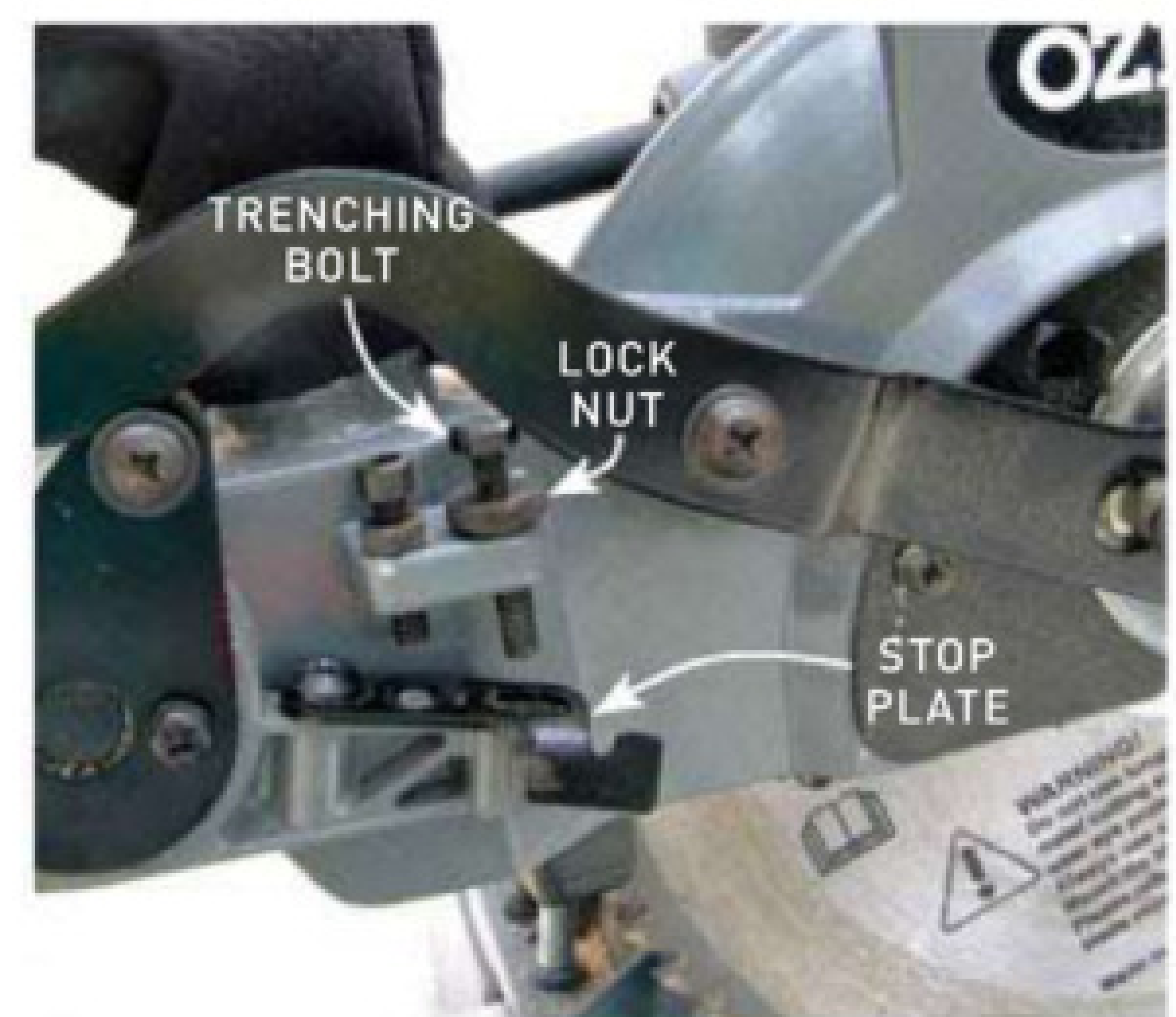
For 45° mitres, first cut test pieces from scrap timber or use a speed square to make sure the mitres will come together precisely at 90°, then adjust the angle of the saw blade by a fraction if necessary.



*COMPOUND ANGLES

When cutting workpieces such as cornices that require a joint involving both a mitre and a bevel, set the mitre angle on the saw first.

Once the mitre platform is locked in position, release the bevel pivot and set the angle of tilt.



*TRENCHING

Sliding mitresaws normally include a trenching bolt that prevents the swing arm from descending fully into its receiving slot.

This has a similar effect as setting a handheld circular saw so it cuts to a specific depth. This is useful when making rebates and relief cuts for housings or half-lap joints.

To set the trenching control, flip out the stop plate and wind the bolt in or out until the required depth is achieved, using a scrap of timber to check, then tighten the lock nut. ➤

*BEVELS

To tilt the saw blade so a bevelled cut can be made, loosen the pivot lock that holds the slide assembly and swing arm by turning the quick-release handle.

Tilt the slide assembly to the required angle, then tighten the handle to lock the pivot.

Many saws feature a control stop that also lets you adjust the bevel angle very precisely for tight-fitting mitres on skirting and similar workpieces.



TABLESAWS

Suitable for DIYers of all proficiencies, and capable of handling so much more than only those workpieces that are too large to be comfortably cut using other tools, a tablesaw is a versatile tool that represents a worthwhile investment.

*ON THE TABLE

If you're cutting a lot of timber along the grain, called ripping, then a tablesaw is a smart step up from a handheld circular saw.

Tablesaws are tough, accurate and surprisingly inexpensive, with 1200 to 2000W models able to safely rip hardwoods to about 30mm thick and softwoods to about 50mm.

They can also cut across the grain, called crosscutting, as well as being able to make accurate mitres, grooves and rebates.

Cutting full sheets of MDF or particleboard is not recommended, as the tables aren't big enough to support them safely.

Tablesaws can generate a large amount of sawdust, so always use a dust mask and connect a workshop vac to the dust extraction port.



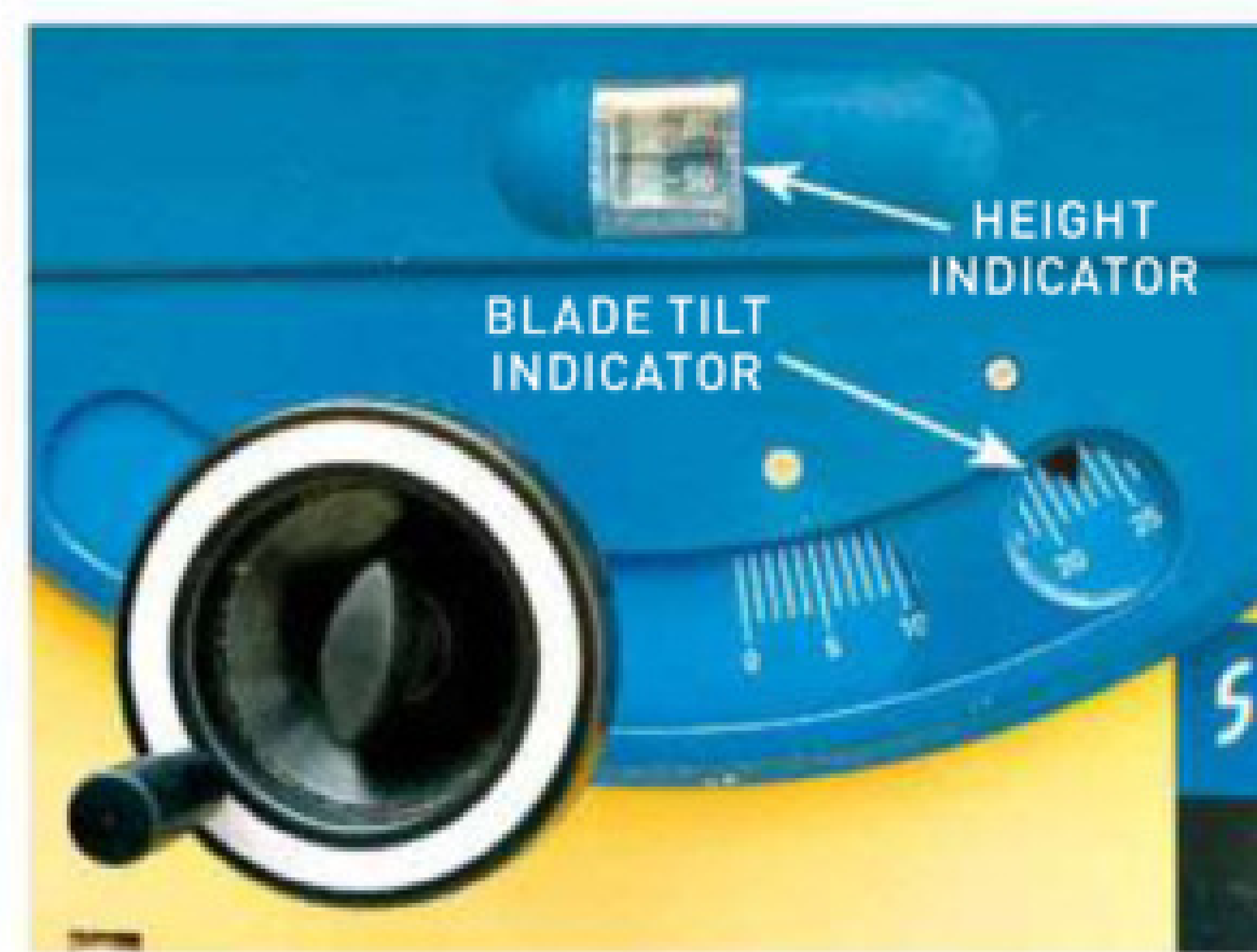
*FEATURES OF A TABLESAW



THE TABLE is machined flat with one or two slots formed parallel to the blade. These slots are useful when crosscutting with a mitre gauge. **THE FENCE** is used when ripping material parallel to the blade. It should be locked firmly in position and have no lateral movement.

The fence is offset from the blade at the required distance using a measurement scale located across the front of the table.

THE BLADE can be tilted to enable angled cuts between 0° and 45° as



well as raised or lowered by turning a simple handwheel. This feature is typically used when making housings or trenching cuts.

THE RIVING KNIFE is a flat piece of metal behind the blade. It is vital for safety, as it maintains the separation in the workpiece after the cut is made and prevents it from jamming on the blade and causing kickback.



TABLESAW SAFETY

Tablesaw blades are covered by an overhead guard to protect the user from the rotating blade. It is both illegal and dangerous to operate your saw without the blade guard in position.

Familiarise yourself with the user manual and unplug the cord before making any adjustments or changing the blade.

Use a push stick instead of your fingers to feed timber through the blade.

Always use safety glasses, a dust mask and hearing protection when operating the saw, and avoid wearing any loose clothing or jewellery that can be caught in the blade.

*TABLESAW TECHNIQUES

Many DIY projects require long pieces of timber to be cut along the grain or for precise bevels to be made along the edge of a panel.

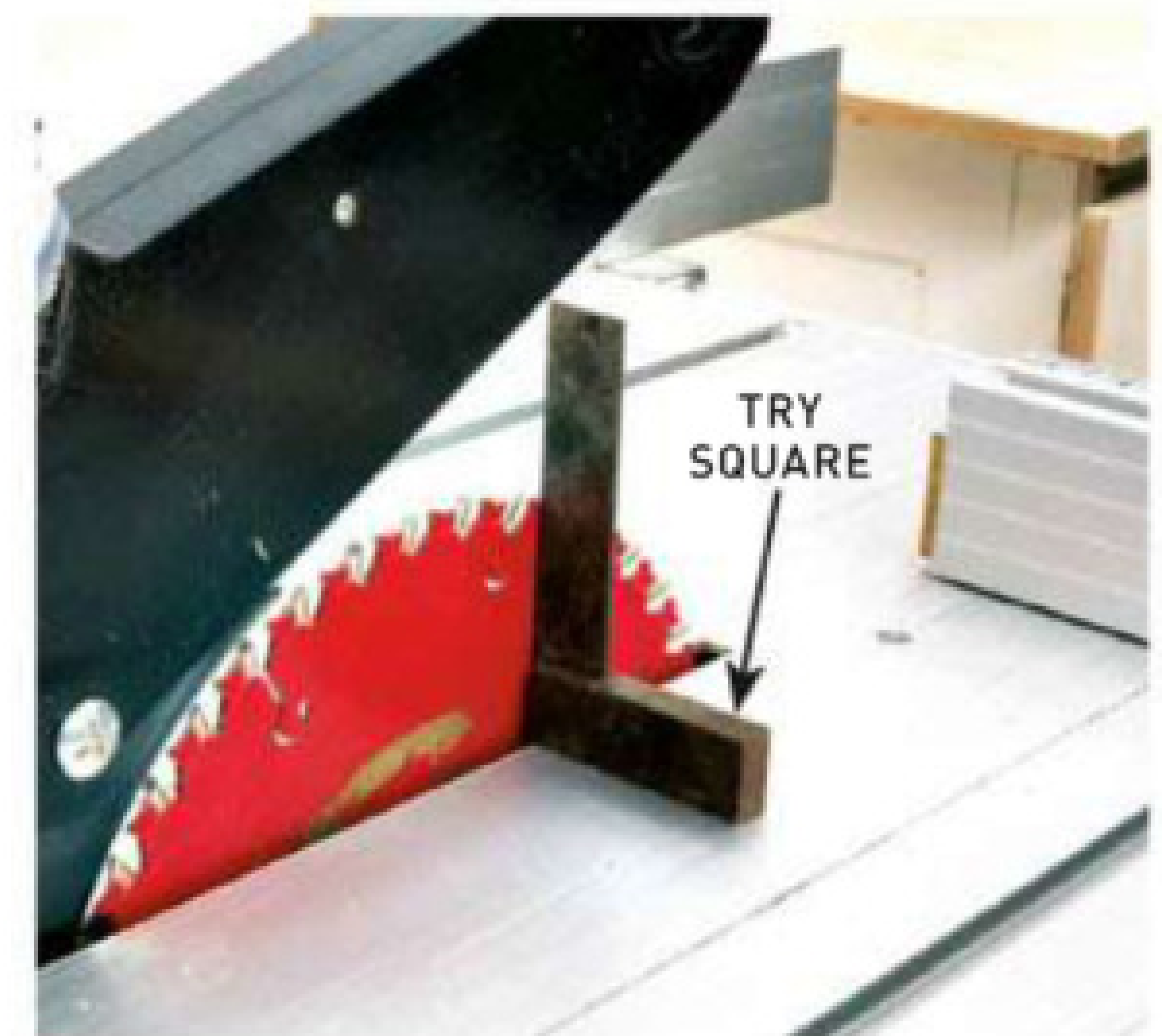
For jobs like these and many others, it's important to know how to use a tablesaw and the accessories it is sold with efficiently and safely.

*ALWAYS USE PUSH STICKS

A push stick is a device usually supplied with the saw or made from timber or plywood.

Push sticks are designed to help you feed timber through the saw while keeping your fingers well out of the way of the blade.

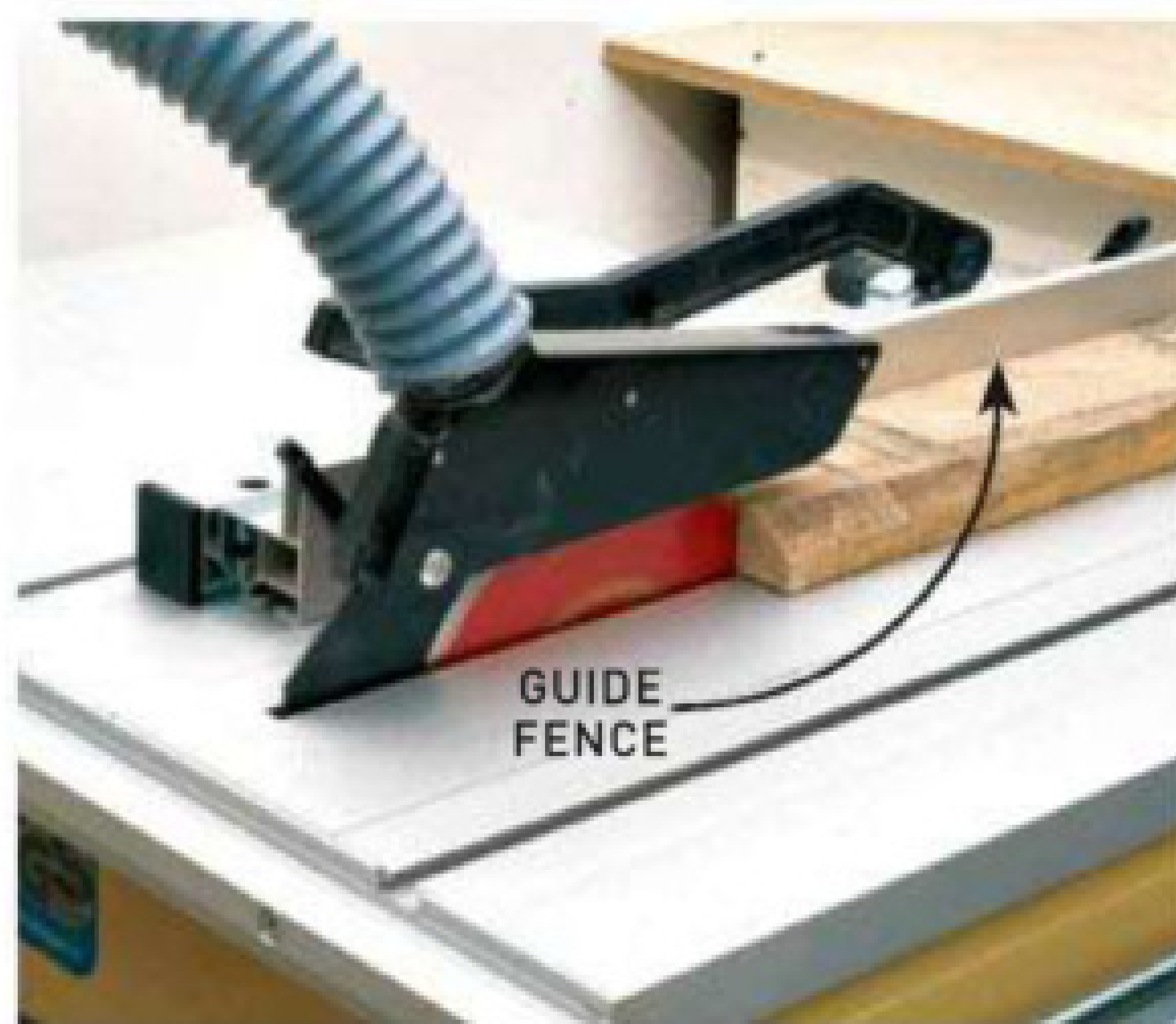
They are particularly useful for jobs like cutting thin strips of timber from a larger workpiece. Make sure you have one for each hand and familiarise yourself with using them even when they are not crucial.



*CHECK BLADE ALIGNMENT

Set the saw's blade angle to 0°, then unplug the cord and open the blade guard. Position a try square with the stock flat against the saw's tabletop, pushing the square up to the blade.

If there is a gap between the square and the blade, adjust the blade setup until it is square.



*RIP TIMBER

Move the guide fence the required distance from the blade using the graduated measurements across the front edge, then lock it into position.

Make sure the blade is set high enough to cut all the way through the timber, then position the workpiece against the fence.

Push the timber towards the blade and feed it steadily through while keeping it pushed hard against the fence for a perfectly straight cut.

TIP When ripping long boards, it's useful to have a roller stand for the timber to rest on as it leaves the saw.

*CROSSCUT TIMBER

Square up the mitre gauge to the saw blade using a set square, then use screws to secure an extension fence to the mitre gauge.

Trim off the extension by pushing it through the blade, then align the cut line on the timber with the end of the extension fence. Start the saw and use the extension fence to push the timber through the blade.

TIP Never use the rip fence for crosscutting, as it greatly increases the risk of kickback.



*MAKE MULTIPLE CUTS

Use a stop block for projects that require multiple matching pieces of the same length.

Secure an extension fence to the mitre gauge and trim it to size, then clamp an angled stop block at the required length. Hold each board securely against the stop block to make the cuts. ➤

BANDSAWS AND SCROLL SAWS

Traditionally the domain of more ambitious DIYers, these power tools are much easier to use than you might think, and can greatly expand your horizons when making anything from furniture to decorative items and toys for children.

*BANDSAWS

While mitresaws and tablesaws are both designed around a circular blade, bandsaws and scroll saws feature a linear blade.

Extremely useful for advanced DIY and precision joinery, bandsaws are less difficult for the beginner to master than many believe.

Although jigsaws are more popular for cutting curved shapes in timber, and fitting a circular saw with a guide fence is a familiar way of ripping timber, bandsaws can perform both these tasks.

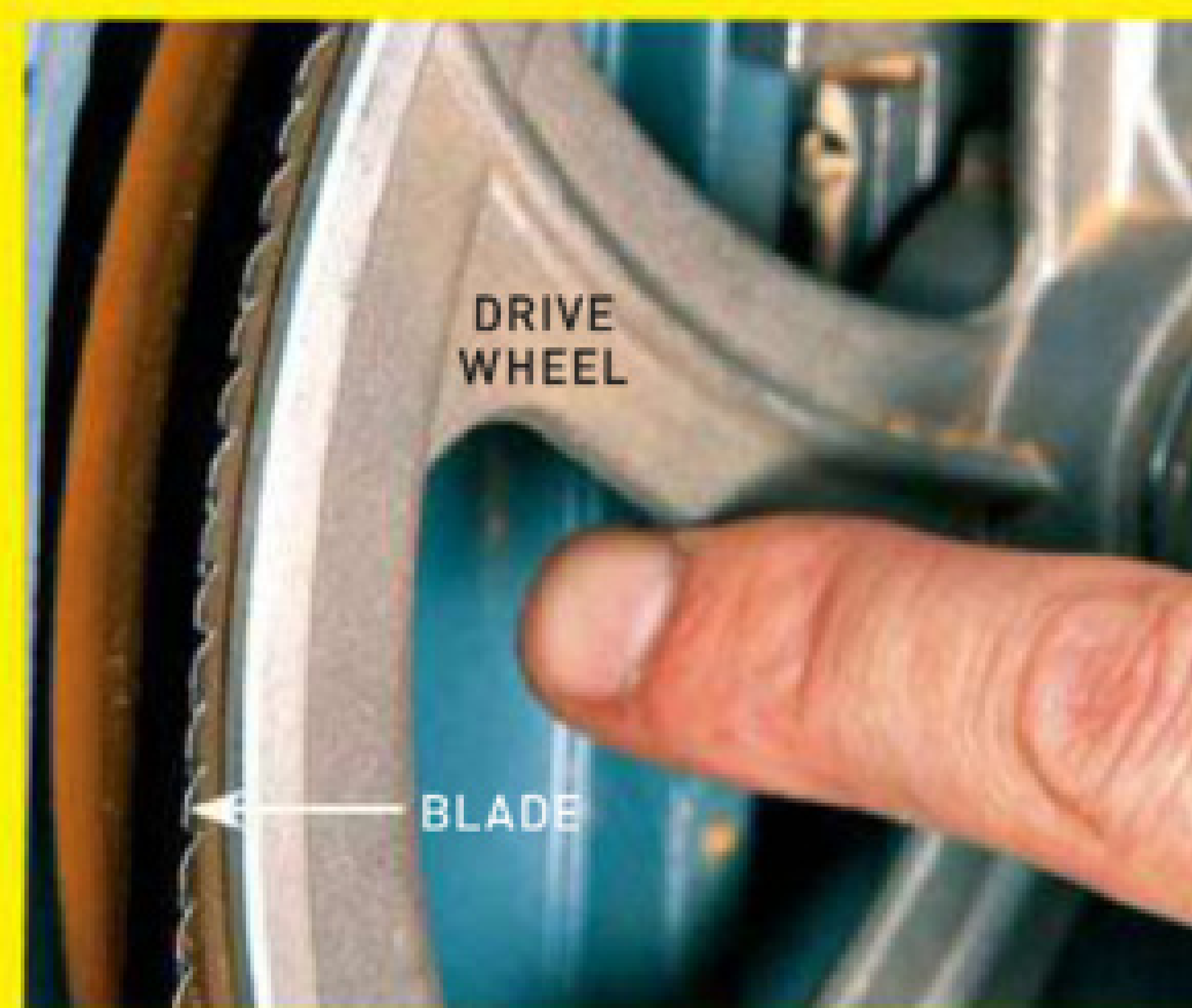
As with tablesaws, bandsaws can be used to make unique DIY projects that rely on non-standard timber section sizes.

