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# Handyman

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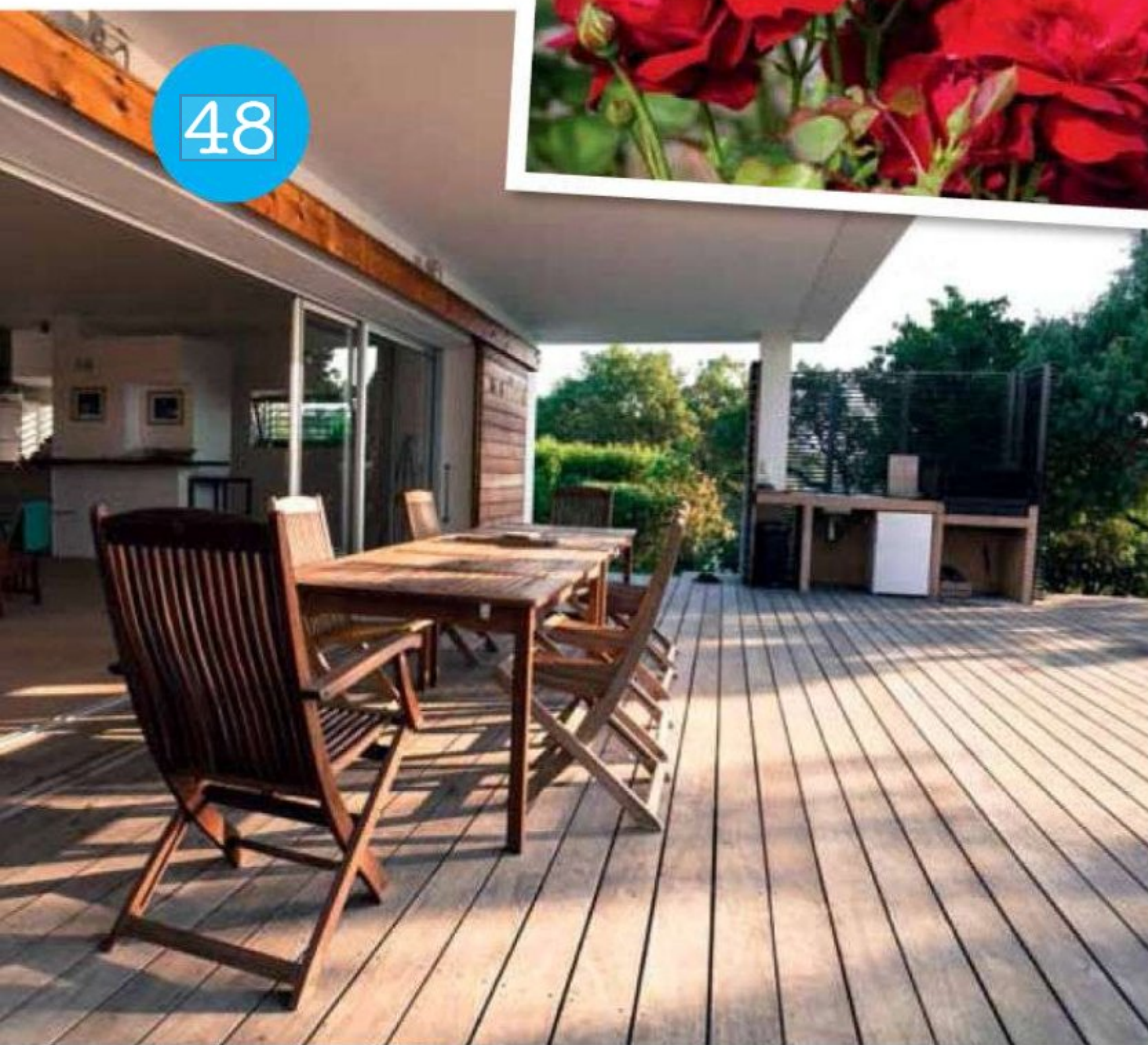
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**HANDY  
STUFF**

## POOL & BEACH ESSENTIALS

Beat the heat and cool off in the water with these must-have accessories

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

### Flying colours

Take shade under the Kaleido 3000mm Multi-Colour Canopy, \$100. Bringing a splash of vibrancy to the poolside, this stylish sunshade is made of durable polyester and offers up to 95% UV protection.

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



### Pack 'n' protect

Store pool toys and other gear in a Keter 270L Hollywood Outdoor Storage Box, \$59, to protect them from the harsh elements. Metal reinforcing ensures that this UV-stable polypropylene chest will stand up to rugged use.

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



### Tot towel

Find a fun way to entice kids out of the pool at the end of the day with the delightful 3 Sprouts Monkey Hooded Towel, \$40. Your toddler will love being wrapped up into this soft and cosy terry towelling and cotton towel.

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

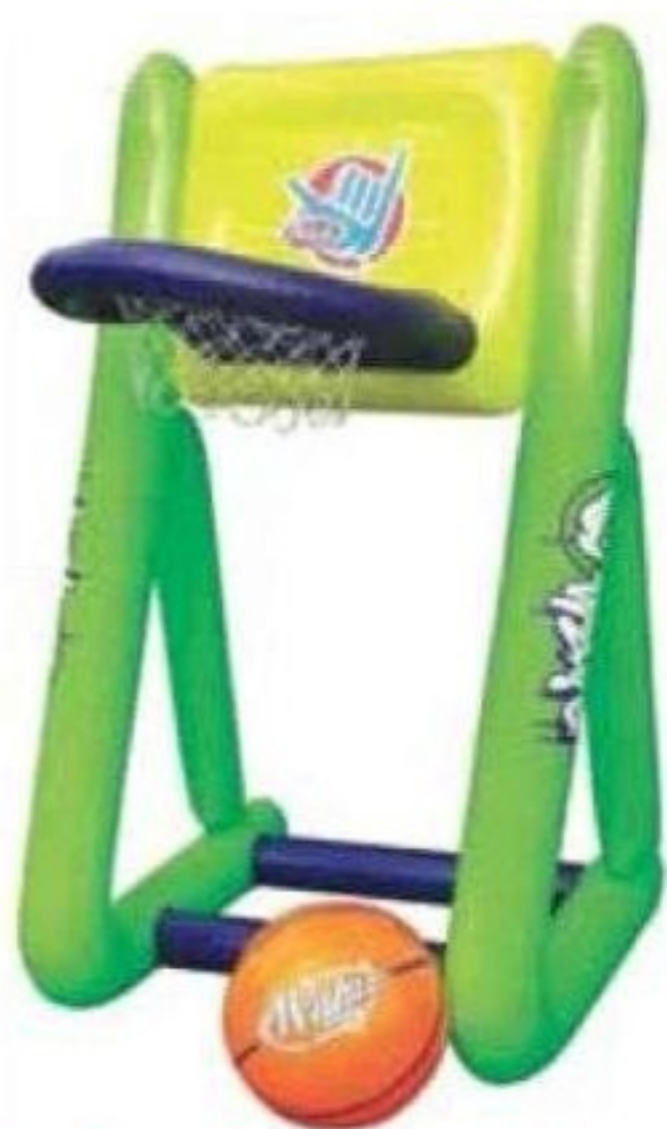


### Sun soaker

Lie back in total comfort and enjoy the warm weather on the Mimosa Manor Cushioned Sun Lounge, \$229. The ideal addition to your outdoor setting, it has an aluminium frame and the olefin cushions are thick and plush. ➤

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





## Splash sport

Challenge your kids to a rowdy game of Wahu Backyard Jumbo Basketball, \$77. Ideal for the pool, the kit floats on water and is easy to inflate and deflate. Suitable for kids over five, it measures 1000 x 1000 x 1800mm. [toyplanet.co.nz](http://toyplanet.co.nz)

## Merry melon

Embrace a summer theme with the fresh and fruity look of the Sunnyslife Inflatable Watermelon Ball, \$25. It measures 350mm in diameter and is perfect for tossing around at a pool party with the kids on a hot day. [funkygifts.co.nz](http://funkygifts.co.nz)



## Slide time

Kids will enjoy launching into the pool or sandpit down the Swing Slide Climb Snail Slide, \$39. Measuring 1120 x 650 x 670mm, it is very portable. Made of sturdy plastic, it will stand the test of time in a Kiwi backyard. [bunnings.co.nz](http://bunnings.co.nz)



## Drifting donut

Let the kids cool off by floating around in their favourite tasty treat, a Junior Donut, \$19. Covered in frosting and sprinkles, this 800mm inflatable ring comes in chocolate or strawberry. It's also available in a 1200mm size, \$26. [theoriginaldonut.biz](http://theoriginaldonut.biz)

## Beat the burn

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## Little lifesaver

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



## Clear the way

Keep the pool water clear with Hy-Chlor Pods, about \$14 for a two-pack. Place a pod in the pool skimmer box and the clarifier solution will treat and help clear cloudy water in 24 hours. The wrapper simply dissolves away.

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

## Speed shutter

Make sure the pool gate snaps shut swiftly with the G8 Safe Adjustable Pool Gate Spring Hinges, \$47 for a two-pack. Made of super-strong polymer, they won't rust, and the hinge tension is very easy to adjust.

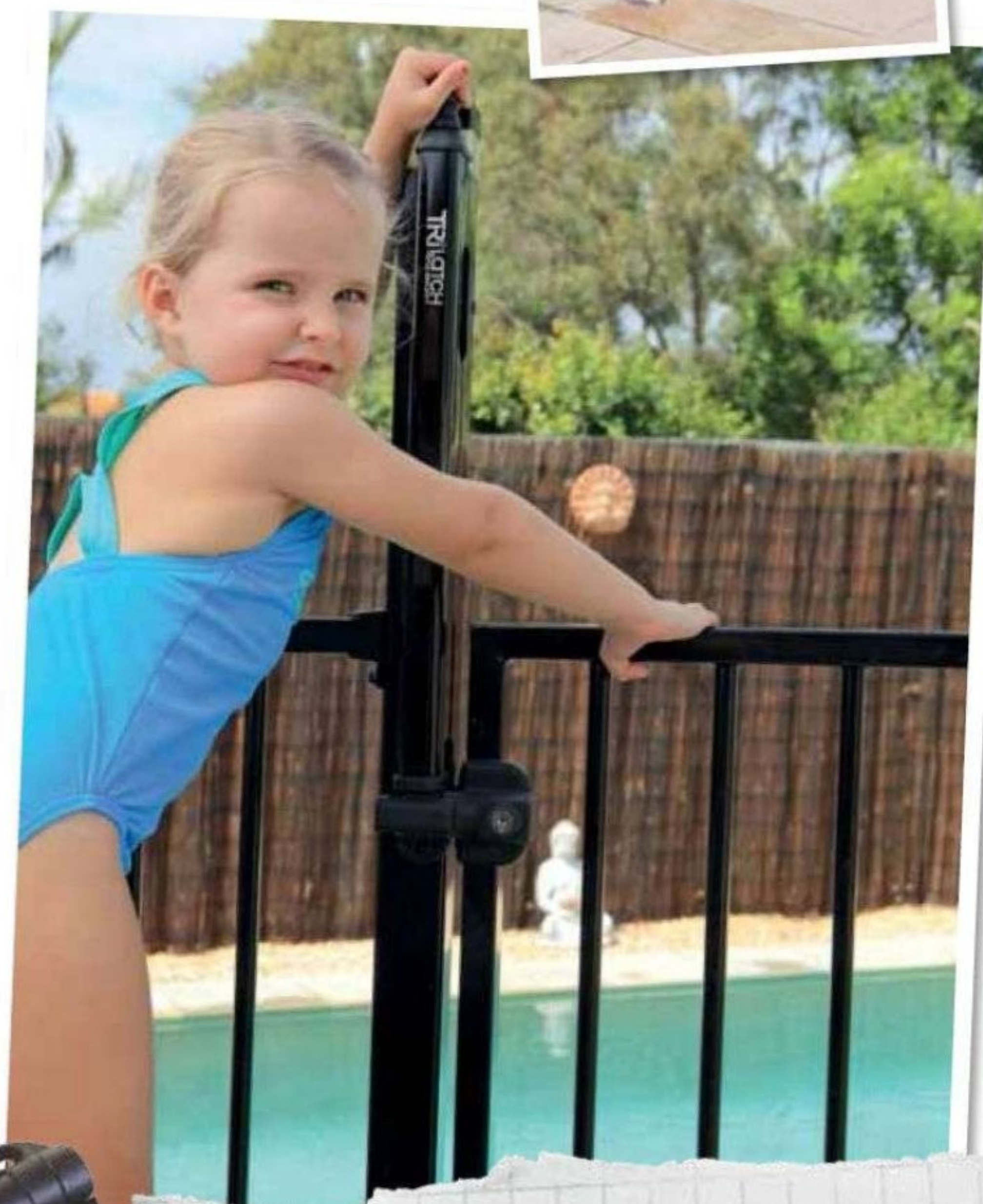
[protectoraluminium.com.au](http://protectoraluminium.com.au)



## Classy glass

Get good visibility plus a chic look poolside with an Everton 1200 x 900 x 10mm Semi Frameless Glass Gate Panel, \$175. Add the gate panel to a full glass fence for an unobstructed view of the pool.

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



## Gate guardian

The G8 Safe Lockable Pool Gate Tri Latch, \$95, has a dual-action safety button that keeps children from using implements to open it, plus mechanisms to ensure the latch is secure each time it is shut.

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



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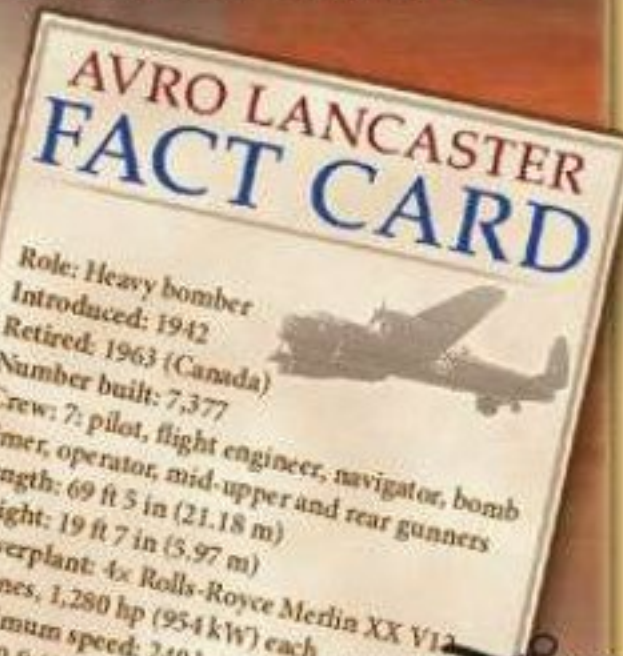
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# What's new

Summer's winding up and March is a great time to attack the D.I.Y. projects still on your to do list. Daylight savings has not yet turned so there's still plenty of time to crack into it - especially with these awesome new products.



**SELF-CLEANING SHOWER** Cut your bathroom cleaning time in half with the Stein Georgia Curved Shower Unit. It features Enduroshield technology which makes glass resistant to water and oil, and repels soap scum. Stein showers are made with toughened safety glass and beautifully finished with chrome plated fittings and hardware. **\$899**



**QUALITY COOKING** Create inspirational dishes with this up-to-the-minute stylish black glass gas hob and oven combo. The easy-clean black glass hob has quality cast iron trivets and a flame failure safety device on each burner. The 9 function, 65L oven has a triple-glazed door and electronic touch control. **\$1195**



**MOULD FREE ZONE** Eliminate condensation, mould and mildew from your bathroom with the Square Stein Showerdome. It encloses the shower unit, leaving you with a healthier environment for your family. **\$220**



**THE PERFECT WINTER WARMER** The CLICK 5000W ceramic retro mini fan heater is a stylish unit, perfect for the any room up to 10m<sup>2</sup>. This tidy little number features a PTC heating element, a safety tip-over switch and overheating protection. **\$19.98**



**CONTROLLED HEATING** From temperature to angle, through to timing, the AKAI 2000W Fan Heater is loaded with features that makes heating easier. It has an adjustable temperature control, overheating protection and a tip over switch. It also displays the room temperature on an easy to read blue backlit LCD display and comes with a remote for easy use. **\$49.98**



**SLEEK AND EFFICIENT** With a modern white gloss finish, the Sylvia White LED Spotlights are the perfect addition to any interior. With 450 lumens per head, you can adjust the spotlights to suit specific areas of your room. Available in single, double, triple or quad. Plus, see in store for a new range of spotlights to suit your design needs. From just **\$49**



## THE ULTI-MATE STORAGE AREA



**CREATE THE ULTIMATE GARAGE** Make your dream garage a reality with this Ultimate setting. The cabinet doors are built from strong industrial finished Silver Checker Plate. They're also key lockable which keeps dangerous and expensive tools out of curious hands. Under bench tool chests have locking castor wheels which allows you to move heavy tools around the garage with ease. From just **\$69**



**LESS DUST FASTER FINISH** The Ryobi ONE+ 18V Random Orbital Sander Skin is cleaner than most with up to 80% dust pick-up efficiency - a quick clean up means a faster finish. It also features the Quick-Fix Hook & Loop sanding pad attachment which means you can change sand paper at speed with little effort. **\$119**



**QUICK SAND** The Ryobi ONE+ 18V Corner Sander console will get you in and out of tight spots with ease. Don't lose momentum with the Quick-Fix Hook & Loop sanding pad attachment which makes for a speedy change of sand paper. Plus, clean up is a breeze with the dust port for dust extraction. **\$99**



**WORK BEATS** Stay in tune with the Ryobi ONE+ 18V AM/FM Radio with Bluetooth Skin. Fire your playlist to the radio via Bluetooth. With a range of up to 30m, you can control your music from anywhere in your backyard. It also has an auxiliary function for MP3 use. **\$109**



**LESS MAINTENANCE. MORE TORQUE** The Ryobi ONE+ 18V Brushless drill driver kit gives you 60Nm of torque power, which means that it can drill up to 50mm in timber. Its new brushless motor requires less maintenance but offers more run time - perfect for on the go performance. It's also compatible with all 18V ONE+ consoles, with over 40 tools in the range. **\$349**



**BALANCED FOR COMFORT** The Hart 20oz Claw Hammer is what you need for all your projects. It's true balanced for comfort, which means a reduction in fatigue - this will help you power through the job at hand. Plus, you're guaranteed with a limited lifetime warranty. **\$49.98**



# HAMPTONS STYLE

An old house gets a transatlantic renovation to bring it up to date

WORDS SITA SIMONS



This 1880s Australian home required serious attention.

Built in an architectural style commonly known as a Queenslander, it was dark and cold, and in need of renovation.

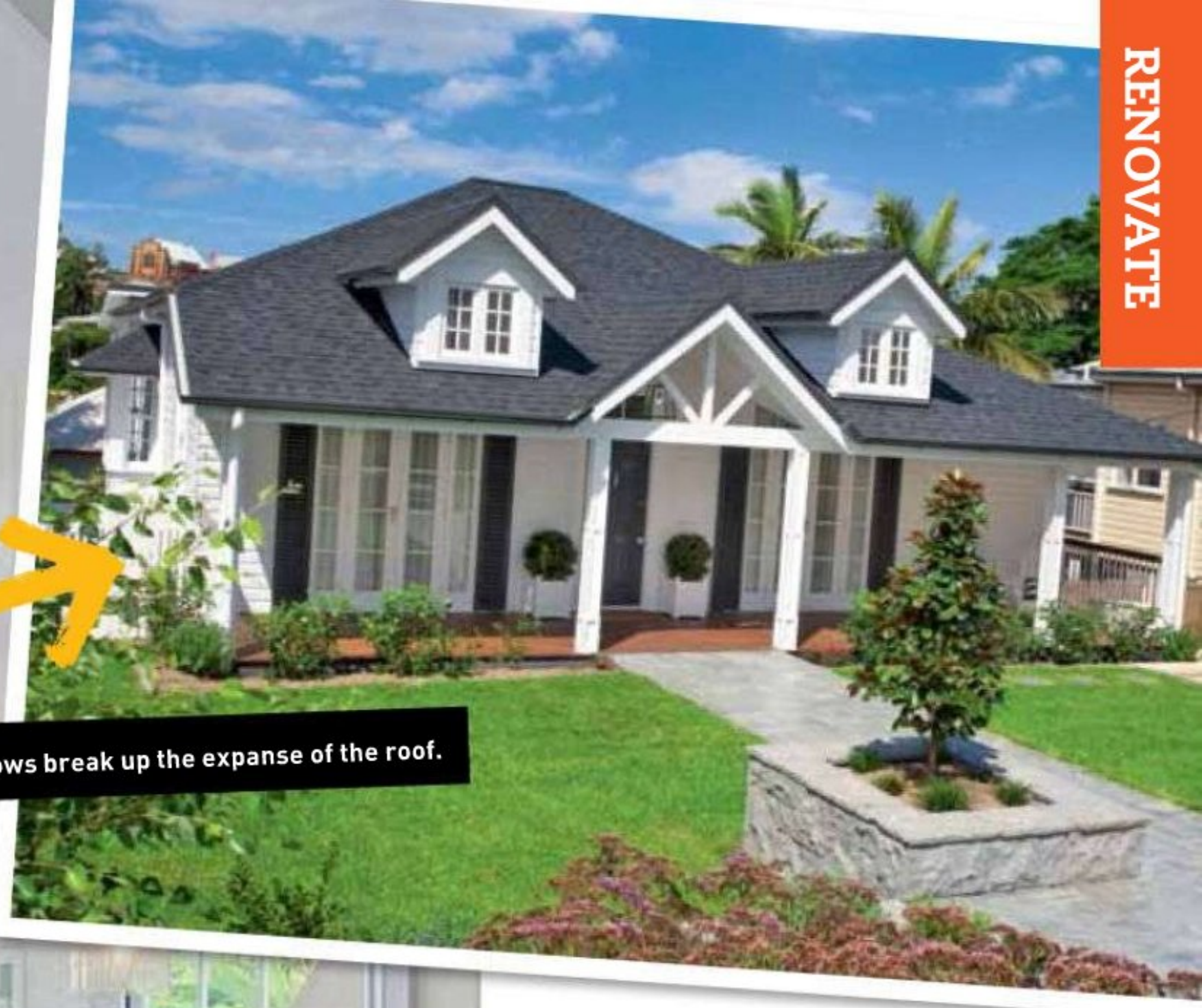
'There's a lot to love about a Queenslander, but the design is essentially flawed,' says architect Claus Ejlersen.

'The instantly recognisable elements of the wraparound verandahs and elevation on stilts are actually inefficient for airflow.

'The rooms are closed off and dark, and the corrugated roofs and thin timber walls are poor insulators,' he says.

The deck was cleverly integrated into the living space to bring the outdoors in.





Dormer windows break up the expanse of the roof.



### Design focus

A Queenslander's facade is heritage listed, but clever architectural design will keep the character intact while upgrading for today's requirements.

With this property, the sloping block meant it had no street appeal. So the landscaping at the front was tackled first to create a level platform for the house to sit on, with the elevation now only visible from the back.

The feature that had the biggest impact overall was the roof.

'It was obvious something elegant and effective had to be done with the roof. As it's visible from the street, it was a dominating feature,' says Claus.

'We were probably one of the first in Brisbane to use shingles. This American bitumen product is used widely in Cape Cod and Hamptons style architecture, and from that decision, the direction we were going to take became clear.' ➤



The coastal style of classic Hamptons design is a perfect fit for the bones of a Queenslander





## BUDGET TIP

Get a quote from three builders and consult with your architect as this could potentially save you thousands of dollars.

### Floorplan flip

Referencing the elevation of the old house, the main living and dining areas and kitchen are upstairs.

While most renovations put living areas at ground level with the bedrooms above, working around the limitations of the plot realised the most successful resolution for this house.

'There were a couple of issues here. The slope from the front to the back resulted in a meagre yard. It was dark downstairs with flat 2.7m ceilings, making it impossible to get that vaulted space we wanted to create,' says Claus.

Off the hallway, there is a dining room cum library, as well as the master bedroom. The living areas and kitchen form the rest of the space.

The original living area was small and the verandah took up a lot of the footprint of the house, so the deck was integrated into the living room to create an expansive space.



**ABOVE** An intimate dining nook was created off the hallway.  
**BELOW** In the living area, sliding doors opening onto the deck can be left open for most of the year.





Plantation shutters provide protection from the weather and create filtered light.

## Opening up

An open-air void provides a covered link between the lower and upper levels and houses the timber sliding doors on the deck when they are open.

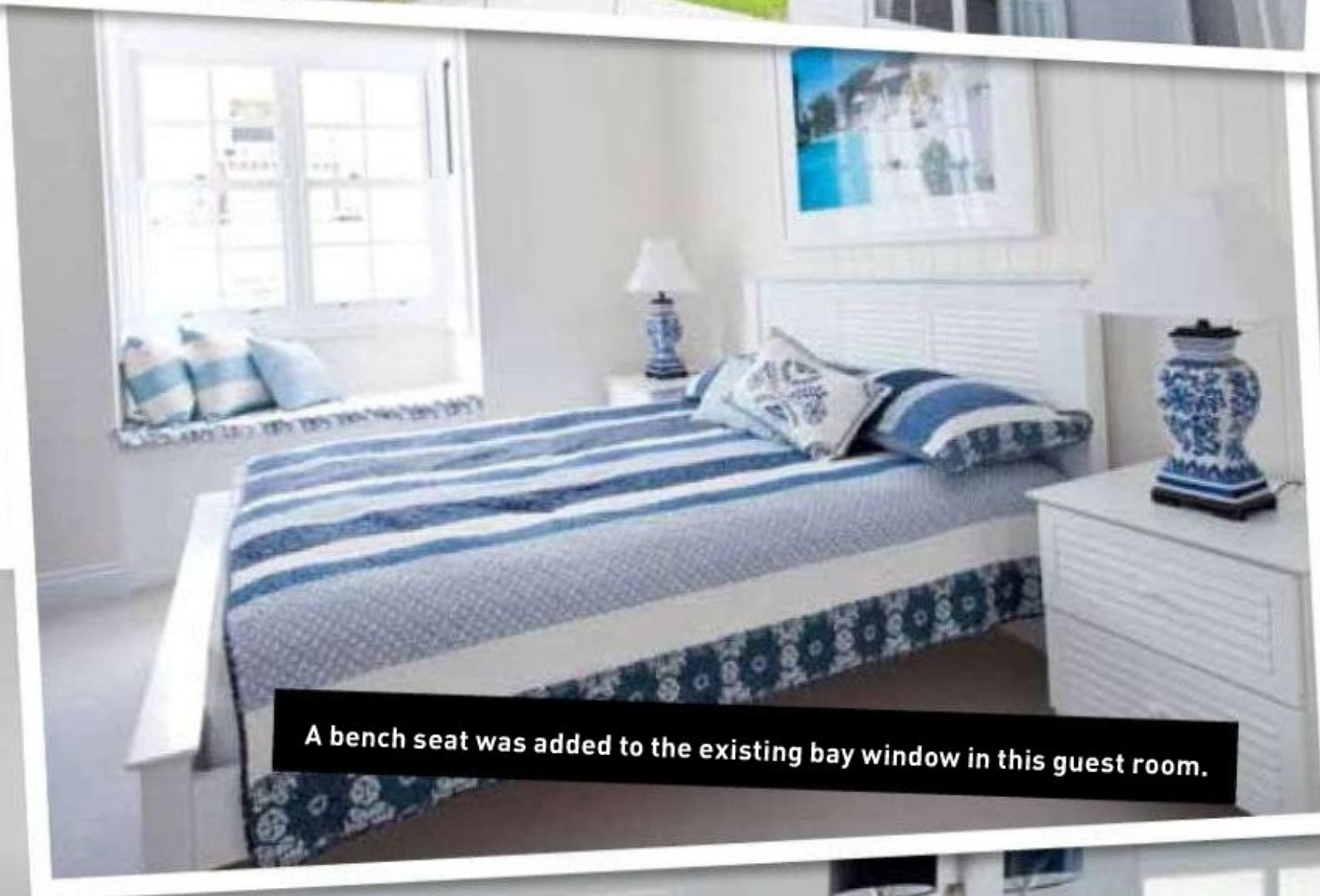
Windows are a feature of this renovation and the original single casements were changed to double hung style to allow in more light.

In the bedrooms, extra insulation is achieved with thick carpeting and by converting the existing single skin walls to double skin, with insulation batts in between.

In the main bathroom, the use of materials is simple and the focus is on the details and finishes.

'Using reflective surfaces such as large mirrors and glossy stone creates light and depth and adds to the feeling of luxury,' says Claus.

'A lot of the success of a bathroom is in the layout, and it's always worth rearranging it if it's not working. But in this case, we worked with the existing room and windows.'



A bench seat was added to the existing bay window in this guest room.

Tiling right up to the ceiling in the bathroom makes the space appear bigger



Fresh white and black accents create a luxurious bathroom.



### Kitchen centrepiece

Flowing off from the living area, the kitchen is the showpiece of the house. Claiming over 6.5 x 5m of floorspace, every detail was carefully planned.

'We spent months getting the cabinetry design right, as it's such an important feature of this look.

'It was all custom-made and the style is constant throughout the house, with the detailed panelling and shell drawer handles. It extends right up to picture rail height, with a mix of solid and glass-panelled doors,' says Claus.

'The original picture rail was retained and bulkheads built around the cabinetry for the continuity, which is really effective,' he says.

'The three lights are a classic addition and, while very detailed, the finish isn't fussy. This is key to achieving the Hamptons style.'



The oversized island and benchtops are topped with glossy black marble.

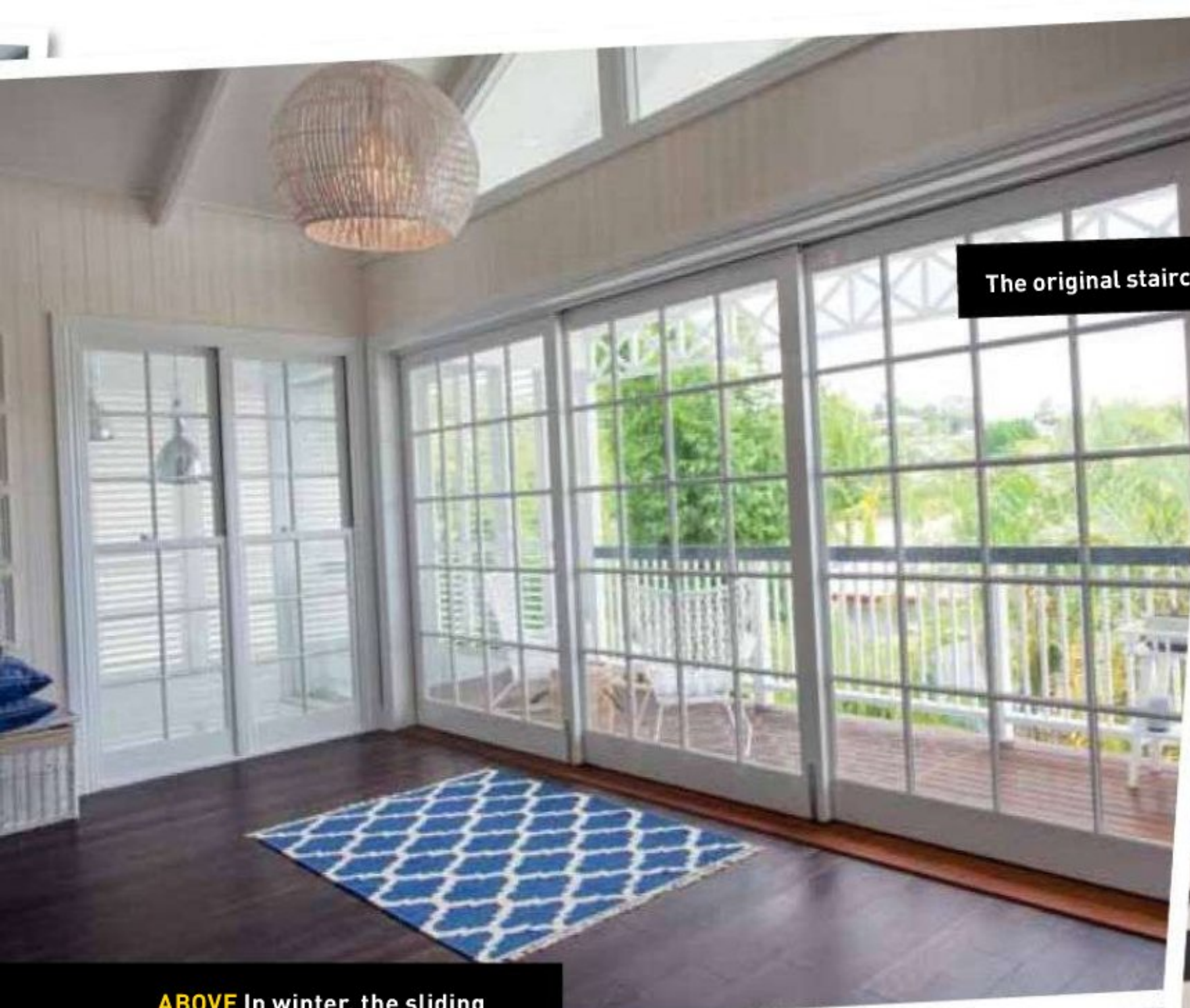
### DESIGN TIP

To create more intimacy in an open-plan, eat-in kitchen and allow for better lighting, keep the ceiling height low.

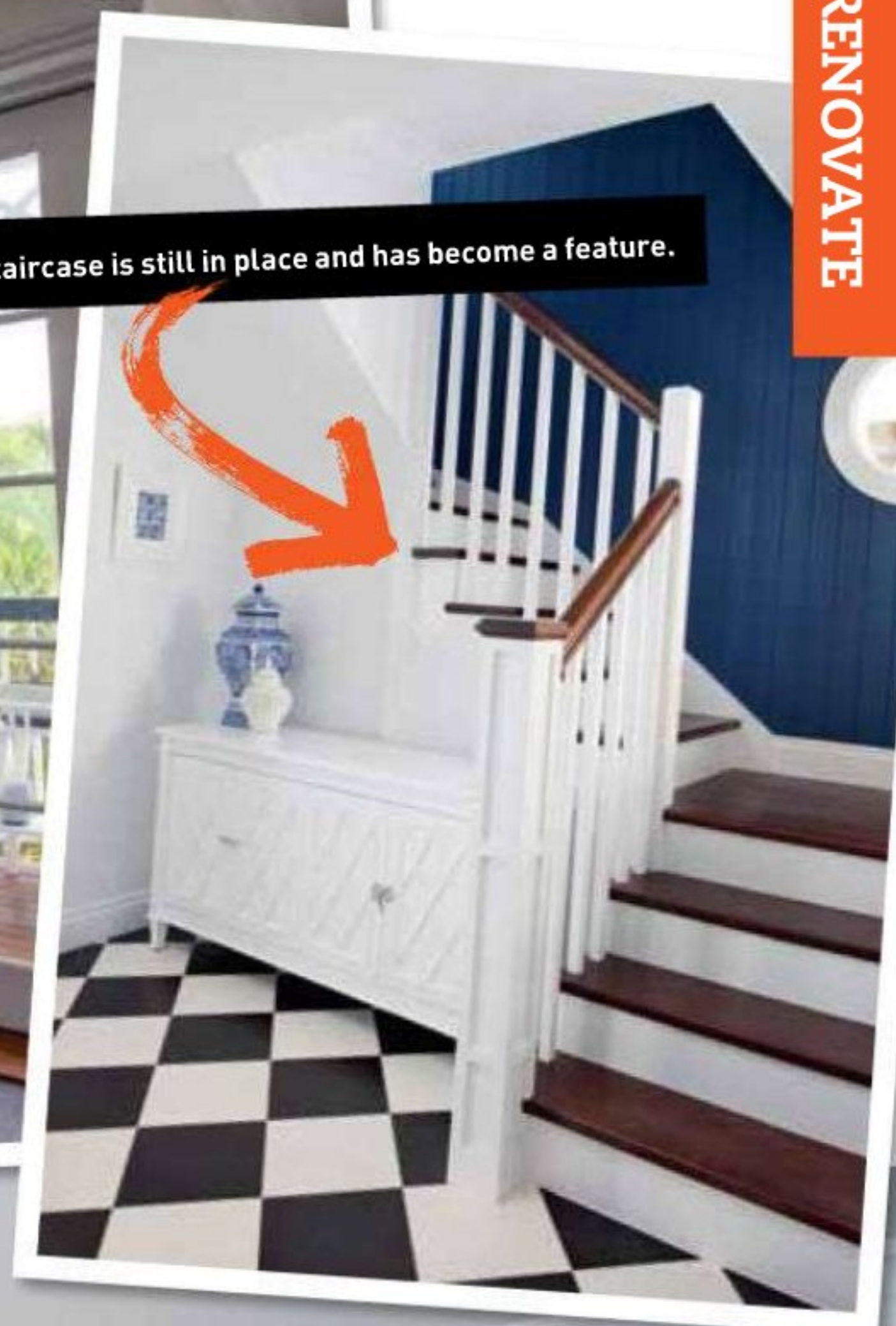


Dark chocolate-coloured engineered hardwood flooring in the living areas adds warmth





The original staircase is still in place and has become a feature.



**ABOVE** In winter, the sliding doors can be closed to give a cosy environment, without sacrificing the views.  
**BELOW** A nautical theme for the kids' rooms works with the style.



### Boys' bunkers

The downstairs was turned into a space for the owners' sons. They each have a large bedroom with a walk-in robe and ensuite.

There's also a mud room, another traditional American feature, where they can take off dirty shoes and keep sports equipment, as well as a rumpus room, which provides a casual space. ➤



The house's vertical boards were replaced with horizontal timber weatherboards.

## BUDGET TIP

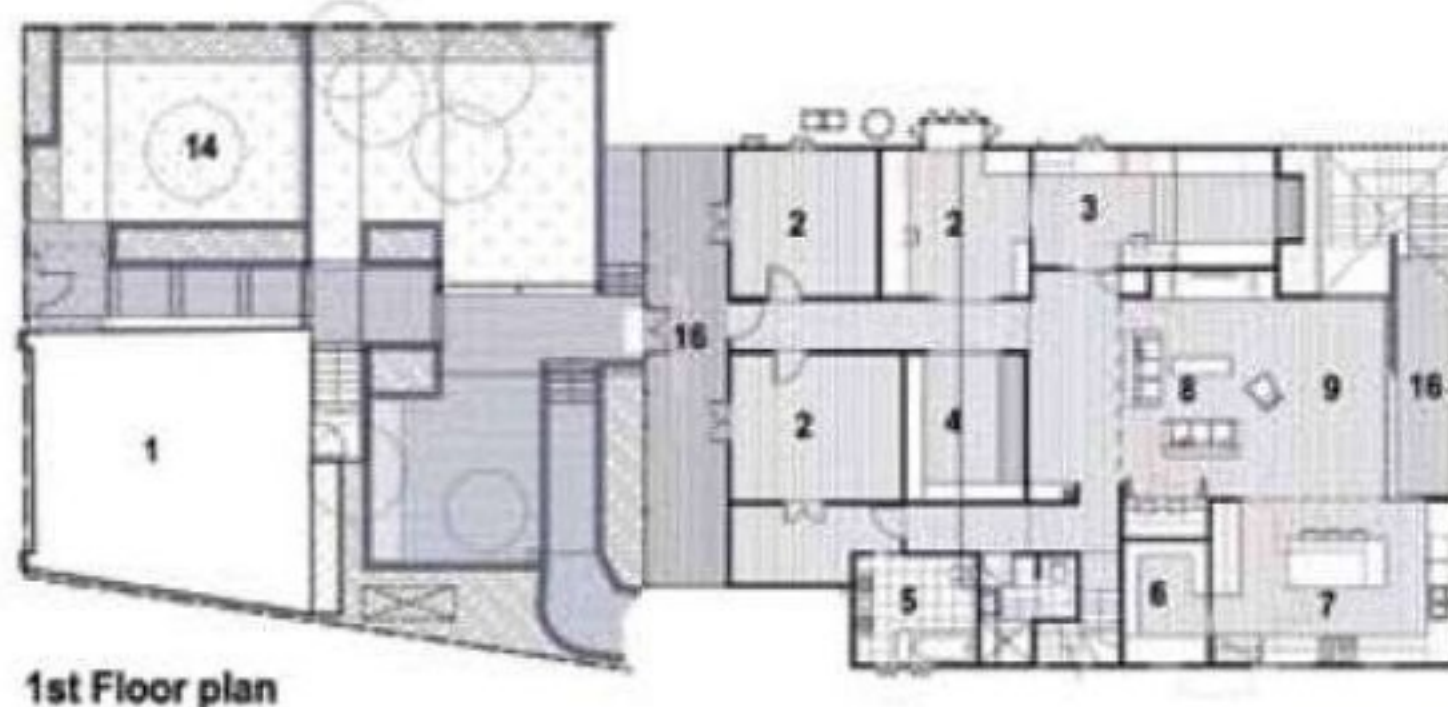
Know where to save and where to spend. While an addition such as a pool may seem like a luxury, it adds to the enjoyment value.

### Backyard bliss

The original backyard was a sloping site, and measured only 6m to the boundary fence. So it was levelled and a swimming pool installed, opening up the space and giving it purpose.

'In a way, we have created two backyards in doing this. A usable area for the kids and their friends, with the deck above where the adults can relax and watch over them,' says Claus.

Tall louvres, crisp white paint and pendant lighting make the high vaulted void joining the two levels a pleasant and functional addition, rather than it being just a dead space.



1st Floor plan



Gnd Floor plan

Key:  
1- Garage  
2- Bed  
3- Office  
4- Library  
5- Ensuite  
6- Butlers Pantry  
7- Kitchen  
8- Lounge  
9- Dining  
10- Family  
11- Robe  
12- Laundry  
13- Mudroom  
14- Outdoor landscaped area  
15- Pool  
16- Deck



The footprint of the house remains the same, but the new design maximises space and light





### Garage revamp

A common feature of a Queenslander is the carport located at the front of the property, with its purpose purely practical rather than aesthetic.

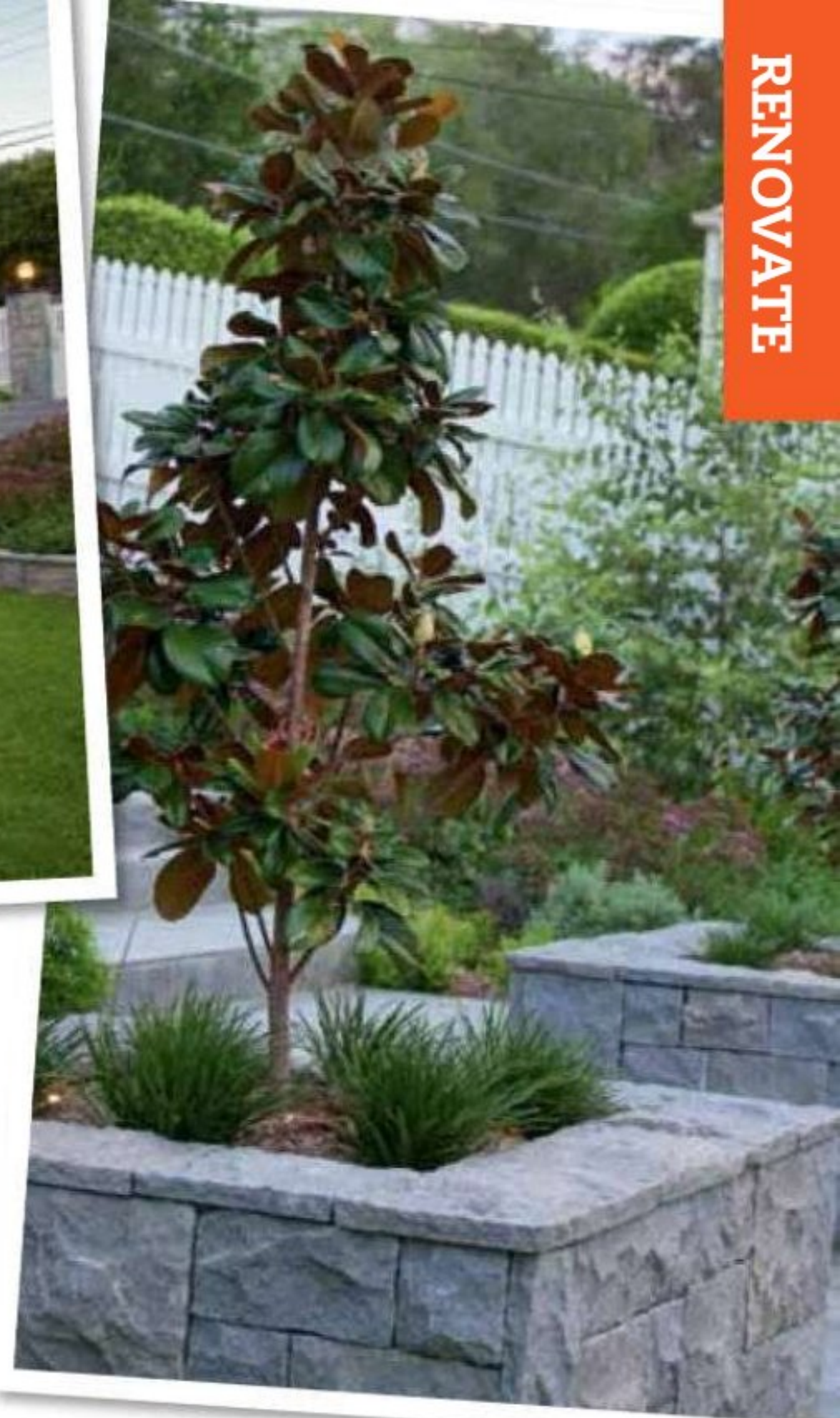
‘The problem with a carport at the front is that it tends to take over, or dictate the property style,’ says Claus.

‘The only way to enhance and integrate what was essentially an ugly addition was to turn it into a cottage. And while used for parking, it can be easily converted into a workshop, studio or extra accommodation.

‘Whatever we did with the house, we replicated on the carport. This actually makes it disappear and the house remains the standout feature.

‘When you walk round this house, you don’t feel like there’s been a huge renovation. It looks complementary and natural, and that is I think a great indication of success,’ says Claus.

‘It’s a true enhancement of what was already built, which is about configuring the rooms in the right positions, creating comfortable spaces to live in and maximising views.’



**ABOVE** Two formal stone planters form striking features in the levelled front yard.  
**BELOW** The cleverly renovated carport at the front reflects the design of the house so it blends in rather than stands out.



The house and garage now have great street appeal.



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## DESIGN TIP

An open-plan kitchen complements modern life, but include plenty of storage to keep clutter out of sight.

Design a kitchen to suit your lifestyle and budget.

# KITCHEN MAGIC

Transform a dated space into a modern haven for cooking, eating and socialising

**WORDS** ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT AND ARTEMIS GOUROS

As one of the busiest rooms in the house, especially in a family home, an outdated kitchen not only makes preparing meals more of a chore than a pleasure but also presents storage issues.

The two main elements to consider as you plan a renovation to the hub of the home are layout and lifestyle.

Your kitchen needs to be designed for maximum functionality and to suit your day-to-day life.

Budget is a key factor, so plan ahead to get the biggest bang for your buck when renovating the kitchen. ➤



# ONE KITCHEN, **FOUR** WAYS

Before

## Kitchen upgrade

If you have an original or even just an old kitchen, replacing it is probably at the top of your renovation to-do list, but lack of funds or motivation may be what's holding you back.

This 70s kitchen was given four different treatments to show just what can be done to one space, depending on budget and lifestyle needs.

Whether you want to do a DIY makeover or rip out the kitchen and start from scratch, you'll find inspiration in these designs. ➤

The kitchen sees a lot of action every day, ageing faster with wear and tear than other areas of your home



Rejuvenation



Industrial



Country



Contemporary





Watch the video 'How to Paint Laminate Kitchen Cabinets' at [bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice](http://bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice).

UNDER  
\$1000  
COST



1

### Budget rejuvenation

If you don't have a large stash of cash to spend on fixing up your kitchen, you can do simple surface transformations DIY with as little as \$1000.

Paint is the secret weapon to combatting a mishmash of colours and patterns. Use laminate and tile paint to easily resurface benchtops, cabinets and splashbacks.

Charcoal is a good colour to mask wear and tear, and white always looks fresh. Complete the look with new vinyl flooring and a venetian blind. ➤



Choose a classic colour to make a reno stand the test of time

GET THE  
LOOK

Windowware 1800 x 1630mm PVC Venetian Blind in White, \$28, from Bunnings.



Gerflor Senso Essential 3m Wide Living Grey Sheet Floor Vinyl, \$50 per metre. [sensoflooring.co.nz](http://sensoflooring.co.nz)



White Knight White Laminate Paint, \$52 for 1L. [whiteknightpaints.co.nz](http://whiteknightpaints.co.nz)





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## 2

### Industrial design

Creating a functional space with a bit of wow factor is easy if you have a reasonable budget to play with.

This kitchen has wide benchtops for meal preparation and an island for dining, while subway tiles paired with dark grout for the splashback make clean-up quick and easy.

New laminate benchtops have a dramatic impact but are inexpensive and easy to maintain. Stainless steel appliances and white metal pendant lights add an industrial feel. ➤



Install task lighting for benchtops under wall cabinets

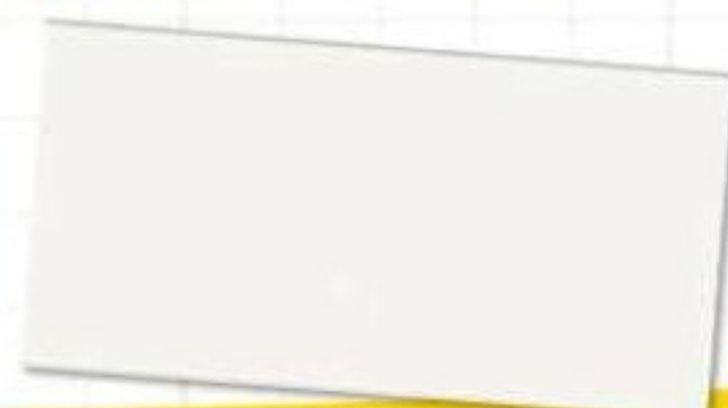
## GET THE LOOK



Kaboodle 2250 x 600 x 38mm White Sesame Benchtop, about \$387. [kaboodle.co.nz](http://kaboodle.co.nz)



White Knight Chalkboard Paint, \$19 for 500ml. [whiteknightpaints.co.nz](http://whiteknightpaints.co.nz)



Johnson Tiles 300 x 200mm White Ceramic Wall Tile, \$43 for a 25-pack, from Bunnings.



Brilliant 38cm Maxwell White Metal Shade, \$89. [brilliantlighting.com.au](http://brilliantlighting.com.au)

Watch the video 'How to Paint a Chalkboard Wall' at [bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice](http://bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice).



UNDER \$12,000 COST





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3

### Country escape

To set up an open-plan area that can be used for both weekday meals or casual dinner parties, a freestanding island with stools and feature lighting is key.

Guests can chat to the cook as they move effortlessly around the working triangle of sink, stove and fridge.

A double-doored pantry and under-bench cabinets and drawers help keep workstations clear, while glass-doored wall cabinets double as storage and display. ➤



Pair neutral tones and modern appliances for a timeless look

## GET THE LOOK



Kaboodle 2400 x 600 x 35mm Bamboo Benchtop, \$629. [kaboodle.co.nz](http://kaboodle.co.nz)



Everdure 60cm 8-function Built-in Electric Oven, \$549. [everdure.co.nz](http://everdure.co.nz)



Foreno WELS Mains 4 Star/Low 3 Star Mana Sink Mixer, \$200. [foreno.co.nz](http://foreno.co.nz)



Bellini 90cm Stainless Steel Canopy Rangehood, \$249, from Bunnings.

UNDER \$15,000 COST



Watch the video 'How to Install a Bamboo Benchtop' at [bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice](http://bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice).





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For more information visit  
[www.hillmark.com.au](http://www.hillmark.com.au)





4

### Contemporary classic

For a luxurious, modern renovation, team stone benchtops with timber cabinetry. Stone is not only durable, but also scratch and heat resistant.

An earthy colour palette completes the high-end simplicity of this design and complements the minimalist look. The effect is enhanced by the mirrored splashback and glass pendant lights.