In addition to a fence parallel to the blade, they are normally sold with a sliding mitre gauge for angled cuts, and many models feature a table that can be tilted up to 45°.



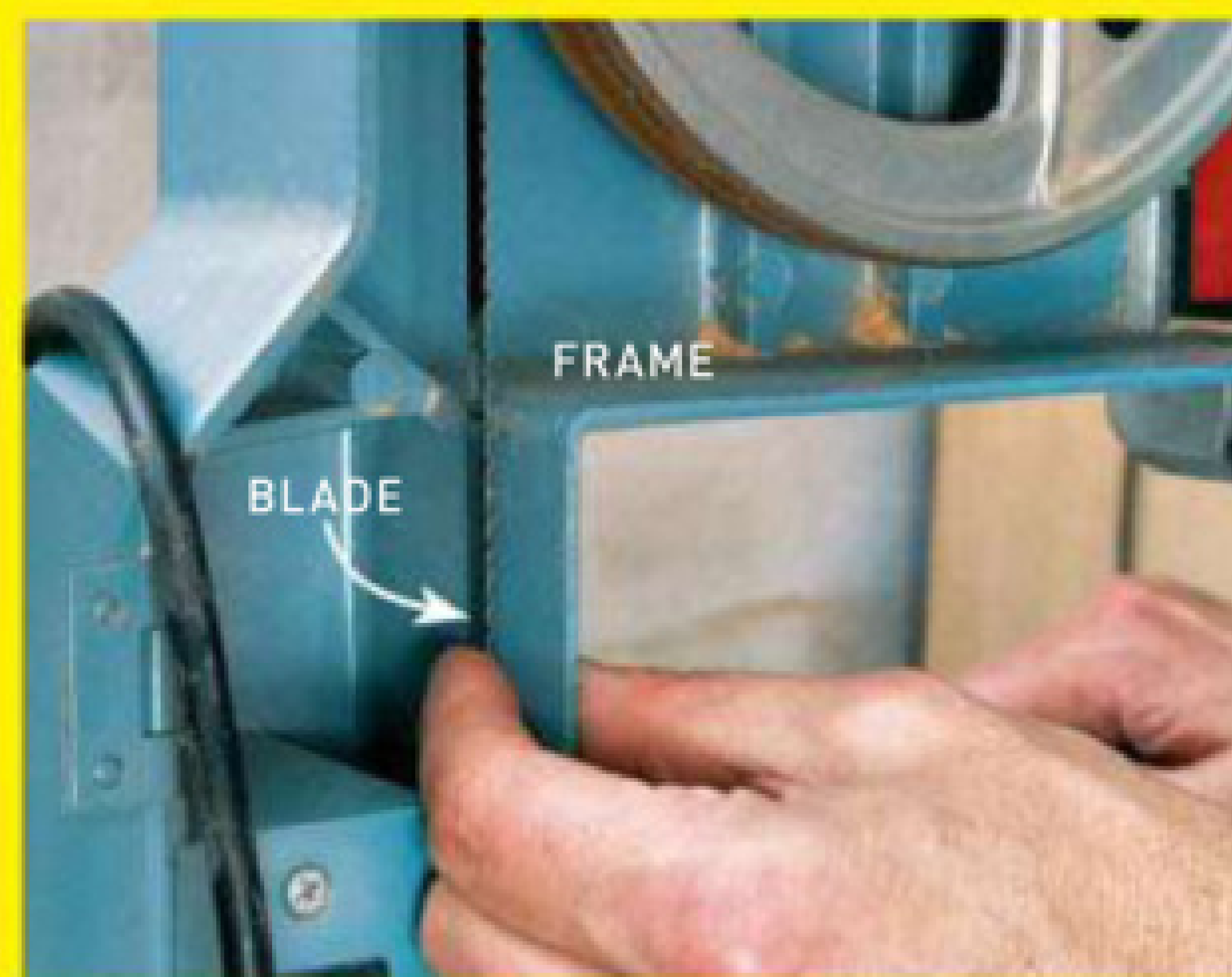
SETTING UP A NEW BLADE

As the bandsaw's teeth are dulled through use, the blade will start to flex unevenly and fail to cut parallel with the fence, indicating that it's time for a replacement. **TIP** Turn the blade loop inside out to reverse the tooth direction, if necessary.



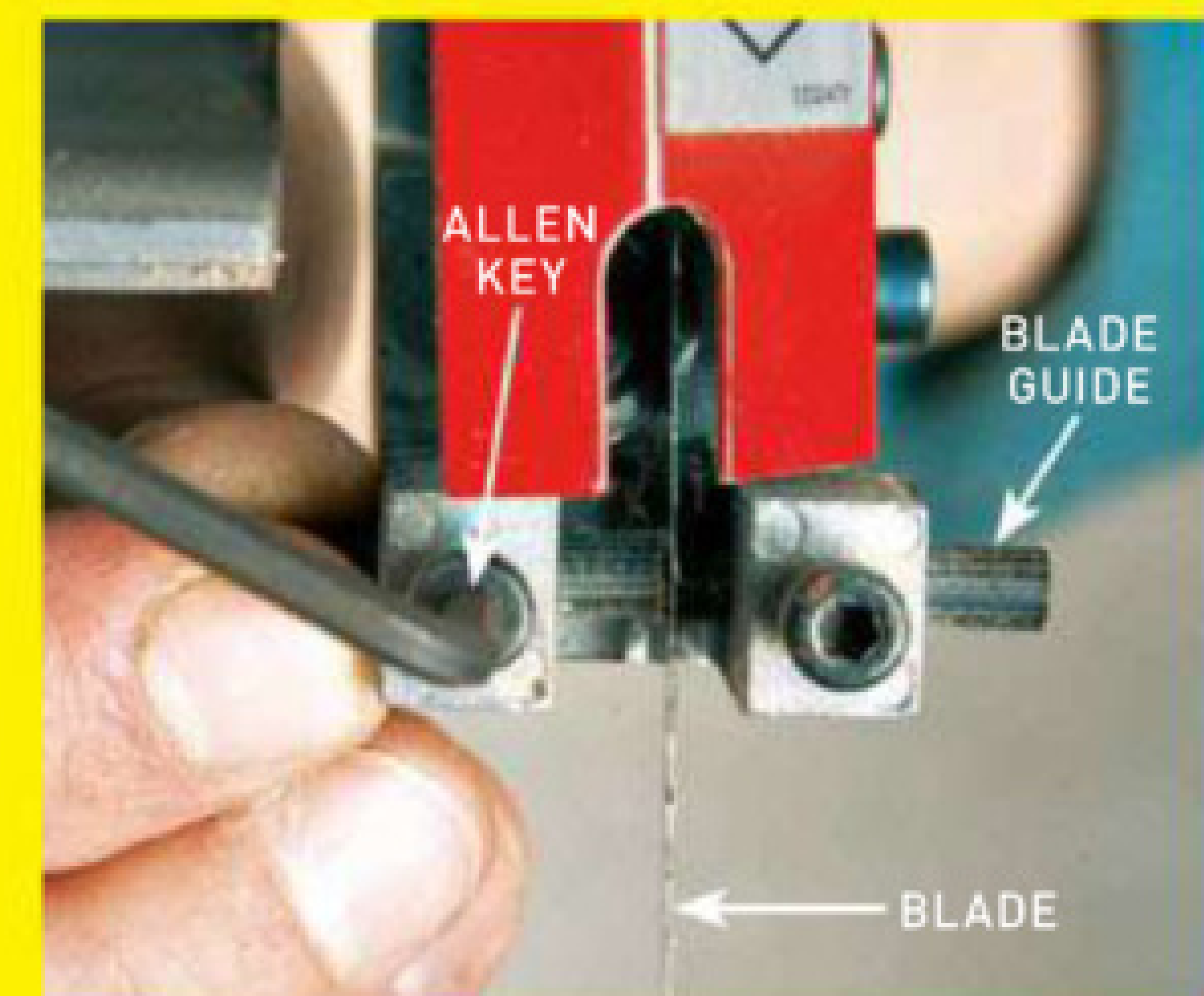
1. REPLACE THE OLD BLADE

Open the casing and loosen the blade tensioning system then, wearing work gloves, remove the old blade and fit the new blade over the wheels, ensuring the teeth are orientated in the correct direction.



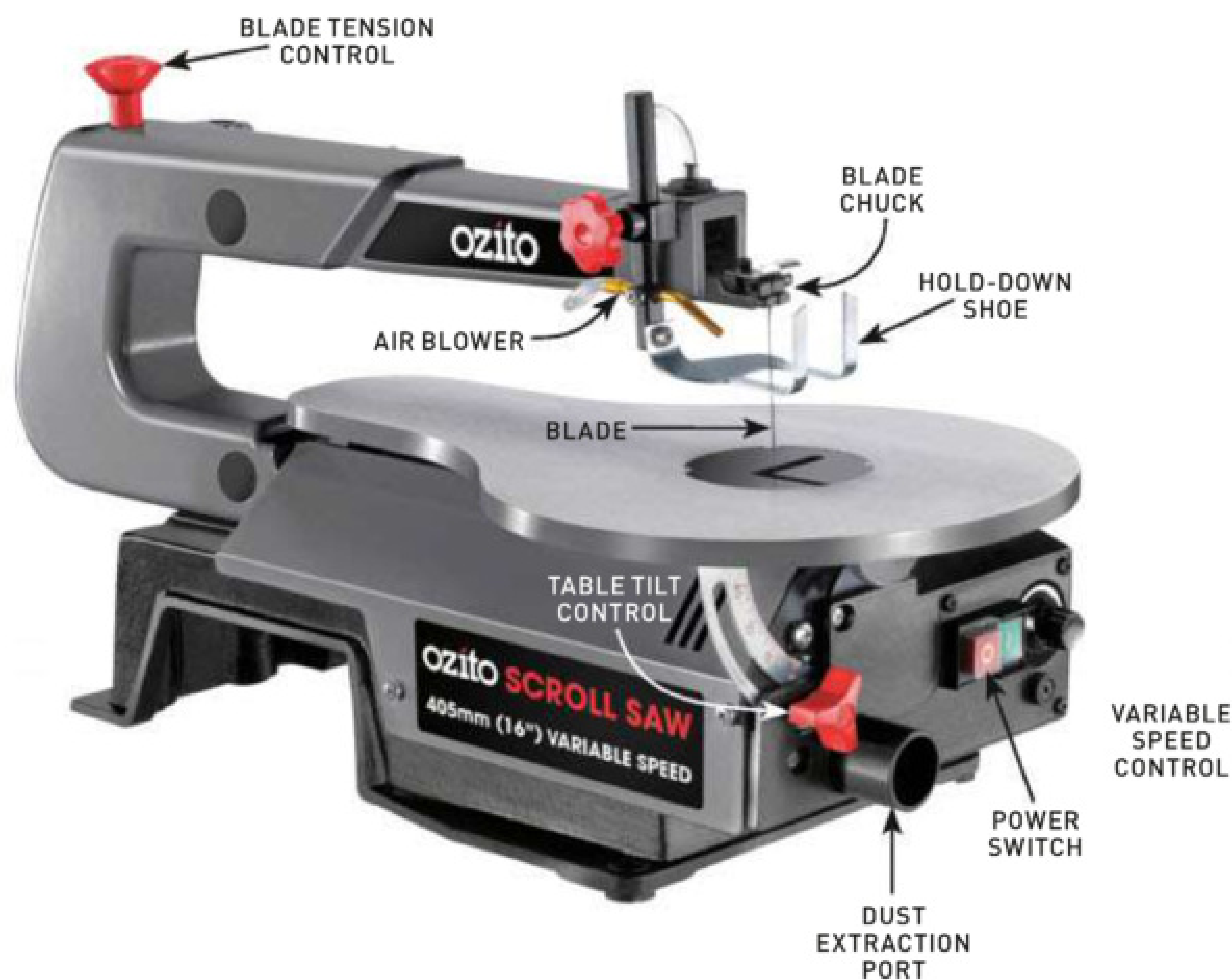
2. SET THE TENSION

Turn the top wheel slowly until the blade runs centrally along the treads of each wheel. Increase the tension until the blade is taut but still elastic enough to travel about 10mm to one side when squeezed towards the frame.



2. FINE-TUNE THE BLADE PATH

Adjust the tracking control to keep the blade centred on the treads. Use an Allen key to set the thrust bearings behind the blade and the blade guides on either side to provide about 0.5mm clearance all round.



*SCROLL SAWS

These are not tools for heavy-duty DIY jobs, but for extremely fine precision sawing that can give timber an almost laser-cut look.

Scroll saws are mainly designed for decorative applications, ranging from fretwork to jigsaw puzzles.

They are also invaluable when extremely tight turns or fine details must be negotiated when cutting structural elements.

Scroll saws often feature tool-free blade change, making it easy to cut out shapes that are fully enclosed by surrounding timber by

drilling a small starter hole and feeding the blade through it.

Most feature an air blower to keep the cut line visible, and if a workshop vac is also connected, the tool can be nearly dust-free to use.

The air blower is often mounted on a hold-down shoe similar to that on a sewing machine. The shoe stops the workpiece from catching on the blade and chattering up and down as you work.

TIP Do not touch the blade straight after sawing, as it will be hot enough to cause nasty burns.



MOTO-SAW

Scroll saws are power tools that perform a similar task to coping saws or fretsaws, but unlike these hand tools, they are usually positioned on or secured to a workbench when in use.

The unique Dremel Moto-Saw is a natural evolution of the idea. It can be used as a conventional variable-speed scroll saw, with a work table that can be attached firmly to the edge of a workbench.

For projects that need greater manoeuvrability, the saw unit can be detached from the work table and used independently like a powered fretsaw.

The blade can be changed without the use of tools, and can also be mounted at 90° to the frame, like a coping saw.

*TIMBER ART

Scroll saws can be used to create amazingly intricate timber artworks.

There are countless scroll saw projects and patterns available in books and online, ranging from geometric fretwork to patterns and pictures, even portraits.

Whether you create standalone artworks, or inlays for furniture and other more conventional DIY projects, a scroll saw will enable you to make ornate embellishments limited only by your imagination. ➤



BUYING GUIDE

Choose a stationary saw based on your DIY needs. Mitresaws are great for crosscutting, tablesaws are handy for cutting along the grain, bandsaws are ideal for curve cutting and scroll saws are best-suited for finer detail work.

COMPOUND MITRESAWS



Featuring a built-in laser guide for easy cut alignment, this 48-tooth, 254mm saw also has a LiveTool indicator for added safety.

Ryobi 2000W Sliding Compound Mitresaw, \$296. ryobi.co.nz



This saw has a vibration-reducing soft-grip handle, extension bars for supporting long pieces of timber and a 250mm blade.

Bosch 1800W Sliding Compound Mitresaw, \$488. bosch-do-it.co.nz



Perfectly suited to DIY use, this mitresaw features a 260mm blade, a laser marker and an electric brake to stop the blade rotating.

Makita 1430W Sliding Compound Mitresaw, \$599. makita.co.nz

TABLESAW AND BANDSAWS



Ideal for cutting large sheets, this has detachable extension tables, a dust-extracting blade guard and a cut capacity of up to 70mm at 90°.

Ozito 1500W 250mm Freestanding Tablesaw, \$279. ozito.co.nz



A powerful 420W motor and a cutting height of 125mm make this perfect for curved and straight cuts, plus it has a throat depth of 245mm.

Full Boar 420W Bandsaw, \$348, from Bunnings.



This saw features a throat depth of 230mm as well as a blade with 80mm cut height, capable of making bevels up to a 45° angle.

Ryobi Adjustable Height 350W Bandsaw, \$348.

SCROLL SAWS



This incredibly versatile tool features adjustable speed and tool-free blade change, plus it comes with eight blades.

Dremel Moto-Saw, \$147. dremel.com



Designed for precise cuts in timber, plastic and plaster, this saw has a 405mm throat depth and an air blower to clear sawdust from the cut line.

Ozito 120W Variable Speed Scroll Saw, \$169.



With a throat depth of 405mm, this offers variable speed and has an air blower, built-in work light and a table that can be tilted up to 45°.

Ryobi 125W Scroll Saw With In-built Work Light, \$249.



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TIME 4 DAYS
SKILL INTERMEDIATE**DIY \$990**TOOLS MITRESAW,
ROUTER, JIGSAW,
BELT SANDER

Almost 3500mm wide, the timber gates feature automatic openers on the inside.

Classic gates

Make a driveway entrance for your property for about \$1000

WORDS FRANK GARDNER PROJECT JOHN BOWLER

This homestead had a boundary defined by a fence with brick columns flanking the driveway entry, but there weren't any gates.

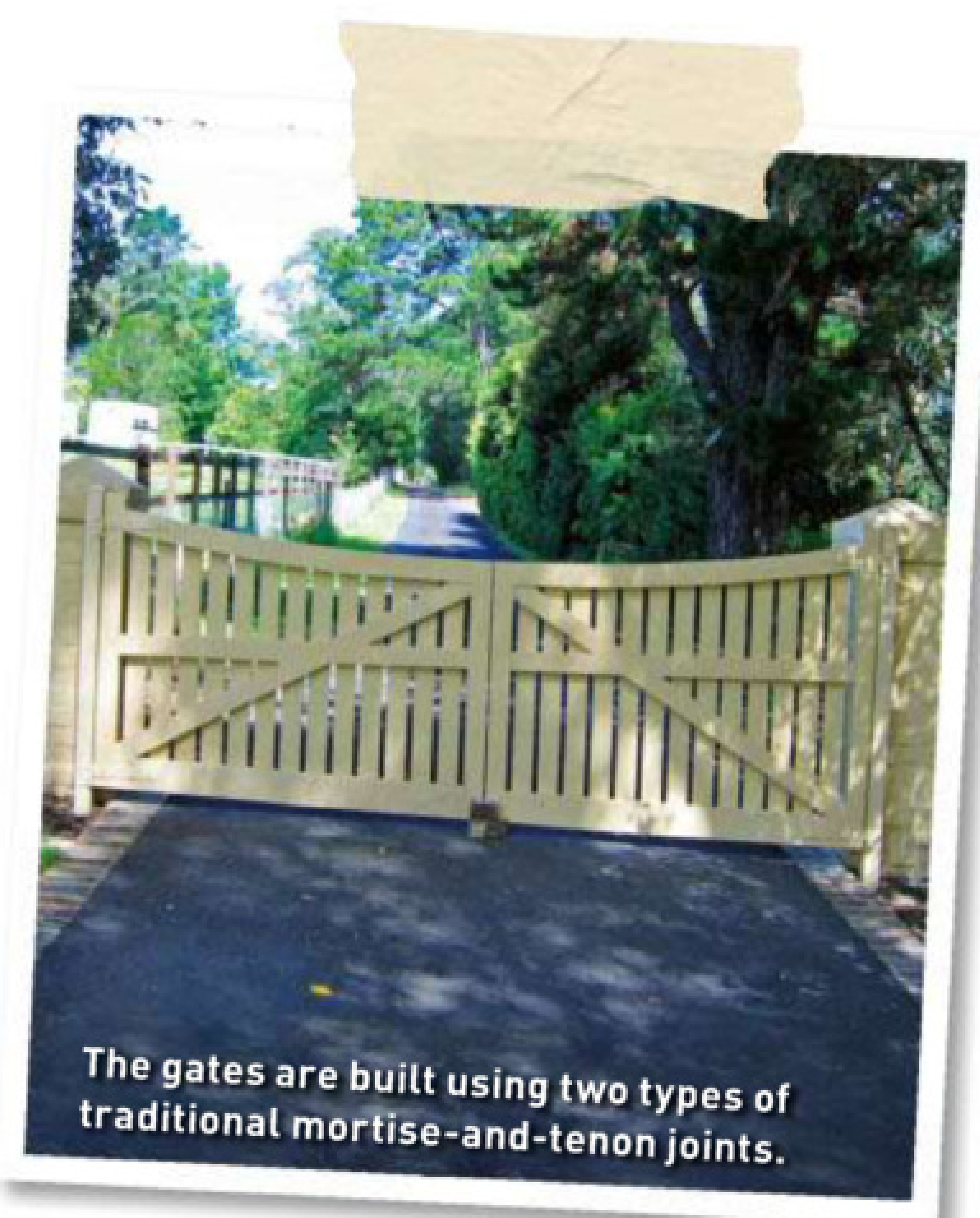
To match the architectural style and colour of the country home, lightweight gates were built.

Spanning nearly 3500mm, they were made from dressed all round (DAR) Western red cedar and hung on 75mm square galvanised posts concreted into the ground.

Electric openers secured to the posts are powered by a solar panel for automatic movement, with a stop installed in the ground at the front.