For a true entertainer's delight, a butler's pantry provides essential extra storage, plus a place to wash up and prep out of sight of guests. 🍷



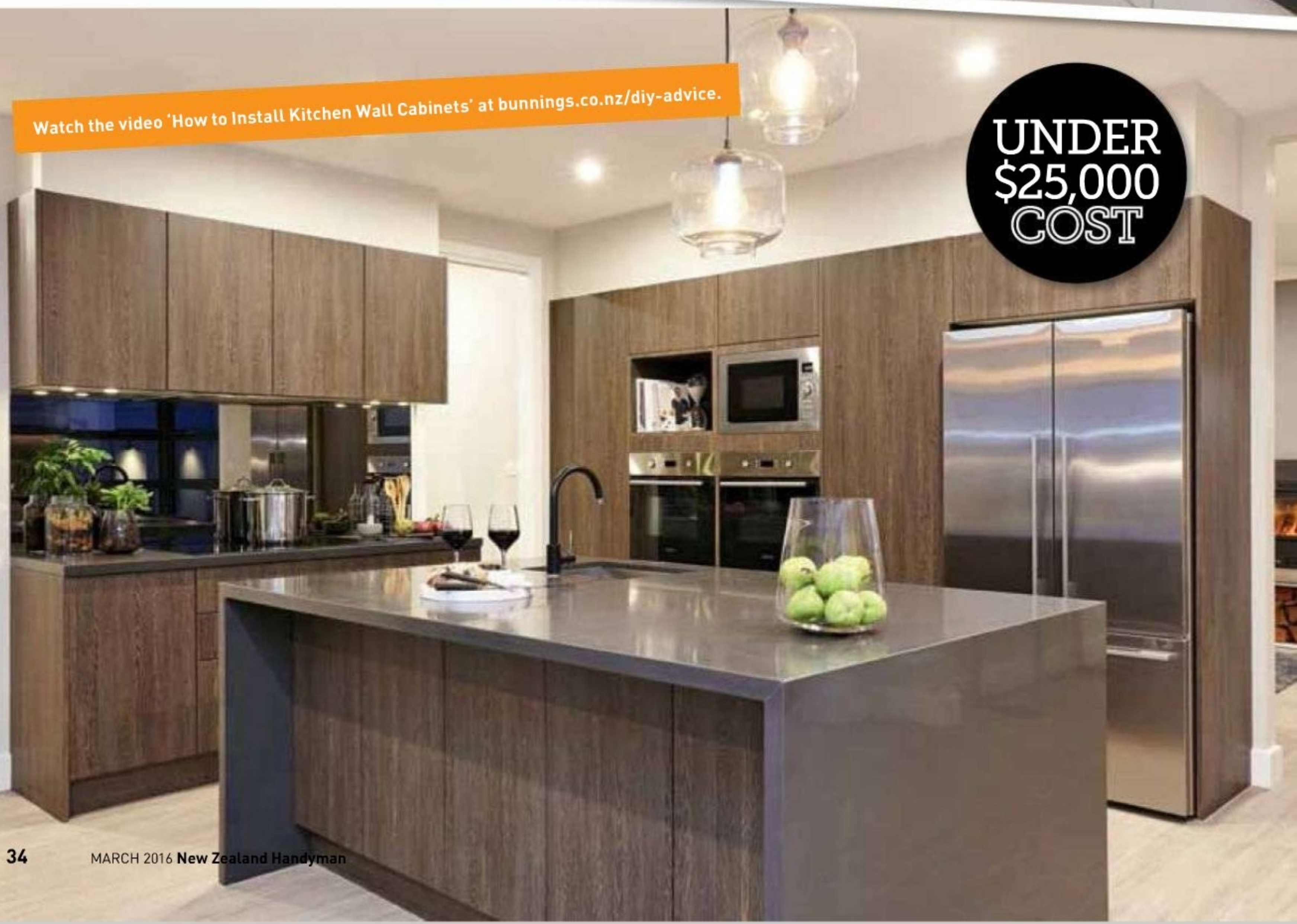
Set the mood with a mix of inbuilt ceiling and pendant lights

A butler's pantry maximises storage and functionality.



Watch the video 'How to Install Kitchen Wall Cabinets' at [bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice](http://bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice).

UNDER  
\$25,000  
COST





GET THE  
LOOK



Award 600mm 8-function  
Built-in Double Oven, \$1689.  
[awardappliances.co.nz](http://awardappliances.co.nz)



Brilliant 270mm 240V 42W Clear  
Laurent Pendant Light, \$119.  
[brilliantlighting.com.au](http://brilliantlighting.com.au)

Foreno WELS Mains 3 Star/Low  
5 Star Sprint Black Sink Mixer,  
\$249. [foreno.co.nz](http://foreno.co.nz)



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# Spaces for kids

Kit out your child's bedroom without too much stress or strain on your budget

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

**K**eeping up with your children's changing tastes can be a costly exercise if you don't select carefully when decorating their bedrooms from the start. But it's not impossible with a few tricks.

We show you how to strike the delicate balance of designing a solo space for any age that is easy to update while still ensuring a mix of essential items such as storage, your child's favourite colours and their toys.



Find furniture ideas for kids' rooms  
Head to [handymanmagazine.co.nz/kids-projects](http://handymanmagazine.co.nz/kids-projects)

PICTURE ISTOCK



# GET THE LOOK

Create a decorative wall feature with a variety of affordable stickers.

Hape Rock and Ride Rocking Horse, \$98.  
thewoodentoybox.co.nz

KAWAU ISLAND

Dulux Wash & Wear Low Sheen in Kawait Island, \$129 for 4L. dulux.co.nz

Clever Cube Compact 2 x 2 White Storage Unit, \$89.  
handy-storage.co.nz

Jumbo Magnetic Lowercase Alphabet Letters, \$25.  
everyeducaid.co.nz



## Toddler territory

Stimulate your little's brain with a creative collection of toys and accessories that will encourage them to explore their space and learn.

Go for vivid colours, a range of textures and low furniture to spark motor skills as they go from crawling to walking. >

Use alphabet magnets as fun and educational accessories.

PICTURES (TOP) ALAMY (BOTTOM) ISTOCK





## Tween dream

Once your child begins to approach their teenage years, you'll need to revamp their room to reflect their developing maturity, and add an area where they can do homework.

Upgrade the bed to a single or double to accommodate growth spurts and add lots of storage. ➤

Find more issues at [magazinesdownload.com](http://magazinesdownload.com)

Let your kid choose the colour theme and get them involved in the makeover.



## GET THE LOOK

PALE  
STRAWBERRY

PPG Easycoat Walls  
Low Sheen, \$65 for 4L.  
[ppgpaints.co.nz](http://ppgpaints.co.nz)



Marquee Leco Bell  
Cafe Resin Chair, \$69,  
from Bunnings.



Pinetrim Pine Bullnose  
Moulding 60 x 18mm, about  
\$26 for 3m. [humepine.co.nz](http://humepine.co.nz)



Ritz 1500 x 2100mm Plush  
Rug in Raspberry, \$189,  
from Bunnings.



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This guarantee does not limit and may not necessarily exceed your rights under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.



Add character to a boy's room for little cost with superhero posters.



### Boys' domain

Bridge the gap between primary and high school for your boys using decorations that are popular with both age groups, such as posters of classic comic book characters.

Fun extras like tents are great for little ones to play in and are easy to remove as they grow up.

GET THE  
LOOK



Iron Man 610 x 915mm  
Back To Back Maxi Poster, \$7.  
[posterworx.co.nz](http://posterworx.co.nz)

Clever Cube Compact 4 x 4  
White Storage Unit, \$265.  
[handy-storage.co.nz](http://handy-storage.co.nz)



Clever Cube Red Fabric  
330 x 330 x 370mm  
Insert, \$10.



Dexton Great Plains  
Kids' Teepee, \$465.  
[fishpond.co.nz](http://fishpond.co.nz)

Put up a teepee your toddler will love as a hide-out.



PICTURES (TOP) ALAMY (BOTTOM) GETTY IMAGES





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# BUNK BED REVAMP

Add plywood panels and repaint dated furniture for a bright new sleep palace

A bunk bed has a special place in the hearts of children everywhere, and is a status symbol that represents so much more than just a place to sleep.

This simple, slatted timber bunk bed was about to be taken to the tip, when a handy friend convinced the family to give it a makeover instead.

To strengthen the structure it was clad in plywood, with window frames cut into the side panels and painted red for a fun touch.

A shelving unit was added to the base to provide storage for books.

**After**

The entire structure is painted white with red window frames.





Before



### Bunk bed safety

Despite strict regulations about construction and features, on average more than 100 New Zealand children each year are injured in accidents related to bunk beds.

Before modifying a bunk bed yourself, check all the tips for safe use on the Department of Consumer Affairs website ([consumeraffairs.govt.nz](http://consumeraffairs.govt.nz)).

Position the bunk bed well away from any light fittings, ceiling fans, curtains, windows and other potential hazards. Always supply a ladder that meets safety standards.

### DIY TIP

When going over a black finish with white paint, apply a high-opacity white undercoat before adding the top coat.

## REINFORCE THE FRAME

Since the original bed had become slightly rickety with time and use, the highest priority was to reinforce the structure before improving its looks.

The original 300 x 90 x 19mm braces around the lower bunk and the head and foot slats were removed, and replaced with solid 17mm thick plywood panels secured to the end of the bed using adhesive and screws.



For extra reinforcement, secure heavy-duty angle brackets to the joints between the headboard and bed rails

### Fasteners

Secure the sides to the guard rails and the window frames with adhesive and 30mm x 8g countersunk screws. Add the shelves, backing and headboard pieces with 50mm x 8g screws.

Use 40mm x 8g screws to attach the side panels to the edges of the shelf backing.

**TIP** For maximum bond, sand the parts of the bed where adhesive is to be applied right back to the bare timber. ➤





# REVAMP A BUNK BED



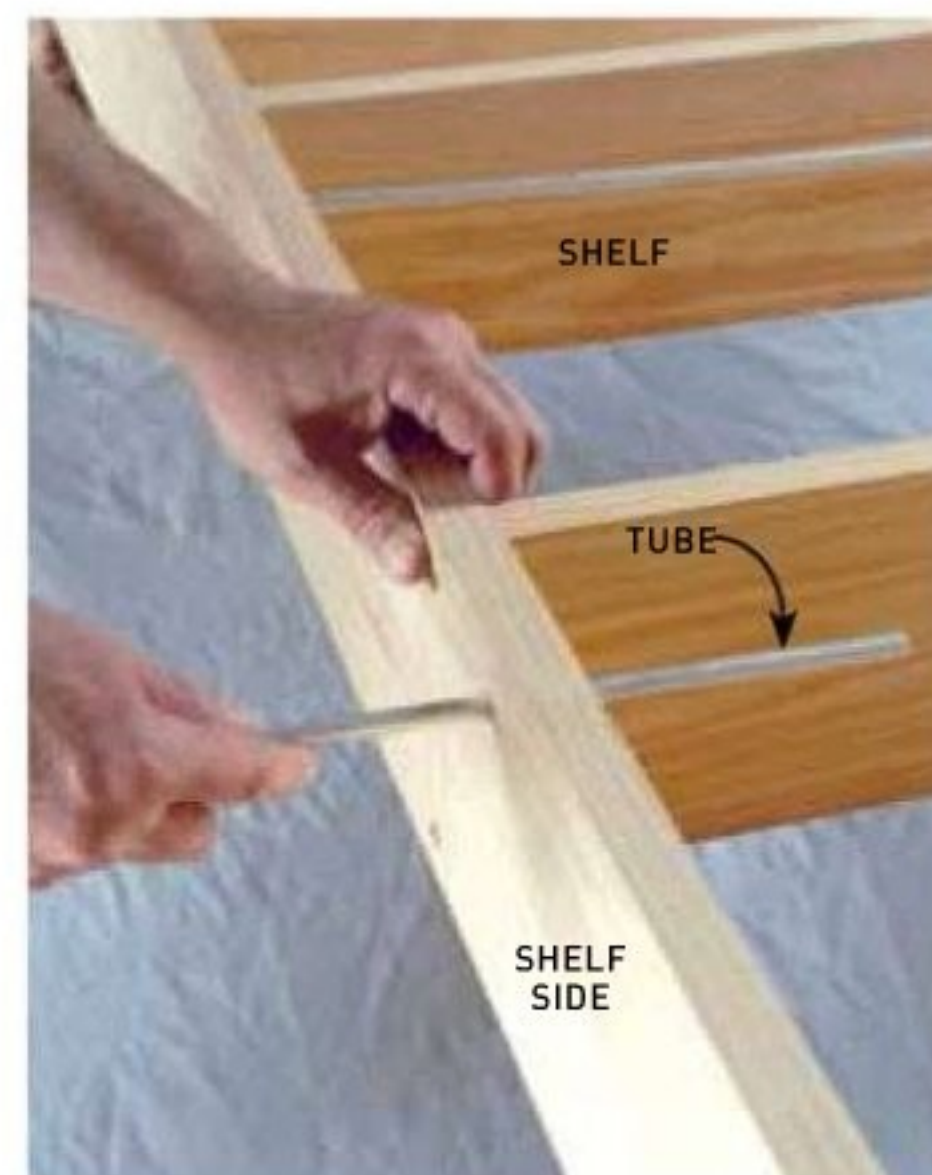
## **1 Make the side panels**

Measure and mark the window openings centred 100mm from the top and 600mm from the base of the side panels and cut out with a jigsaw. Cut frame pieces with mitred ends and secure inside the window openings using PVA adhesive and screws.



## **2 Build the shelving**

On the shelf sides, mark the shelf base positions 434mm from the base then every 349mm. Position and clamp the shelves, top and base between the shelf sides then drill and countersink pilot holes, securing with adhesive and screws.



## **3 Attach the tubes**

Mark the tube positions centred 50mm above each shelf and 30mm from the front edge of the sides. Using a 10mm brad point bit, drill holes for the tubes, securing with super glue gel. **TIP** Hacksaw the tubes 1-2mm short at each end so they're easier to fill over.



## **4 Secure the headboard**

Mark the cutout positions for the existing bed rails on the headboard. Unscrew the uprights from the rails, remove the headboards and secure the uprights to the back of the new one. Reattach the rails to the uprights then secure the headboard sides and top.



## **5 Add the shelves and sides**

Attach the backing panel to shelves with screws. Position the side panels to overhang the foot of the bed by 20mm. Cut the guard rails flush with the top window opening. Position the shelves, securing the side panels to the backing with adhesive and screws.



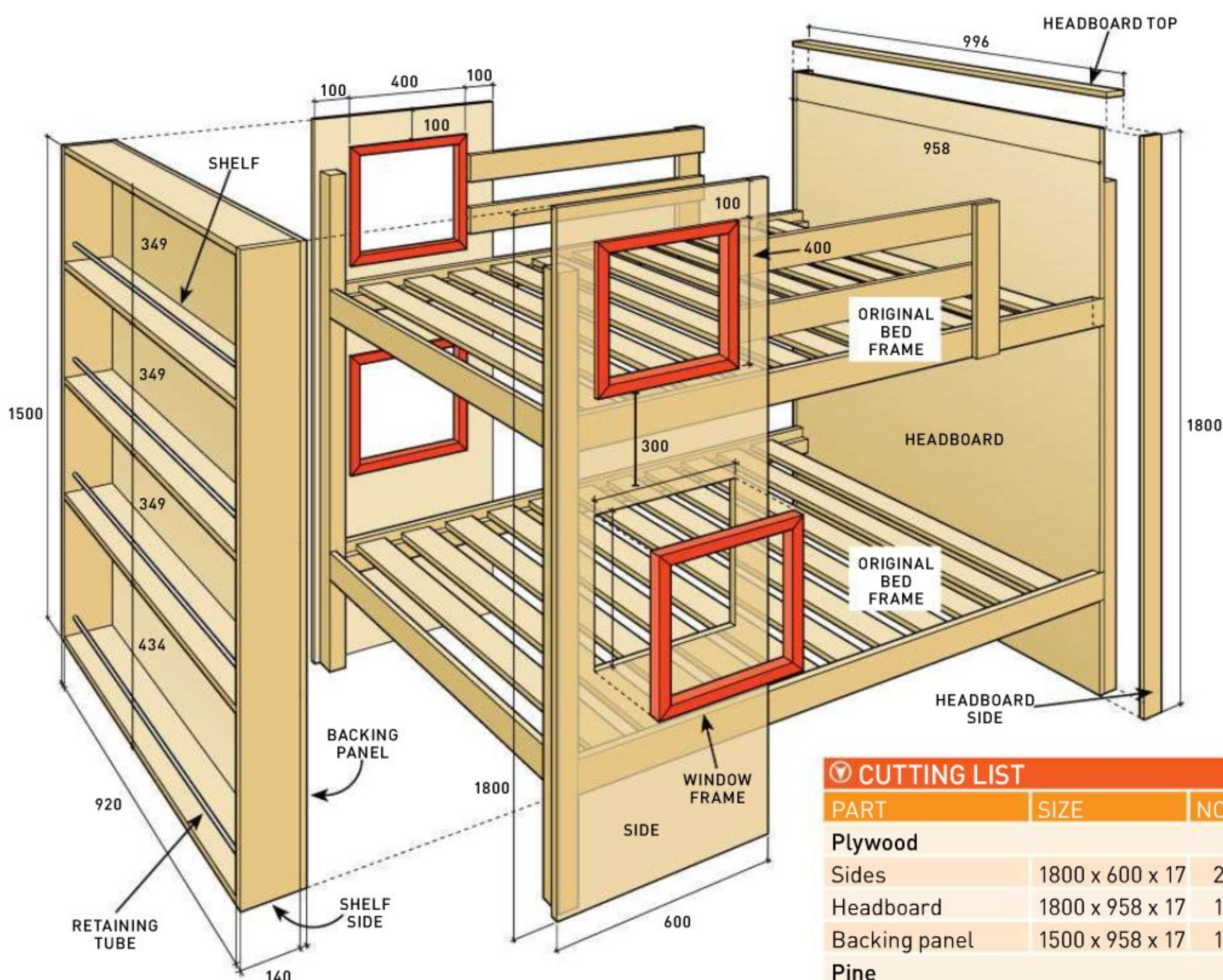
## **6 Finish the bunk beds**

Scrape or sand off loose or flaking paint and sand all over with 120 grit abrasive paper. Fill all screw heads and tube holes with timber filler, then apply undercoat and two coats of semi gloss acrylic, painting the window frames in an accent colour. 🛠️



# BUNK BED REVAMP

measurements in mm



## CUTTING LIST

| PART               | SIZE            | NO |
|--------------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>Plywood</b>     |                 |    |
| Sides              | 1800 x 600 x 17 | 2  |
| Headboard          | 1800 x 958 x 17 | 1  |
| Backing panel      | 1500 x 958 x 17 | 1  |
| <b>Pine</b>        |                 |    |
| Window frames      | 400 x 30 x 18   | 16 |
| Shelf sides        | 1500 x 140 x 19 | 2  |
| Shelves            | 920 x 140 x 19  | 3  |
| Shelf top and base | 920 x 140 x 19  | 2  |
| Headboard sides    | 1800 x 70 x 19  | 2  |
| Headboard top      | 996 x 70 x 19   | 1  |
| <b>Aluminium</b>   |                 |    |
| Retaining tubes    | 955 x 10mm      | 4  |

## WHAT YOU NEED

Craftright 300mm Hacksaw, \$7, from Bunnings.

Polyfilla Timber Filler, about \$16 for 330ml. selleys.co.nz

Carinya Reinforcing Angle Bracket, \$4, from Bunnings.





**Q Find it at Bunnings**

**BUDGET TIP**  
Use inexpensive pine to build the bike rack and seal with marine grade varnish if mounting to an exterior wall.

# BIKE RACK

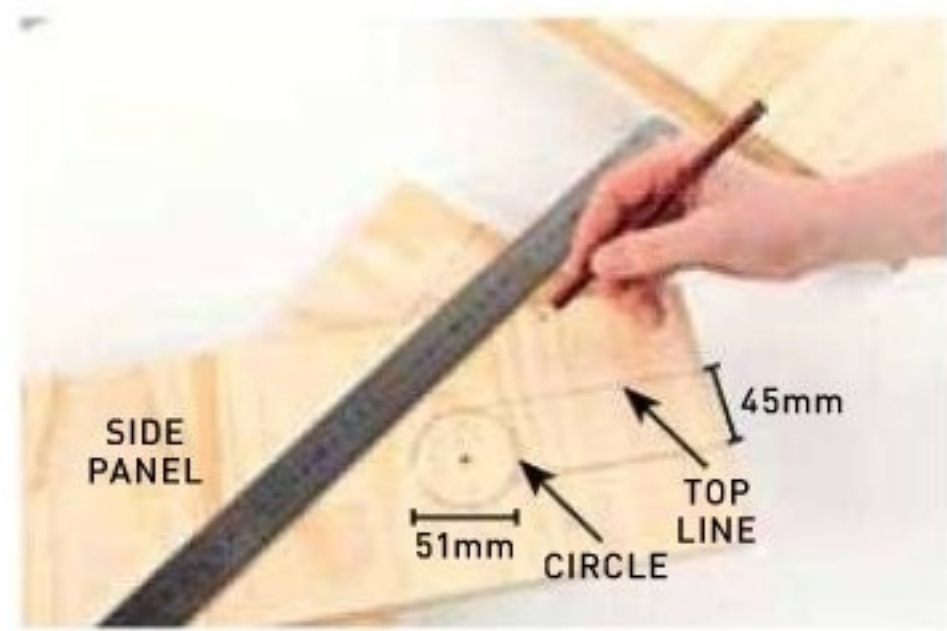
Make a wall-mounted timber box to organise your bicycle and accessories

**K**eeping bikes and cycling gear tidy can be a challenge, especially with more than one cyclist in the family.

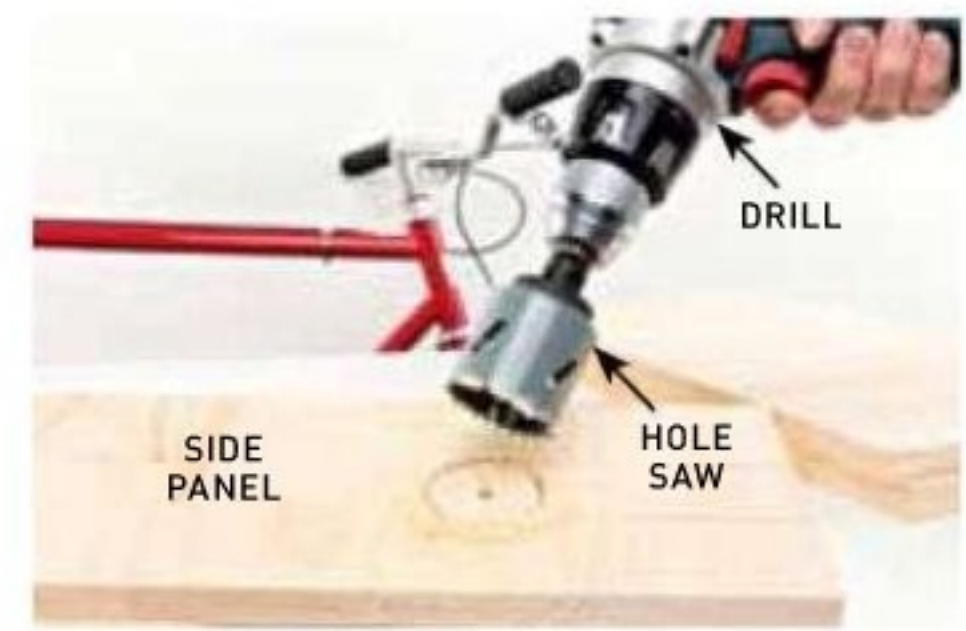
This wall-mounted rack keeps your bike out of the way and also provides a home for your helmet and other gear.

The box is made from readily available 18mm laminated pine, using two 450 x 200mm side panels, two 450 x 300mm top and base panels and one 264 x 200mm back panel.

**TIP** Ensure there is enough clearance between the handlebars and the wall by adjusting the depth of the recess.

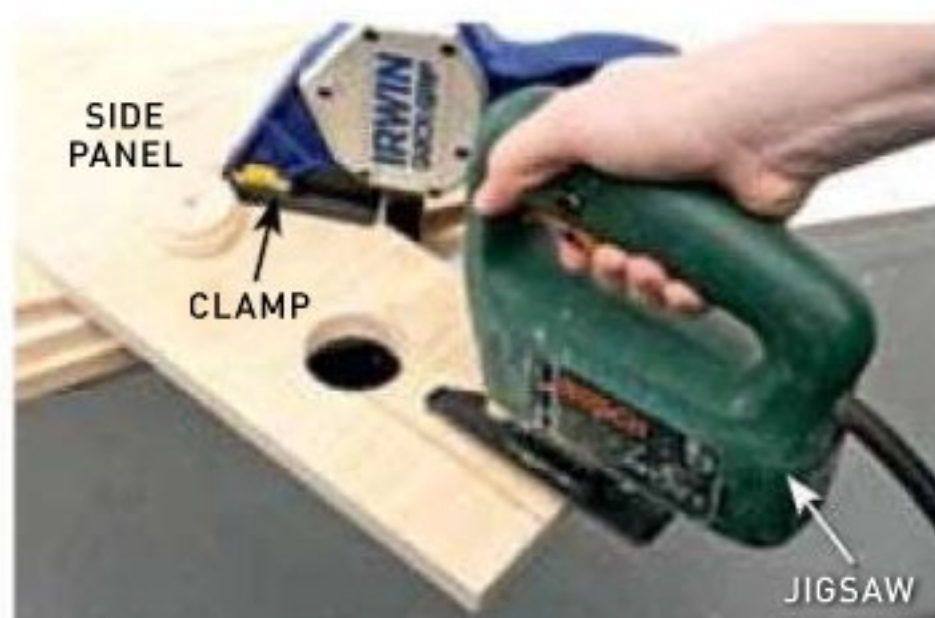


**1 MARK THE RECESS** Position a compass 150mm from the front edge and 120mm from the top edge of the side panels to mark a 51mm circle. Mark two lines 45mm apart, with the top line flush with the circle.



**2 MAKE THE HOLES** Clamp the panel to a workbench and drill a 4mm pilot hole in the centre of the circle. Use a 51mm hole saw and a power drill to cut out the circle, starting slowly and increasing the speed.



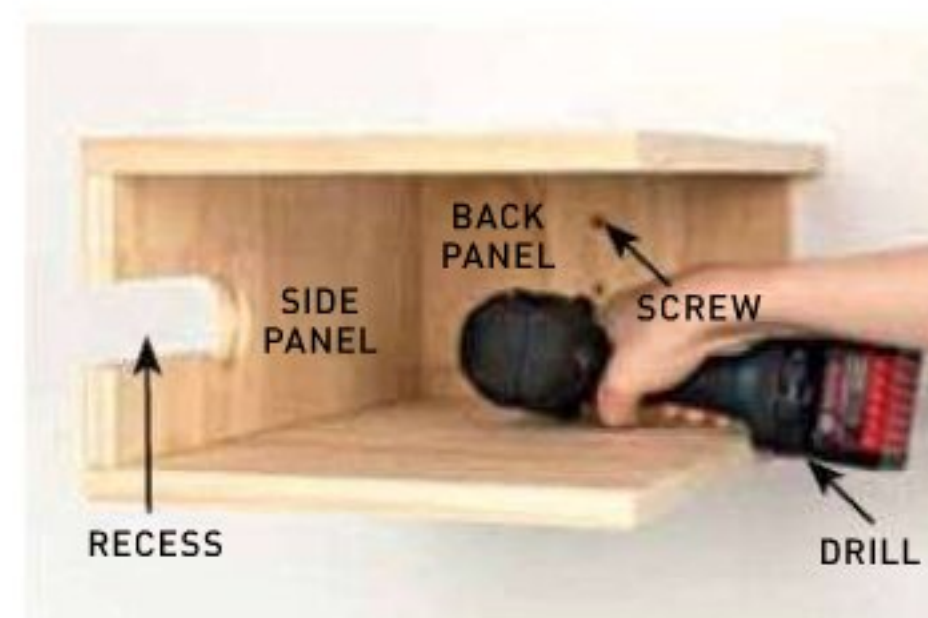


**3 CUT THE RECESS** Use a jigsaw to cut along the lines to create the recess in the side panels. Tidy up the edges using 120 grit sandpaper.

**TIP** Clamp an offcut to the panel to use as a guide to help cut a straight line.



**4 ASSEMBLE THE BOX** Predrill four holes along all the edges of the top and base panels, except the front. Use 10g x 30mm countersunk head timber screws to join the panels, securing one side panel after mounting.



**5 MOUNT THE RACK** Drill three holes in the back panel, then locate a wall stud using a stud finder. Attach the rack to the stud with 10g x 75mm countersunk head screws. Use masonry anchors for brick walls.



# INSTALL A CLASSIC DECK

Choose and lay decking boards DIY to create the ideal outdoor area for your home

## SAFETY TIP

If you decide to lay timber boards, pick a type that is more resistant to rot and weather, like kwila or treated pine.



**W**hether you're about to build a deck or your old one needs a facelift, you'll have to lay new boards.

When it comes to choosing your decking boards, kwila and treated pine are the most popular options. They are commonly available in 140mm wide-profile boards and narrower 90mm boards.

Timber is the classic choice, but it will require upkeep. Cleaning and oiling needs to be done annually.

Composite boards provide an alternative to timber that is highly durable, eco-friendly and will require less ongoing maintenance.

Laying the boards can be done DIY without too much fuss. They should be secured to the top of the joists of the decking structure, positioned to run across them, and parallel to the beams.

Make sure the boards are straight and leave 3mm gaps between them, using either spacers or wedges to ensure the gaps are even. ➤



A spacious deck is the ultimate hub for outdoor entertaining in the warm months.





### Style and size

There are many different options to choose from, so consider the function of the deck when planning it, and keep it proportional to your house size.

You can attach a deck to a side of the house in the form of a balcony or a verandah, which will usually have one or more sides supported by a ledger that is secured to the house.

A wraparound deck is a type of attached deck that follows part of the perimeter of the house, while freestanding decks are self-supported on posts and bearers.

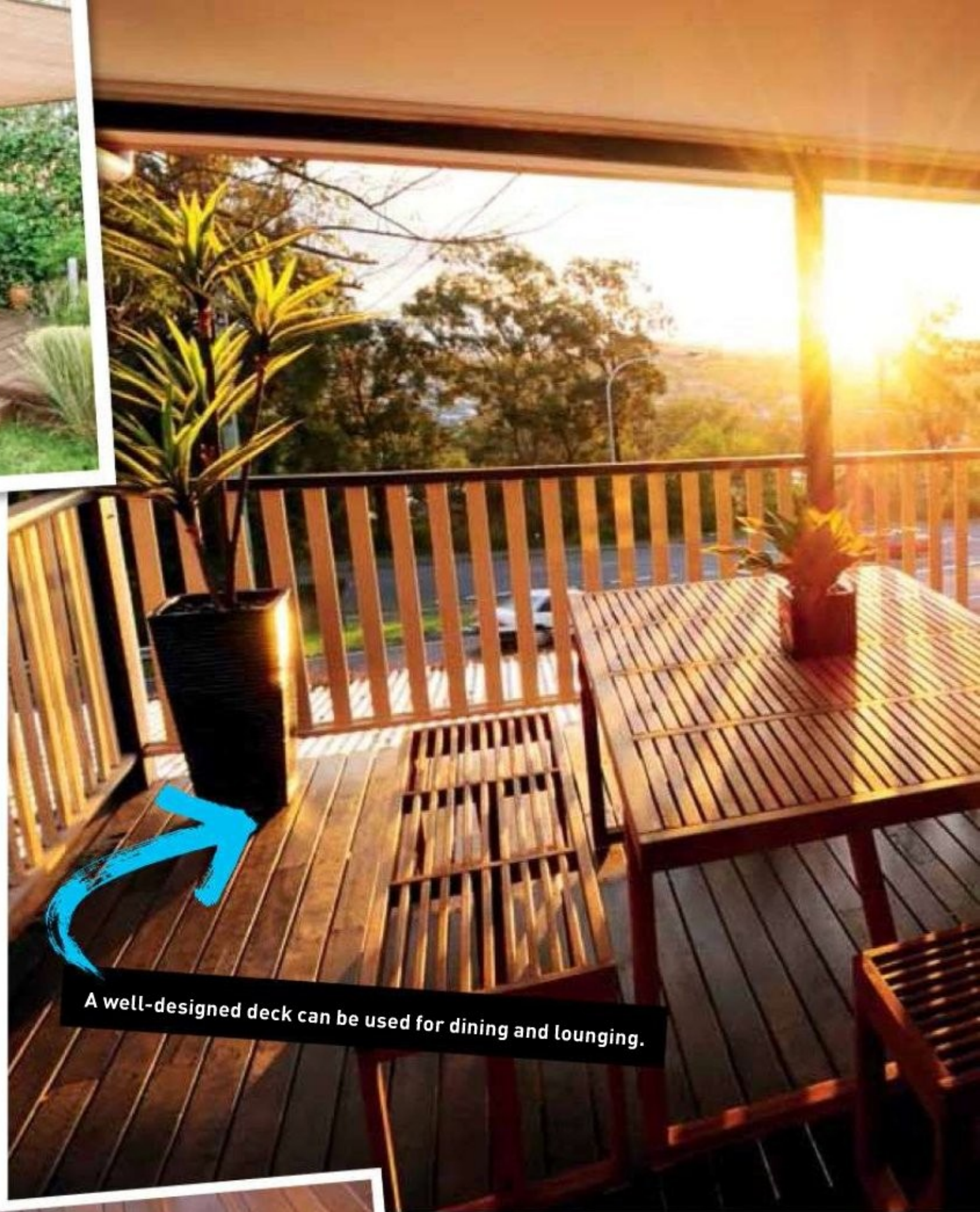
Multi-level decking can be either freestanding or attached, which is ideal for large or sloping sites.

## CHOOSE A BOARD

Despite the versatility of composite boards, natural timber is still the most popular choice. The two categories are hardwood or treated pine.



Timber boards vary in density, with hardwoods often tougher to work with



A well-designed deck can be used for dining and lounging.



➤ **HARDWOODS** such as kwila, massa, jarrah, saligna, garrapa and vitex are strong, durable choices that withstand the extremes of the New Zealand climate well.

Prices start at about \$7 per linear metre for 90 x 19mm kwila boards.



➤ **ACQ TREATED PINE** features a greenish tinge that weathers to a light grey-brown, and is very cost effective, starting from about \$5 per linear metre.

It is extremely lightweight, making construction and transport easier, and can be stained as desired.



## DESIGN TIP

When space is limited, use large-format wide decking boards so there are fewer gaps to distract the eye.

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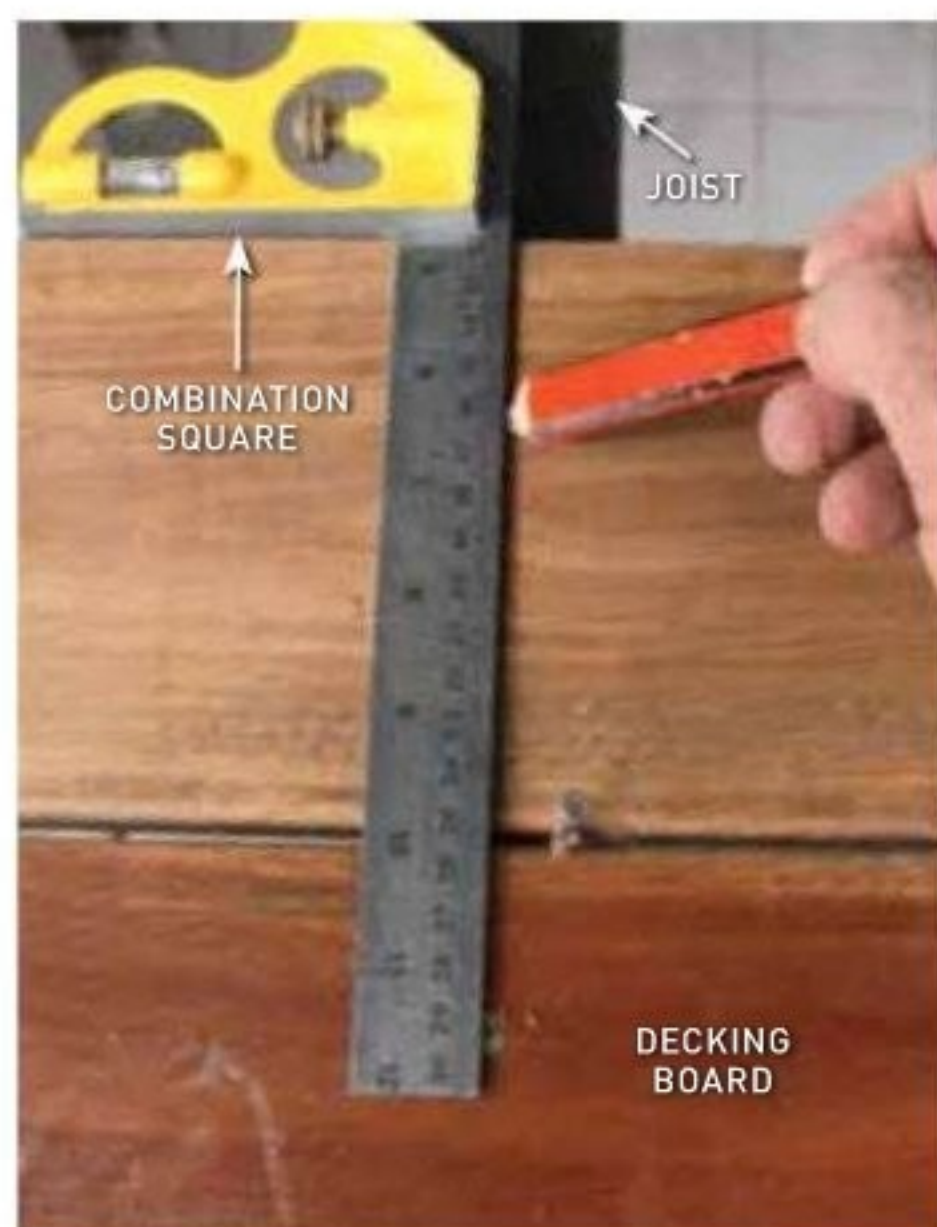
+ **COMPOSITE BOARDS** are harder wearing than timber varieties and require less general upkeep.

Planet-friendly Ekologix looks and installs like timber but is made from plantation bamboo and recycled bottles. It comes in a range of styles and is resistant to rot and mould. ➤

Ekologix Composite Decking,  
from about \$43 for a 5.4m  
board. [ekologix.co.nz](http://ekologix.co.nz)



# LAY DECKING BOARDS



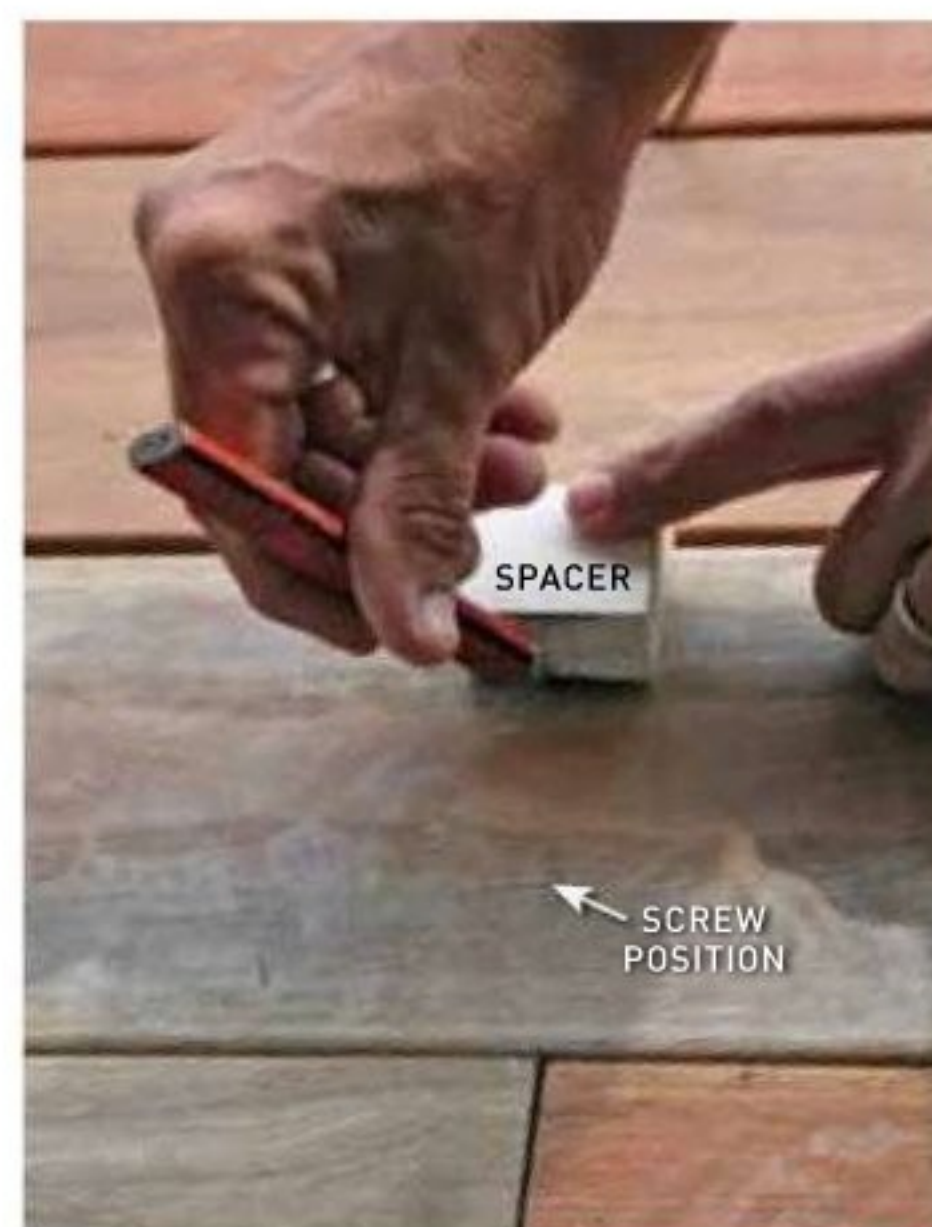
## 1 Position and cut the boards

Lay five rows at a time with 50mm overhang at each end, overlapping the joints at the nearest joist. Use a combination square to mark a line on the boards for the joist positions, then cut to length with a mitresaw.



## 2 Mark the joist centrelines

Check the decking board joints are square and centred over the joists, then position a straightedge or spirit level across the decking boards at the centre of each joist to mark the centrelines.



## 3 Mark the screw positions

Use a 40mm square offcut as a spacer to mark across the lines, showing drilling points. Make narrow wedges 100mm long using a mitresaw, then tap them between the boards at every second joist to keep the gaps even.



## 4 Secure the screws

Use a drill and 2mm combination countersink bit to make pilot holes at the marks, drilling only through the board if the joists are treated pine. Use a square drive bit to secure screws, adjusting the torque clutch as needed.



## 5 Check the alignment

Position a stringline along the complete length of a row, every five rows, to check the boards are straight, adjusting if needed. Use a chisel to prise the gaps slightly further open or closed as required for even spacing.



## 6 Trim the board ends

Mark a cut line on the end of the boards, leaving a 20mm overhang. Cut using a circular saw and round over with 120 grit abrasive paper. **TIP** Use a handsaw to cut the last board where the circular saw won't reach.





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Stuart

## EXPERT SECRETS

A quality stain will withstand cold, wind, heat and rain, and shouldn't fade when exposed to sunlight.



# Refinish a deck

The summer sun can be hard on timber boards so rejuvenate decking with a good scrub and new stain

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT



## TIDY TIP

When cleaning the deck, treat any areas of algae, mildew or mould with a specialised product using a stiff brush.

**T**his timber deck had lost its sheen after years of withstanding heavy foot traffic and the elements.

It was in need of a deep clean and a few coats of stain to give it an eye-catching new look.

The timber boards were given an initial spray with a water blaster. While it was still wet, the deck was scrubbed with mild detergent using a long-handled brush for a deeper clean.

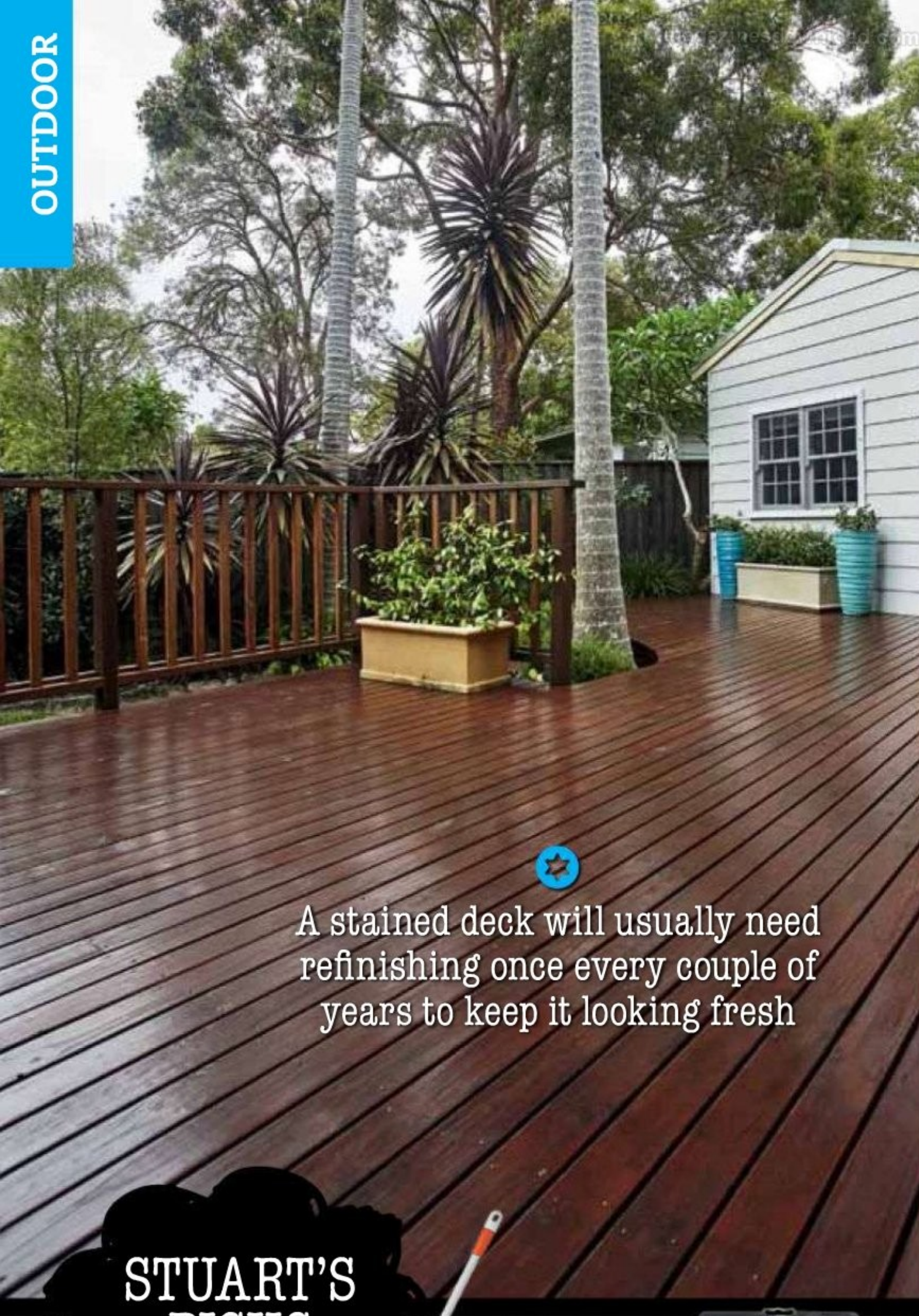
To finish, two coats of teak timber decking stain were applied, revitalising the deck and protecting it from future wear and tear. ➤

### After

The new teak finish gives the timber boards a rich and glossy look.

### Before

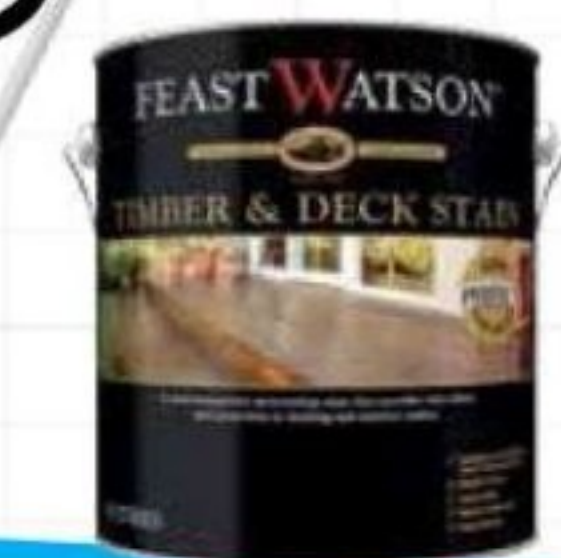




A stained deck will usually need refinishing once every couple of years to keep it looking fresh

## STUART'S PICKS

Raven Commercial Deck Scrubbing Brush, \$17. [raven.co.nz](http://raven.co.nz)



Feast Watson Timber & Deck Stain, \$99 for 4L. [feastwatson.co.nz](http://feastwatson.co.nz)



Monarch Fence, Deck & Pergola Roller Kit, \$10, from Bunnings.

1 2 3



### 1 Spray the deck

Rinse the timber boards using a water blaster to remove any surface dirt and grime. Use a fan spray to clean the deck rather than blasting it, making sure not to be too aggressive with the water blaster.



### 2 Scrub the boards

While the deck is still wet, scrub it thoroughly with a mild detergent using a long-handled scrubbing brush, cleaning the boards of any patches of mud or dirt. Rinse off the detergent, then allow the deck to dry.



### 3 Apply the stain

Finish the boards with two coats of timber stain, using a decking brush or roller to spread the stain evenly all over the deck. Allow at least two hours between coats. Avoid staining the boards in hot and windy conditions.





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# POWER CLEAN PAVING

Turn the tricky task of cleaning pavers into a pleasure by using a water blaster

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

**W**ith time and wet weather, pavers can start to look a little worse for wear.

But you don't have to spend hours on your hands and knees with a scrubbing brush. You can have them looking near-new in no time using a couple of power tools.

In summer, always check water restrictions in your area and connect your water blaster to a rainwater tank if you have one.

**Before**

**After**

Cleaned and hosed with a water blaster, the pavers are restored to their original condition.



30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner Concentrate, \$19 for 5L.  
30seconds.co.nz

Silvan Selecta Chapin 8L Pro XP Series Hand Sprayer, \$115. silvan.com.au



Karcher K2 Plus 1600psi Water Blaster, \$199.  
karcher.co.nz



Victa V Force+ 40V Lithium Blower and Vacuum, \$519. victa.com/nz



## 1 Clear the area

Remove all the furniture, pots and any other items that are standing on the paved area to be cleaned. Thoroughly clear the space of any loose material using either a blower or a broom and a rake.



Bring a new look to old brick paving with minimal time and effort.

▶ Watch more outdoor maintenance videos  
Subscribe at [youtube.com/HandymanMagazineAU](https://youtube.com/HandymanMagazineAU)



## 2 Prepare the cleaner

Mix an outdoor cleaner with water in a hand sprayer container, following the manufacturer's directions and safety precautions. Avoid contact with skin, clothing and fabrics, as many products have a bleaching action.



## 3 Apply the cleaner

Apply the prepared cleaner over the entire paved area to be cleaned, making sure all surfaces are well wetted with the solution.

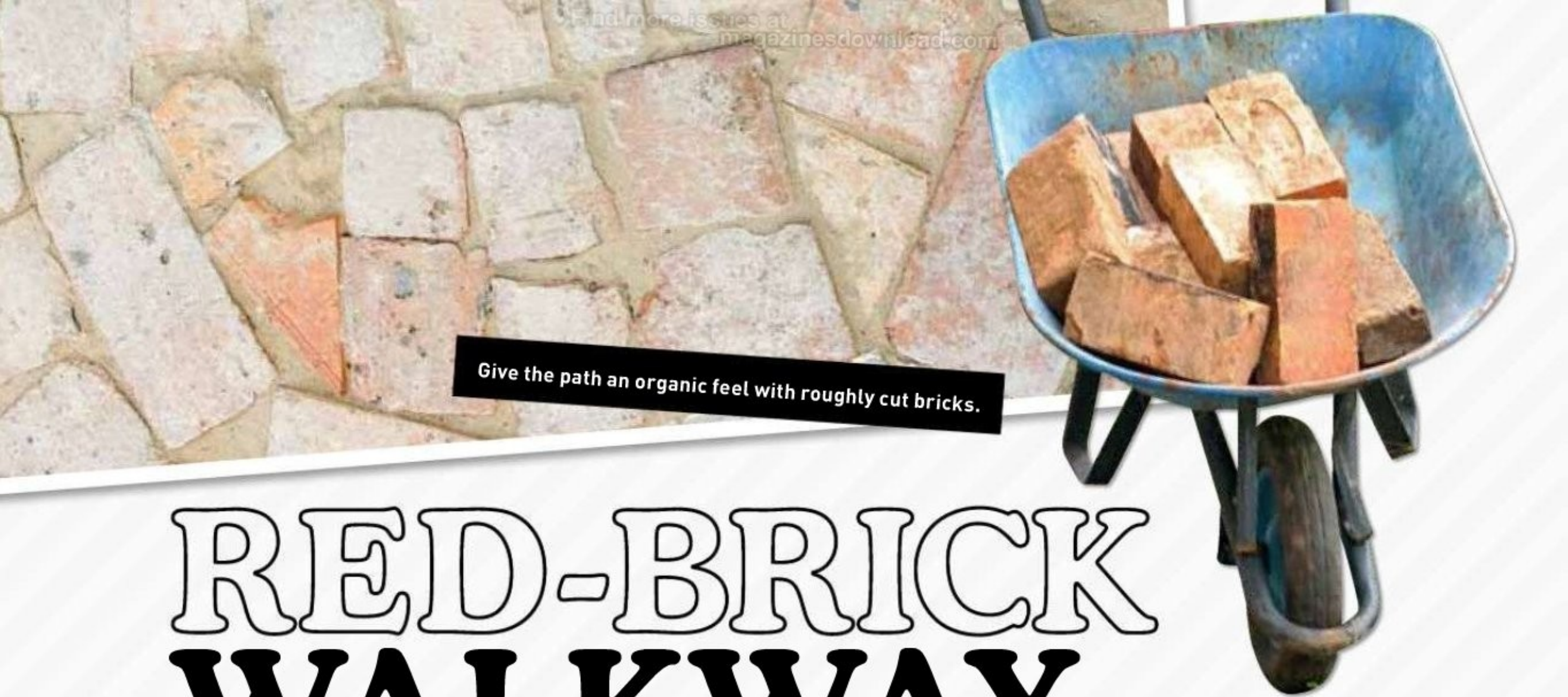
**TIP** On hot or sunny days, or for large spaces, only treat a section at a time.



## 4 Spray the paving

Working towards the area where water will run off, commence spraying with a water blaster, using a broom to clear the area as you go if needed. A second going-over may be required to fully remove dislodged material.





Give the path an organic feel with roughly cut bricks.

# RED-BRICK WALKWAY

Use reclaimed bricks to create a rustic path with a circular design at the start

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

**W**hen blogger Melissa Darr moved into her house, the garden at the back was scruffy and underused, and she decided that it needed a DIY upgrade to give it a charming rustic feel.

Melissa and her husband Bevan chose to clear the existing outdoor space and lay a path of reclaimed red bricks, planted on either side with beds of herbs and vegetables.

They sourced the bricks from a nearby demolition site with the permission of the site foreman.

'We also wanted to incorporate a circular brick design at the entrance of the path where we could put a small cafe-style setting,' says Melissa.

'Now it's finished, we love to sit out there once the sun has gone down and enjoy our dinner in the twilight.'