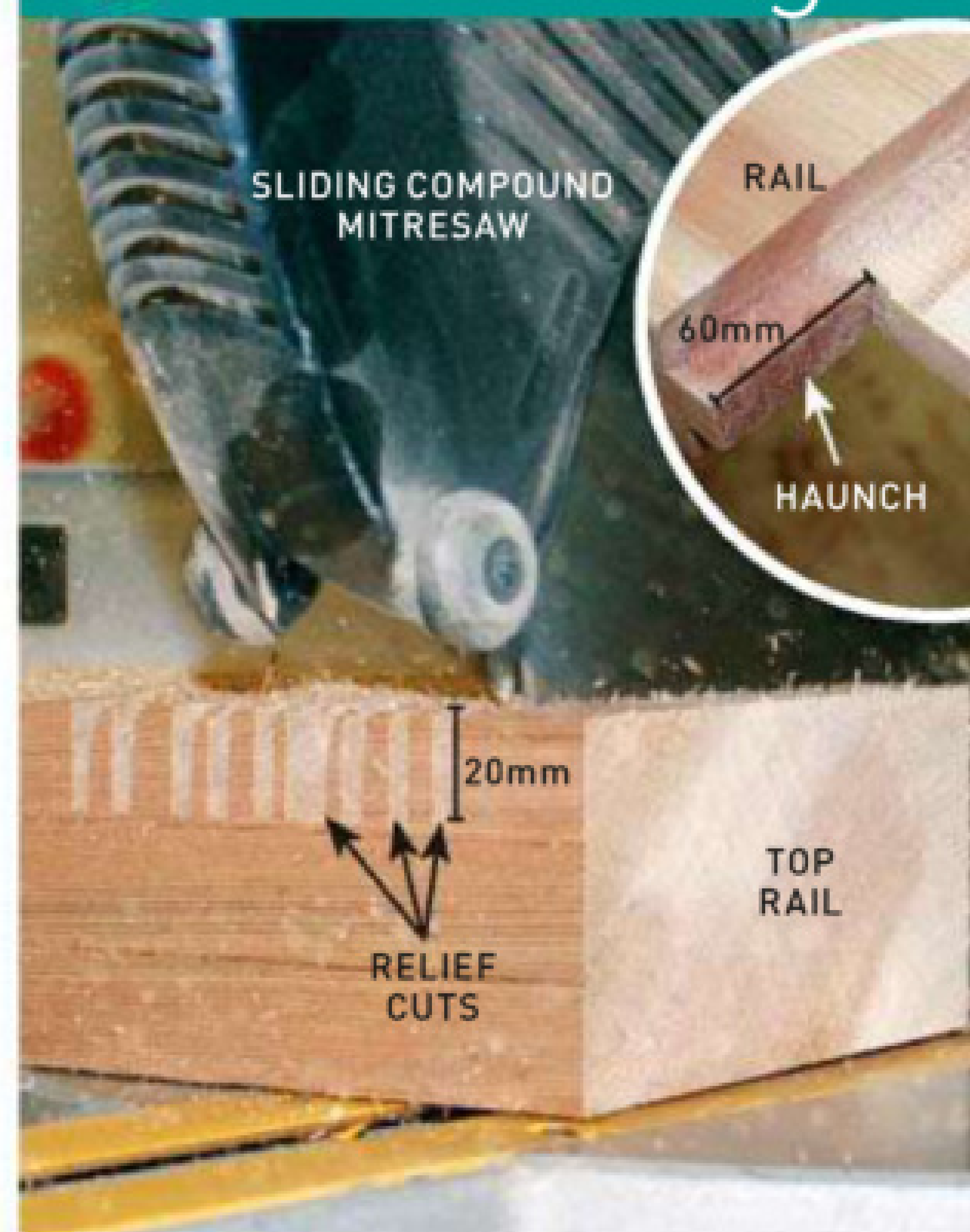
Each gate is 1700mm wide with 15mm clearance between the stiles and posts, and a 15mm gap at the centre.

Mark a full-size setout on two 2400 x 1200mm sheets of MDF, check the parts are square and aligned, then cut out the timber pieces and position them on the MDF setout. ➤

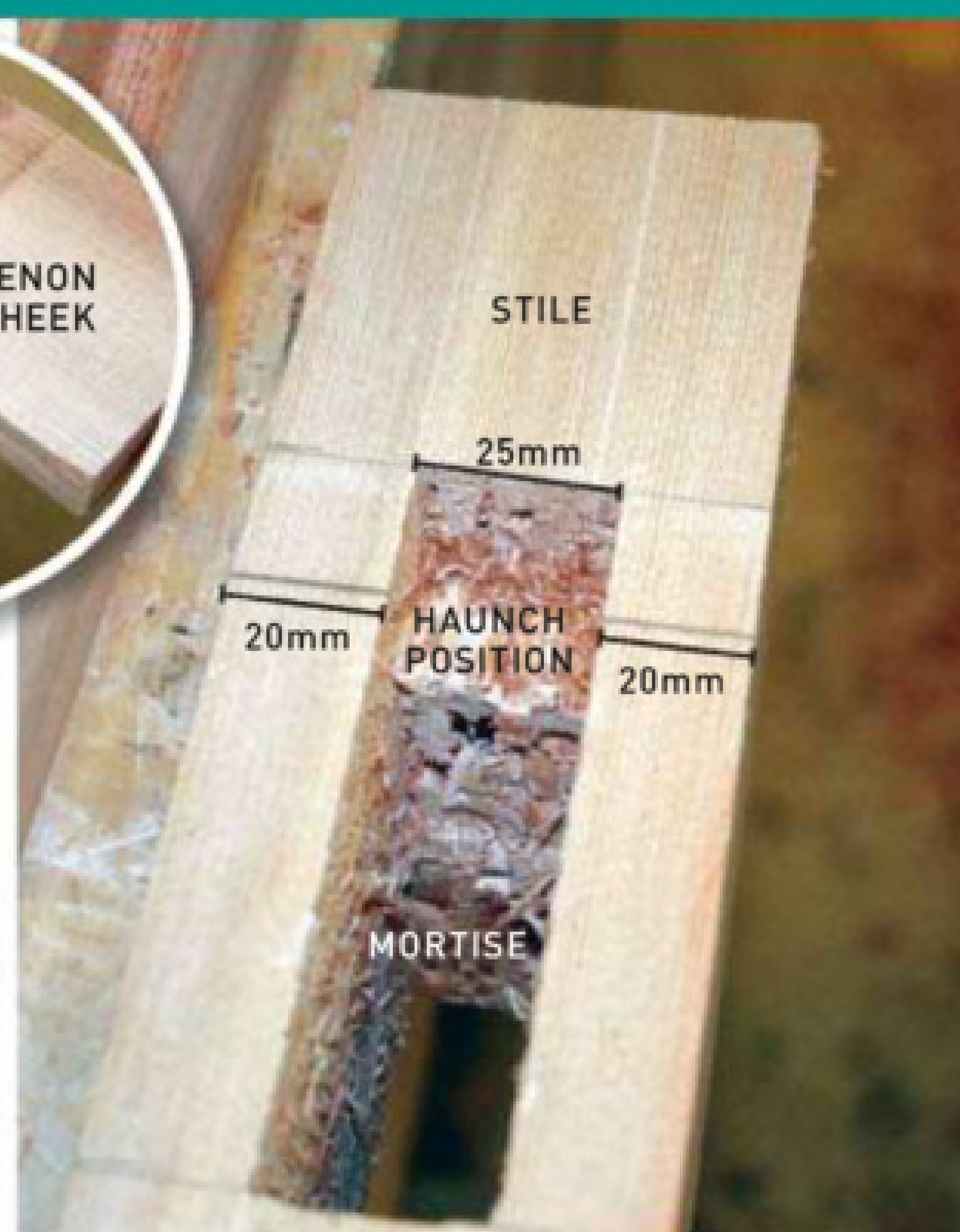


The gates are built using two types of traditional mortise-and-tenon joints.

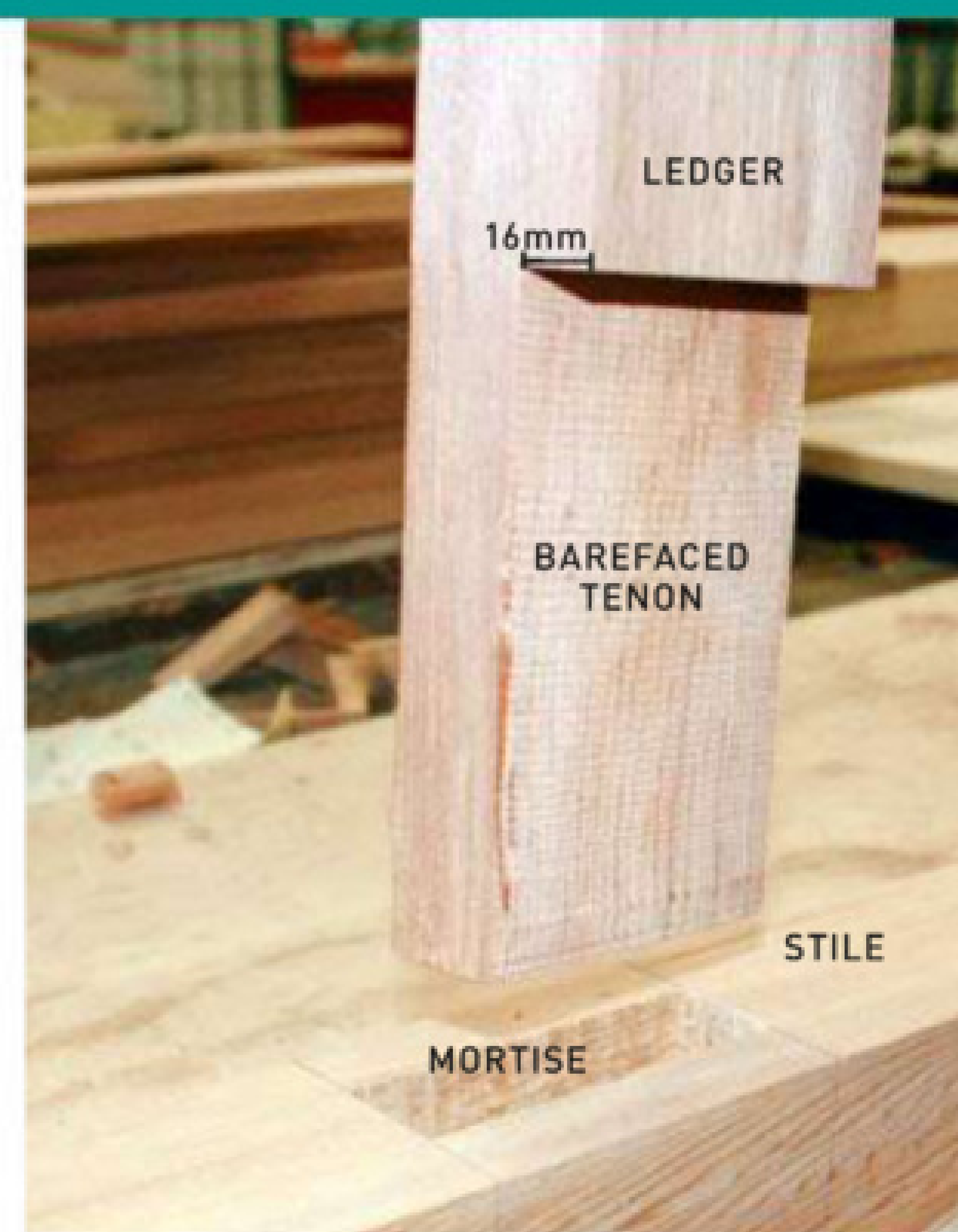
▼ Build the gates



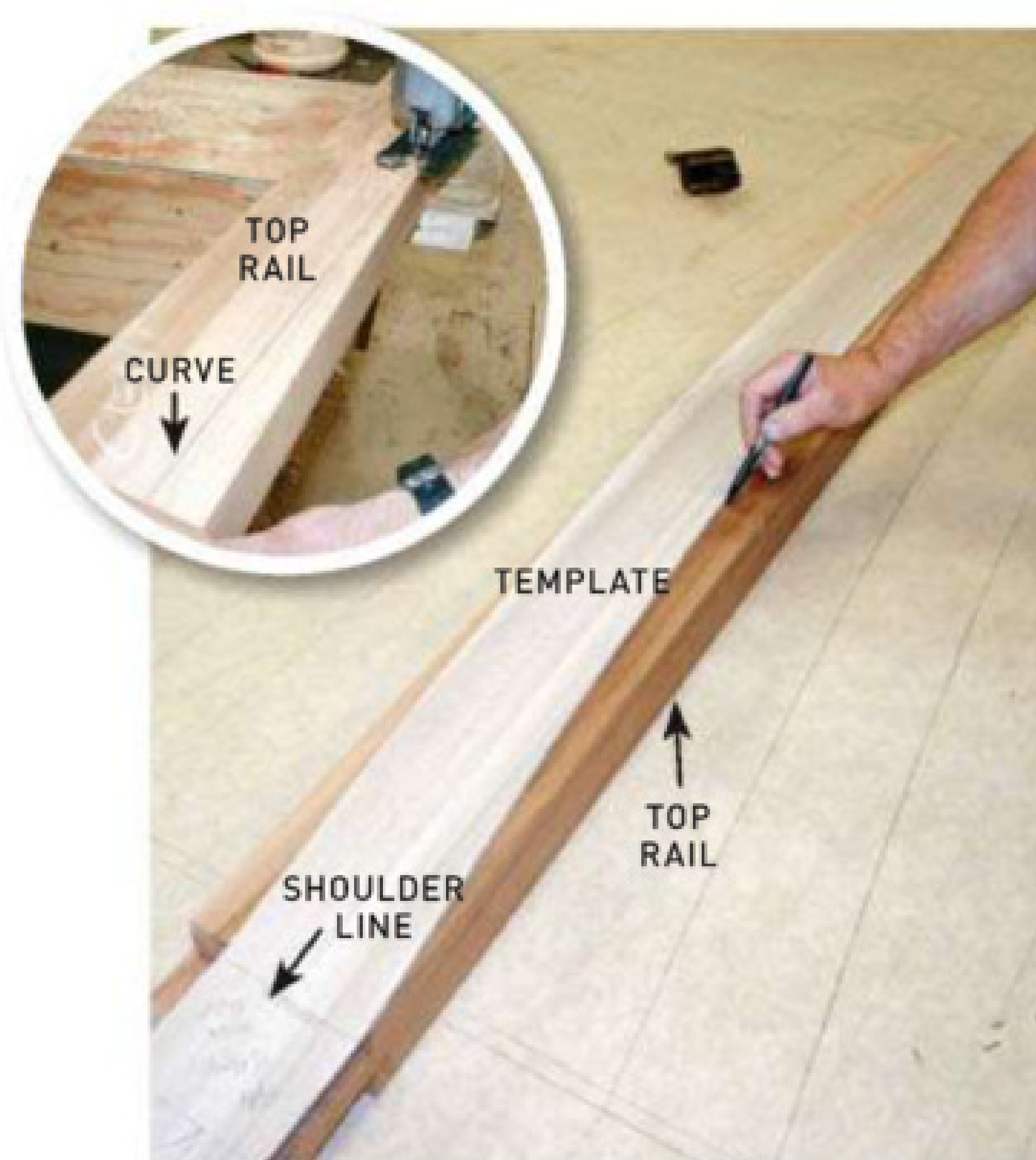
1 Cut the haunched tenons
Mark the shoulder lines 1520mm apart across the base rail ends. On the top rails, use the MDF setout to mark the angled shoulder lines. Use a sliding compound mitresaw to make 20mm relief cuts. Clean out the waste and cut a 60 x 25mm haunch on each tenon.



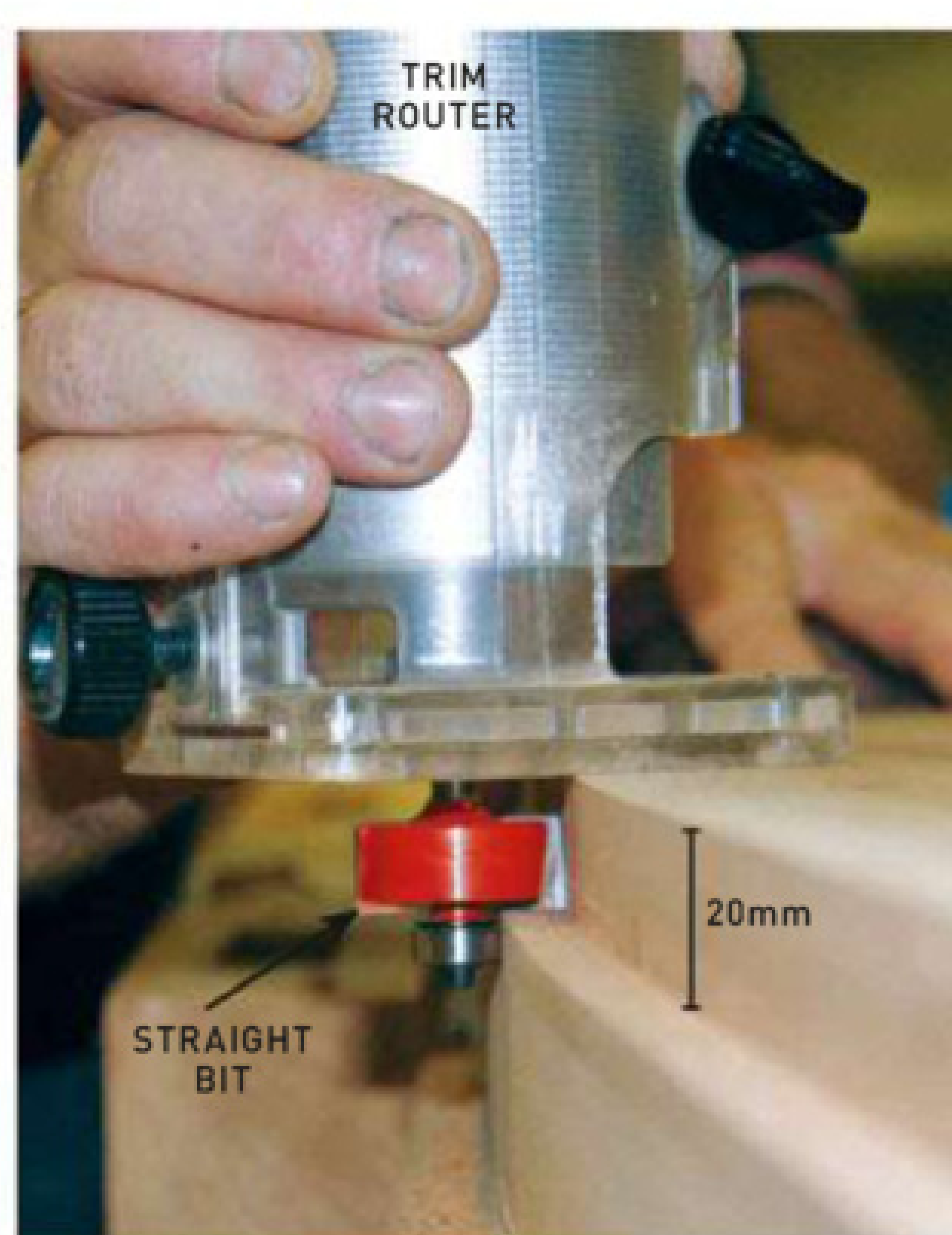
2 Cut the mortises
On the base rails, mark the tenons and haunches by squaring around all faces. Set a mortise gauge to 25mm and score parallel lines between the setout marks on the stiles, chiselling out the waste. Cut the base tenons as before and check for a tight fit.



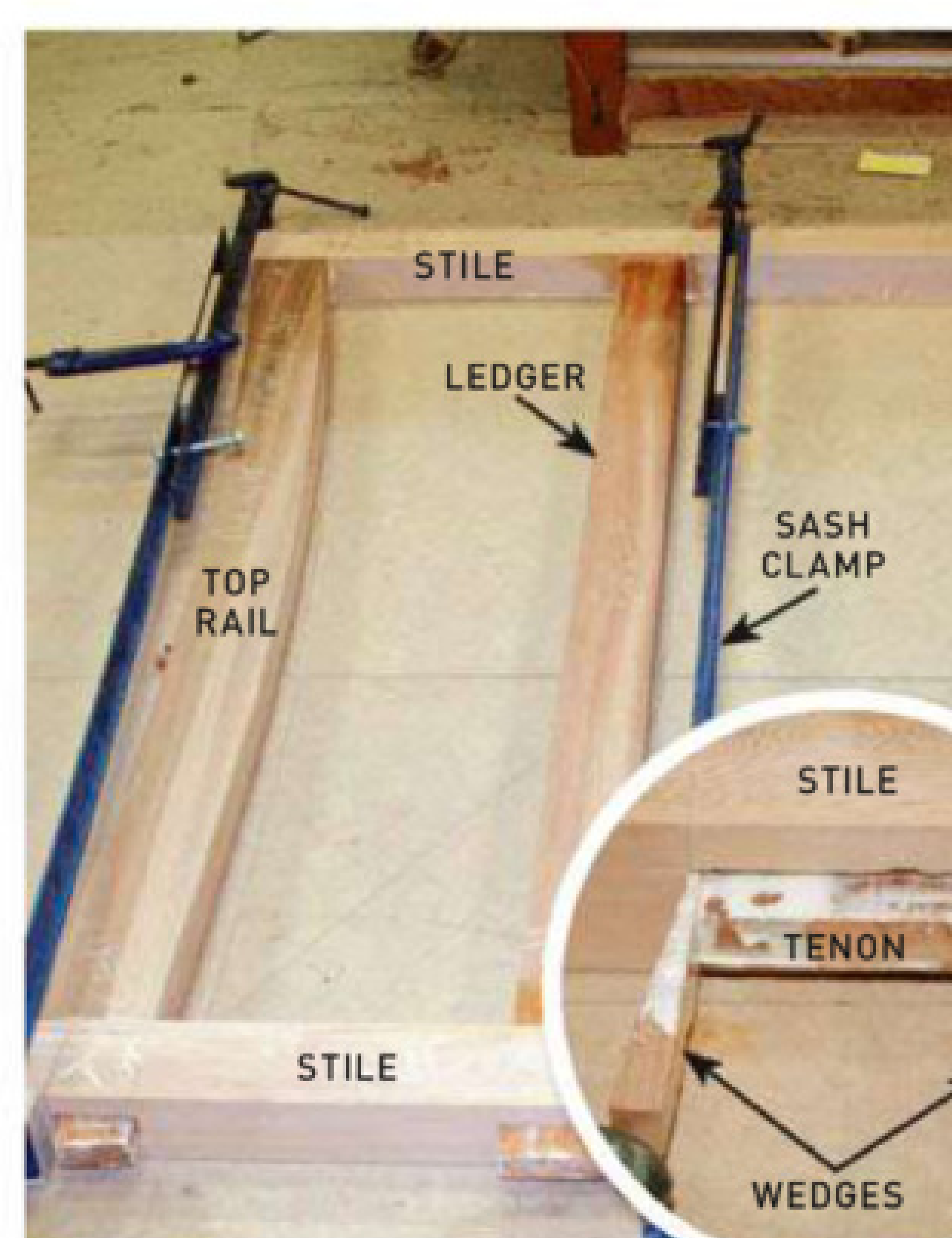
3 Prepare the ledger joints
On the ledgers, mark the shoulder lines for the barefaced mortise-and-tenon joints, set the blade depth to 16mm and make close relief cuts on one side. Clean up the tenon cheek, then chisel out a matching mortise in the stile.



4 Cut the top rail curve
On 1800 x 140 x 4.5mm plywood, mark and cut a 100mm wide curve to the centre of the gate as a template. Mark the curves on the top rails, cut with a jigsaw and use a belt sander with 80 grit abrasive paper to sand, rounding over the edges.



5 Test the frames
Use a trim router and 12mm straight bit to cut a 20mm deep rebate along the edge of the top and base rails for the pickets, increasing the depth with each pass. To test-fit, assemble the frames, pulling together with a sash clamp at each rail. Check for square.



6 Assemble the frames
Position the frame on the setout, apply exterior PVA adhesive to the tenons, tap the joints together and use sash clamps to wind them in until the shoulders are firmly against the stiles. Check for square, then tap timber wedges into the joints, leaving to dry.

Joining the ledger and brace ▼

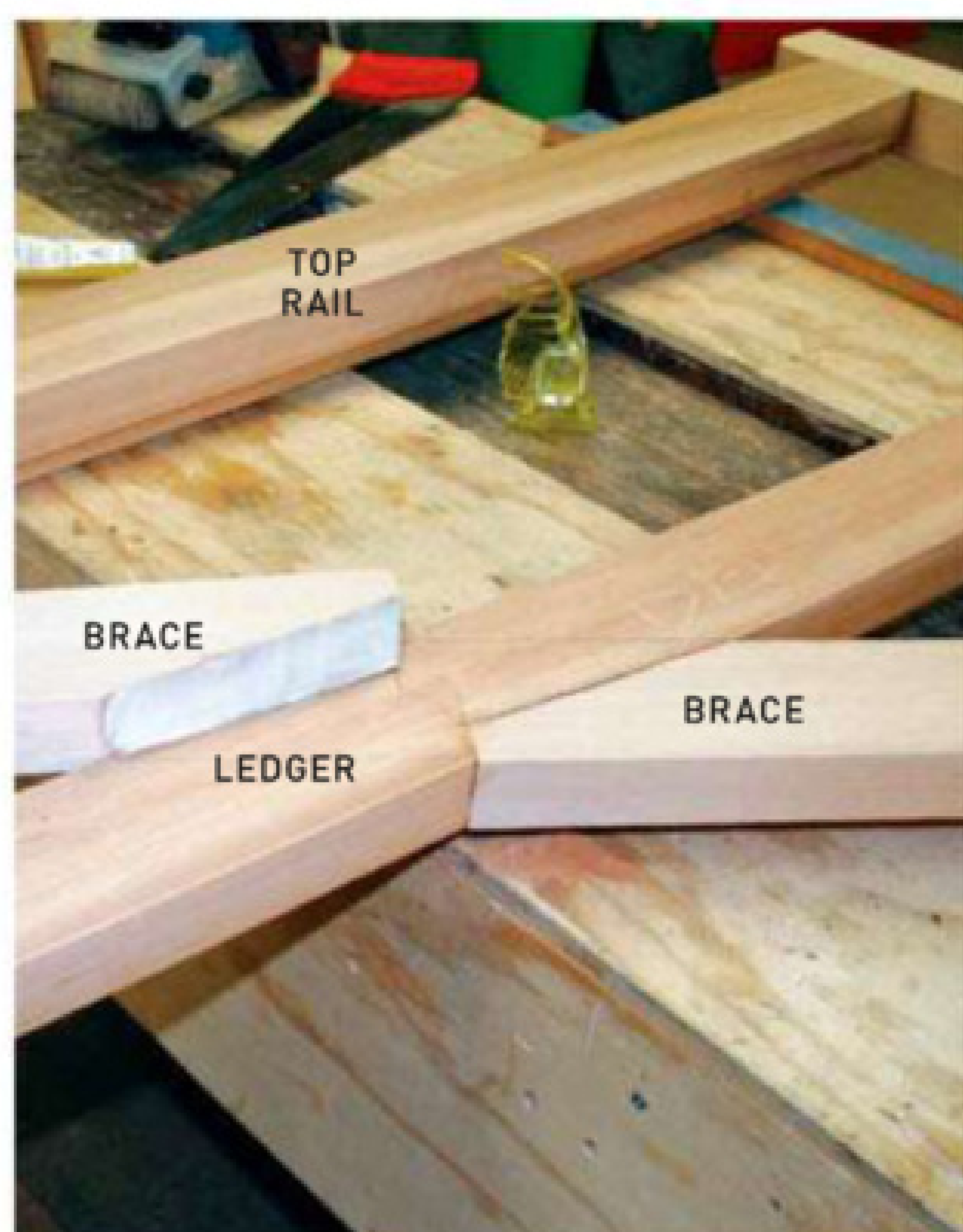
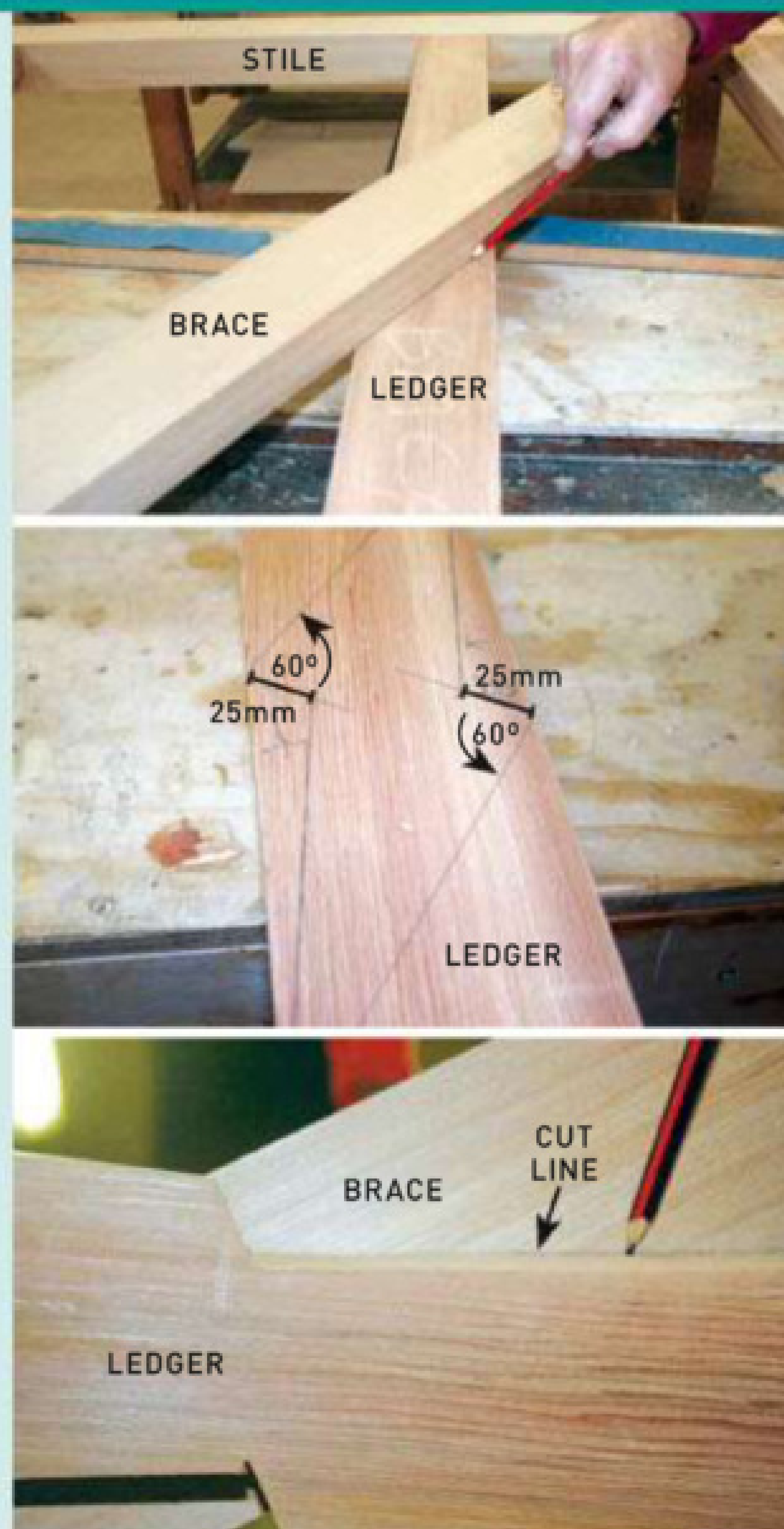
The ledger secures to the stiles and is notched at the centre to hold the brace. The brace is cut on an angle to fit into the corners of the frame and spliced to lock into the ledger.

TIP The brace transfers part of the weight of the gate to the hinged side, offsetting the tendency to sag.

1 POSITION THE BRACE between the frame corners so it runs from the base hinge up to the latch. Mark the angles to fit into the corners, cut, then mark where it crosses the ledger.

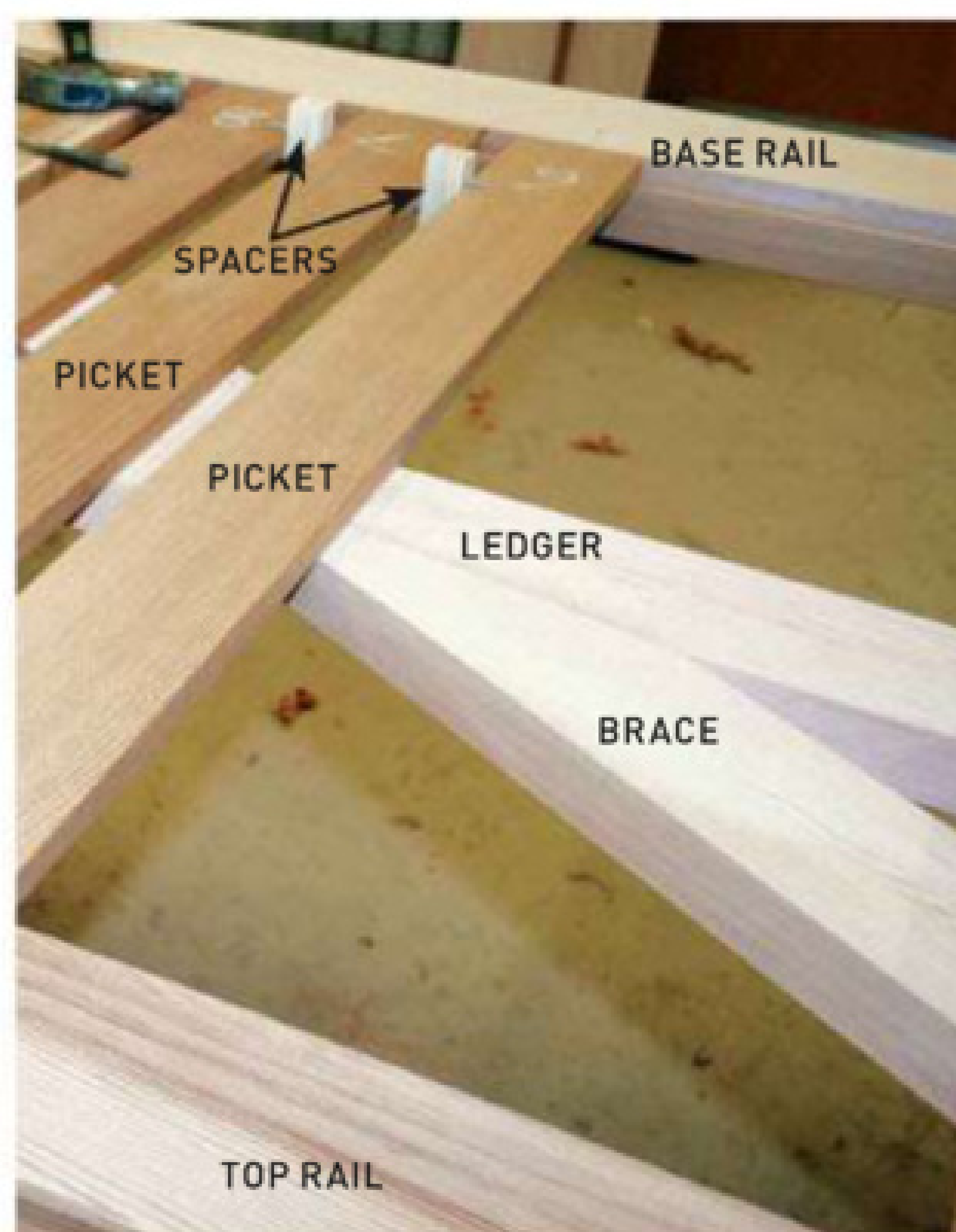
2 MARK UP THE LEDGER with 60° angles at the end of the lines. Measure 25mm in to mark a line back to the edge, using a jigsaw to cut the waste on both sides.

3 REPOSITION THE BRACE in the frame corners to mark the ledger cutouts on it. Use a jigsaw to cut the brace to fit, securing with exterior PVA adhesive and galvanised nails skewed into the ledger.



7 Secure the brace

Use the setout to mark and cut the ledgers and braces, applying adhesive, then securing the brace to the ledger and frame with nails. Cut protruding tenons and wedges flush with the face of the stiles, then use a belt sander to smooth over the joints until flush.



8 Add the pickets

Position the pickets in the rebate of the base rail, using 25mm spacers suspended on nails, then mark the tops to match the curve of the top rail. Cut with a jigsaw and secure with galvanised nails, then finish with two coats of exterior gloss acrylic. ➤

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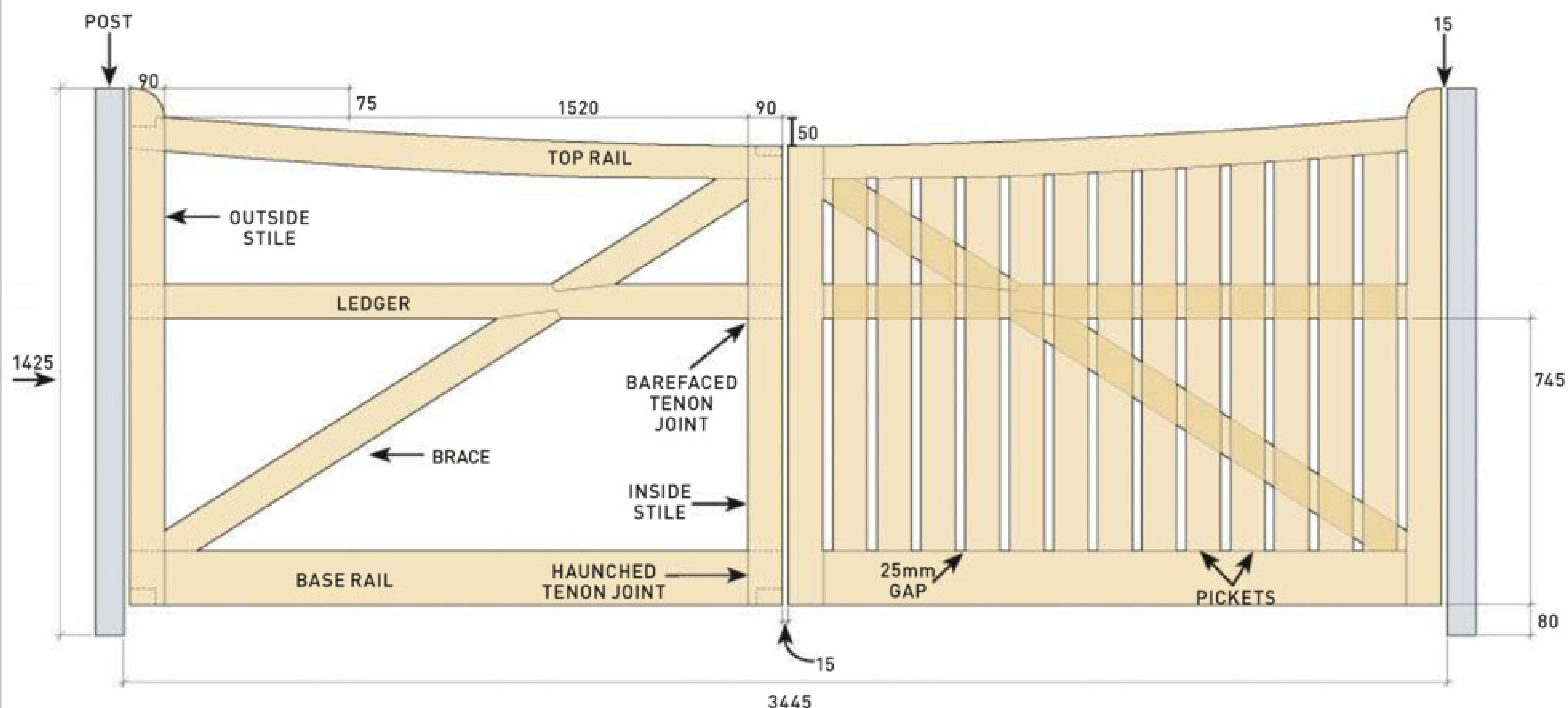


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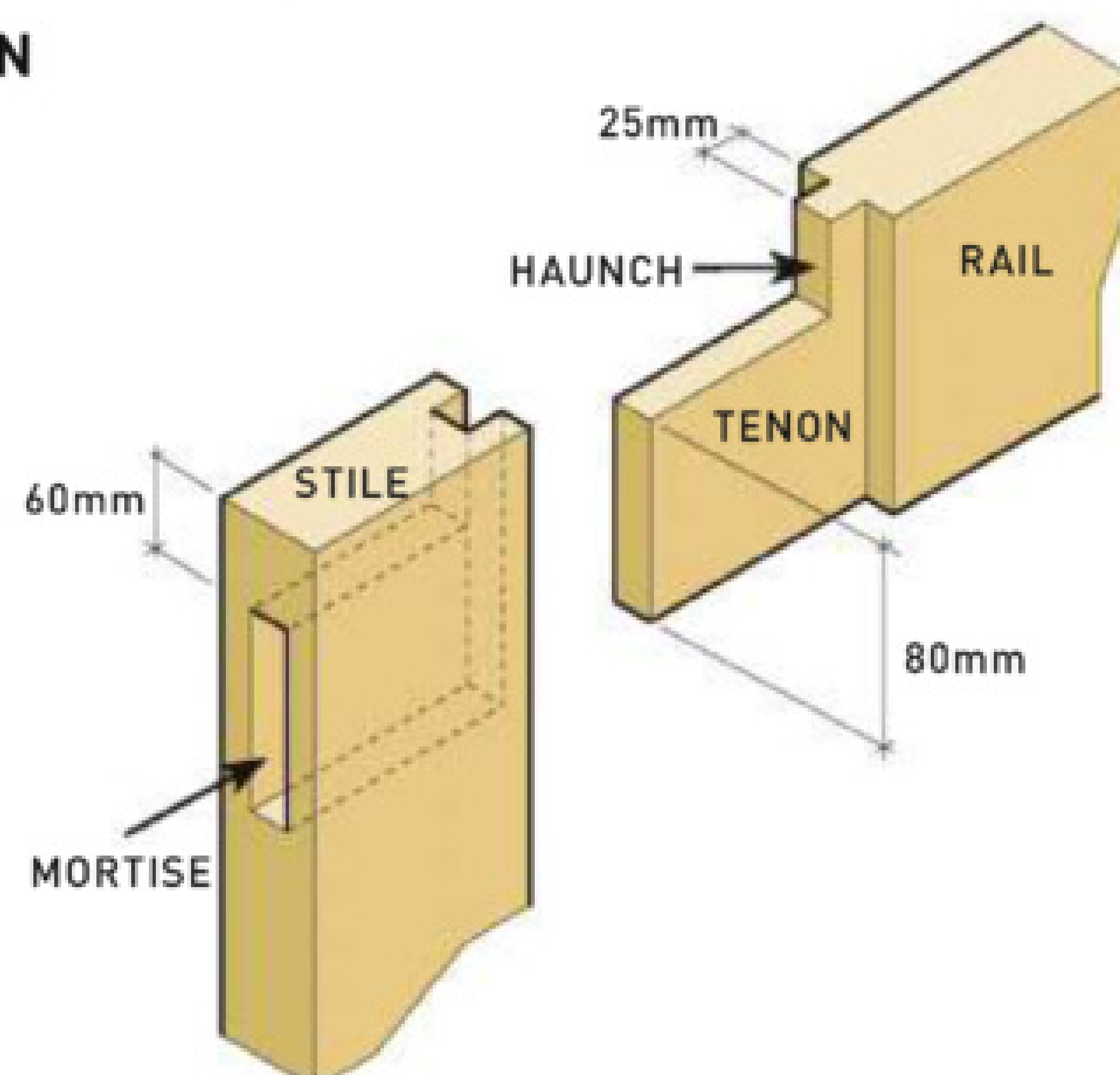
Classic gates

measurements in mm



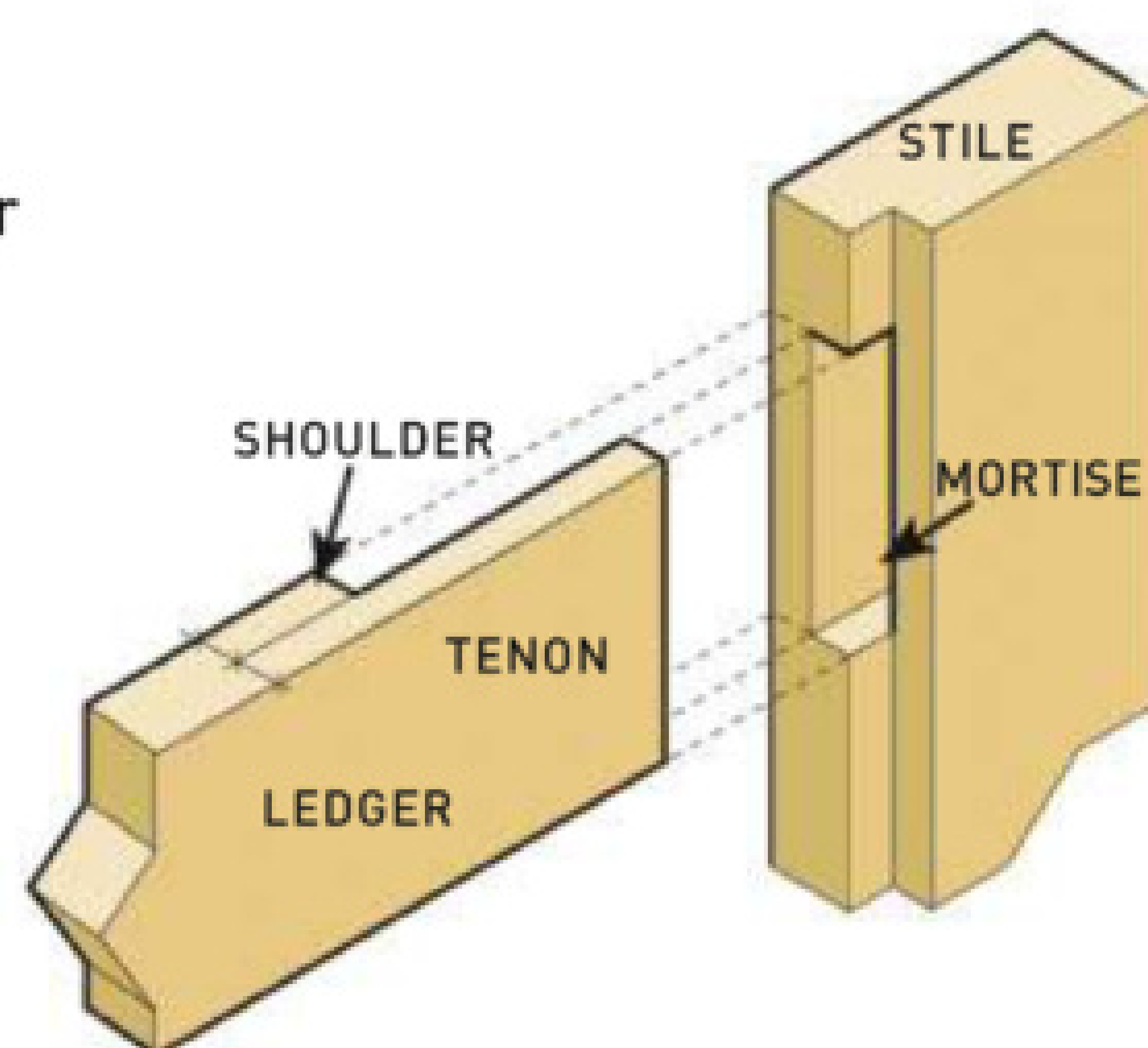
HAUNCHED MORTISE AND TENON

This has a tenon that is one-third the thickness of the timber that passes through the stile, plus a mortise that is the socket to match. The haunch is a short section of the tenon that fits into the groove beside the mortise to keep the joint from twisting.