To finish off the space, a bench that was handcrafted from the trunk of an old tree was added. For a focal point, a weathered-look terracotta planter was placed at the end of the path. ➤

Melissa



## EXPERT SECRETS

Plant herbs with striking blooms, such as chamomile and garlic chives, so your herb garden doubles as a flower bed.

Before







## DESIGN TIP

To give a terracotta pot a mossy look, brush plain yoghurt on the surface and leave it in a dark spot for several weeks.



Recycle an old tree by turning it into an inviting log bench.



## After

A brick patio, cafe-style setting and beds of flowering herbs provide a place to relax.



# BUILD THE PATH

## 1 Clear the area

The garden at the back of the house had been allowed to grow wild by the previous owner, so the first job was to clear it completely of hard roots and shrubs.

Before Melissa and Bevan could start laying the pathway, they had to manually strip the reclaimed bricks of mortar using a hammer and bolster.

'This was a bit of a painful process, as we had about 400 bricks, but it was well worth it,' says Melissa.

A bed of crusher dust was spread over the area to be paved to provide a stable foundation for the bricks.



The circular pattern was laid first on marked lines.



With the circle finished, the other bricks were added.



## 2 Lay the bricks

Melissa had her sights set on creating a decorative circular pattern at the start of the new path.

To mark out the design, a stake was pegged where the centre of the circle would be, with a length of string attached. A sharp object was tied to the string and the circle was drawn by winding the string around the stake.

Bevan began by laying the inner circle of bricks on the marked lines, working outwards from the centre.

The centre of the circle was filled in with roughly cut bricks, then the remainder of the path was laid.

Get more DIY from Melissa  
Follow her blog [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)





### 3 Fill the gaps

The crevices in the path were filled and set with sand.

Sand was then laid over the top of the bricks and brushed back and forth with a large-bristled broom to fill in the gaps between the bricks.

After the excess sand was carefully brushed off the surface, the whole path was given a light spray with a hose to wet the sand, compacting it.

Sand and water were used to set the bricks in position.

## PLANT IT UP

A length of flexible drainage pipe was installed around the garden beds before the bricks were laid to irrigate the plants with greywater from the washing machine.

Melissa then planted basil, mustard greens, shallots, thyme, oregano, marjoram, chamomile, garlic chives, sage, tarragon, rosemary, parsley, mint, lettuces and spring onions.

'Our herbs have really taken off now that the warmer weather has started to hit,' she says. 🌱

Rosemary

Chamomile

Tarragon



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# UPCYCLE AND SAVE CASH

Revive favourite old pieces of furniture or scour op-shops, garage sales and council clean-ups for bargains to do up

PROJECTS AMANDA SHAW AND TRACY MARYON PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

**A**re you bored with the same old bedside tables? Before getting rid of them and buying new ones, consider upcycling them for a totally new look.

Or maybe you've been hanging onto that favourite wicker table with the cracked glass top, but don't really know what to do with it now.

Here we created a unique planter out of an old metal colander, gave outdated mahogany bedside cabinets a new paint finish and turned a wicker table into an oversized ottoman.

We also transformed a plain basket into a place fit for a princess pussycat.

You can use the same techniques to make over just about anything.



Amanda & Tracy

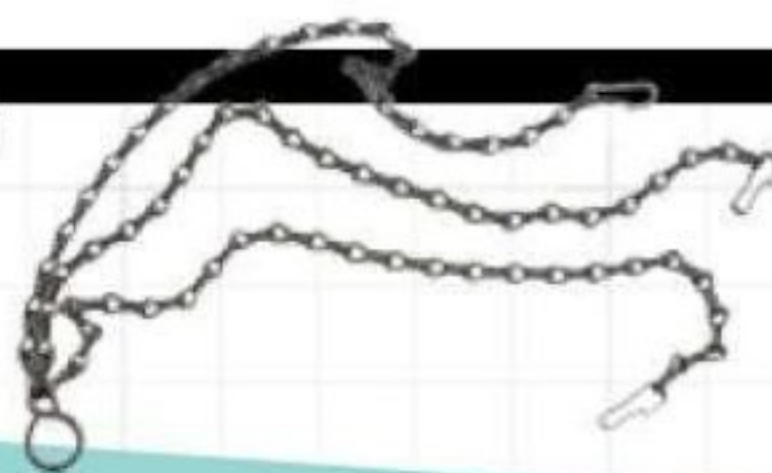
## EXPERT SECRETS

When giving furniture a distressed paint finish, sand the edges lightly until you achieve the desired look.

## TOP PICKS



Rockdale Coconut Fibre, \$26 for 1kg, from Bunnings.



Gardman Epoxy-Coated Replacement Basket Chain, about \$6. horticom.co.nz



Flexovit 100mm x 1m Medium 120 Grit Timber Sandpaper Roll, about \$3. abrasives.net.nz



- 1 Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Satin Gloss, \$13 for 340g. haydn.co.nz 2 Dulux Duramax Metallic Finish in Gold, about \$17 for 325g. dulux.co.nz 3 White Knight Super Chrome, \$19 for 300g. whiteknightpaints.co.nz 4 Dulux Duramax Enamel in Endless Dusk, \$14 for 340g.



# COLANDER PLANTER

You may have an old colander like this lying at the bottom of your kitchen drawers or even packed away in storage.

If not, they can often be picked up second-hand for about \$10. Or a friend or neighbour may have a free one awaiting a council collection. This chipped red one was a great find among a heap of discarded items.

We've put it to good use as a novel planter and hung it from a tree.

All you need is exterior spray paint, a chain with an S-hook, coconut fibre, potting mix and a plant.

Attach the chain by inserting the attached clips into the holes around the colander. Spray it in metallic gold paint, line the base and sides with coconut fibre, then add the potting mix and a flowering plant. ➤



For good coverage, apply two coats of spray paint.



Before



After

Painted and potted up, the shiny gold planter adds colour to a dull corner of the garden.



# VINTAGE CABINETS

Apply a light final coat so it is easier to rub back.

These outdated mahogany bedside cabinets were bought at a garage sale for \$20 and badly needed a new finish.

We chose a beach-house distressed finish with sky-blue and neutral shades and also applied primer so we could bring in a white colour element when the two top coats were rubbed back.

Remove the drawer handles, then prime the cabinets and drawers. Apply a coat of blue paint, allow to dry, then spray with a coat of beige paint.

Sand the edges of the cabinets and drawers with medium-grit sandpaper to reveal the blue paint, primer and a little of the wood grain underneath.

We sprayed the original handles in a light-grey colour and rubbed them back to give them a softer silvery look.

Before

After

Primed and painted, this pair of bedside cabinets now have pride of place again.



# WICKER OTTOMAN



## After

A lick of paint and a comfy cushion give this old table a new purpose.

 See more easy upcycling projects  
Visit [pinterest.com/DIYHandyman](https://pinterest.com/DIYHandyman)

Discovered by the side of the road, this sorry-looking relic was missing its top. As replacing the glass could be costly, we decided to give it a new function as an ottoman.

All it needed was high-density foam, which was cut to fit by the supplier, and a length of fabric.

The wicker base was then sprayed in a gloss white to freshen it up. The fabric was cut to fit around the foam and stitched in position. ➤

 All it took was fabric and foam to transform this preloved piece into a great outdoor accessory



## Before



# PUSSYCAT BASKET

Does your precious feline friend need a comfy place to hang out, somewhere special she can call her own? Then this posh palace could be just the thing.

And should she need to visit the vet, an incredible carriage awaits her.

Found in bad repair, this basket was lovingly renovated with paint, fabric, a cushion insert, ribbon, cat collars, particleboard letters and glitter, plus the essential mouse house guest.

Spray the basket all over in pink and paint the handle in a contrasting grey colour. To give a glittery effect, we used a specialty spray paint in silver.

Make a mattress by covering a cushion insert with fabric. We chose a sequinned material in dark pink for contrast and extra glam.

To decorate, tie two cat collars onto the door, then secure the door to the top of the basket with lengths of ribbon, tied in bows.

Stick particleboard letters, available from Spotlight, on the top of the basket to form a name plate.

For extra bling, add diamanté self-adhesive transfers to the letters and handle of the basket, available from arts and craft stores. ✨

## DIY TIP

Choose paint and fabric in colours and textures to suit the breed and temperament of your cat.

Before



After

Decorated with paint and bright accessories, any proud cat would be happy to call this home.



PICTURE (BEFORE) AMANDA SHAW





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# ***BLINDS FOR EVERY BUDGET***

Update living spaces with a new look for windows, choosing a blind that complements your style

**F**rom light control and privacy to heat retention and deflection, window blinds are available in styles to suit every space and budget.

Blinds should be both decorative and functional. Wider, horizontal blinds create the illusion of bigger windows and more space in a room.



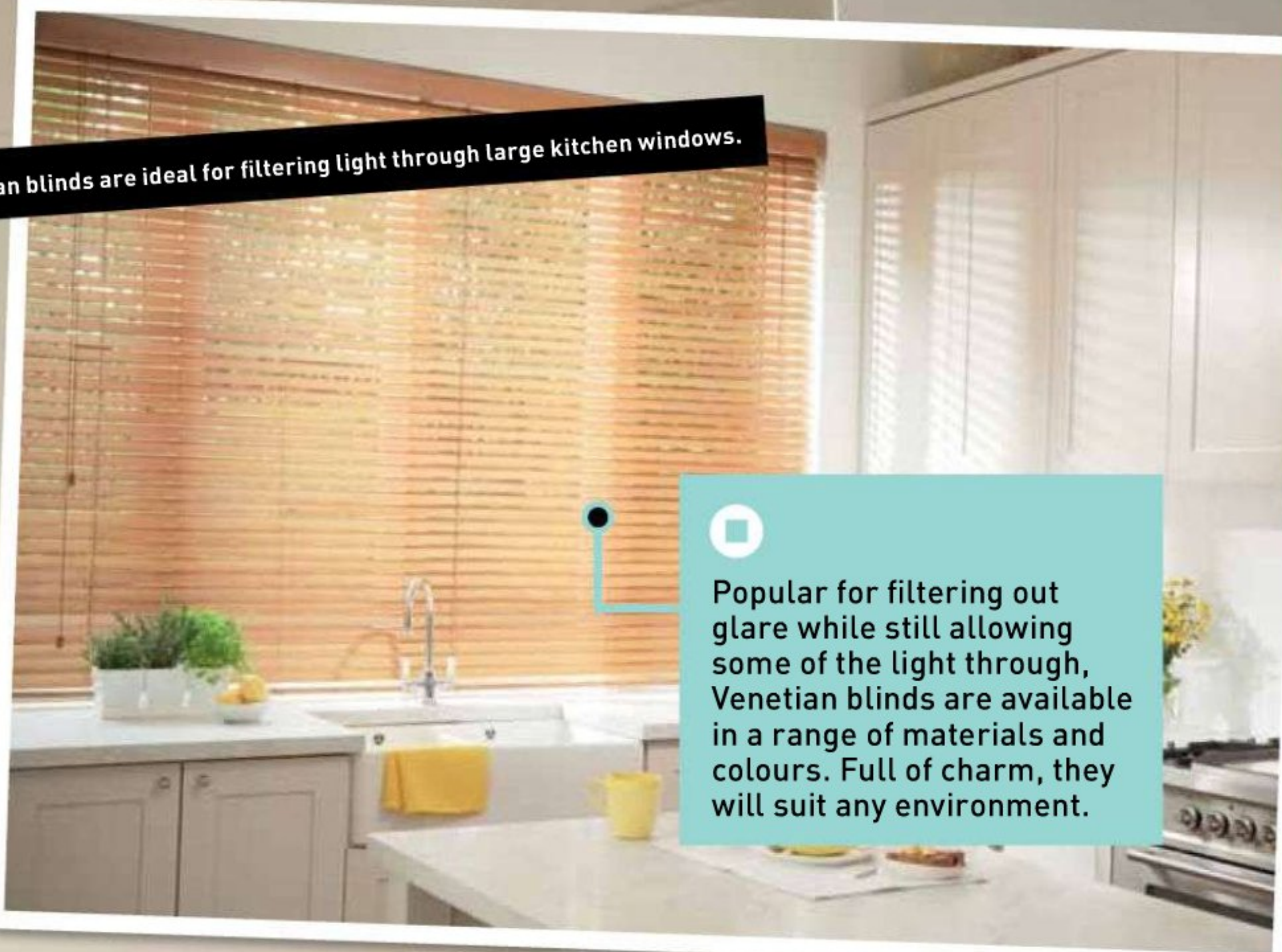
Simple to install and inexpensive to buy, roller blinds suit modern living and provide good shading. Choose a colour close to the wall shade for a disappearing effect.

Roman blinds modernise a living space and give total block-out from light.



Roller blinds are sleek and understated for a stylish, contemporary look.





Venetian blinds are ideal for filtering light through large kitchen windows.



Popular for filtering out glare while still allowing some of the light through, Venetian blinds are available in a range of materials and colours. Full of charm, they will suit any environment.



Often made from block-out fabric designed to prevent the light getting in entirely, Roman blinds combine the subtle, softening appeal of curtains with practicality and effortless operation.

## DESIGN TIP

If a window looks out on a scenic view, ensure that the blinds you choose for the window can be fully opened and closed.



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Repin your favourites  
to your own boards

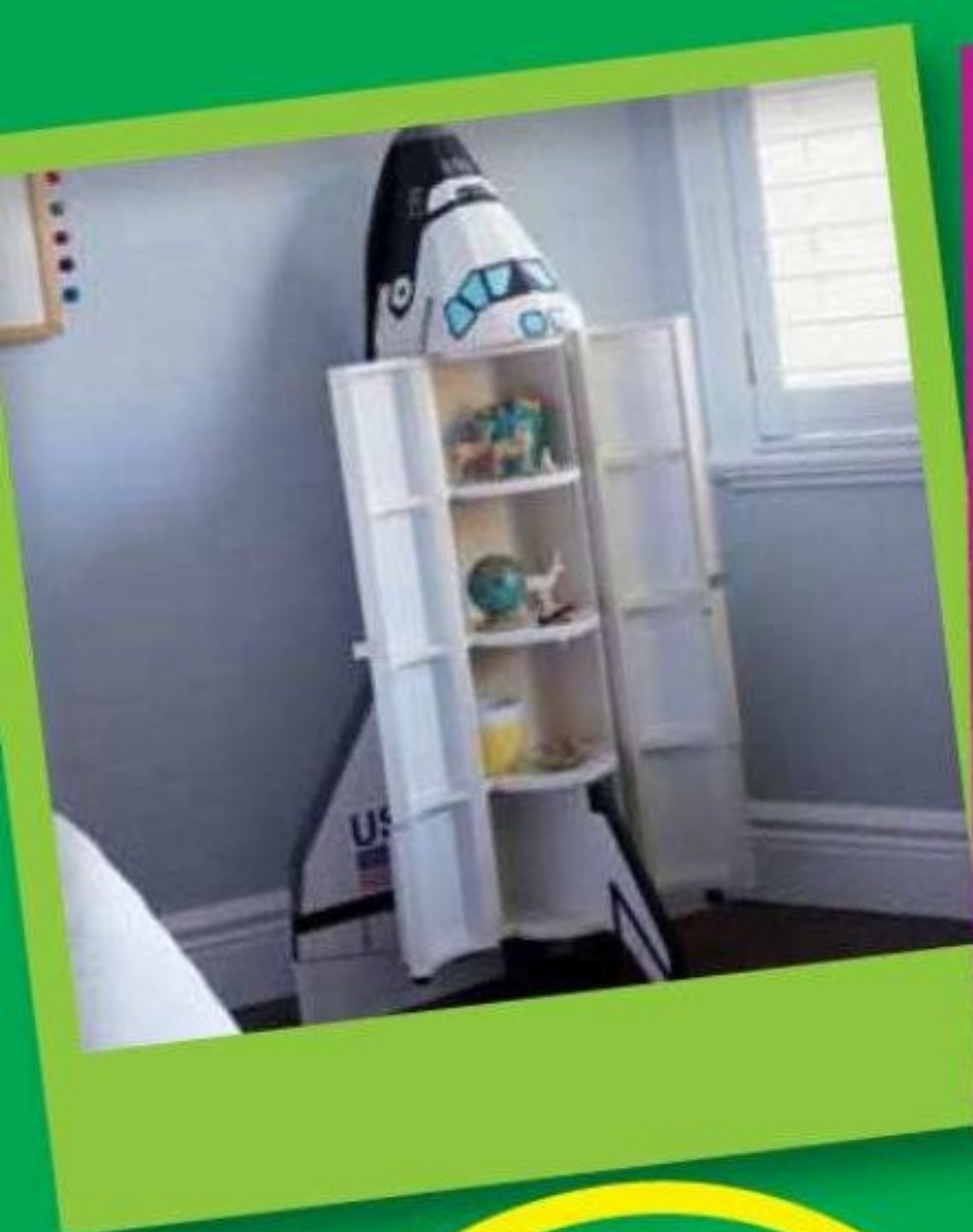
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# 80s CREATS

Embrace the taste for retro furniture by creating three decade-defining pieces from scratch

PROJECTS GUN ARVIDSSON PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ



# REEL TO REAL



## GUN'S PICKS



Cabot's Satin Stain & Varnish, about \$22 for 250ml. [cabots.co.nz](http://cabots.co.nz)



Hafele 300mm Soft Roller Drawer Runners, \$11 for a two-pack. [hafele.co.nz](http://hafele.co.nz)



Acrylic Sheet, 1200 x 900 x 3mm, about \$88, from Bunnings.





Long before the iPod, portable music was made possible by the Compact Cassette.

The proportions of this tribute table are almost identical to those of the original Philips cassette tape and it even has spools. It features a drawer for storage and a 6mm acrylic top.

It's built from overlapping layers of plywood that are initially secured with screws. The central layer is made from two pieces joined edge-to-edge, making it easier to drill into the spools.

**TIP** To cut out the enclosed shapes with a jigsaw, drill a 10mm starter hole. ➤

### What you need

- Structural plywood
- Clear acrylic
- Countersunk timber screws
- Pine dowel
- Drawer runners
- Clear surface savers
- Chrome legs
- Varnish stain
- Clear polyurethane

### Install the drawer

The drawer runs on self-closing 300mm runners, which will extend about 50mm behind the drawer, allowing it to slide out almost fully.

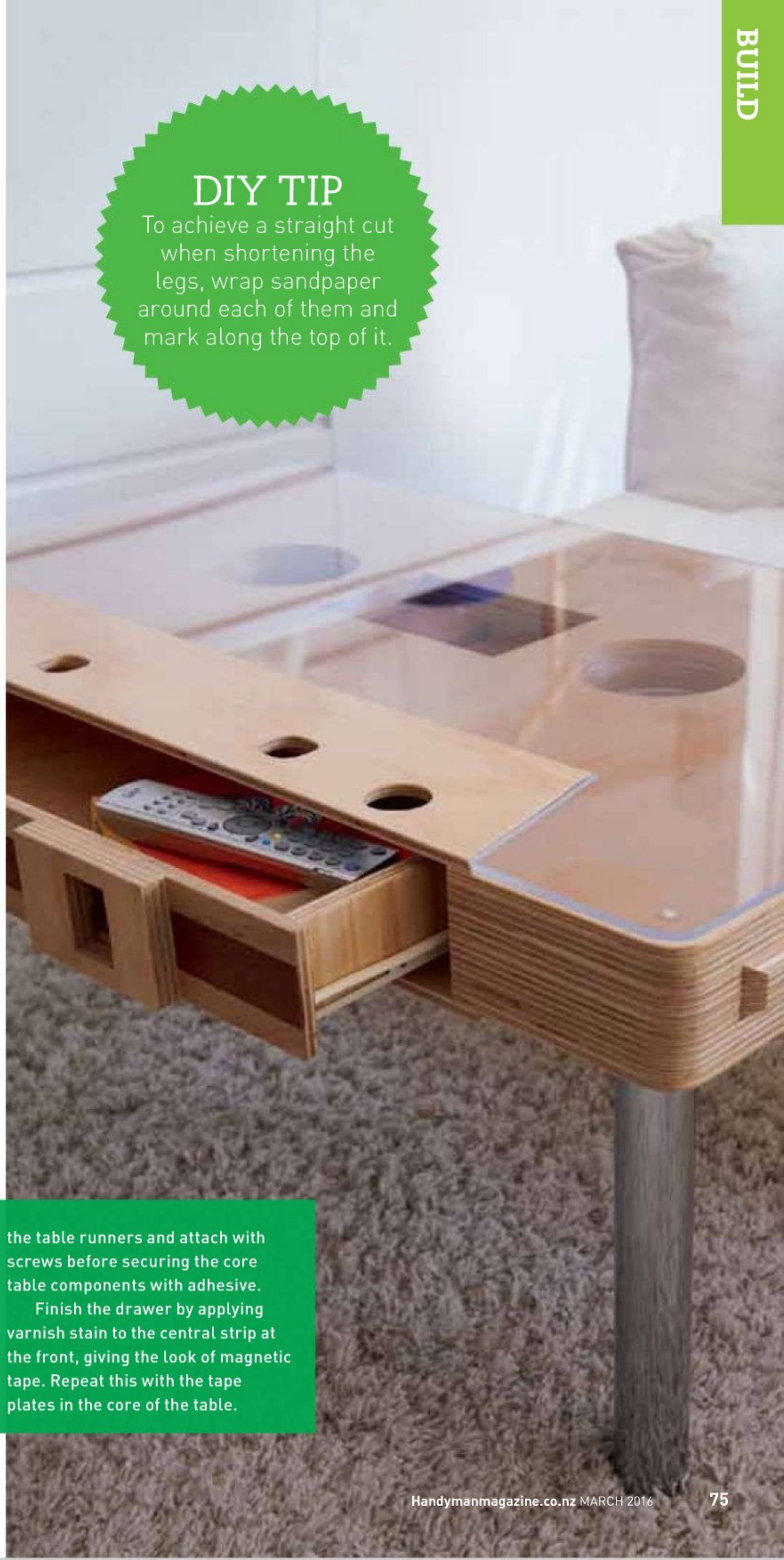
Secure the runners to the drawer sides using the supplied screws, then mark the position of

the table runners and attach with screws before securing the core table components with adhesive.

Finish the drawer by applying varnish stain to the central strip at the front, giving the look of magnetic tape. Repeat this with the tape plates in the core of the table.

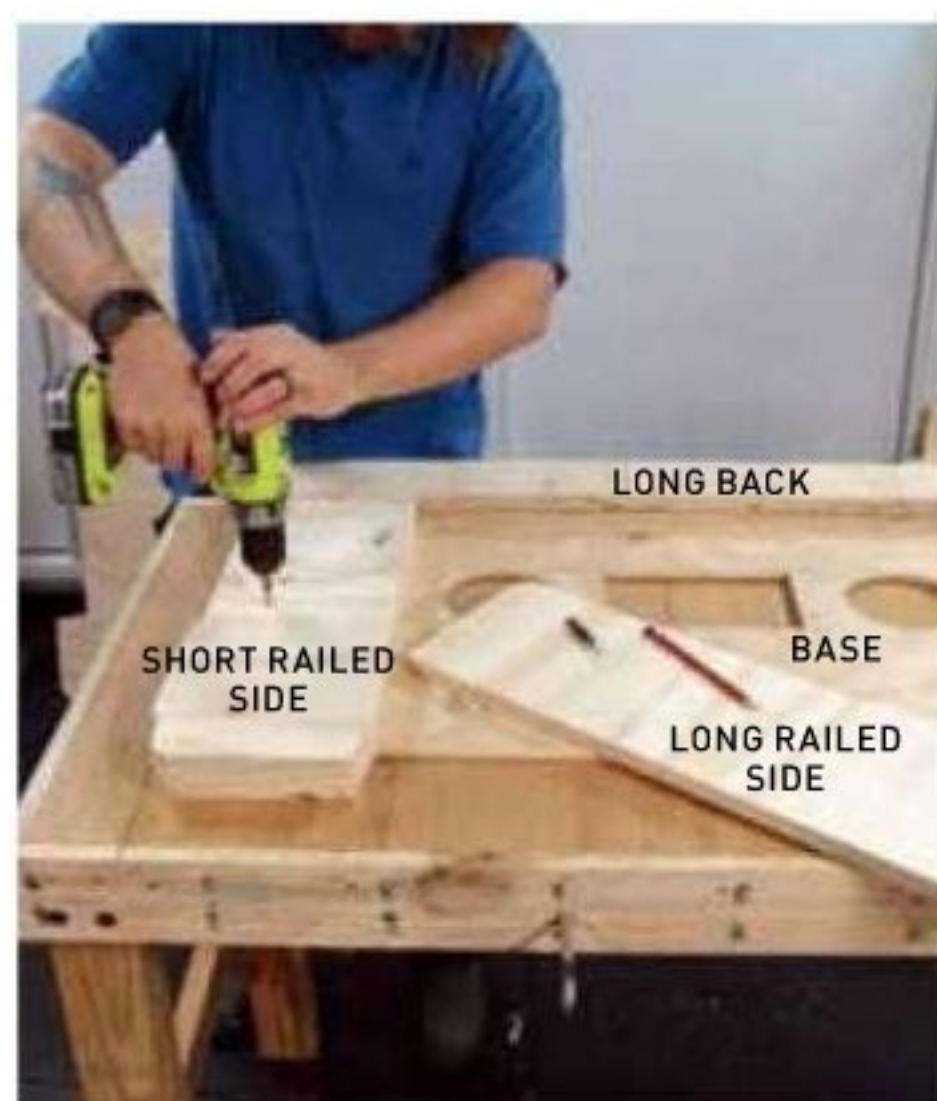
### DIY TIP

To achieve a straight cut when shortening the legs, wrap sandpaper around each of them and mark along the top of it.