BAREFACED MORTISE AND TENON

This is used when the rails and ledger are thinner than the stiles. It has a tenon with one shoulder, which allows the width to be increased to half the thickness of the timber, making the joint stronger.



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Western red cedar		
Outside stiles	1345 x 90 x 65	2
Inside stiles	1120 x 90 x 65	2
Rails	1700 x 140 x 65	4
Ledgers	1700 x 90 x 41	2
Braces	1800 x 90 x 41	2
Pickets	1060 x 90 x 17	26

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised nails, 65 x 2.8mm	Ledger and brace
Galvanised bullethead nails, 30 x 2mm	Pickets

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Download the tools, materials and costs to make this project.



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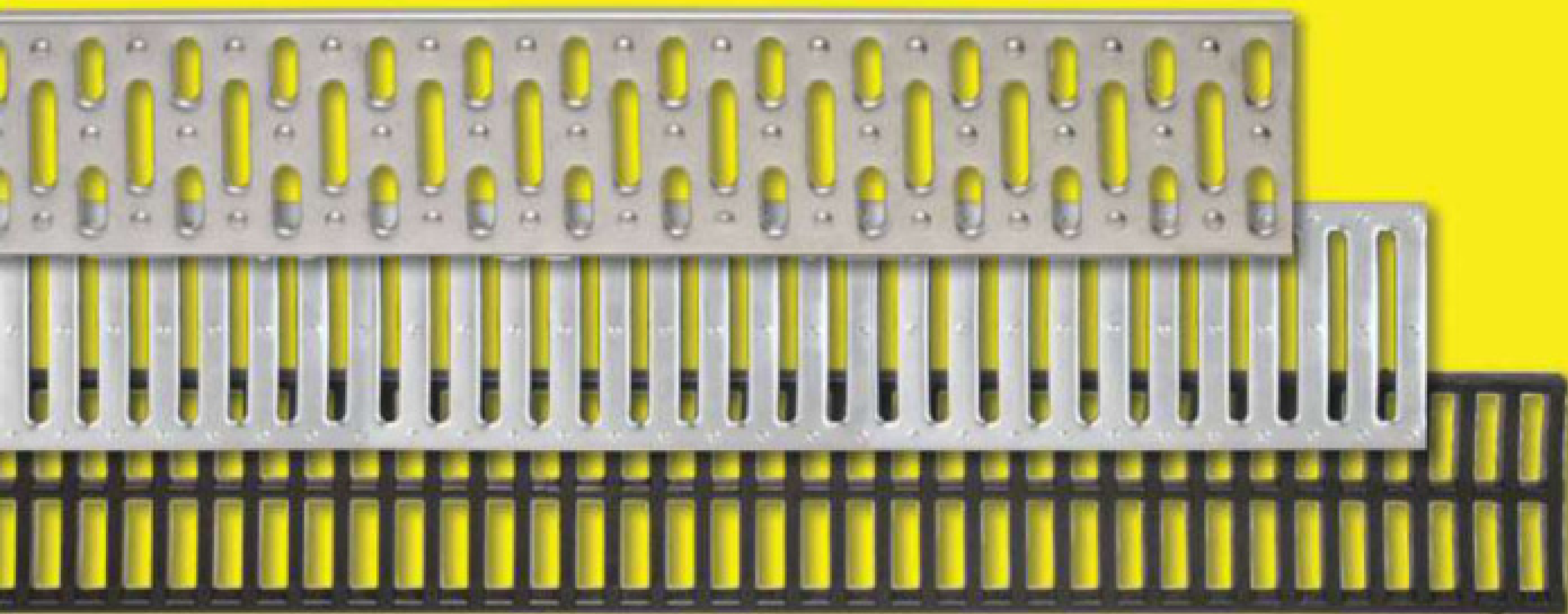
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BUILD A BOUNDARY FENCE

Provide more privacy in the backyard by installing a simple post-and-rail steel fencing system

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

A solid steel fence can increase security for your family, pets and property, while screening your backyard from the neighbours.

This home had an old steel fence with rotting timber rails. To improve privacy and complement the newly revamped pool area, it was replaced with a higher all-steel fence.

First, the old fence was removed and the boundary line identified, then to prepare the site, any debris

or vegetation that could interfere with construction was cleared away.

Order the materials

To calculate the materials needed, divide the total fence length by the rail length and factor in the posts.

For this project, use prepainted Colorsteel Endura 1800mm steel panels from Metalcraft Fencing (metalcraftfencing.co.nz) with 2400mm posts and 2395mm rails.

Each fencing section requires two posts, three fence panels and two rails.

This 25m long boundary fence consists of just over 10 sections, requiring 22 posts, 32 panels and 22 rails, costing \$1702 in total.

The posts are set in position with concrete. Buy 20kg bags of premixed concrete from your local hardware store for about \$7 each, or make your own by mixing gravel, sand and cement in a 4:2:1 ratio. ➤

Maintaining the metal

To keep your steel fence looking its best, all you have to do is hose it down occasionally when you're watering the garden or lawn.

USE A SOFT BROOM to remove any cobwebs or loose dirt and pay extra attention to the area under the top rail, which is sheltered from being washed naturally by rain.

KEEP SOIL AWAY from the base rails and fence posts to avoid water retention, which leads to corrosion.

PROTECT THE FENCE from any overspray when using garden products such as weedkillers and fertilisers because these can damage the surface. If this happens, wash the fence down with water.

REPLACE DAMAGED PANELS but don't use touch-up paint on any minor scratches, as it will weather differently to the original painted surface.



TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$1846

TOOLS IMPACT DRIVER,
CORDLESS DRILL,
NIBBLER

After

Replacing a run-down fence adds privacy to the revamped pool area.

▼ Install the fence



1 Clear the site

Demolish the existing fence using a pry bar and hammer, wearing protective gear. Use a handsaw and secateurs to cut away any branches obstructing the line of the fence.

TIP Recycle old steel fence panels.



2 Set out the post holes

Mark out the post hole positions along the fence line with line marking spray paint, or use small pegs. Position a fence rail on the ground to mark the post hole centres, or measure 2395mm between the centres.



3 Mark the fence line

Excavate the holes for the first and last end posts, concreting the posts in position. Secure a stringline to one end post, then stretch until taut and secure to the other end post to establish a straight line for the fence.



4 Excavate the post holes

Dig a 150mm diameter post hole to the required depth at each marked hole centre. Hold the stringline aside and use a post hole clamshell digger to remove the soil waste. Use a spud bar if the digging is tough.



5 Join the posts

Position two posts back to back and secure using an impact driver and self-drilling 20mm x 12g Tek screws. Drive two side by side 60mm from the top, then offset the screws down the posts, spaced up to 300mm apart.



6 Secure the base rails

Set taut stringlines for the top and base rails, then position two posts in adjacent holes, adjusting the height to the top stringline. Secure a base rail set to the base stringline using screws and use a spirit level to adjust the rail.



7 Concrete the posts

Mix the concrete and fill the post holes, keeping it 50mm from the base rail and sloping the top for runoff. Use a spirit level to keep the posts plumb. Position the top rails, then let the concrete set overnight.



8 Slot in the panels

Remove the top rails, one section at a time. Slot three panels into each base rail, overlapping the edges. Cut the panels to fit, if needed, with a nibbler, then check the overlap is flush and the end panels sit in the U-shaped posts.



9 Attach the top rails

Position the top rail in one post and slowly work your way across the section, slotting in the panels. Adjust the top rail so it sits 2mm above the posts, then secure with self-drilling 20mm x 12g Tek screws on both sides.

Meeting the regulations

Before putting up a new fence, it's necessary to talk to your neighbours. There are also council building regulations that need to be met.

So don't install a fence without checking a few things first.

With neighbours, both parties are usually required to share the cost of a dividing fence that is considered sufficient. This means a standard or basic fence for the area.

If one party wants more, they may have to pay the additional costs

over and above the shared cost of a sufficient fence.

Check with the local building authority or council whether there are any restrictions on the fence height or type of material used.

The council can also specify the boundary to kerb distance, so be careful on corner blocks, and make sure the fencing style meets any streetscape or heritage regulations.

TIP Before building, have a surveyor mark disputed or vague boundaries.



Choose the material ▼

A fence is exposed to the elements, so it needs to be durable. Timber and brick are common alternatives to steel fencing.



TIMBER

Treated pine is the most popular for traditional lap-and-cap paling fences. It is important to select the right hazard treatment level with treated pine, selecting H3 for palings and capping, with H4 the correct choice for in-ground posts.



BRICK

The toughest of the lot, brick offers the most in security and privacy. Double brick is more substantial than single-skin brickwork, but the material and construction costs can be high. Many are rendered and painted to match the property. ➤

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An unusual dome shaped shed houses
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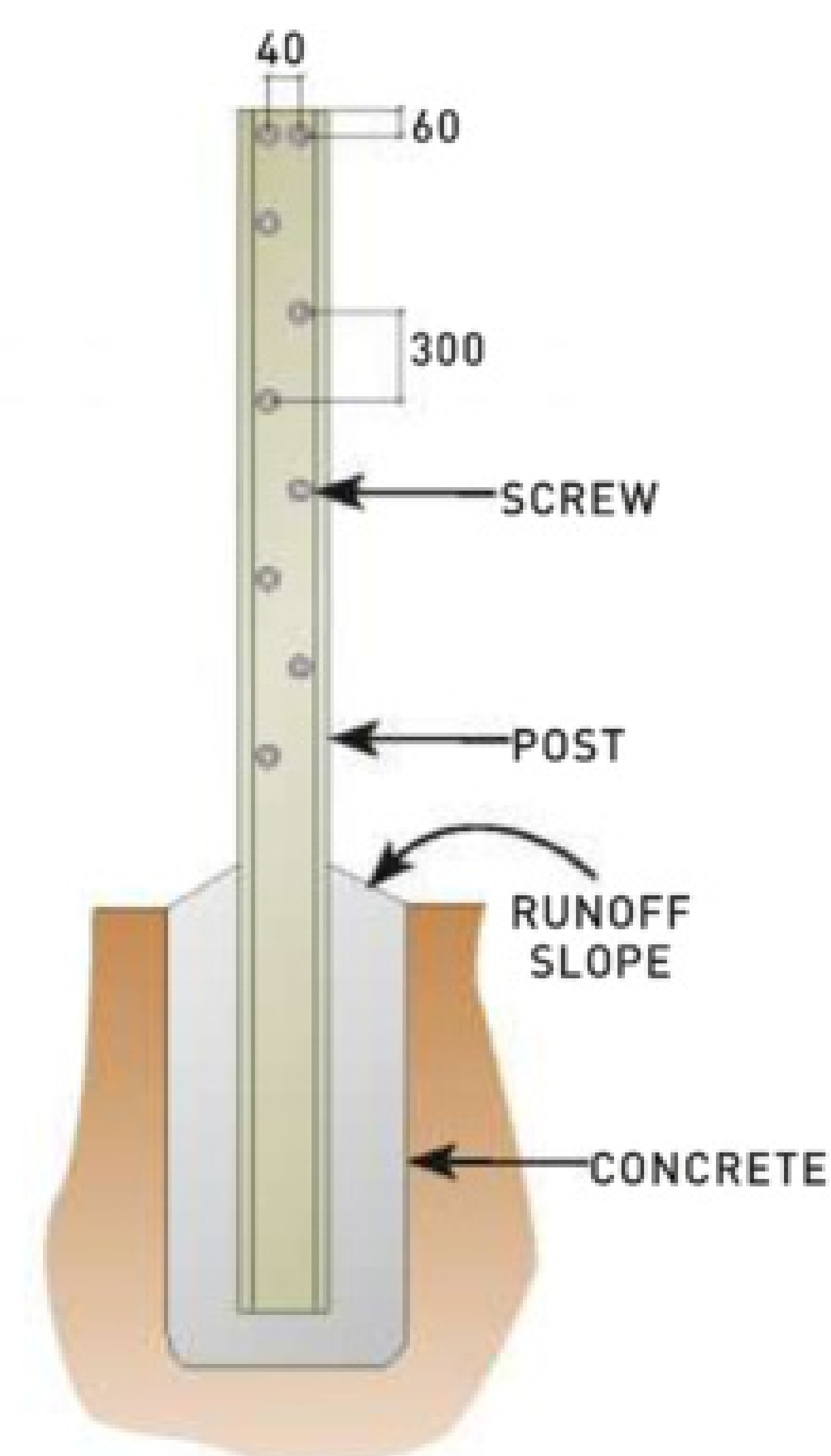
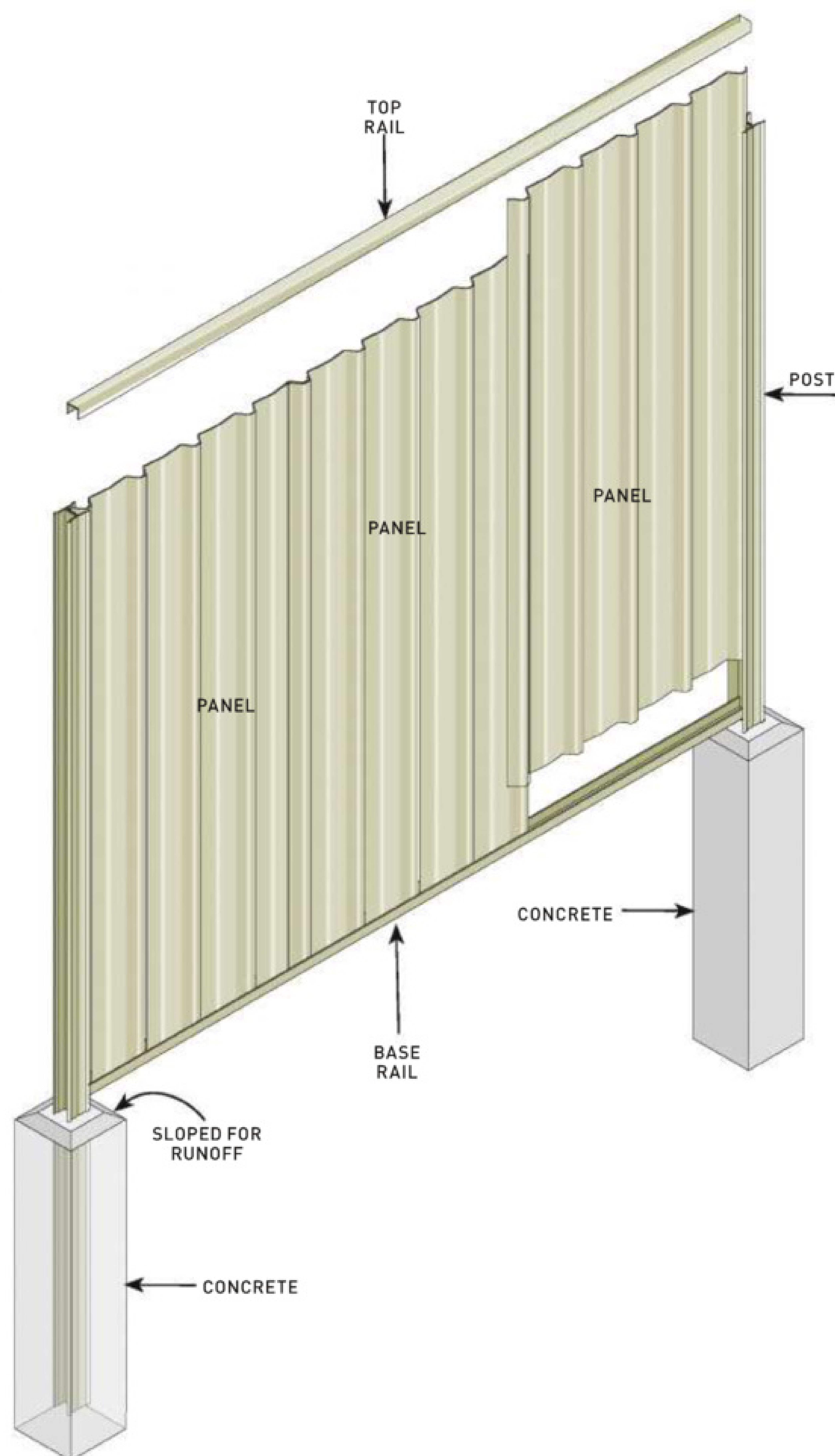
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Boundary fence

measurements in mm



BACK-TO-BACK POSTS

Sinking fence posts ▼

Fencing has to withstand winds of considerable force at various times, so it's important to build a strong and durable fence.

To do this, you can either shorten the post spacing to suit using only two panels, or adjust the depth of the posts and foundation below ground.

Post lengths increase in proportion to the depth of the hole, which in turn is determined by the type of substrate on your site.

ROCK requires holes to be dug 350mm deep and one bag of concrete for each post.

CLAY SOIL needs a hole depth of 600mm and two bags of concrete.

SANDY SOIL requires 900mm holes and three bags of concrete.

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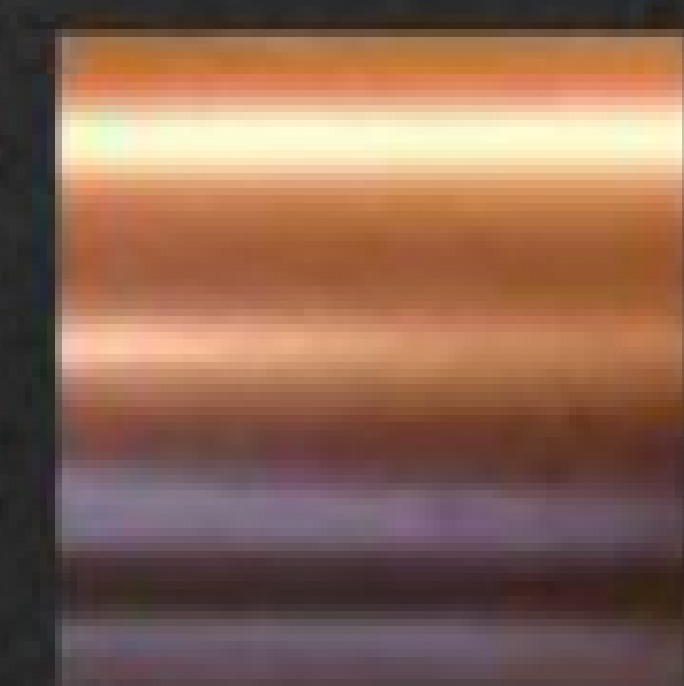
LOW
MAINTENANCE

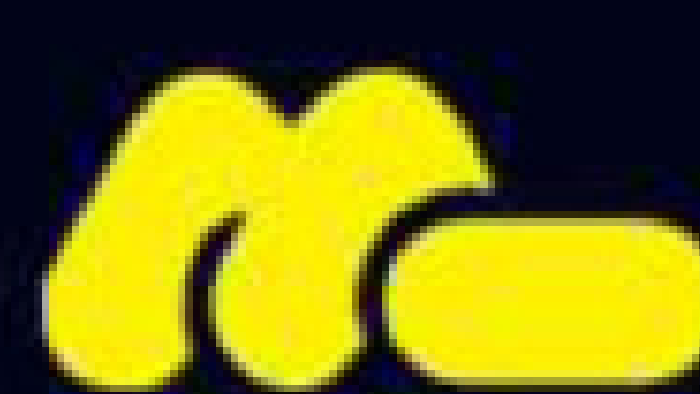
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Chic security

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WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Tough metal gates and doors prevent burglars from breaking in by acting as both a physical barrier and a visual deterrent.

Decorative ironwork keeps the home secure, but allows a view and adds an attractive visual feature. ➤

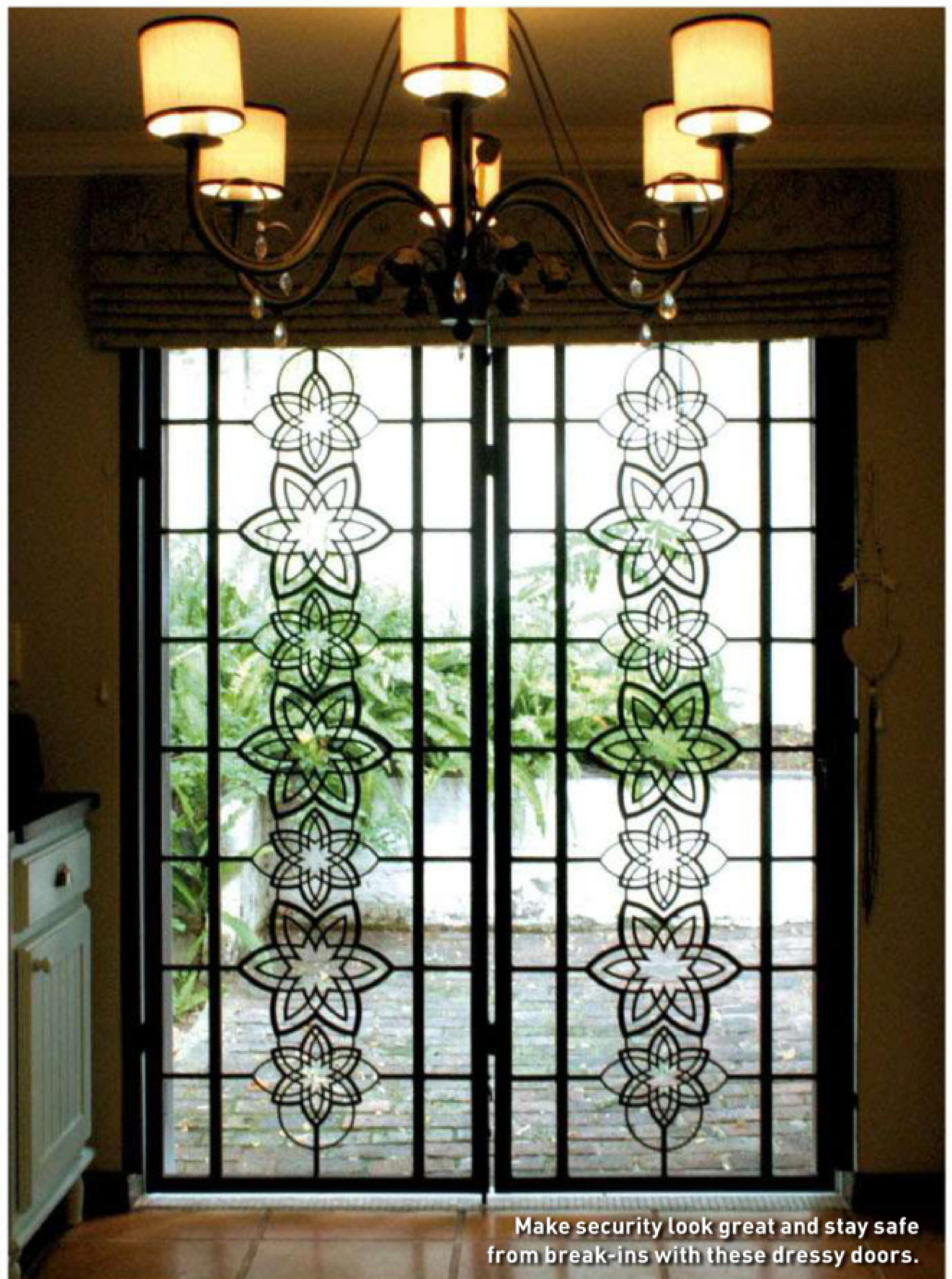


Doors

It's relatively easy for a burglar to pry open a timber door with a crowbar, but it's practically impossible to break through wrought iron security screens.

Doors custom-made by a blacksmith are usually stronger than the mass-produced options, but they are also more expensive.

Ensure the doors are securely mounted and the gaps are too small for a person to fit through.

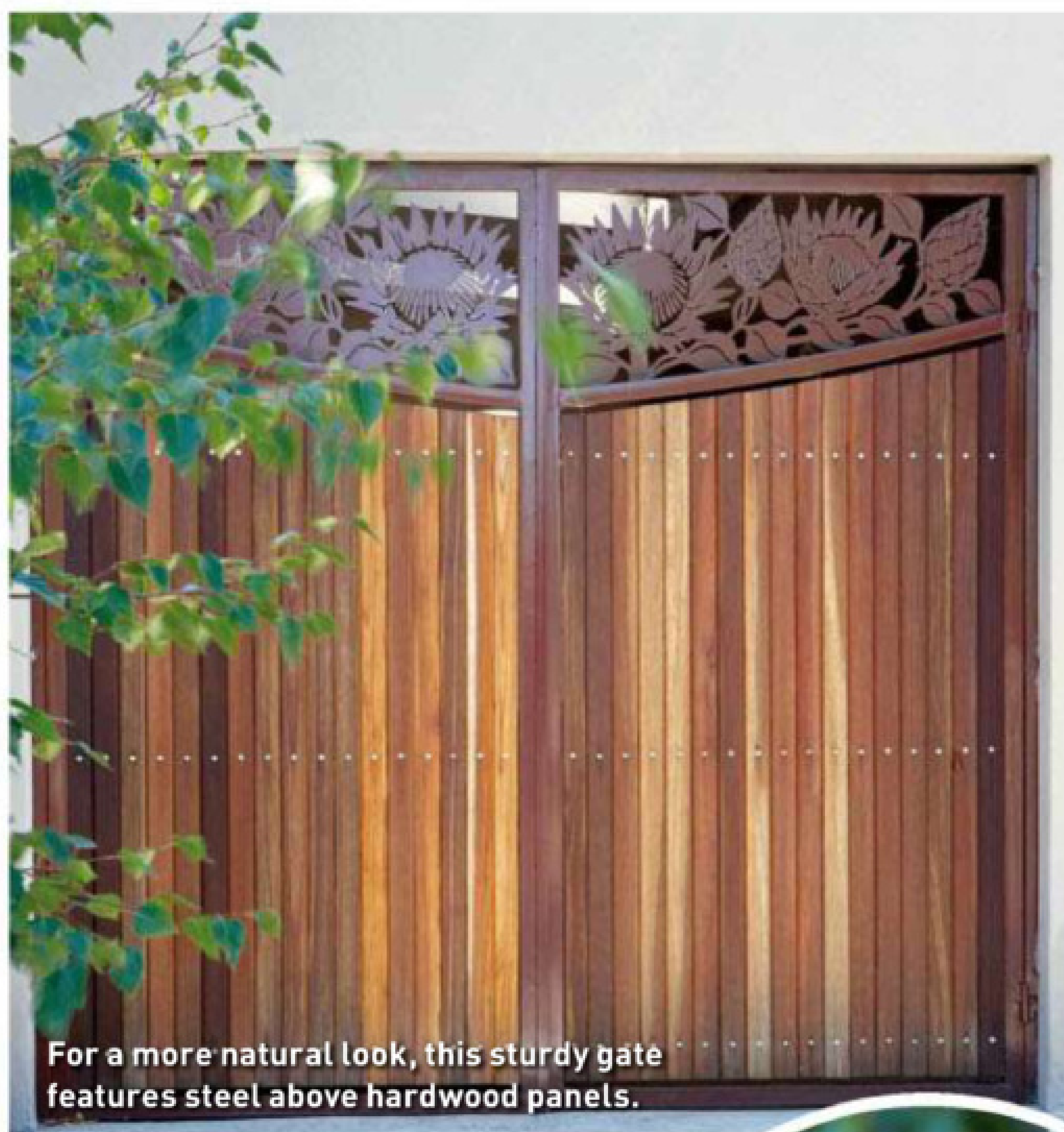


Make security look great and stay safe from break-ins with these dressy doors.

PICTURES AUSTRAL



Strong steel plate can be laser cut to create an appealing design.



For a more natural look, this sturdy gate features steel above hardwood panels.



A steel door is transformed from dull to welcoming with ironwork.



DECORATIVE
DETAIL



Blacksmith-forged wrought iron gates are almost impenetrable.

Gates

Entry and driveway gates protect the property and can also provide a secure and private outdoor entertaining area or a safe place for children to play.

Installing security gates on all property entries may also reduce the need for excessive security measures on windows and doors.

For gates to be secure, they need to be perfectly fitted to an entrance or too high to climb.



Iron bars don't have to make your place look like a prison.

Windows

Thieves can enter the house through even the tiniest of windows, so minimise the risk of burglary by installing a barrier that allows light and ventilation but will prevent intrusion.

Bars and grilles should be installed on windows using one-way security screws that anchor the bars directly to the window frame or the brickwork so they can't be removed.

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Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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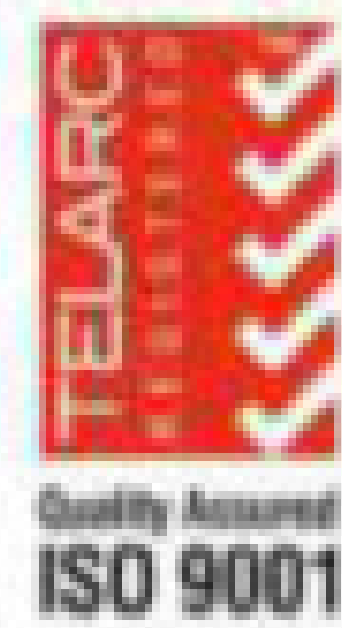
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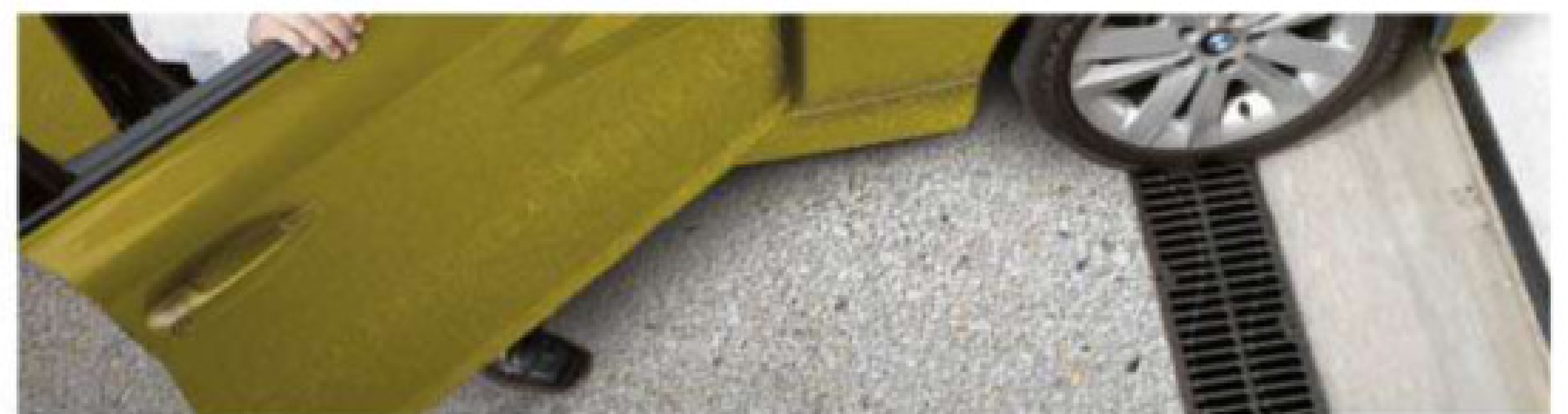


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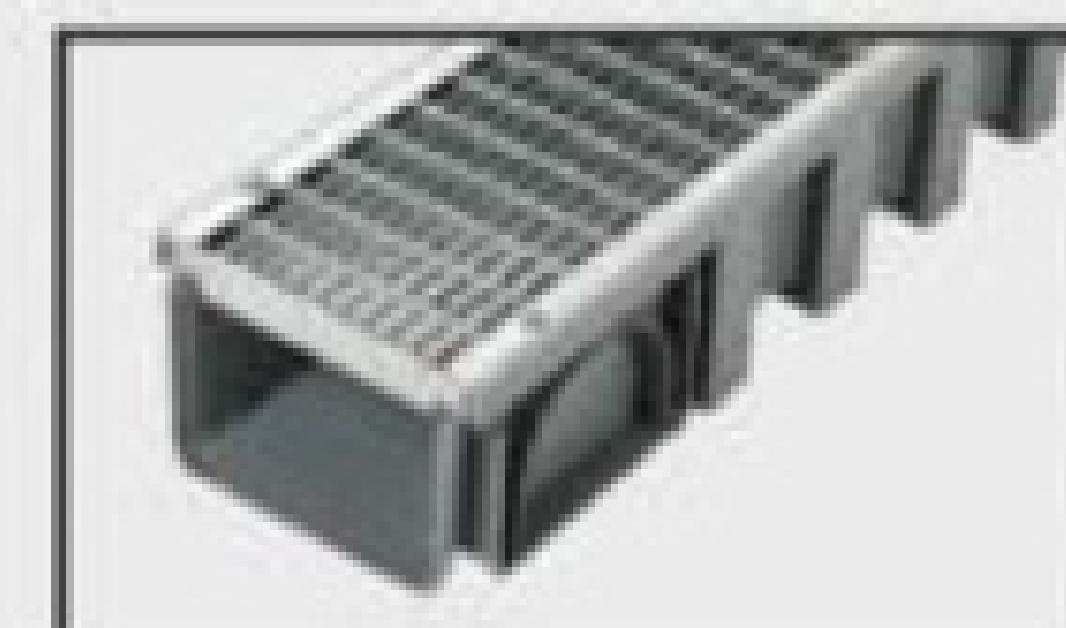
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Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE



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HOW TO

GROWING FRESH FOOD

Plant fast-growing varieties for a bumper backyard crop

There are few things as satisfying as growing your own herbs and vegies and spring is the time to get started.

Choose a spot in the garden that gets about six hours of sun a day with room for garden beds and space to move around them.

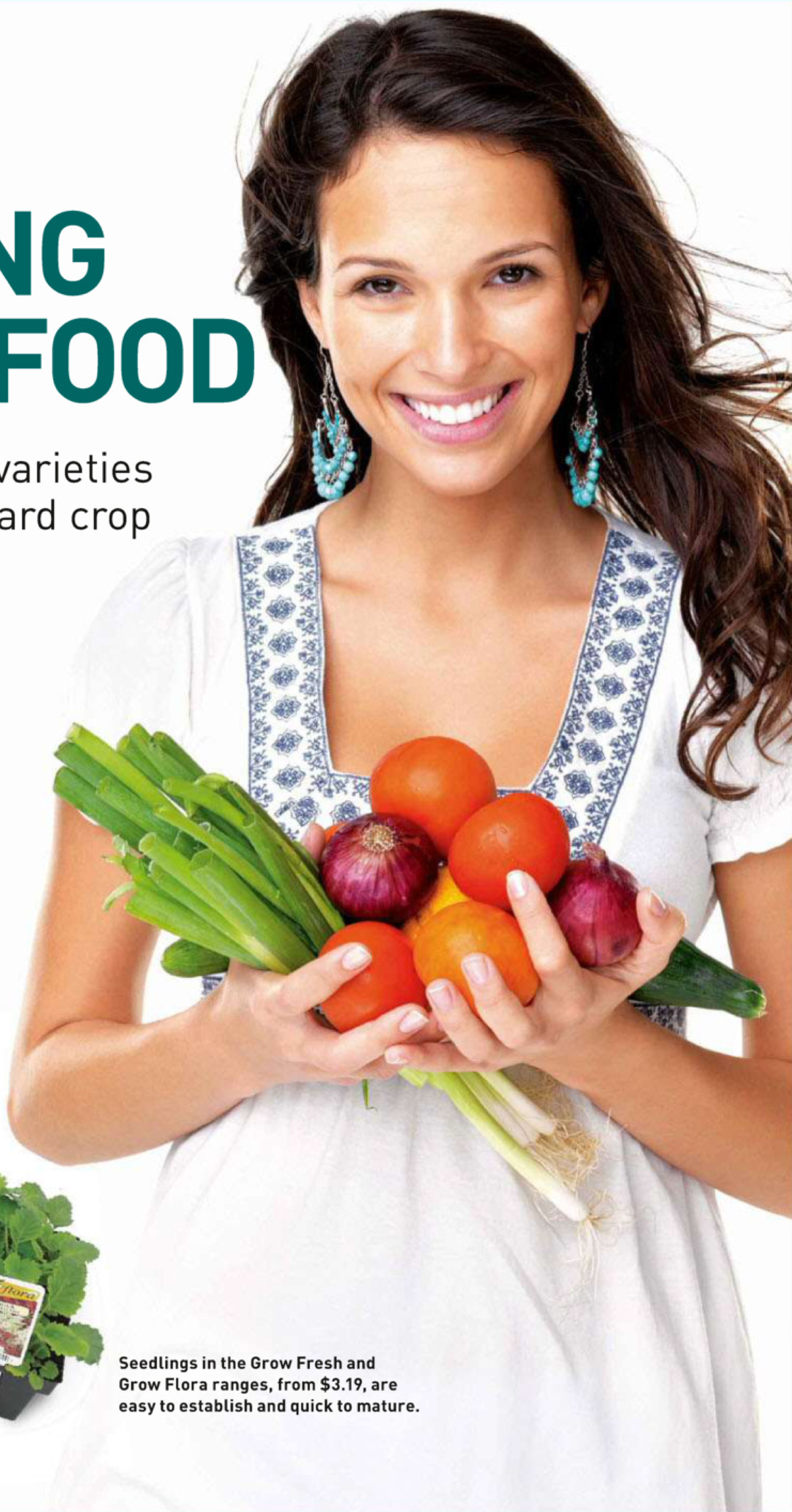
Dig into the ground or create raised beds for a more ornamental look that's also easier on the back and knees.

To get a head-start on a harvest, buy established seedlings in 100 and 125mm pots ready for transplanting.

TIP Go for cooking staples like herbs, tomato, capsicum and eggplant.



Seedlings in the Grow Fresh and Grow Flora ranges, from \$3.19, are easy to establish and quick to mature.





1

COMMON MINT from \$2.97, grows profusely and is best grown in a wide container in a semi-shaded area. Trim plants regularly and keep moist.



2

CAPSICUM varieties, from \$3.14, need warm, frost-free conditions to thrive and have a particularly high yield when grown undercover or in a greenhouse.



3

PURPLE EGGPLANT from \$3.14, takes up to 80 days to reach full size and crops during the warm months with each plant producing four to eight fruit.

Dividing basil

Basil is sold in pots, from \$2.97 each. They come ready for transplanting into a garden bed or repotting into individual containers to give the plant room to grow.

To divide basil, water the plant well then wait a few hours before gently tapping it out of the pot.

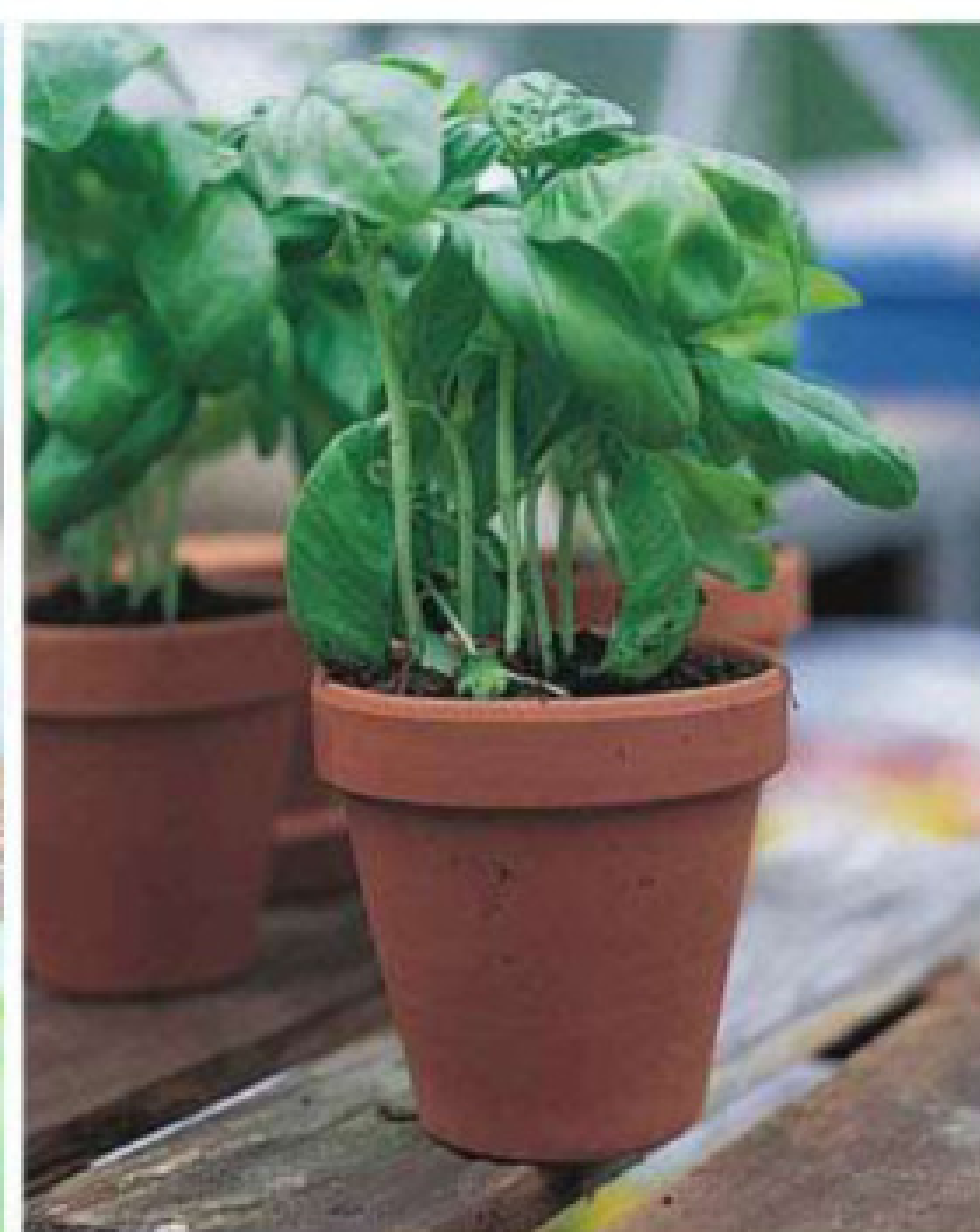
TIP Basil needs full sun and moist conditions to thrive.



Treat drooping basil by watering daily until it's standing upright then remove from the pot and divide.



1 DIVIDE THE ROOTBALL using a sharp knife to slice it into segments, keeping as much soil as possible around the roots.



2 PLANT THE BASIL in a pot that will allow it room to grow. Add in good-quality potting mix, position in a sunny spot and water well.



Blossom trees

Get them in the ground now for a spectacular showcase of lovely flowers every spring for years to come

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Spring comes in on a wave of living energy that shows itself in colourful annuals and bulbs, but it's also the season for blossom trees.

Providing a breathtaking display on a larger scale than bedding plants, there is a tree for every space, from big backyards to balconies.

For masses of blooms year after year, plant a tree to suit your climate zone, with flowers in a colour you love.

The size on the label is an estimate at maturity, or 20 years old, for a plant grown in ideal conditions, so be aware it may be smaller at your place.

Buy them in the bag

When you shop for blossom trees in late winter, you'll find leafless plants that look like sticks in plastic bags. But don't let this put you off.

They are very quick to establish and should perform brilliantly from their first spring in the ground.

The young trees have begun life in ideal conditions in a nursery. When they drop their leaves and sap movement almost stops, they are lifted from the ground. The roots are then washed and trimmed, and they're bagged in quality growing mix. ➤



Choose a fruiting variety ▼

To get fruit as well as flowers, opt for a cultivar of a traditional blossom tree that maintains a compact, even dwarf, form so that you can grow peaches, nectarines, pears, apples or cherries on a sunny balcony or in a courtyard.



PEACH

Dwarf peaches are ideal for pot culture. They typically grow 1-1.5m high and, although the trees are small, the fruit is big on flavour.



APPLE

Fruiting apples put on a gorgeous display of flowers in spring and make excellent espaliers. Train them to grow over walls or fences.



PEAR

Miniature pears grow 2.5-3m tall, making them ideal for small gardens. They look divine in spring when covered in delicate white flowers.

JAPANESE
CRABAPPLE

Falling leaves

Spring blossom trees are deciduous, losing their leaves in late autumn and remaining bare across winter.

This reduces their usefulness for screening, but the summer shade and winter sun allows for underplanting with spring bulbs.

And as they flower on bare wood before the leaves appear, the impact of their blooming is amplified.

Evergreens shed foliage all year, but deciduous trees do it in one big drop, so there's less mess and one big leaf pile to compost or mulch.

Plant a beautiful blossom tree to add a spring showstopper to the garden.