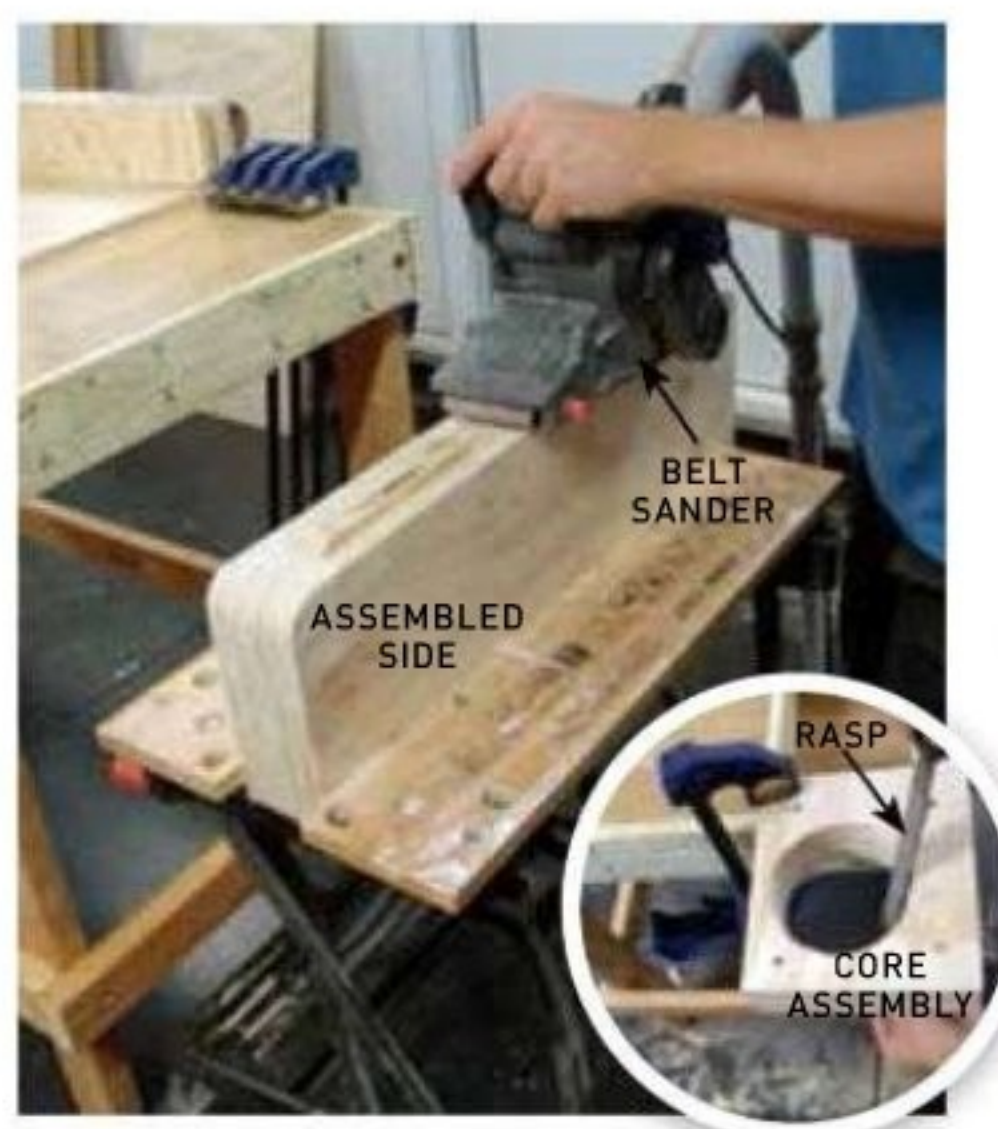


# MAKE THE TABLE



## 1 Assemble the pieces

Cut the pieces with a circular saw and number them, round the corners and cut the details with a jigsaw. Put the first and second layer on the base panel, checking the outer edges are flush, then secure with screws. Repeat for the third and fourth layers. Don't join areas where the back and sides overlap.



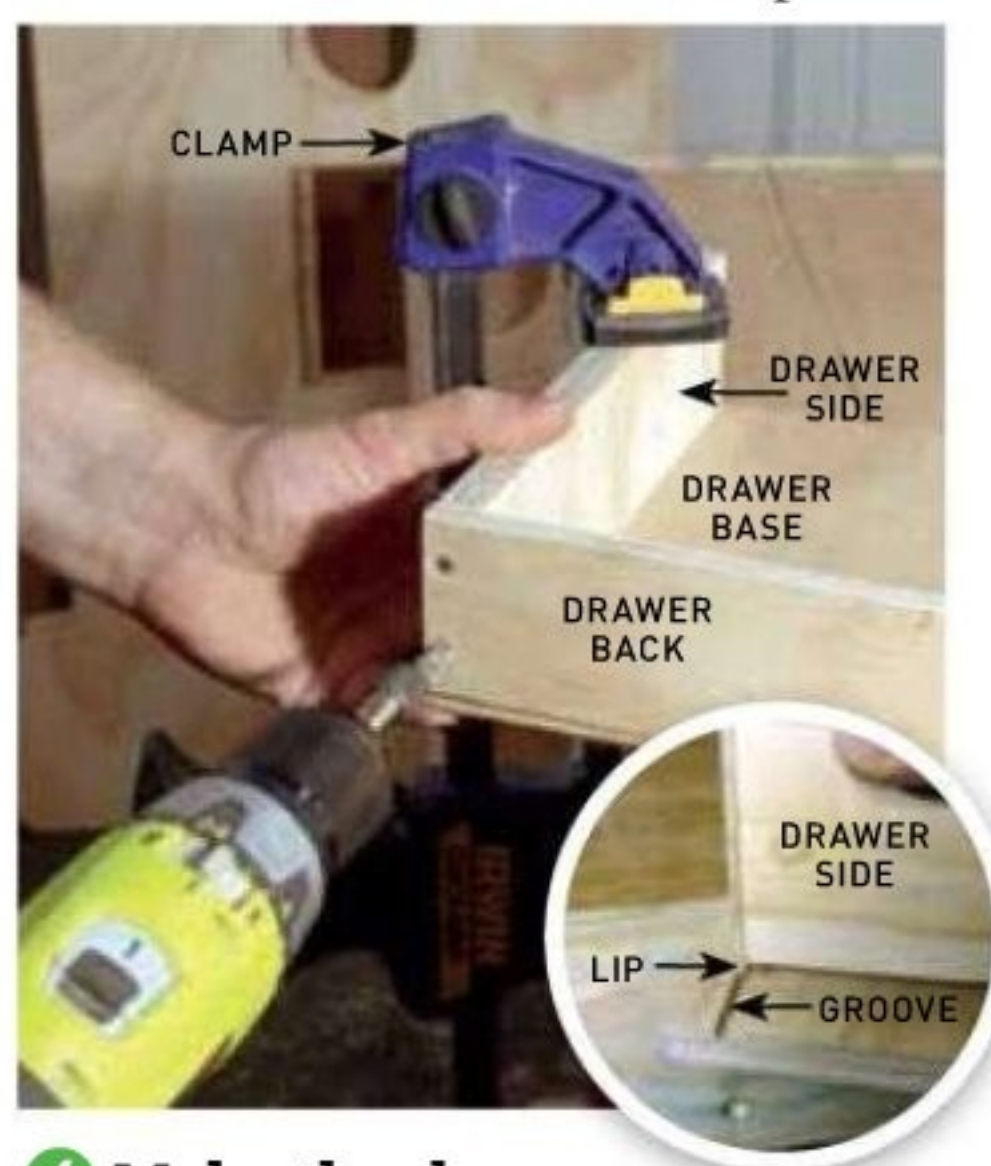
## 2 Sand the components

Ease the three main sections apart, then clamp each of them in turn and sand the outside smooth using a belt sander. Assemble the core stack, omitting the central spool layer, then use a rasp and 80 then 120 grit paper to shape the opening of each spool into a smooth curve.



## 3 Complete the spools

Use a 12mm spade bit to drill 10mm deep holes for the spool teeth, then apply PVA adhesive and tap in the dowels. Apply limewash, then secure the spool layer between the other layers of the core. Glue the tape plates in position. Sand flush with the spool layer and apply varnish stain.



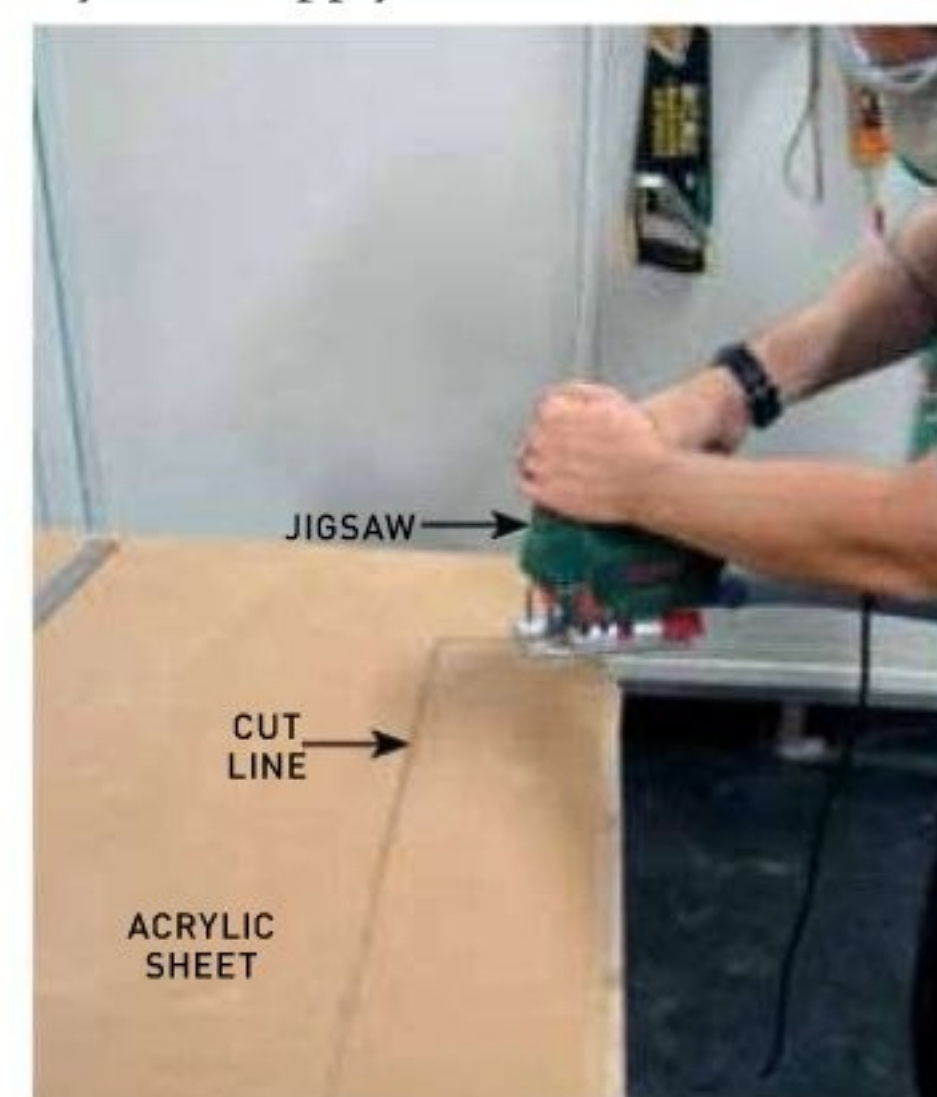
## 4 Make the drawer

Use a circular saw to cut a 3 x 3mm groove 9mm from the base of the drawer front. Secure the drawer back to the sides using adhesive and screws, then attach the base, leaving a 3mm lip at the front. Apply adhesive and slot the drawer into the groove on the back of the drawer front, adding the handles.



## 5 Glue the layers

Separate the sides and back of the table. On a flat surface, apply PVA adhesive to the base and position the layers, securing them with screws. Secure the drawer runners and glue the core in position, then add the top. Sand the top and base flush with the openings and edges of the inner layers.



## 6 Add the top and legs

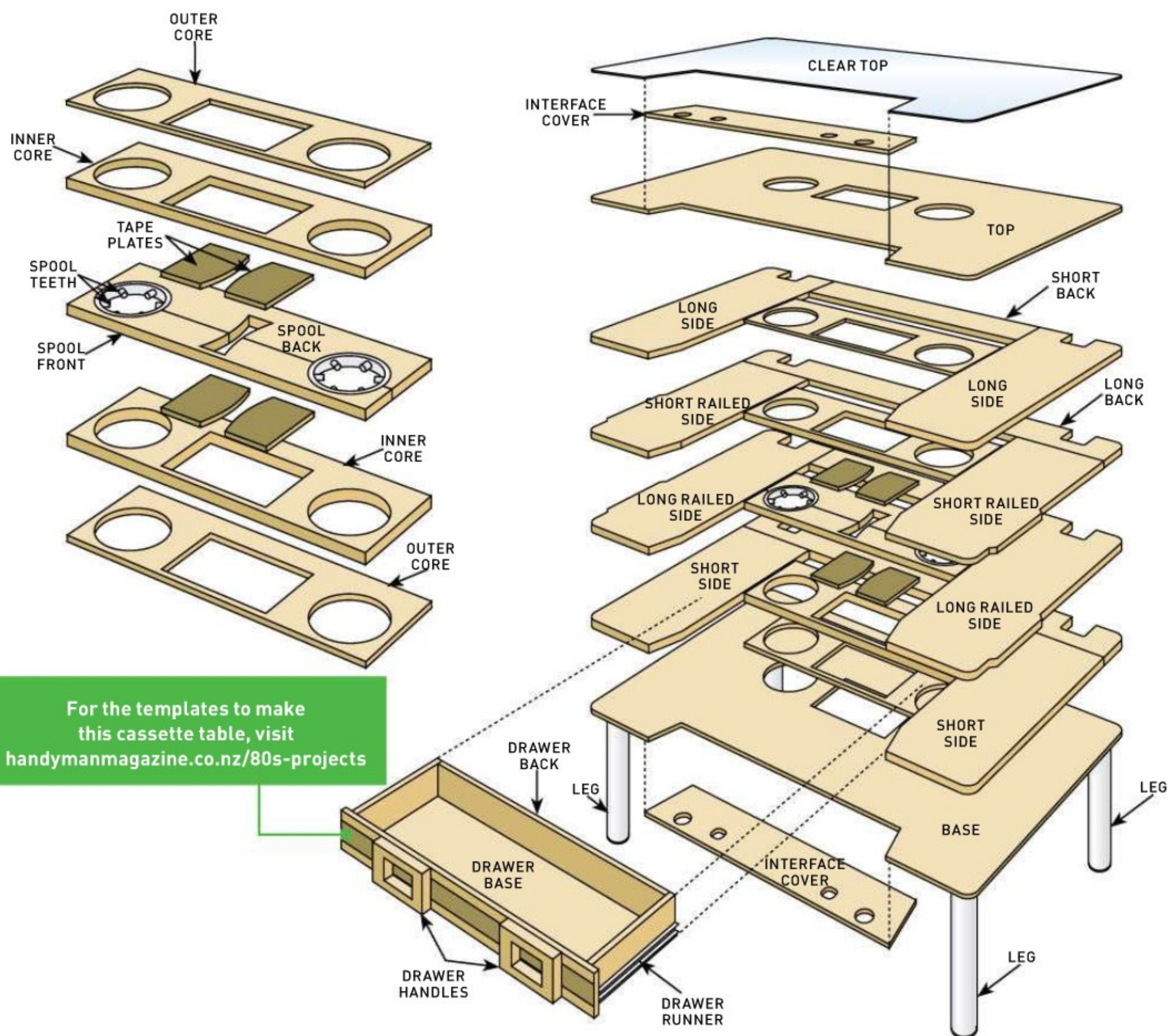
Use a jigsaw on low revs with the pendulum action switched off to cut the acrylic to shape. Use a coping saw to cut the openings in the interface covers, securing with adhesive. Apply two coats of clear polyurethane, then cut the legs to length. Secure them using the supplied screws. ➤





# CASSETTE TABLE

measurements in mm



## CUTTING LIST

| PART               | SIZE            | NO |
|--------------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>Plywood</b>     |                 |    |
| Long back          | 1000 x 100 x 17 | 2  |
| Short back         | 624 x 100 x 17  | 2  |
| Long sides         | 610 x 188 x 17  | 2  |
| Short sides        | 510 x 188 x 17  | 2  |
| Long railed sides  | 610 x 198 x 17  | 2  |
| Short railed sides | 510 x 198 x 17  | 2  |
| Top/base           | 1000 x 610 x 9  | 2  |
| Outer core         | 570 x 180 x 9   | 2  |
| Inner core         | 600 x 180 x 17  | 2  |
| Spool front        | 600 x 74 x 17   | 1  |

|                  |                |    |
|------------------|----------------|----|
| Spool back       | 600 x 106 x 17 | 1  |
| Drawer face      | 635 x 80 x 9   | 1  |
| Drawer back      | 600 x 55 x 9   | 1  |
| Drawer sides     | 230 x 55 x 17  | 2  |
| Drawer base      | 600 x 242 x 3  | 1  |
| Drawer handles   | 130 x 80 x 17  | 2  |
| Tape plates      | 125 x 88 x 9   | 4  |
| Interface covers | 795 x 150 x 9  | 2  |
| <b>Dowel</b>     |                |    |
| Spool teeth      | 20 x 12        | 12 |
| <b>Acrylic</b>   |                |    |
| Clear top        | 1000 x 610 x 3 | 1  |

## FASTENERS

| TYPE                     | USE                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Timber screws, 30mm x 8g | Securing layers      |
| Timber screws, 20mm x 4g | Drawer back to sides |



## SAFETY TIP

The tail fin extends just 150mm from the doors to stop the cabinet from falling over without being a trip hazard.

# GO FOR LAUNCH



Persuading kids to put away their toys can be a battle, but giving them a rocket storage cabinet makes the job a lot more fun.

We used an orbiter vehicle (OV) from a NASA space shuttle as the inspiration for this cabinet.

The shape of the aerofoils and fuselage were simplified, but the overall proportions are faithful to the original orbiter.

The cabinet was built as a carcass attached to a backing sheet cut into the silhouette of the fuselage and wing shape, called the planform. The doors and cabin are clad in Corflute, a plastic version of corrugated cardboard.



The vertical stabiliser is often referred to as a tail fin for simplicity, even by pilots

### What you need

Timber  
Paint, filler, marker  
Screws, tacks, hinges  
Self-adhesive sheet  
Corflute  
Copolymer sealant  
Chrome cabinet pulls  
Magnetic catch  
Plastic tumblers  
Dowel



**Finishing touches**

To decorate the orbiter vehicle, download the cabin markings, then print them on self-adhesive paper and apply to the cabinet.

The easiest way to mark the details on the wing trailing edges is to simply draw them on with a paint marker such as a Posca.

Plastic drink tumblers from the supermarket painted black make excellent engine nozzles.

To keep the doors shut and make them easier to open, attach a magnetic catch and a pair of brushed chrome cabinet pulls. ➤


**TOOLS**  
 JIGSAW, DRILL,  
 CIRCULAR SAW


**GUN'S PICKS**


Zenith 8g x 30mm Zinc-plated Long Thread Timber Screws, about \$5 for 30, from Bunnings.



White Knight Splashes Water-based Enamel, \$12 for 250ml. [whiteknightpaints.co.nz](http://whiteknightpaints.co.nz)



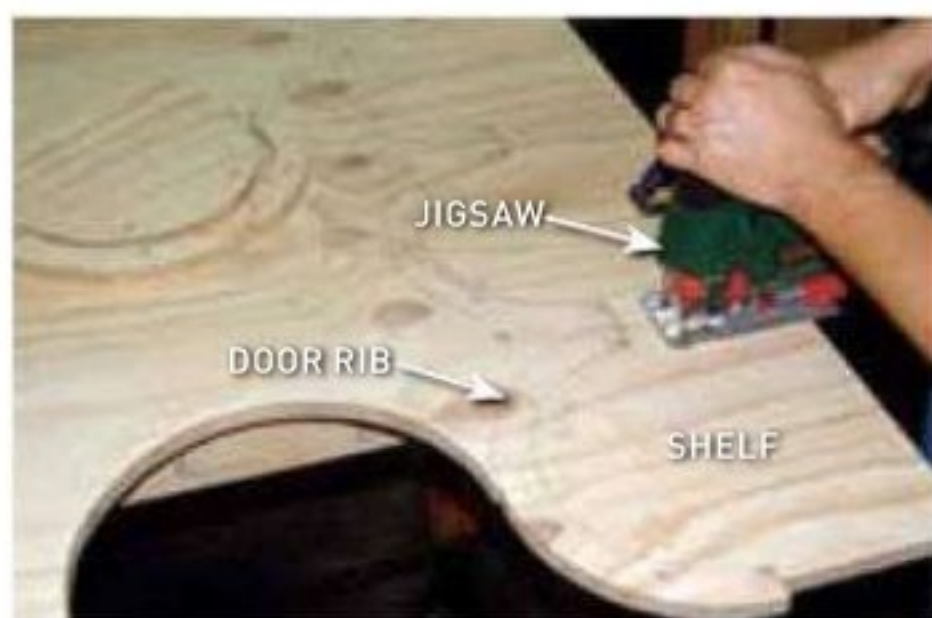
Balsa 300 x 100 x 50mm Blocks, \$19 each. [tasart.co.nz](http://tasart.co.nz)



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# BUILD THE CABINET



## 1 Cut the pieces

Make templates for the shelves, door ribs and cabin supports, marking them on plywood and cutting out with a jigsaw. Use a pull saw to tidy up the notches in the ends of the door ribs. Cut the sides using a circular saw.



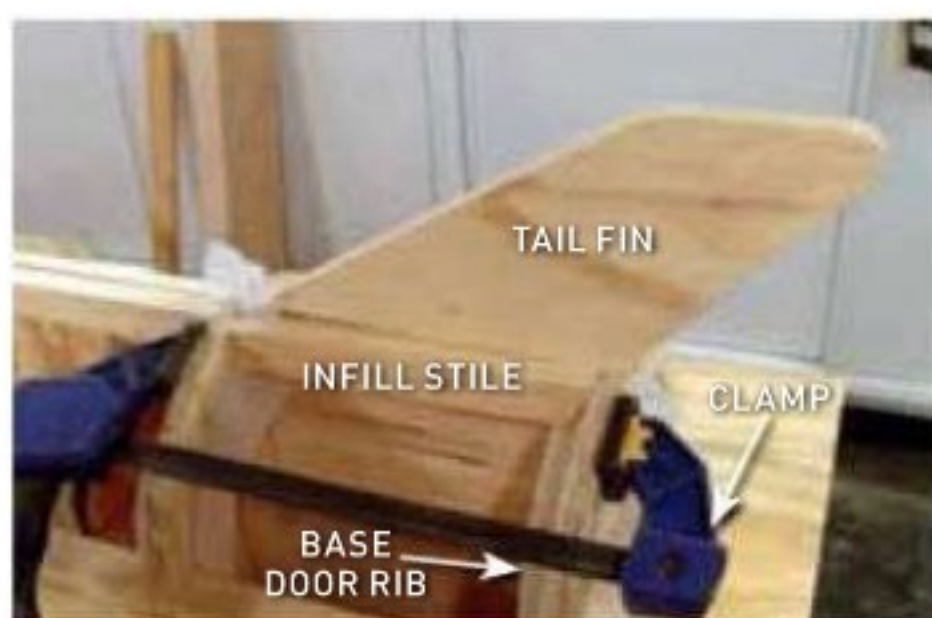
## 2 Assemble the carcass

Clamp the shelves between the sides, securing with screws and PVA adhesive. Secure the divider/tail fin between the base and first shelf with adhesive and screws. Trim the base ribs to fit on each side of the tail with 2mm clearance.



## 3 Build the doors

Use a pull saw or dovetail saw to make relief cuts for 17 x 15mm half-lap housings in the stiles, then chisel out the waste. Position the stiles and apply adhesive, gluing all but the base pair of ribs into the housings.



## 4 Add the infill stiles

Apply adhesive to the door frames, then attach the infill stiles and base ribs, clamping in position. Use a jigsaw to cut a blank for the nose cap from an offcut of 90 x 35mm timber and shape it into a convex profile using a rasp.



## 5 Build the cabin frame

Use a sliding bevel to mark 23° angles on the sides, cutting a 17 x 15mm notch in each end. Bevel the front and back supports at 50° with a belt sander, then cut matching notches. Glue the collar to the back and supports to the sides.



## 6 Clad the doors and cabin

Prime and paint the door and cabin frames. Use a utility knife to cut the Corflute, scoring along the crease lines of the cabin. Bend the cladding to shape then use copolymer sealant and cut tacks to secure it.



## 7 Secure the planform

Mark the planform on a sheet of 12mm plywood, then cut out using a jigsaw. Apply primer and two coats of paint to the carcass, leaving the back edges, then paint the planform. Leave to dry. Secure the carcass with adhesive and screws.



## 8 Hang the doors

Cut a groove in the nose cap edge for the barrel of a non-mortise hinge. Sand with 120 grit paper, then prime and paint. Glue and screw to the front cabin support and hang on the planform. Hang the cargo bay doors using hinges.



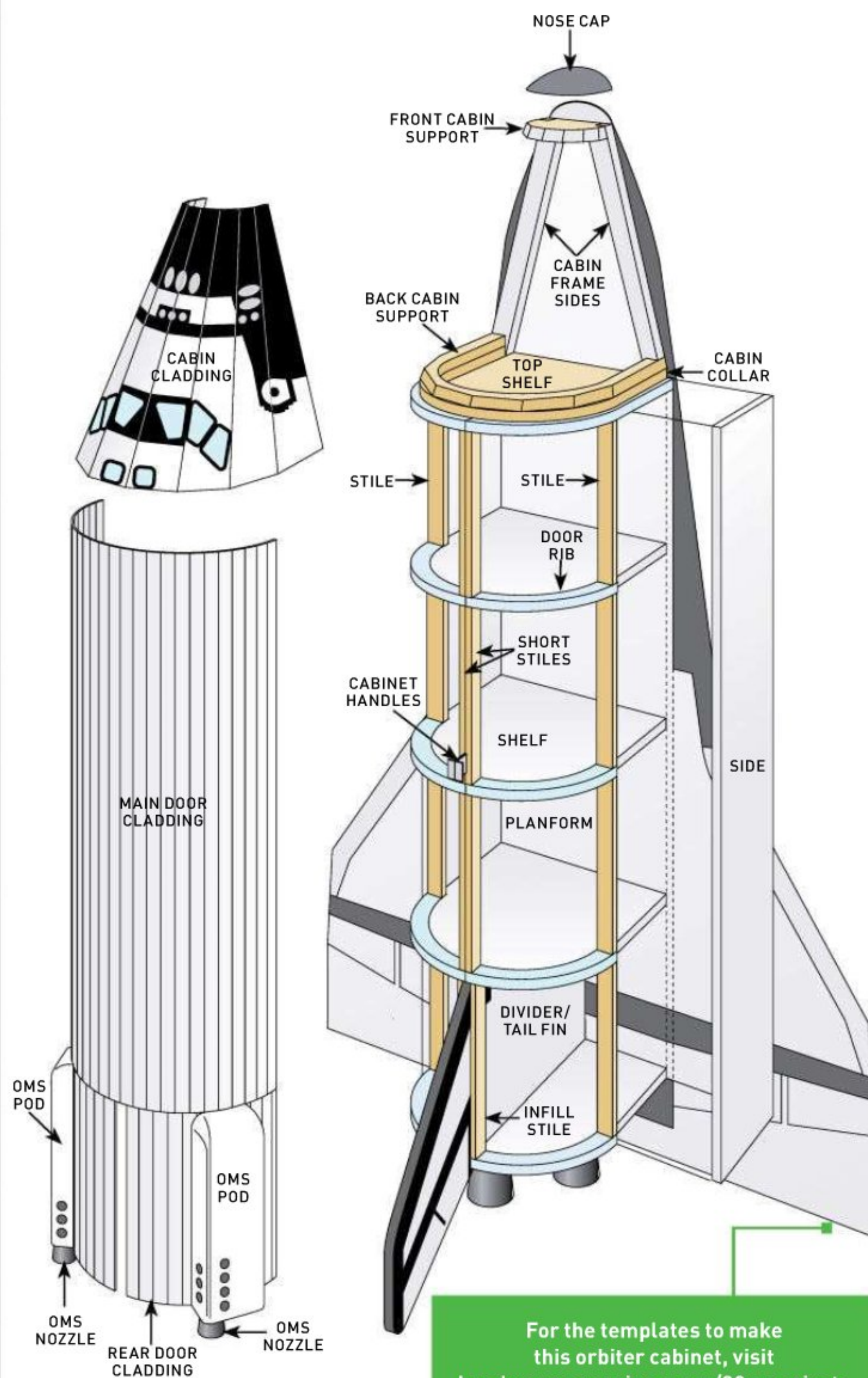
## 9 Attach the engines

Cut the OMS pods and make the nozzles using a 35mm holesaw. Shape the pods and nozzles using 80 grit paper, drilling 8mm holes to secure with dowels and adhesive. Attach the pods using sealant, and the main nozzles with screws. ➤



# ORBITER CABINET

measurements in mm



## FASTENERS

| TYPE                                 | USE                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Countersunk timber screws, 30mm x 8g | Carcass assembly, planform attachment |
| Countersunk timber screws, 18mm x 4g | Hinges                                |
| Round head screws, 15mm x 8g         | Main engine nozzles                   |
| Cut tacks, 12 x 1.6mm                | Cladding                              |
| Non-mortise hinge, 50mm              | Nose cap                              |
| Piano hinges, 915mm                  | Cargo doors                           |

## CUTTING LIST

| PART                  | SIZE             | NO |
|-----------------------|------------------|----|
| <b>Plywood</b>        |                  |    |
| Sides                 | 1000 x 150 x 17  | 2  |
| Shelves and door ribs | 300 x 266 x 17   | 5  |
| Divider/ tail fin     | 450 x 370 x 17   | 1  |
| Front cabin support   | 100 x 80 x 17    | 1  |
| Back cabin support    | 300 x 300 x 17   | 1  |
| Cabin collar          | 300 x 300 x 17   | 1  |
| Planform              | 1500 x 900 x 12  | 1  |
| <b>DAR Pine</b>       |                  |    |
| Stiles                | 1000 x 30 x 18   | 2  |
| Short stiles          | 745 x 30 x 18    | 2  |
| Infill stiles         | 235 x 30 x 18    | 2  |
| Cabin frame sides     | 355 x 30 x 18    | 2  |
| Nose cap              | 90 x 80 x 35     | 1  |
| <b>Corflute</b>       |                  |    |
| Main door cladding    | 735 x 225 x 3    | 2  |
| Rear door cladding    | 265 x 215 x 3    | 2  |
| Cabin cladding        | 480 x 480 x 3    | 1  |
| <b>Balsa</b>          |                  |    |
| OMS pods              | 250 x 100 x 50   | 2  |
| OMS nozzles           | 50 x 35 diameter | 2  |



# BLOCKED OUT

## DIY TIP

Have the plywood cut into 230mm strips by your supplier for a small fee, greatly speeding up the assembly process.



Released for the first time in 1984, Tetris has become widely regarded as one of the greatest electronic games of all time.

Based on the game, this shelving system's bold colours and unusual shapes make it a real attention-grabber, and the pieces can be rearranged into literally millions of combinations.

The dimensions of the Tetrominoes are based on multiples of 230mm cubes, meaning they will fit together even when arranged at right angles.

The five basic shapes can be cut from a single sheet of structural 17mm plywood, using a circular saw and straightedge guide. ➤

### What you need

- Structural plywood
- Dowels
- Timber filler
- Primer, sealer, undercoat
- Spray paint
- Clear polyurethane

### Make a jig

If you cut the pieces DIY from a full sheet of plywood, cut the lengths first, then make a jig from scrap timber to trim them to 230mm wide.

Secure a 450 x 42 x 19mm stop piece at the edge of a 600 x 400 x 12mm plywood offcut using screws, then add strips of 17mm plywood on each side, perpendicular to the stop.

Measure the offset distance from the saw blade to the side of the base plate, using it to secure a 600 x 70 x 35mm length of timber so the cut line will be exactly 230mm from the stop piece.

Clamp another 17mm offcut against the side of each workpiece you cut, to correct for the size differences of the various pieces.



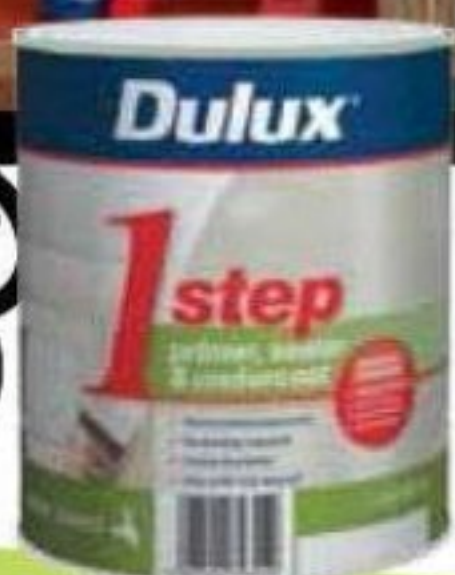
# TOOLS

JIGSAW, CIRCULAR SAW,  
DRILL, BELT SANDER

2  
DAYS

\$249  
COST

# GUN'S PICKS



Dulux 1 Step Primer,  
Sealer & Undercoat, \$36  
for 500ml. [dulux.co.nz](http://dulux.co.nz)



Ryobi One+ 18V  
Cordless Jigsaw, \$139  
skin only. [ryobi.co.nz](http://ryobi.co.nz)



British Paints Spray  
Easy, about \$9 for 310g.  
[britishpaints.co.nz](http://britishpaints.co.nz)



# BUILD THE SHELVES



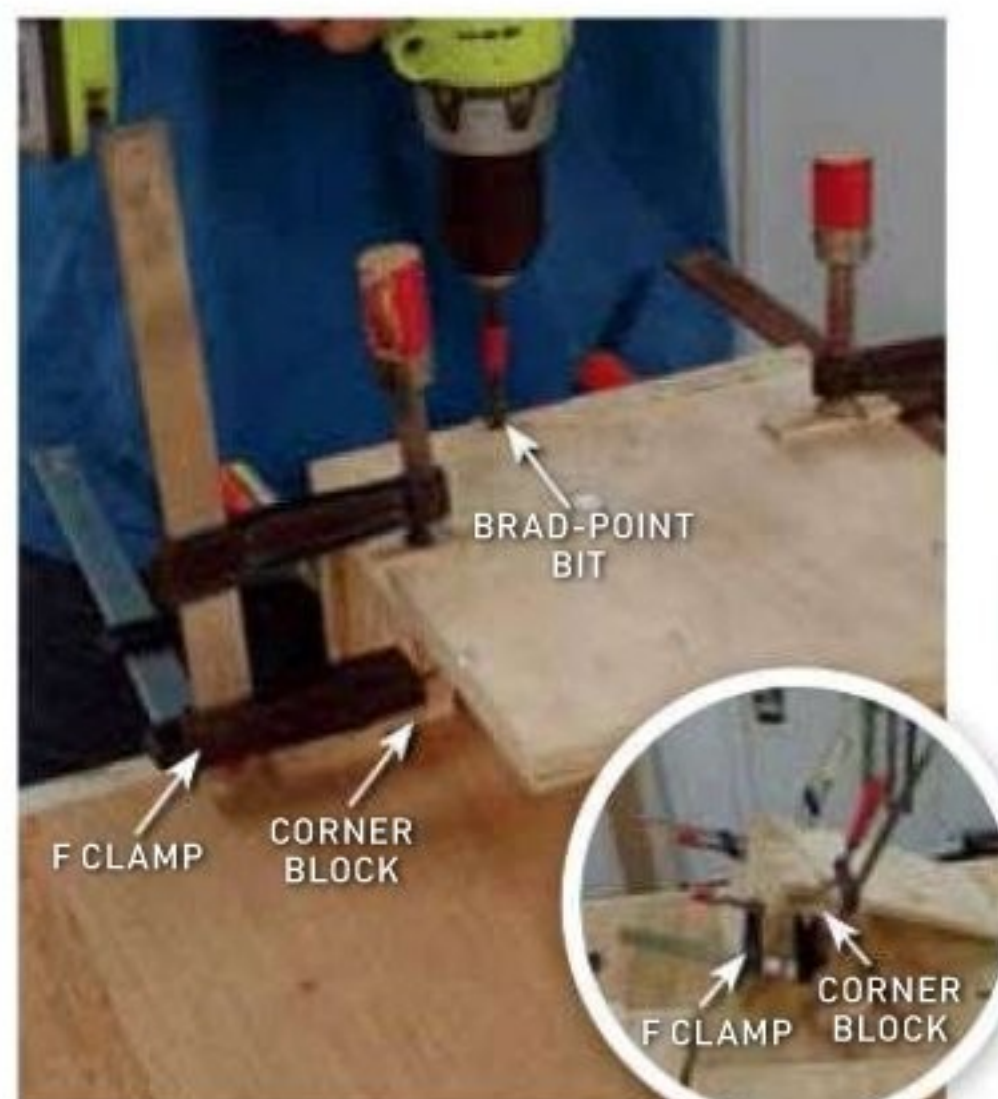
## 1 Cut the pieces

Use a circular saw to cut the individual pieces. Mark the interlocking notches on the ends with a combination square, cutting them with a jigsaw. Cut square 90 x 90 x 45mm blocks from 90 x 45mm timber, then cut a notch out of one corner of each block, making the blocks into L shapes.



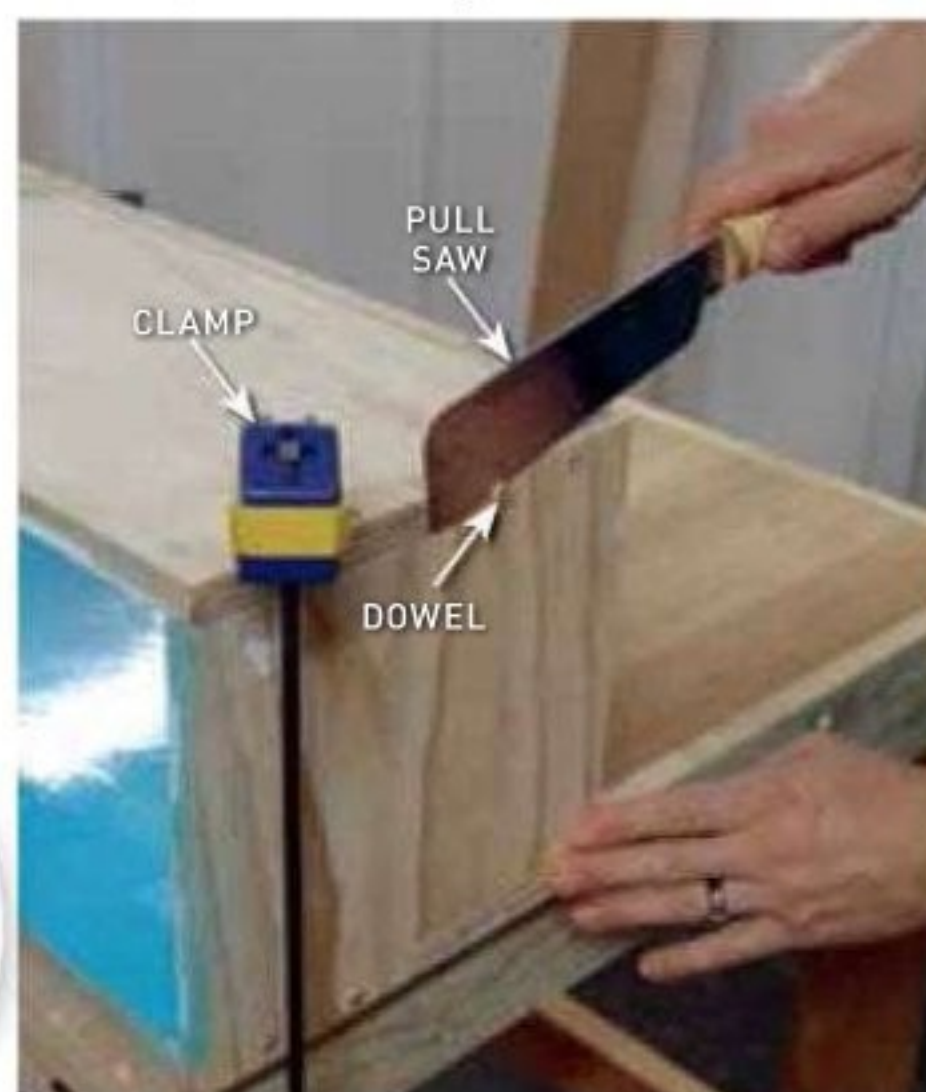
## 4 Complete the pieces

Test-fit the pieces and check for square, then use corner clamps to hold the pieces in alignment. Use a drill with an 8mm brad point bit to bore holes 36mm deep into the joints. Loosen the clamps and apply adhesive then tap in the dowels and leave to dry.



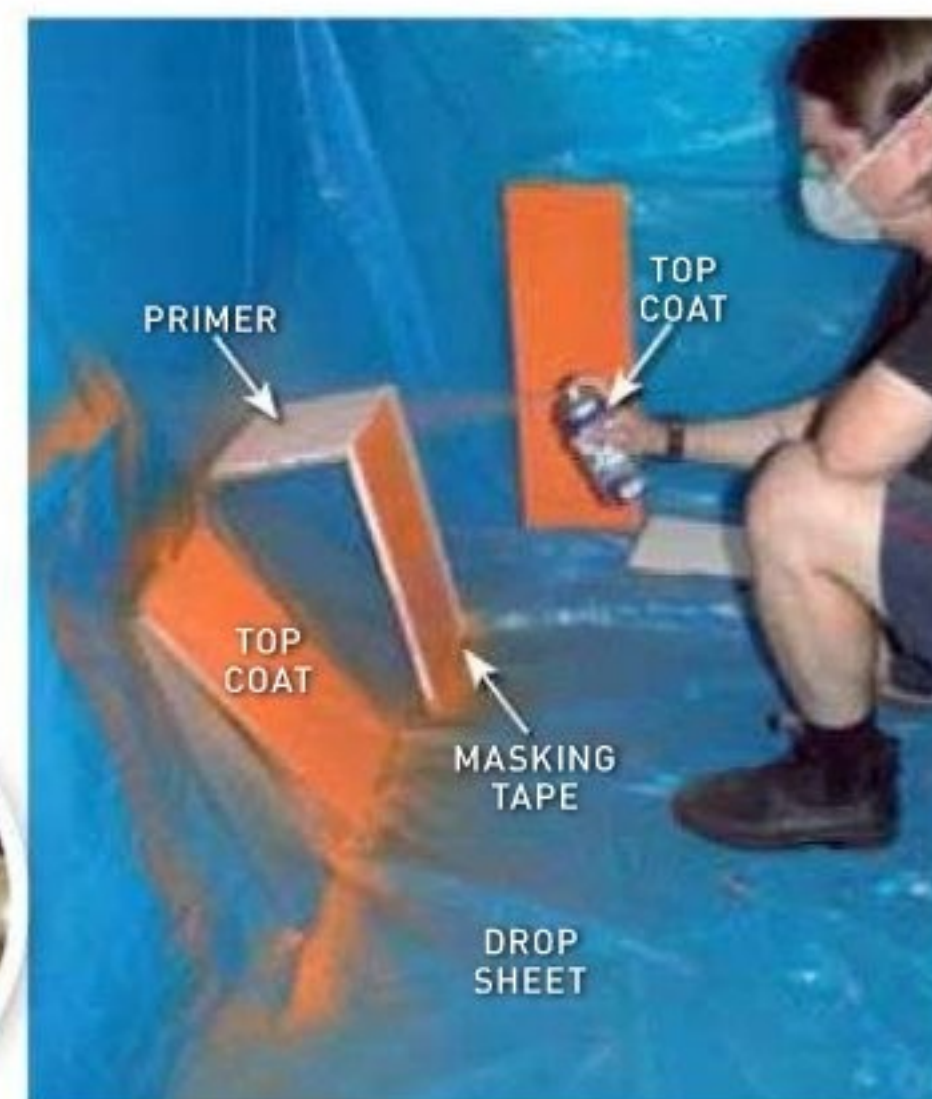
## 2 Assemble the corners

Apply PVA adhesive to the joining pieces of the internal corners of the shelving. Align them at 90° using the L-shaped corner blocks held in position with F clamps. Use an 8mm brad point bit to bore 40mm holes in the overlapping joints. Glue in 38 x 8mm dowels, leave to dry, then fill over.



## 5 Trim and sand

Once the adhesive is dry, remove the clamps and use a pull saw or oscillating tool to cut the dowels flush with the exterior surfaces. Apply timber filler in a suitable colour to cover any gaps and imperfections, then sand any excess filler flush with the surface using 120 grit paper.



## 3 Paint the interiors

The interiors of the shapes will be awkward to paint after assembly, so apply the finish first. Sand lightly with 120 grit paper, wipe clean, then mask off the interlocking surfaces. Use a brush or roller to apply primer, then finish with two coats of spray paint in the colours of your choice.



## 6 Sand and finish

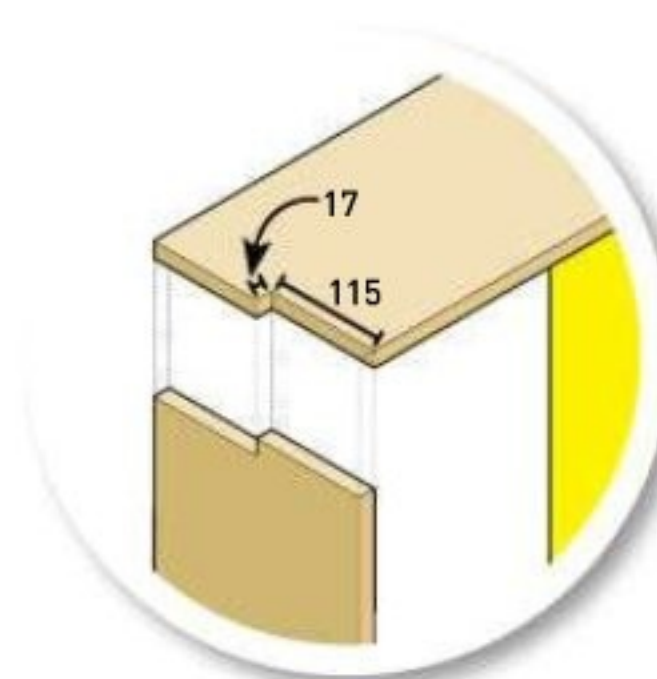
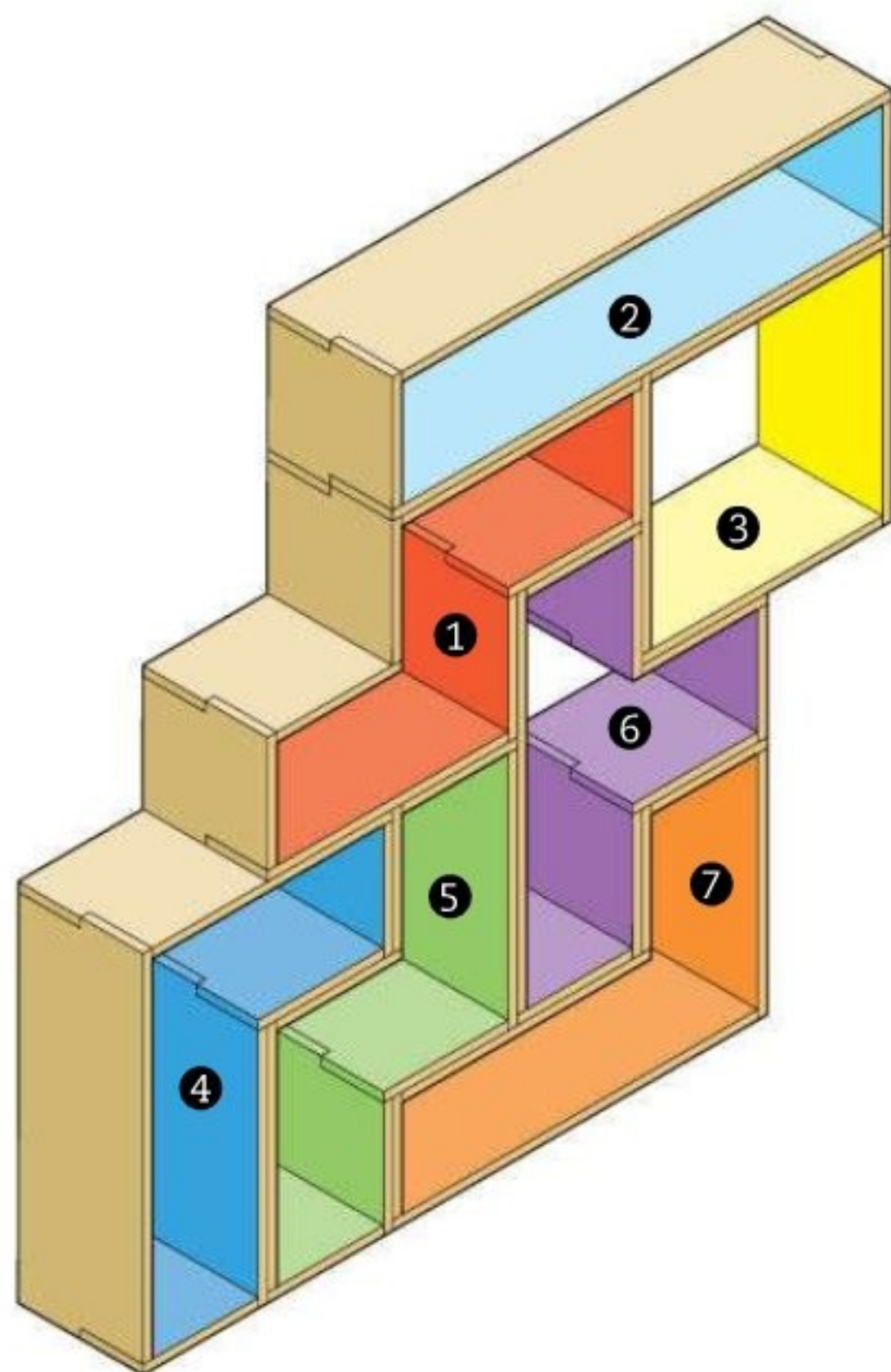
Use a belt sander with an 80 grit then 120 grit belt to sand the corners smooth and even up the edges, finishing with a random orbital sander. Mask off the interiors and apply stain or clear polyurethane to the exterior surfaces of the shapes, sanding lightly between coats. 🌱





# TETRIS SHELVES

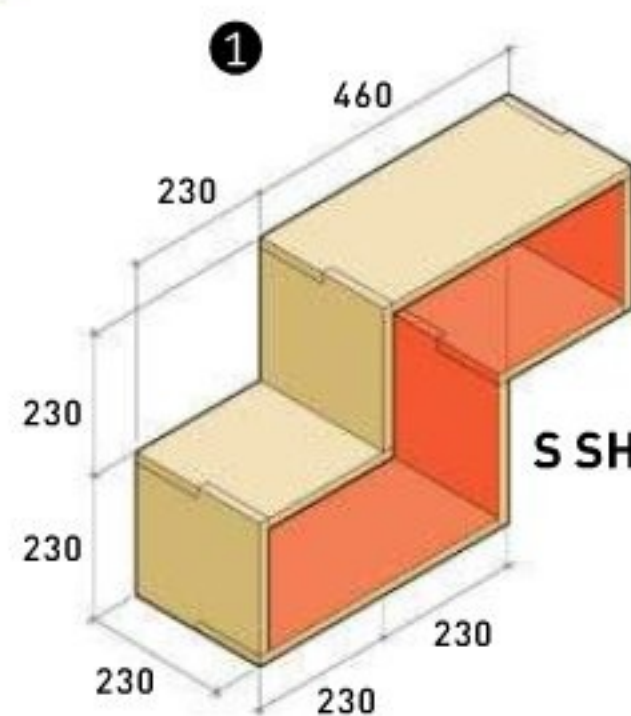
measurements in mm



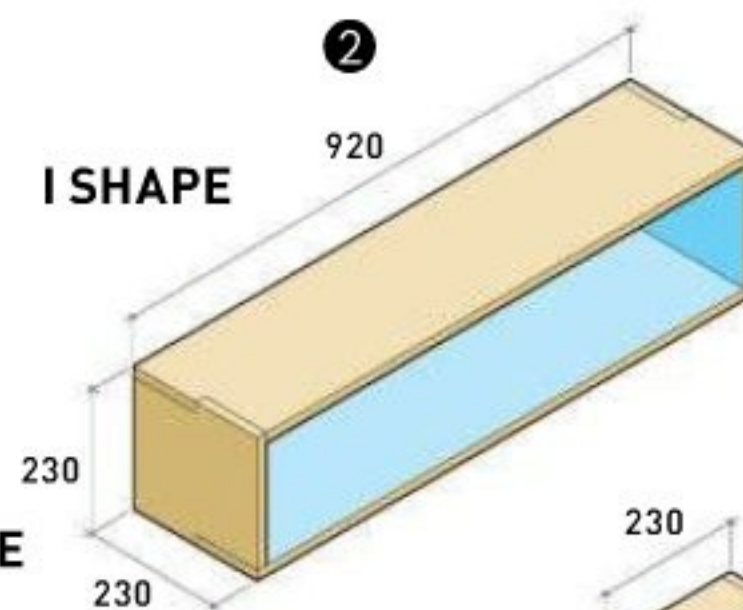
JOINT DETAIL

## CUTTING LIST

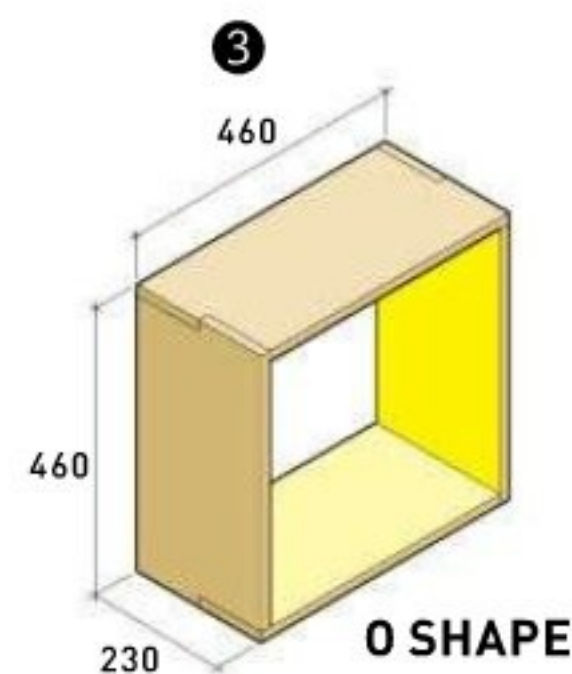
| PART           | SIZE           | NO |
|----------------|----------------|----|
| <b>Plywood</b> |                |    |
| O shape        | 460 x 230 x 17 | 4  |
| I shape        | 920 x 230 x 17 | 2  |
|                | 230 x 230 x 17 | 2  |
| L and J shapes | 690 x 230 x 17 | 2  |
|                | 477 x 230 x 17 | 2  |
|                | 460 x 230 x 17 | 2  |
|                | 247 x 230 x 17 | 2  |
|                | 230 x 230 x 17 | 4  |
| S and Z shapes | 460 x 230 x 17 | 4  |
|                | 247 x 230 x 17 | 8  |
|                | 230 x 230 x 17 | 4  |
| T shape        | 690 x 230 x 17 | 1  |
|                | 247 x 230 x 17 | 4  |
|                | 230 x 230 x 17 | 3  |