Pick of the bunch

Dogwoods

These trees (*Cornus* cultivars) look amazing mass-planted in a big garden. The petals of the large blossoms are actually modified leaves, called bracts, that surround the tiny flowerheads.

FLOWERS Clear white to magenta-red.

FOLIAGE In cooler areas, many put on colourful foliage displays in autumn.

SIZE Less than 6m tall by 5m wide.

FORM Become domed with age.

Ornamental pears

Known as 'the landscaper's mate', ornamental pears (*Pyrus* cultivars) are hardy, adaptable and grow reasonably fast. Use the tall and narrow forms for boundary planting, or flank a path or driveway with a matched pair.

FLOWERS Snowy-white blossoms.

FOLIAGE Boldly coloured in autumn, showing fiery reds and oranges.

SIZE Most are about 7m tall by 4m wide, but some can reach 12 by 9m.

FORM Columnar to pyramidal.

Crabapples

Ideal for small spaces, crabapples (*Malus* species and cultivars) provide spring flowers, summer shade, winter sun and ornamental autumn fruit.

FLOWERS Open pink and turn white.

FOLIAGE Changes to tones of yellow and red before falling in autumn.

FORM Differs with variety for this small to medium deciduous tree.

SIZE Depending on variety, 6m tall by 5m wide, but most are smaller.

Flowering stone fruits

Cherries, plums and peaches (*Prunus* cultivars) are among the finest spring-flowering trees. They are so spectacular that, in Japan, entire festivals are devoted just to their blooming period.

With a diversity of forms and sizes, there is a variety for just about any garden need, and the stems make beautiful floral displays.

FLOWERS White, pink and red shades.

FOLIAGE Colourful in autumn in the cooler regions.

SIZE Grow up to 5m tall by 5m wide, but most are smaller.

FORM Columnar and vase-like to spreading and weeping standards.

Redbuds

The *Cercis* cultivars aren't as well known as the other spring bloomers and include the 'Forest Pansy' and Judas tree. Ideal for smaller spaces, they have tiny pea-like flowers all along the branches and lovely heart-shaped foliage.

FLOWERS Delicate fuchsia pinks to sumptuous rose-purples.

FOLIAGE Heart-shaped with many putting on a colourful autumn show.

SIZE Less than 5m tall by 5m wide with a number of varieties only 3 by 2m.

FORM Varies widely from upright and vase-like to loosely spreading trees.

Planting a bagged tree

Dig a hole at least twice the width of the bag, plant the tree, then water deeply once a week until established.

TIP Use a Fiskars QuikDrill 150mm soil auger, \$100, to make digging the hole easy (fiskars.co.nz).



1 REMOVE THE TREE from the bag and find the original soil line on the trunk below the graft point. Position in the hole with this line at the finished soil level. Backfill and firm the soil to remove air pockets.



2 CREATE A DAM of raised soil around the tree about 200mm from the trunk as a watering dish. Apply a slow-release fertiliser, taking care not to let it touch the trunk. Mulch the soil, keeping this clear of the trunk, then water in well.



3 PRUNE THE TREE by as much as one-third before or immediately after planting. This will bring the canopy back into balance with the roots that were lost when the plant was cut from the ground.

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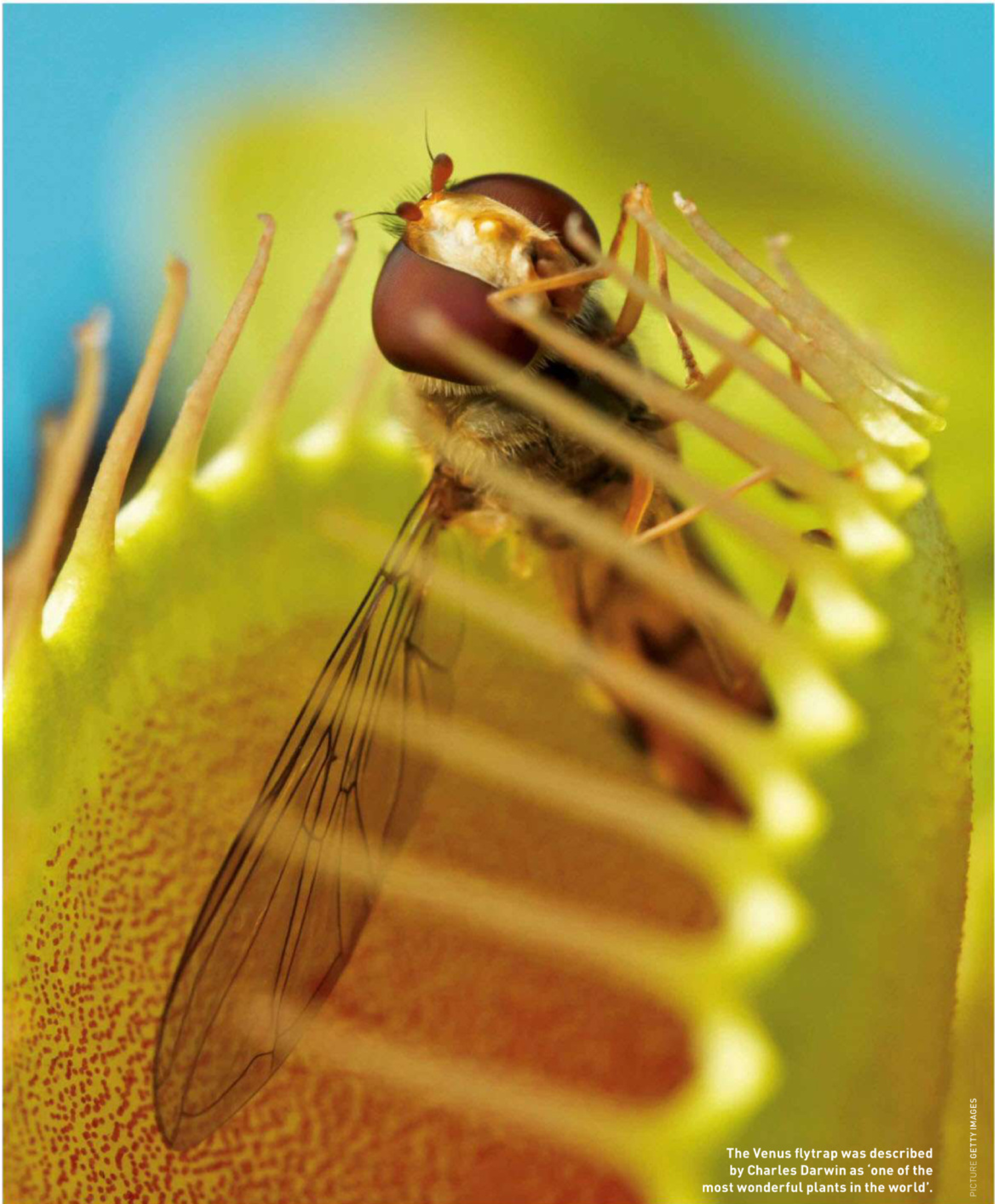
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The Venus flytrap was described by Charles Darwin as 'one of the most wonderful plants in the world'.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES



Backyard carnivores

Grow bizarre but beautiful plants that will make a meal out of the insect population in your garden

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

There's something prehistoric and fascinating about carnivorous plants. They have an amazing ability to fend for themselves, which proves just how well plants can adapt to surviving in harsh environments.

Flesh eating is a prevalent practice in the plant world, with more than 500 different species of carnivorous plants in many varied habitats.

These include the well-known Venus flytrap, or *Dionaea muscipula*, which was named after Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.

They are all interesting in their own way, and each has a particular means of capturing insects.

Many varieties can be grown in the garden, but take care, as lots of people start with one plant and find them so captivating they end up collectors!

How they evolved

During the evolution process, as landforms changed, certain types of plants grew in peat bogs. The soil was very acidic and low in the nutrients vital for the survival of these plants.

But it was the ideal environment for insects, so the plants gradually began to evolve. They developed ways to lure and trap this unsuspecting prey, as well as the chemistry that was necessary to convert it into food.

While it may be tempting to feed insects to your meat-eating plants, an overabundance of food can actually be harmful to the plant.

An engorgement of insects to a carnivorous plant is like a fertiliser boost for any other plant, so allow them to feed naturally.

TIP Growing these plants is a great way to interest kids in gardening. ➤

Did you know?

In the film, *The Day Of The Triffids*, the shape of the 3m high plants that devoured people was inspired by the *Sarracenia flava*, or yellow pitcher plant, but with a variation.

The sarracenia-like triffids had an appendage resembling a tongue in the movie that caught and stung unsuspecting victims with a deadly poison.



YELLOW PITCHER PLANTS

Choose a variety ▼



Venus flytrap

This grows naturally in North and South Carolina in the USA and there is only one species in the genus.

The hinged leaves are edged with stiff spines and glands that secrete nectar.

There are tiny sensitive hairs inside the leaves and when they are touched, the leaves spring shut and trap the prey. The insect is then dissolved by enzymes.

The trap reopens and any remains are either washed or blown away.

Repeated false alarms are harmful to the plant, so don't touch the leaves.

HOW TO GROW

It likes temperate, tropical and subtropical climates. Grow it in pots in full sun.

POTTING MIX is made from three parts peat moss to one part coarse river sand. **MULCH** with sphagnum moss, which serves as a moisture indicator. When the moss turns brown, the soil is lacking in water.

WATER with distilled water regularly and stand the pot in a tray with about 20mm of water at all times.

TIP Cut the trap off at its base when it dies and a new one will quickly grow.



Yates Hauraki Gold Peat Moss, \$20 for 50L. yates.co.nz



Monkey cups

There are about 140 species of nepenthes and they're commonly called tropical pitcher plants or monkey cups, as they grow so big that monkeys drink from them.

They catch their prey in modified leaves or pitchers by luring insects, and even small frogs, with nectar found around the rim.

The insects slip down the waxy insides and drown in a deadly mix of digestive fluids.

HOW TO GROW

The majority of nepenthes need warmth and humidity. They can be grown outside in tropical regions or in a hothouse in temperate areas.

The highland species will grow outside in temperate climates. Plant in pots or

hanging containers so they get the morning sun.

POTTING MIX is made from two parts sphagnum moss to one part orchid bark. Don't pack down the mix, as they love free drainage.

FEED with a fertiliser high in nitrogen at half strength if they're in a hothouse. If grown outdoors, they don't need fertilising.

WATER from the top every few days. Don't stand the pot in water or the roots will rot.



Daltons Premium Orchid Mix, about \$5 for 5L. daltons.co.nz

PICTURES (RIGHT) CHERYL MADDOCKS (LEFT) THINKSTOCK



Pitcher plants

Native to North America, there are eight species in the *Sarracenia* genus. They produce stunning flowers and can grow vertically or prostrate.

These plants catch prey in leaves that form a funnel. The insects crawl into the pitcher, attracted by the sweet-smelling nectar.

Once inside, downward facing hairs and a slippery wax coating prevent their escape. Their fate is sealed when they fall into a pool of digestive liquid at the base.

HOW TO GROW

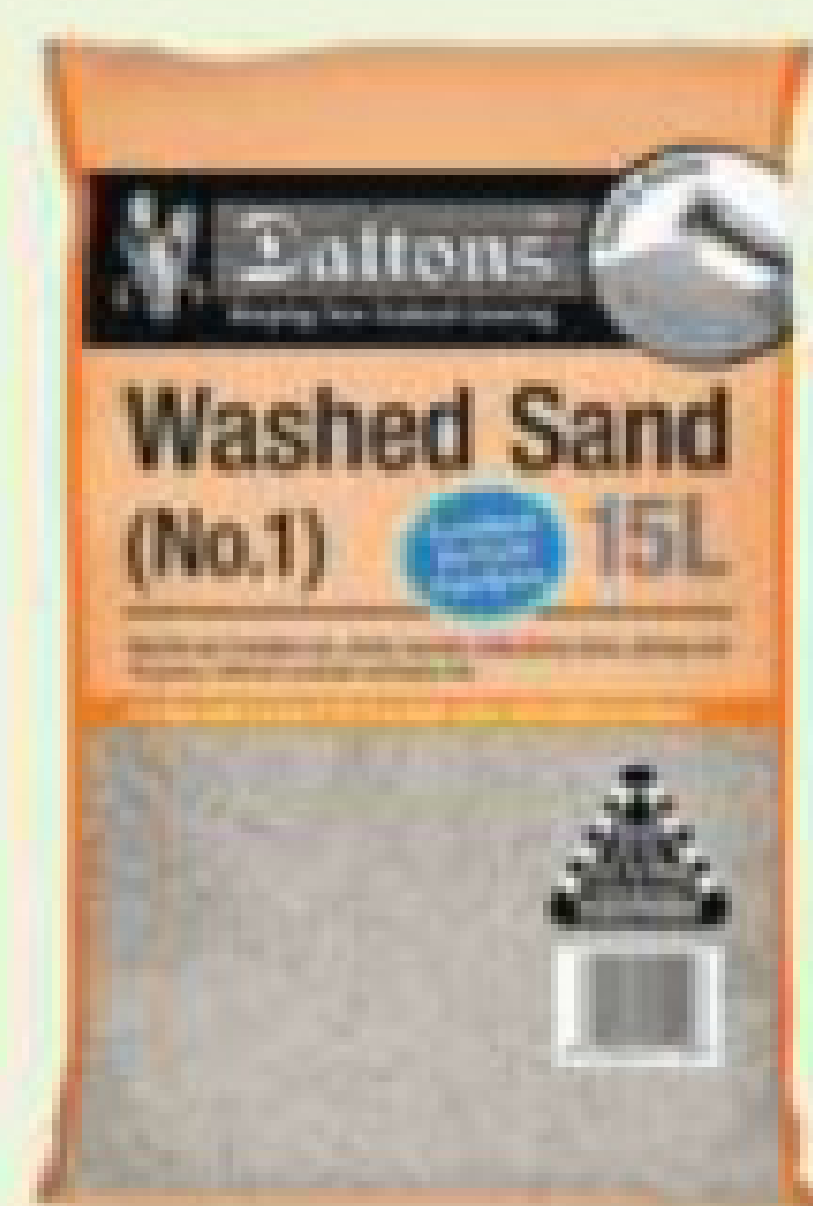
Sarracenia will grow in temperate and tropical areas in pots or bog gardens.

They can be placed in a pond as long as the

rim of the pot is above the water level. Position them in full sun with protection from frost.

POTTING MIX is made from three parts peat moss to one part coarse river sand. **MULCH** the mix with damp sphagnum moss.

WATER freely in summer with distilled water and use a pot tray. They are dormant in winter, so remove the tray and water just once a week.



Dalton's Washed Sand, \$9 for 15L.



Sundew

The sundew, or *Drosera*, derives its name from the beautiful display it puts on when its sticky tentacles are wet from the dew and shimmering in the morning sun.

These plants secrete a sticky substance on the end of fine hairs that attract and catch insects.

On landing, an insect is glued to the plant by these hairs and, within minutes, escape is impossible.

The secretion then acts as an acid, dissolving the insect's internal organs into a form that the plant can use to feed itself.

There are about 104 species around the world with seven of them native to New Zealand.

HOW TO GROW

Sundews are easy to grow, especially if you find one suited to your climate.

Raise them in pots and find a spot for them in bright, filtered sunlight.

POTTING MIX is made from three parts peat moss to one part sand. **MULCH** the mix with damp sphagnum moss.

WATER by placing the container in a tray of water. Remove the tray in winter and water once a week.



Besgrow Spagmoss, about \$10 for 12L, from Bunnings.

Growing plants indoors

Bring the outdoors in with greenery and blooms to suit every room

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

There's really no such thing as an indoor plant, there are just certain species and varieties that can survive indoors.

House plants create harmony by breaking down the barriers between the inside and the outside world and can create stunning visual statements in every style of home.

An easy way to bring any space to life is to use striking pots, large tropical leaves, beautiful flowers and plants with architectural shapes.

With such a wide choice of species you can grow indoors, there is the option to group interesting containers creatively or display plants individually to great effect.

Keep plants everywhere, from the kitchen and bathroom to living spaces, the bedroom or a hallway.

The only thing limiting you is the available light and temperature, so choose a plant to suit the conditions.

The healthy choice

Keeping house plants is more than just a decorating choice. Research has long shown that just a few plants in 200mm pots can significantly reduce indoor pollution.

Initially it was thought the leaves absorbed airborne contaminants, but it was found that microbes in the potting mix are the vital agents.

They munch on volatile organic compounds, which are found in household items like furniture, computers, new carpets and paint.

The symbiotic relationship between the mix and plants creates a bio-filter effect, so the more greenery you have indoors, the cleaner the air.

Other studies have found that in addition to reducing pollution, plants grown in the home have a range of psychological and aesthetic benefits, helping to create a more harmonious environment. ➤

Feeding plants

Plants in containers rely on us to keep them healthy. They need to be fed regularly when they are actively producing new growth, generally from spring to autumn.

Slow-release fertilisers are best, and the easiest feeding method is to apply this plant food in spring.



Daltons Extend Fertiliser, about \$15 for 1.5kg. daltons.co.nz



PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

House plants are just varieties
that can survive happily inside.

Help your plants thrive

The most common problem affecting indoor plants is overwatering. The amount of water a plant requires varies with the species, as well as the light, humidity and temperature.

WATER needs are also linked to the growth cycle. A plant requires more during its active growth period in spring and summer, but less in winter.

To check if a plant needs watering, poke your finger into the top 10mm of potting mix to see if it's dry.

LIGHT is important for plant health. Too much light is indicated by faded leaf colour, and wilting or scorched foliage. A plant not getting enough light loses leaves it can't support and the plant leans towards the light.

AIR POLLUTION from gas may cause flowering plants to lose their buds and leaves to yellow and drop.

If the leaves are dusty, it's hard for a plant to absorb carbon dioxide. Take it outside on a warm day and lightly hose it, or sponge the leaves regularly.

TIP Check the light and water levels on the label before buying a plant.



The right amount of light is crucial for a plant and levels can vary greatly, even within a room.



Creating a good atmosphere

Many indoor plants originate from rainforests and prefer high humidity, but heaters inside the house can dry the air. Temperature is another key factor, as it interacts with air, humidity and light to affect plant metabolism directly.

HUMIDITY LEVELS can be increased with regular misting and by placing pebbles in a saucer filled with water, then sitting the pot on top. As the water evaporates, it produces moisture in the surrounding air.

Grouping plants is also helpful, as the evaporation from the soil together with moisture lost from the foliage creates a damp microclimate around the plants.

TIP Low humidity makes foliage lose its lustre and leaf tips turn brown.

TEMPERATURE spikes and drops, and sudden changes in air movement, can send plants into shock. So take care in winter with plants kept near windows.

Most indoor plants adapt naturally to normal home temperatures, but prefer it if the mercury drops at night. This gives them a break from the rapid rate of transpiration during the day, when temperatures are higher and water loss is greater.

Also consider seasonal temperature changes. A plant may thrive on a windowsill in summer, but the same position may be too cold during winter.

Give them an annual holiday outdoors in a shaded spot, as long as it's not during winter.



PICTURES THINKSTOCK

Select a variety ▼

**PEACE LILY**

Among the toughest of pot plants, peace lilies won't die if you forget to water them. Drooping leaves will indicate they need watering. They will also tolerate air-conditioning.
LIGHT Low to medium light, no sun

**BOSTON FERN**

Ideal for bathrooms, the long fronds of this fern make it perfect for hanging baskets or plant stands. Position it out of draughts, keep the soil moist and spray-mist the leaves in dry weather.
LIGHT Bright, no sun

**CAST IRON PLANT**

The common name of the easy-care aspidistra, cast iron plant, says it all. This hardy plant with broad dark-green, strap-like leaves is well suited to a busy household.
LIGHT Low to medium

**DRACAENA**

The dramatic shape and striking, strappy leaves of dracaena make it very popular as a house plant. Don't position it near windows in cold areas or it may drop its leaves.
LIGHT Medium to high

**ZANZIBAR GEM**

Also known as the eternity plant, zanzibar gem grows from 600 to 900mm high. It displays dark-green, shiny succulent-like foliage and stores water in its rhizome.
LIGHT Low to high

**FIG**

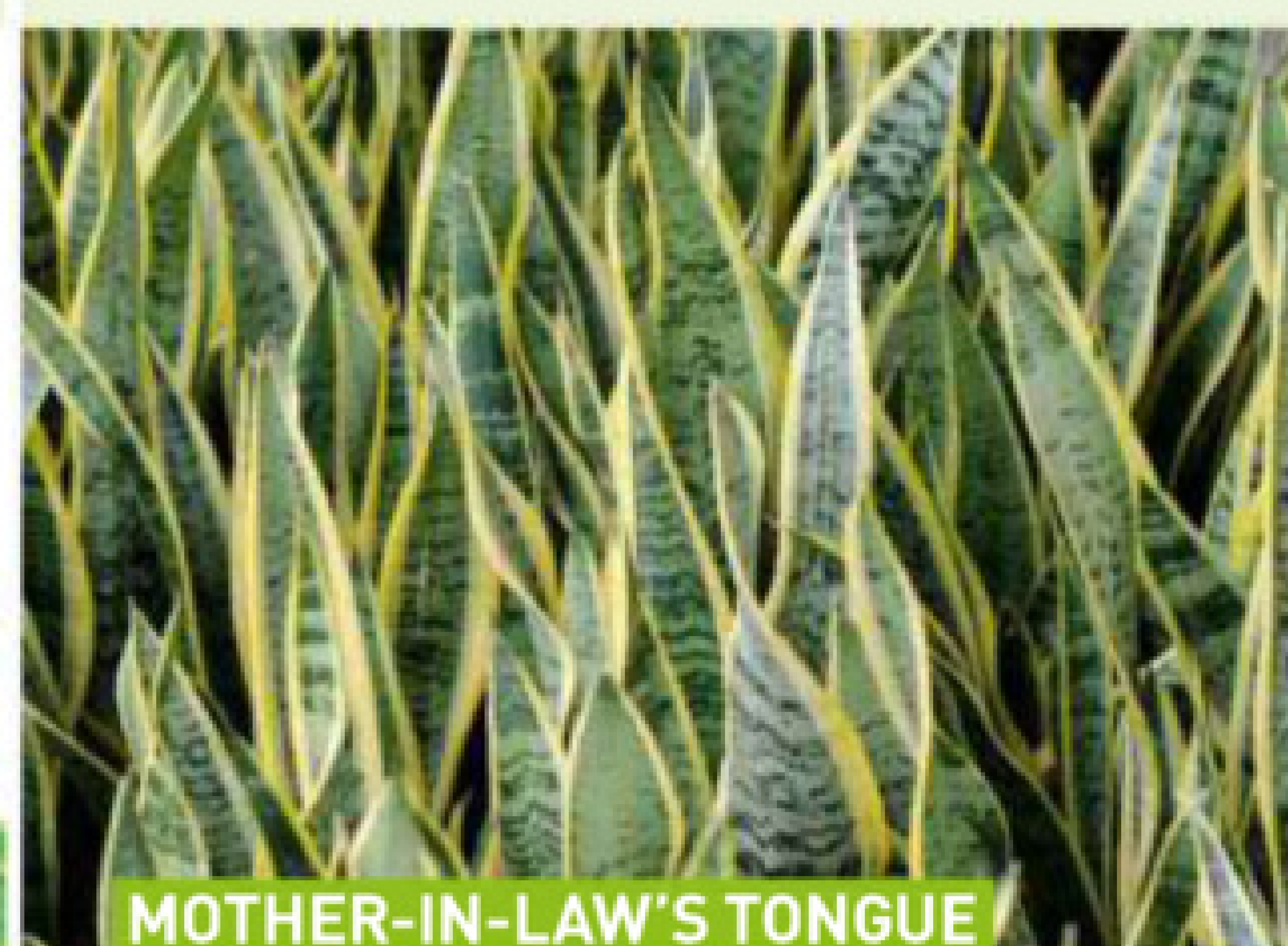
There are many varieties for indoors, such as the fiddle-leaf fig, weeping fig and the rubber tree. Keep the mix moist in summer, but water during winter if the soil looks dry.
LIGHT Bright but not direct sunlight

**PONYTAIL PALM**

Despite being commonly known as the ponytail palm, this plant is not a palm. It features strap-like leaves that sprout from a bulbous trunk, where water is stored.
LIGHT Bright

**DEVIL'S IVY**

A tough climbing plant with aerial roots, devil's ivy will trail without a host to climb on. Keep moist during summer but, in winter, let the mix just about dry out before watering.
LIGHT Medium to bright

**MOTHER-IN-LAW'S TONGUE**

This tough-as-old-boots plant has stiff dark-green marbled leaves, some edged with gold or silver. Don't let it sit in water, and give it less to drink in winter in unheated rooms.
LIGHT Low to high ➤



Before

Repot an indoor plant

Most indoor plants need repotting every couple of years. Even if the plant hasn't outgrown its container, potting mix degenerates and needs renewing to supply the plant with nutrients.

If it is root-bound or has grown considerably, the plant will need a bigger pot. Select one 50 to 100mm larger in diameter than the original.



Tiki Glazed Terracotta Forest Green
38cm Pot, \$45, from Bunnings.



After

Potting mix deteriorates over time, so house plants will need replanting.



1 Remove the old pot

Lift the plant from the old pot and if it is root-bound, tease out the roots from the potting mix. Part-fill the new pot with fresh potting mix so the plant will sit about 25mm below the rim, to stop mix and water spilling out.

2 Fill with potting mix

Position the plant in the pot, then fill around the rootball with potting mix using a hand trowel. Firm the mix lightly by hand but don't pack it around the roots, as this could impede drainage.

3 Water in well

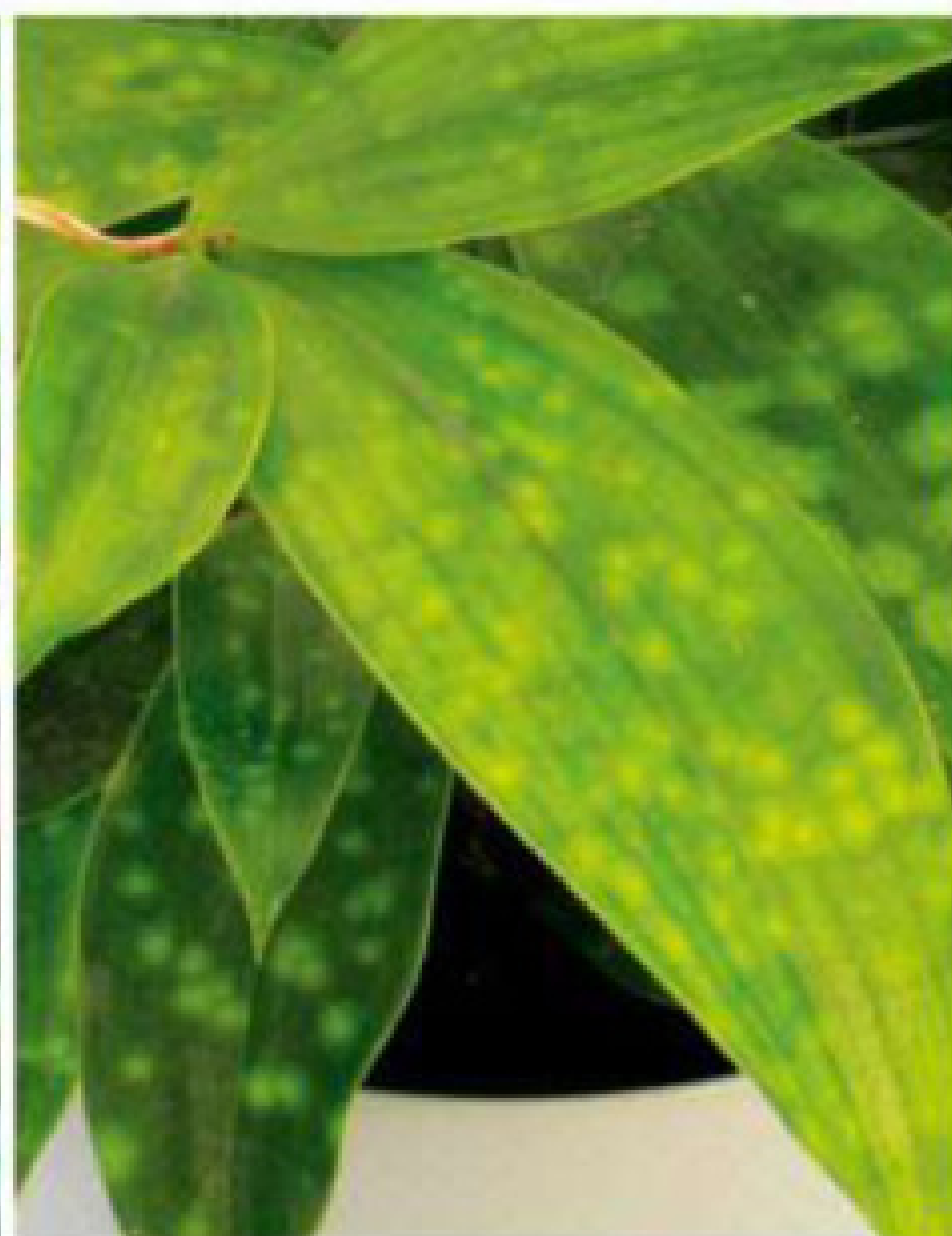
Use sharp secateurs to cut off any dead foliage or flowers, then water in the plant well using a watering can. Before taking the plant back indoors, give it a gentle spray with the hose to rinse off the leaves.

Treating common ailments

House plants can suffer from various conditions. Here are common problems to look for and how you can treat them.



PROBLEM Browning on leaf tips and margins of cordylines, dracaenas, yuccas, ferns or palms.
CAUSE Fluoride
SOLUTION Use filtered or distilled water on plants.



PROBLEM Yellow and blotched leaves on dracaenas and cordylines.
CAUSE Chlorine
SOLUTION Boil water, allow it to cool, then use it to wash the chlorine off the plant.



PROBLEM Raised bumps on the leaves or stems.
CAUSE Scale
SOLUTION Scrape off the infestations with your fingernail or apply Kiwicare Organic Super Spraying Oil.



PROBLEM Downy white patches of honey dew mould growth on leaves and stems of plants.
CAUSE Mealy bug
SOLUTION Apply Yates Conqueror Spraying Oil.

PICTURES (FAR RIGHT) GETTY IMAGES (SECOND FROM LEFT) ALAMY

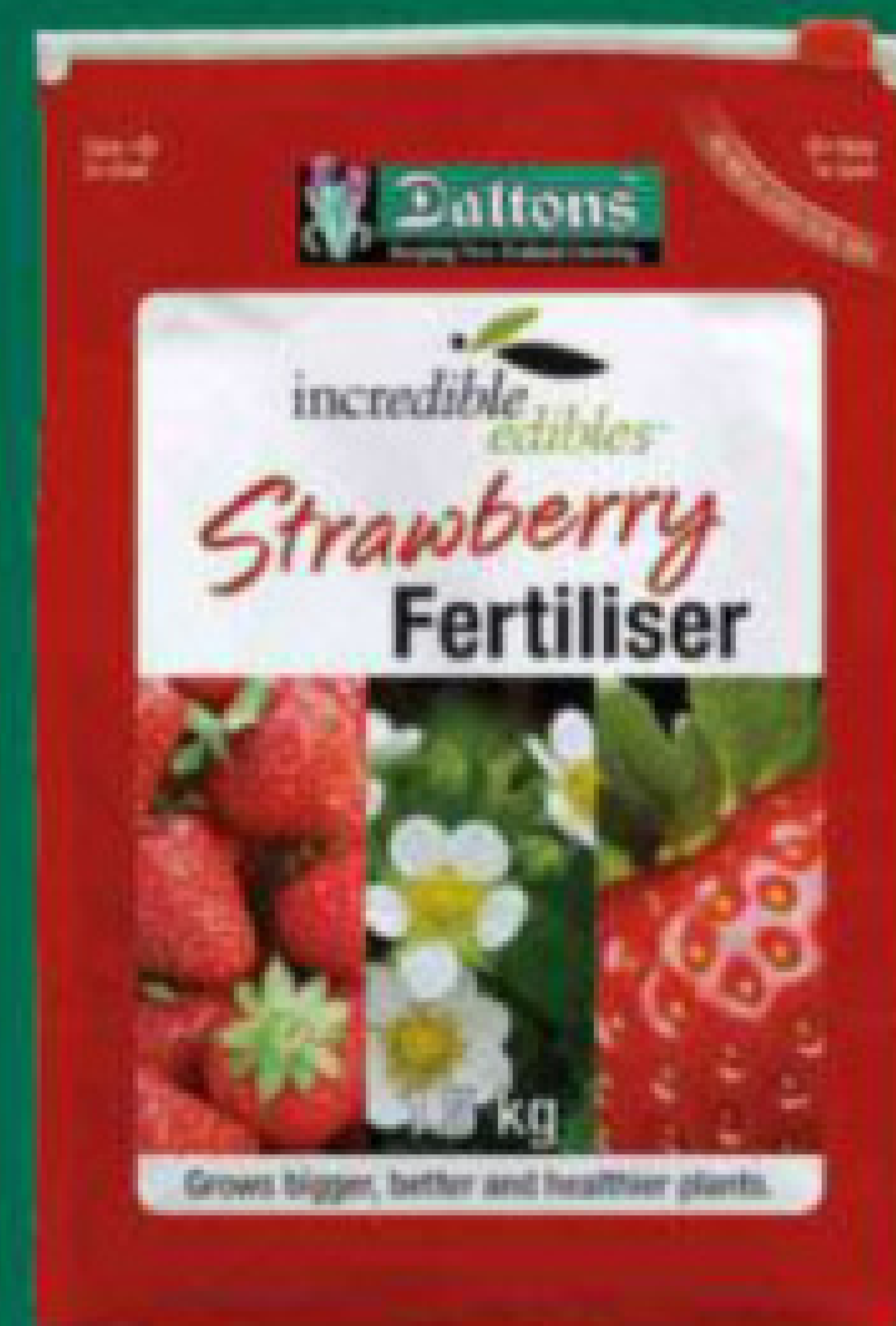


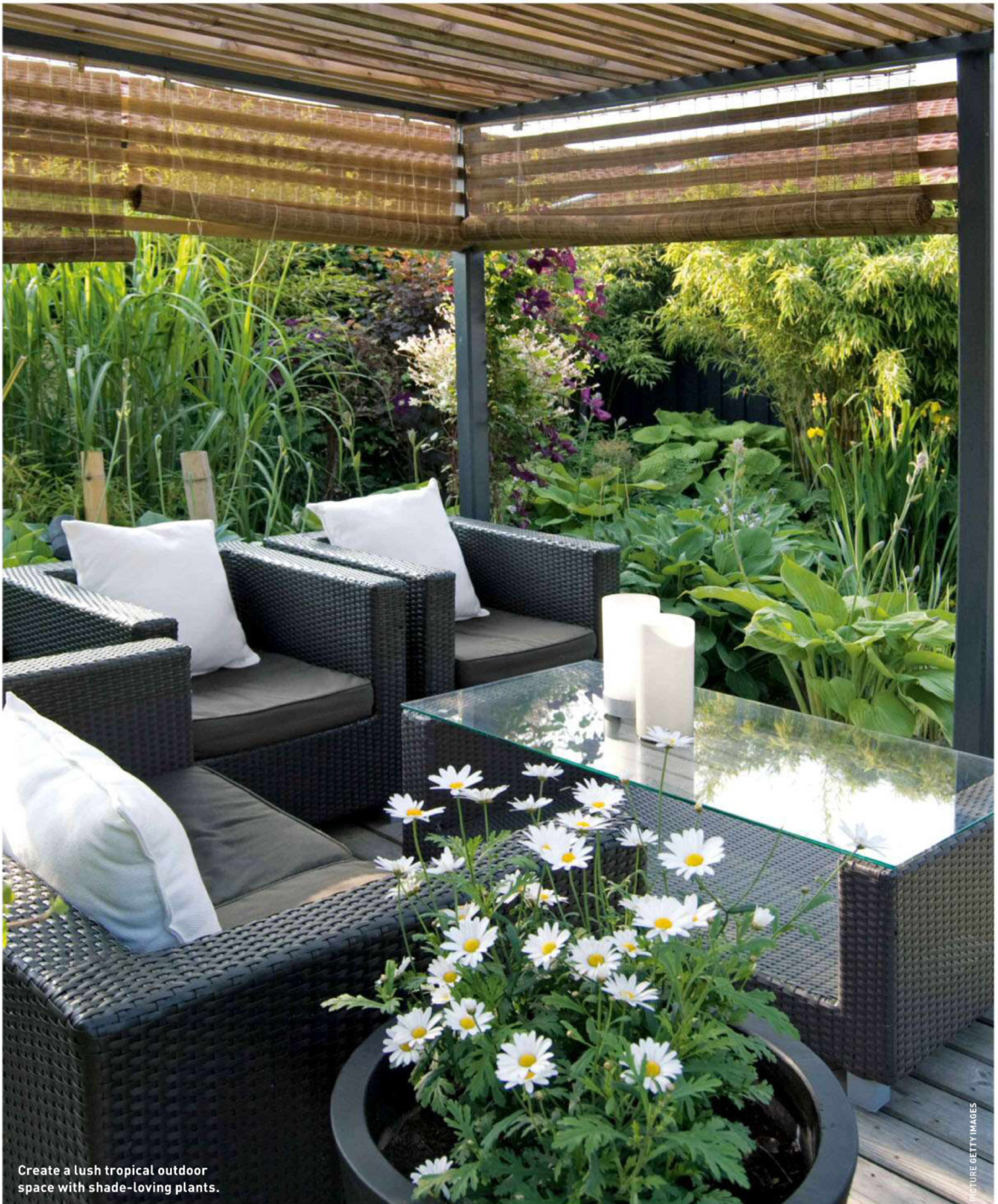
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Create a lush tropical outdoor space with shade-loving plants.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

In the shade

Make a shady garden thrive by opting for plants that suit the conditions and giving them what they need

Finding plants that will survive and thrive in locations where little sun penetrates is one of the most difficult gardening dilemmas.

In New Zealand, this is usually the area on the south side of your home, which can be moist as well as shady.

Many suburban gardens have large established trees that cast shadows over part of the backyard.

In small backyards or courtyards, the trees don't need to be very big to create shady problem areas.

With plot sizes shrinking and housing density increasing, gardening in areas without sun is becoming more relevant across the country.

Variations of shade

The key to creating a successful shady garden is in the planning, so it's essential to identify the type of shade you're dealing with before planting.

FULL SHADE means no direct light penetrates. It usually occurs under large trees or on the south side of a building, especially between houses.

Complete shade presents the toughest challenge. A garden under established trees competes for nutrients and water, with the canopy stopping a lot of the rain reaching the soil.

SEMI OR PART SHADE means the area gets sun for only half the day. It's important when working with part

shade to distinguish between plants that like morning or afternoon sun.

LIGHT OR DAPPLED SHADE refers to an area that receives filtered sunlight during the day, such as under plants with foliage that is not too dense.

Other areas that need thought are the pergola, balcony and indoors.

House plants receive neither rain nor nutrients, so these should be very hardy, or very well looked after.

A shady garden has the potential to be soothing and restful in a way sunny yards are not.

Shaded spots make great summer retreats, so add a comfortable outdoor setting for those hot days. ➤

Planting basics

Shady gardens have very different maintenance needs to those in sunny areas. Most plants grow slower in the shade, so pruning and weeding is easier. Here's how you can help a shady backyard thrive.

MULCH planted areas under established trees with compost and manure, then top with a thick layer of organic mulch to provide nutrients and trap water.

FEED plants with a seaweed liquid

spray directly onto the leaves so the trees can't steal the goodness.

REMOVE any bark, sticks, small branches and fallen leaves that are smothering plants and return them to the garden as mulch or compost.

CHOOSE hardy plants with low water needs and a tolerance for shade, such as orchids, bromeliads and succulents. Build up beds over tree roots to 150mm deep and use bark mixes.

USE root barriers near big trees to help plantings establish. The barriers must not interfere with major tree roots and should extend above the ground.

PLANT in pots under trees where it is difficult to dig into the roots.

PRUNE established trees carefully to let more light through to the ground. As a general rule, don't prune more than one-third of the canopy of a tree at any one time.

Select a variety ▼



HOSTA

ENGLISH WOODLAND

Mass-plant anemones in the dappled light under deciduous trees for cool-weather colour and add classical statuary or a pond. **FOXGLOVES** add height as well as colour at the back of garden beds. **HELLEBORES** multiply well and provide lovely winter colour. **BLUEBELLS** flower in spring and look delightful in drifts. **HOSTAS** have a range of foliage. **FORGET-ME-NOTS** self-sow to bloom year after year.



HARDENBERGIA

BUSHLAND

Go bush with Australian natives, logs and rocks, and a rustic sculpture. **SHRUBS** such as correas attract honeyeaters, and hardenbergias flower during winter and spring. **BANKSIA** 'Birthday Candles' is a striking groundcover. **PERENNIALS** like brachyscome have daisy-like flowers, and fan flower, or *Scaevola*, is good for dry spots. **GRASSY PLANTS** like lomandra look great in drifts while dianellas have pretty blue flowers and purple berries.



CARROT AND BEETROOT

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Generally, fruiting plants need sun to ripen, but those grown for their leaves and roots will tolerate shade. **SPINACH** and silverbeet will both perform well in part shade. **LETTUCE** prefers part shade with the morning sun only. **ROOT VEGIES** such as potatoes, radishes, carrots and beets grow in part shade but mature more slowly. **CULINARY HERBS** like chives, mint, thyme and parsley all do well in part shade. Mint likes morning sun.



CYCLAMEN

INDOOR AND BALCONY

In apartments, all gardening is done in pots and the conditions are usually part to full shade. But the plants can be moved about to take advantage of sunny spots. **BONSAI** need protected positions, as their small pots tend to dry out. **CYLCAMENS** provide constant winter colour. Feed and deadhead regularly. **DAPHNE ODORA** has fragrant, late winter flowers and likes morning sun. **DENDROBIUM** is an Australian orchid with shiny green leaves and wonderfully fragrant flowers.



BROMELIAD

DRY SHADE

These areas are usually found right next to big trees. For these challenging places to garden, choose robust types that look lush but need little water. **BROMELIADS** come in a variety of different leaf colours. **PLECTRANTHUS** has eye-catching leaves and flowers in the autumn. **HOLLY FERN** has glossy green fronds and can be planted as a groundcover. **ASPIDISTRA** or cast iron plant, as it is known, has hardy attractive leaves. **HEN AND CHICKS** are shade-tolerant, rosette-shaped succulents.



AZALEA

ASIAN SUBTROPICAL

For very shady yards or south-facing passages, try a mini jungle look with canopy, filler and groundcover plants. **BANGALOW PALMS** and Australian native frangipanis are ideal canopy plants, with cordylines as a palm alternative in a small backyard. **AZALEA** and *Fatsia japonica* shrubs are great fillers. Use bird's nest fern on tree branches and *Canna* 'Tropicanna' for a lush understorey. **MONDO GRASS**, variegated liriopes and clivias are verdant and make ideal groundcovers.

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Put up a nest box

Certain birds like nesting in tree hollows, but they're often hard to find. Install nest boxes with entry holes suitable for the local birds, but ensure they're not too big, as predators can attack the birds or steal the eggs.

Give them shelter

Areas with dense foliage make birds feel secure, so combine native grasses with shrubs and flowering trees. This will provide a safe haven for them to build nests and forage for seeds, fruit and insects.

5 ways to attract birds to your garden

Add native plants

Kowhai, kakabeak, flax and puriri are enticing to birds as sources of either nectar, seeds or berries. They'll attract many species of birds and, if you're very lucky, tui and kereru will visit your garden.

Don't feed them

Giving birds food can have a negative impact on their health if it doesn't provide adequate nutrition. Feeding stations can also cause diseases to spread. So stick to native plants and a supply of clean water.

Quench their thirst

Birds feel safer if their water source is elevated with a tree near, so they can escape from predators. Keep a birdbath full of clean, fresh water so they know it's always available and to help reduce the spread of disease.



Keeping the cat indoors will ensure the birds are safer.

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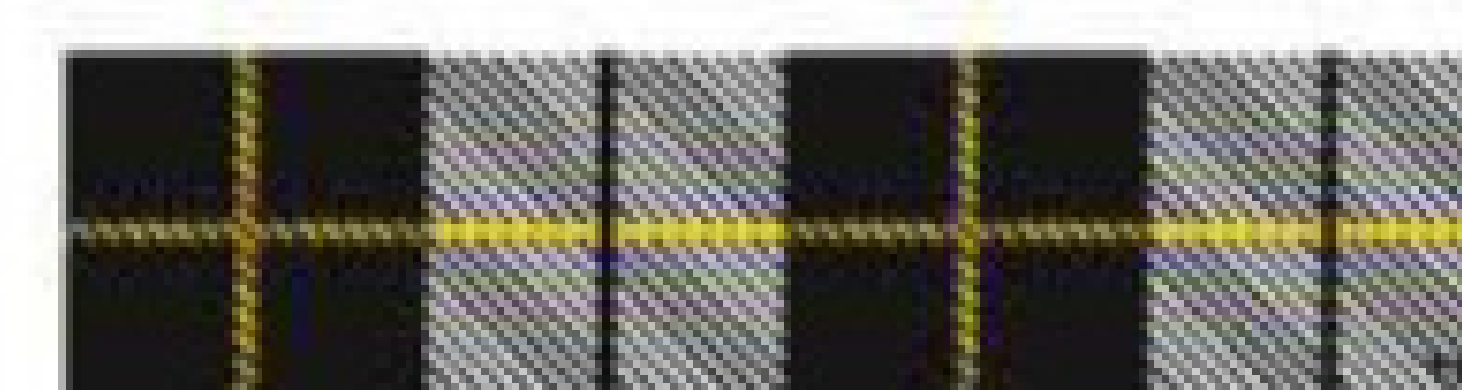
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