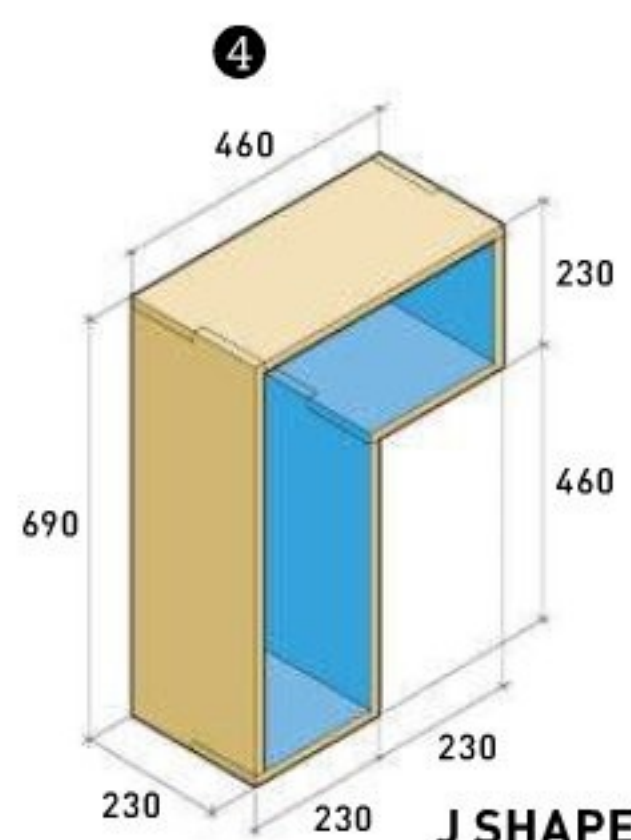
S SHAPE



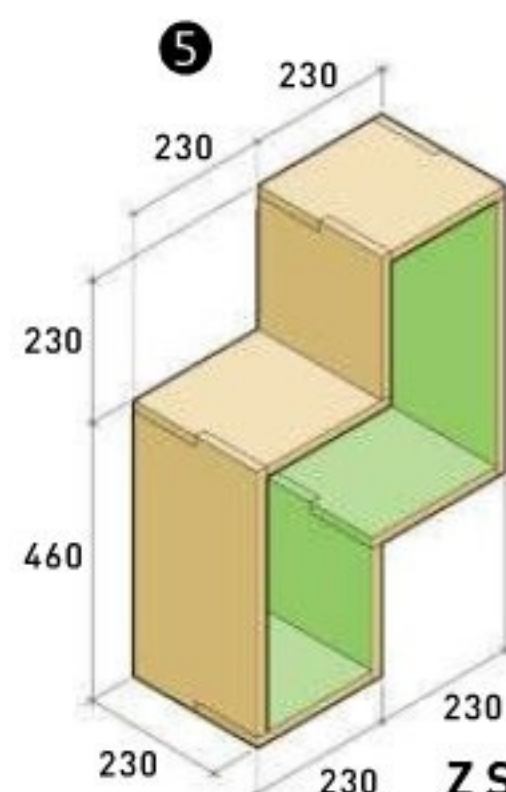
I SHAPE



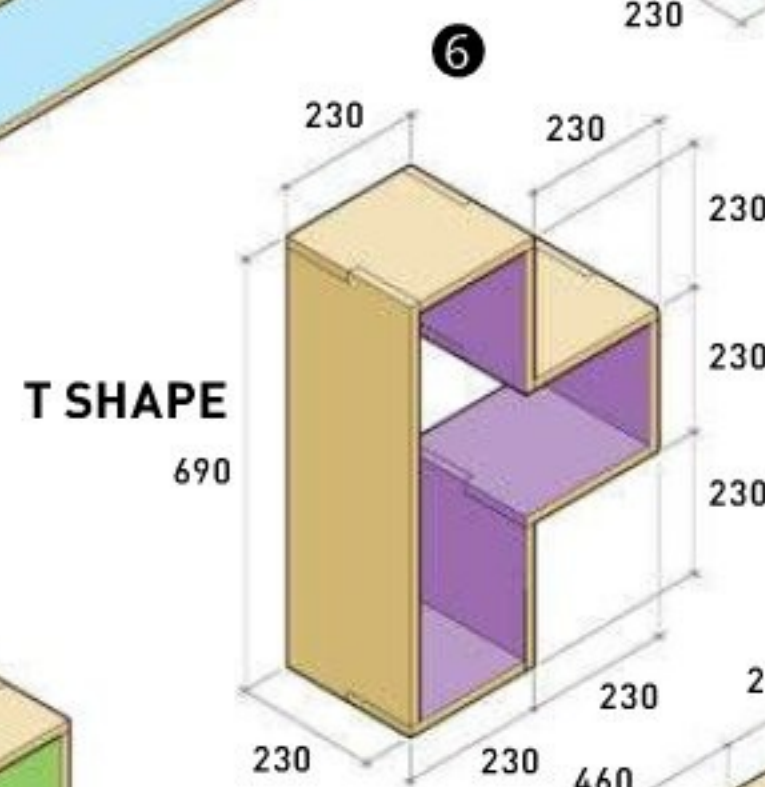
O SHAPE



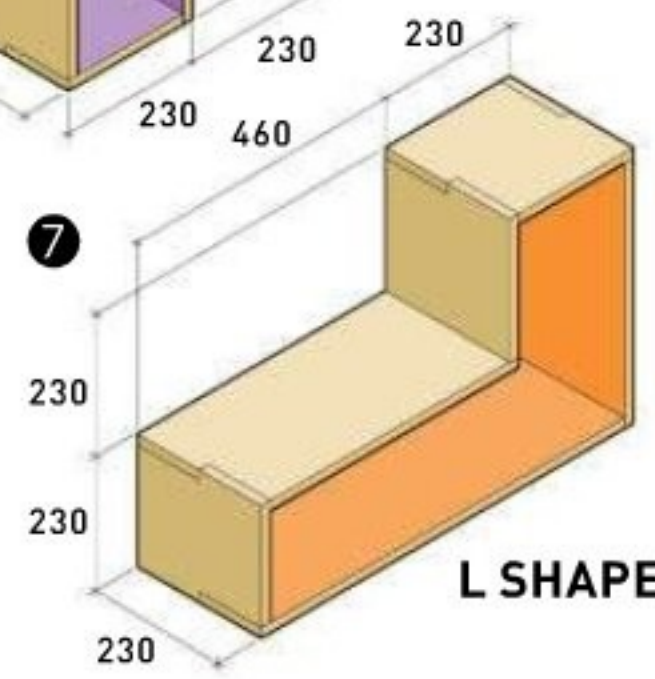
J SHAPE



Z SHAPE



T SHAPE



L SHAPE



# JIGSAW TABLETOP

Design a new top for an old frame using laminate floor swatches

WORDS FRANK GARDNER STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ MAIN PICTURE SUE FERRIS

The frame of this coffee table was in good condition, but the glass top had been broken and needed replacing.

Cutting a new piece of glass to size would have been expensive, so the top was replaced with a creative solution for a fraction of the cost.

Ten 355 x 195mm laminate floating floor swatches in a variety

of colours and grains were bought for \$1 each from the hardware store.

The swatches were arranged on a 9mm thick MDF backing board and attached with contact adhesive.

To cut the swatch board into pieces, a tablesaw was used to maintain 90° corners and straight edges. The pieces were then attached to a second MDF board to create the tabletop.

1 2 3



## 1 Secure the swatches

Use the supplied notched applicator to apply contact adhesive to a 9mm MDF board and the underside of the swatches, then leave until touch dry. Position the swatches, aligning their edges carefully, then press firmly.



## 2 Cut the pieces

Use a tablesaw to cut the swatches into rectangles and squares of varying sizes, maintaining pressure against the fence to ensure square cuts.

**TIP** Use a push stick to guide the board past the blade for safety.



## 3 Make the top

Arrange the laminate pieces on a second piece of 9mm MDF board, securing them in position with PVA adhesive, keeping the butt joints tight. Clamp until dry, then secure the top to the table frame using screws.

## WHAT YOU NEED



Selleys Kwik Grip Horizontal Contact Adhesive, about \$17 for 250ml. [selleys.co.nz](http://selleys.co.nz)



Ryobi 1800W 254mm Table Saw, \$499. [ryobi.co.nz](http://ryobi.co.nz)





### Finishing the top

The MDF-backed laminate pieces were arranged in a pattern on a second 9mm board that was cut to fit the table frame.

When the swatch pattern was complete, the pieces were secured using PVA adhesive.

The new 18mm thick top was dropped into the table frame recess and secured to the metal support lugs underneath using 15mm x 6g timber screws.

### DIY TIP

When cutting the pieces for the tabletop, face the laminate swatches upwards on the tablesaw for a clean edge cut.



The new laminate tabletop brings character and individuality to this living space.



# Handyman

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# COMPOST FOR FREE

Save money and also help the planet by making natural fertiliser in the backyard

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

## DIY TIP

Make liquid fertiliser by mixing one part finished compost with three parts water. Leave the mix for three days before using.

**S**tarting a compost heap is easy and it won't cost you a cent, providing you with an organic fertiliser for little work.

You'll also be returning carbon to the earth and boosting the soil's water-holding capacity by at least 30%.

There are various effective ways to make compost at home.

You can use a compost bin or tumbler, which are great for small gardens or courtyards. But if you have the space, it's best to make your own compost heap.

## Did you know?

Each year New Zealanders throw out about \$870 million worth of food scraps that could be turned into useful garden food. Food scraps in landfill decompose without oxygen and produce methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas. As the scraps break down, they also form a toxic liquid called leachate, which can pollute waterways and the land. >





## BUILD AN OPEN BIN

Compost made in a heap decomposes aerobically, or with aeration. Choose a semi-shaded spot to make the heap, as too much sun will dry it out.

The compost can simply be heaped on the ground, but most gardeners prefer an enclosure made from fence poles, chicken wire and cardboard.

✦ **CREATE** two heaps if you have the space, as it's preferable to use one for adding new materials and the other for compost that is in the process of decomposing. Heaps of about 1-1.2m in height and width work well.

✦ **ENCOURAGE** earthworms by making your heap on top of soil.

✦ **USE** four timber or metal stakes to mark out an enclosure for a single heap, or six stakes for two heaps.

✦ **ENCLOSE** three sides of the heap by wrapping chicken wire around the stakes, then line it with cardboard.



Keep compost contained within a DIY open bin.

## SAFETY TIP

Meat scraps, milk products, cat and dog excrement and diseased plants shouldn't be added to compost.



### Recipe for success

Making compost is a bit like cooking in that you have to get the ingredients right.

A ratio of 30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen is ideal for backyard compost heaps.

Nitrogen materials include grass clippings, vegetable scraps, animal manures, garden waste and green garden clippings.

For carbon, use leaves, straw, sawdust and shredded paper.



Leaves



Shredded paper



Grass clippings



Horse dung



Vegie scraps



## MAINTAIN THE HEAP

The traditional way to create a compost heap is to layer it.

- + **START** with a 300mm layer of plant waste, followed by a thin layer of manure or blood and bone, then add a thin layer of topsoil.
- + **INCLUDE** a layer of dolomite or lime if you want an alkaline compost.
- + **CONTINUE** adding to the compost in layers until the heap reaches a height of about 1m.
- + **KEEP** the heap damp rather than mushy and don't mat it down, as this will impede aeration and make it smell.
- + **TURN** the heap regularly. The more frequently you turn the heap, the quicker your compost will be ready.
- + **MOVE** the outer sections into the middle where the heat is while turning, so they will decay fully.



### Ready to go

When compost is a rich, dark colour, with a pleasant, earthy smell and a crumbly texture, it's ready to use.

Dig it into the soil before planting or use it as a mulch.

If it's finished before you need to use it, cover it with plastic to prevent the nutrients from leaching away. ➤



PICTURES ALAMY



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# WHAT CAN GO WRONG?



## Seedlings appear

Large numbers of seedlings in your compost means the heap isn't hot enough. Cover it with punctured black plastic or old carpet to retain more of the heat.

## The heap won't get hot

When the heap doesn't heat up, it lacks nitrogen. Add materials like grass clippings, manure or blood and bone. Turn it regularly and use insulating material in winter.



## There's a bad smell

A lack of air or carbon in the heap will cause it to smell. Add dead leaves, stems, sawdust or straw and turn the heap. Use dolomite or wood ash to reduce acidity.



## It's too wet or too dry

When the compost is too wet, add dry shredded newspaper, leaves or straw to dry it out. If it's too dry, add manure, blood and bone, and other nitrogen-rich ingredients.

## Rodents move in

To prevent an infestation of rats or mice, cover the compost with underfelt, hessian or plastic. Turn it regularly and don't add seafood, dairy products or meat to the heap.



## Weeds take over

Seal annual weeds that have gone to seed, and perennial and bulbous weeds, in a plastic bag with a little water. Cook in the sun for a month before adding to the heap.

## Jump-start it

Plants such as dandelion, yarrow, borage, comfrey and stinging nettle are good compost activators.

Seaweed is an excellent accelerator. Hose it to remove the salt and allow to dry in the sun. Shred it into small pieces and add it to the layers in your heap.



Comfrey

Dandelion



Yarrow



Borage



Stinging nettle





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# HAVE HERBS AT HAND

Grow these aromatic edibles to help turn an ordinary dish into a culinary masterpiece

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

**F**lavoursome herbs are must-have tools in a cook's kitchen kit, and a dash of herbal flair can make all the difference to a meal.

As well as enhancing your food, herbs are endowed with sumptuous leaves and flowers that introduce delightful fragrances to your garden.

They're in abundance during the warm months, but any surplus won't go to waste, as you can dry or freeze them for winter when they are scarce.



Cheryl

## EXPERT SECRETS

Grow herbs based on what you like to eat.

If you favour Asian food, plant coriander, lemongrass and basil. If Italian is your style, you'll need oregano, thyme and parsley.

PICTURE:ISTOCK



## HOW TO GROW

You don't need green thumbs to grow most herbs and you don't even need a garden, as they grow well in pots when given adequate space.

Dedicating an area to herbs close by the kitchen door is an ideal way to make night harvesting easy. But if you don't have room for this, you can just plant them in the vegetable patch and flowerbeds.

Coriander, rocket, parsley and mint will tolerate a little shade, but give other herbs the sunniest position available, with well-drained soil or a good-quality potting mix. ➤

## DIY TIP

Tie fresh herbs together with twine or put dried herbs in a muslin bag to create a bouquet garni to flavour soups and stews.

Harvest herbs in the morning when aromatic oil concentration is highest.

## Summer cuts

Pick herbs regularly during the summer months to promote branching and autumn growth, and remove the flowers when they appear to encourage new usable leaves for the kitchen.

Mint is easy to grow and spreads very quickly.

Use the flowers of herbs as a pretty garnish for your culinary creations



## WHAT TO PLANT

### PERENNIALS

While most perennial herbs are evergreen, providing leaves all year, it's a good idea to preserve a quantity for winter when growth is slow.

They like well-drained soil and need less water than annuals. Feed them in spring and summer with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

#### Chives

Chives are easy to grow in beds and containers. Garlic chives have flat leaves and don't die down in winter. The flowers make a great garnish.

- ✦ **GROW** Sow the seeds in summer and early autumn. Divide clumps every second year in early spring.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.

#### Bay leaf

Fresh or dried bay leaves are essential to add flavour to soups, casseroles and stews.

- ✦ **GROW** In a garden bed, this small evergreen tree can reach a height of 11m, but it can be pruned lower or shaped for container cultivation.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh, or freeze or dry whole leaves.

#### Lemongrass

The white base of the leaf is widely used in Asian cuisine and the leaves make a refreshing tea.

- ✦ **GROW** The 1.5m long leaves of this easy-to-grow clumping grass make a statement planted in garden beds or large pots.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Pick the stalks as needed, either cutting or snapping them off at ground level.

#### Marjoram

The oval-shaped leaves of this herb are used for flavouring meat and pasta dishes, and the small white flowers make a great garnish.

- ✦ **GROW** Prune off flowerheads when they appear for a good supply of leaves. Keep the soil moist.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them.





## Oregano

The leaves of this spreading herb work well in Italian dishes and soups and stews. The small purple flowers make a pretty garnish.

✦ **GROW** Cut off spent flowerheads to encourage more leaves. Harvest the leaves now for drying to promote more growth throughout autumn.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them.



## Mint

There are many different types of mint with a variety of flavours, and they are used in Asian dishes, potato salads, sauces and fruit salads.

✦ **GROW** Plant in a damp spot or in a pot and stand in a saucer of water. Mint can be grown in semi-shade.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them.



## Sage

The grey-green leaves of sage team well with duck, poultry, casseroles and soups.

✦ **GROW** It needs well-drained soil and good air movement around it to perform well. Prune back the stems when the flowers have finished.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them.



## Rosemary

Used with lamb and other meats, the leaves are also great sprinkled on roast vegies or added to tomato soup.

✦ **GROW** It reaches about 1.5m high but can be pruned back. There are groundcover types that can be grown in pots. It likes a slightly alkaline soil and is very drought-tolerant.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze, or dry them.



## Thyme

This herb teams well with Italian dishes, soups and stews. Lemon thyme goes well with fish and you can also grow 'Pizza' thyme.

✦ **GROW** After flowering, lightly trim to encourage more leaves and extend its life span. The flowers can be eaten and used as a garnish.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh, freeze in oil, or dry them. ➤



## ANNUALS

Treat annual herbs as you would salad vegetables and give them plenty of food and water.

Before planting, enrich the soil with compost or cow manure, then water regularly and feed fortnightly with a soluble complete plant food to encourage new leaves.



### Basil

There are many different types of basil suited to a variety of cooking styles. Plant 'Lemon' or 'Thai' basil if you like Asian cuisine.

✦ **GROW** Get seedlings in the ground now to enjoy the leaves until the cool weather arrives.

✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.

### Chervil

The parsley-like leaves of this herb have a mild aniseed flavour. Chop and add to dishes just before serving, as heat diminishes the flavour.

✦ **GROW** It likes a semi-shaded spot in moist soil and, if you let one plant go to seed, it will reappear annually. Sow the seeds until early autumn.

✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh.



### Parsley

Grow biennial curly or flat-leaved parsley for use in summer salads, soups and casseroles.

✦ **GROW** Plant seedlings or grow from seed. Parsley is a very greedy herb, so regular feeding is essential to keep it producing leaves.

✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.



PICTURES ISTOCK

Mr. Fothergill's



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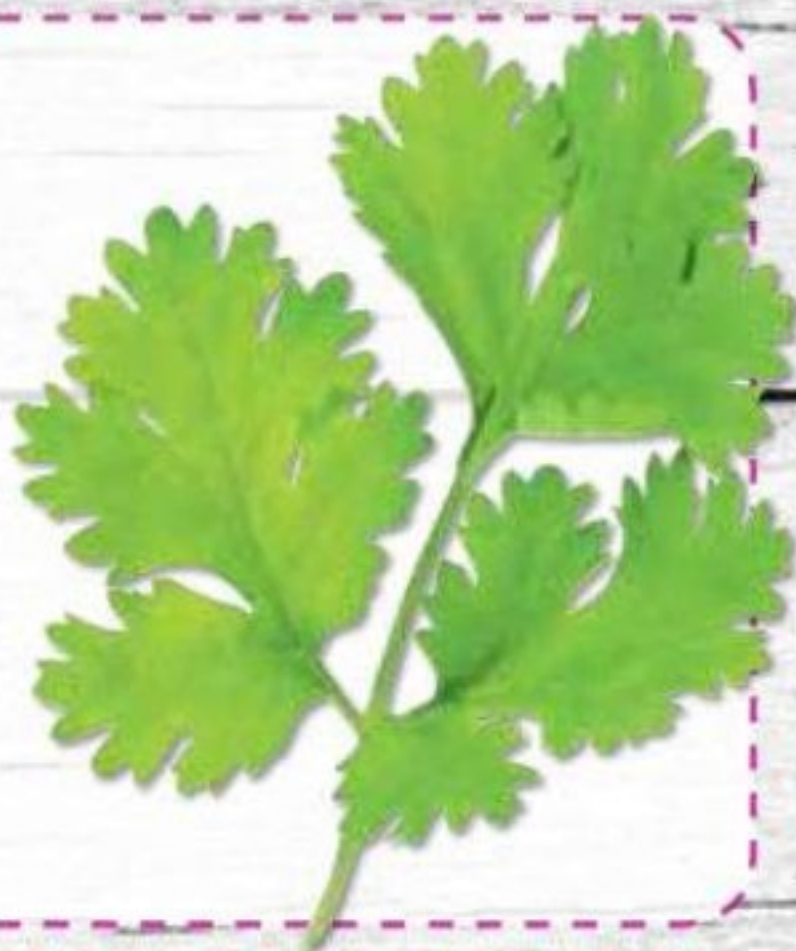
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## Coriander

The leaves, stems, seeds and roots are used in Asian recipes.

- ✦ **GROW** Plant slow-bolting varieties of coriander, as it tends to run to seed in hot weather. In cool weather, it doesn't bolt to seed as quickly.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use fresh or chop and freeze in ice cube trays.



## Dill

This fast-growing herb features distinctive feather-like leaves and yellow flowers that attract beneficial insects into the garden. Its bittersweet tasting leaves marry well with seafood.

- ✦ **GROW** Plant seedlings in a sunny or lightly shaded position.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Use the leaves fresh.



## GROW TIP

Plant herbs near your vegetable garden, as many of the flowers attract bees that will help pollinate your crop.

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## DRYING

Herbs can be dried in dehydrators or air-dried in bunches. They can also be dried in the oven.

✦ **AIR-DRY** Strip the lower leaves from the stems and tie 6-8 stems together with a rubber band or twist ties.

Hang in a dry, well-ventilated spot until the leaves are dry and crumbly. Remove and store in an airtight tin or bottle away from bright light.

Air-drying ensures that the herbs maintain their essential oils.

✦ **OVEN-DRY** Strip the leaves from the stems and spread on an oven tray. Put in the oven at its lowest setting, leaving the door ajar to let moisture escape.

After 30 minutes, turn over and leave for a further 30 minutes or until dry. Remove from the oven and allow to cool. Store in an airtight container.



Dried herbs keep  
their taste for  
about a year

### Drying seeds

Caraway, fennel, coriander and dill seeds can be added to many dishes. To dry, cut the stem when the seed heads turn brown. Tie 3-4 stems together and hang upside down in a paper bag. When dry, separate the seeds and store in airtight containers.

## DIY TIP

When freezing herbs in ice cube trays, you can use homemade stock instead of water to add extra flavour.





## FREEZING

Chop herbs and freeze in ice cube trays or leave whole and put in freezer bags.

✦ **IN WATER** Pack chopped herbs such as basil, coriander, parsley and chives in ice cube trays, add water and freeze.

In winter, flavour soups, risottos, sauces and stews with the herb cubes.

✦ **IN OIL** Pack ice cube trays about two-thirds full of chopped herbs and pour over extra virgin olive oil. You can also use melted, unsalted butter.

This is a great way to store herbs like sage, rosemary, thyme and oregano.

For a casserole or stew, cook onions and garlic in the herb-infused oil so the aromas carry through your dish.

✦ **WHOLE LEAVES** Pick the stems of herbs and wash under cold water, then place in a salad spinner or pat dry with paper towel. Remove the leaves and put in freezer bags.



Transfer the ice cubes to freezer bags to free up your trays



Stir pesto through a bowl of pasta to get dinner on the table in a hurry.



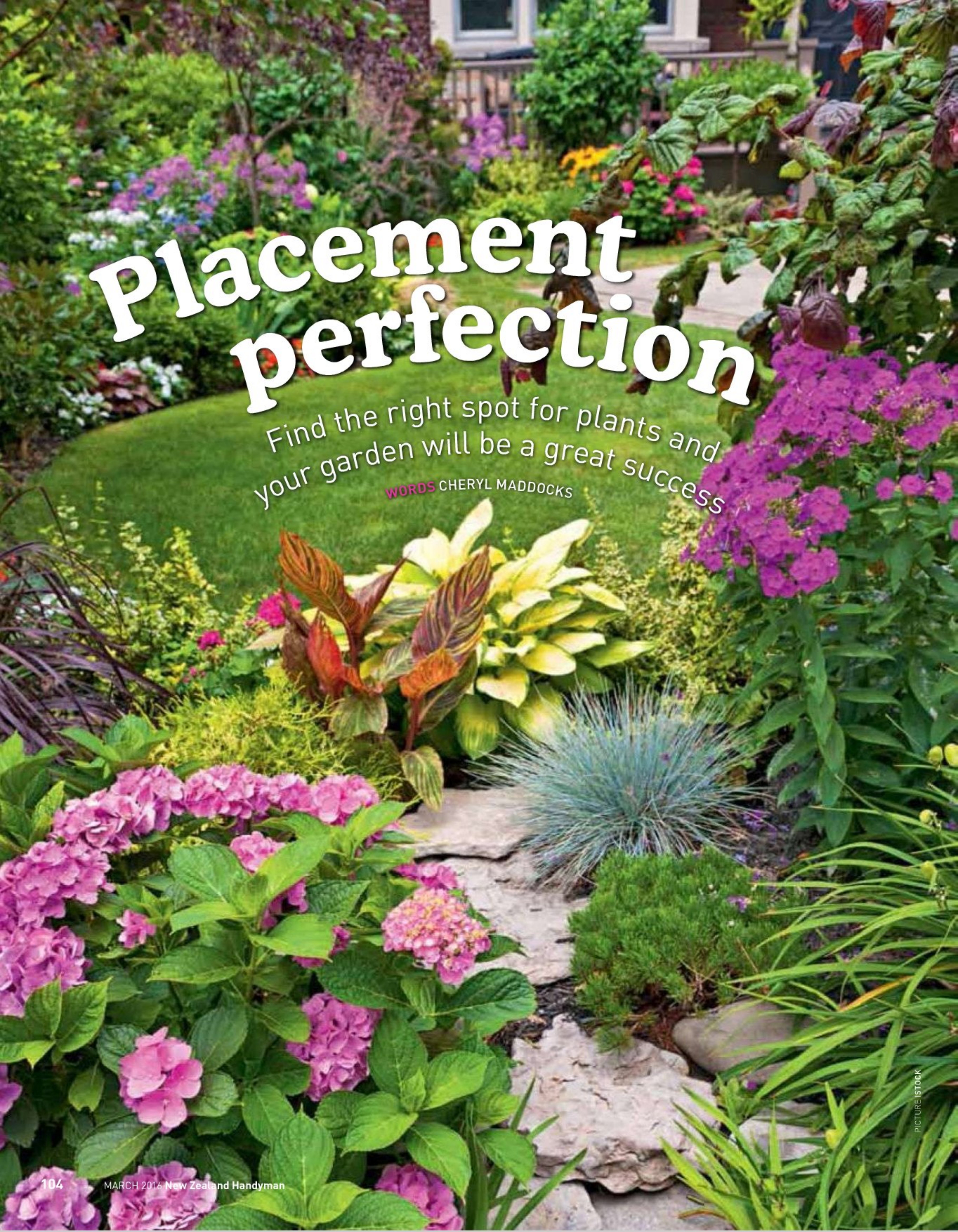
### Make pesto

While basil is traditionally used in pesto, you can make it with other herbs. Try parsley, mint or coriander, or use a mixture.

Put 2 cups herbs, 2 garlic cloves, ¼ cup pine nuts and ¾ cup parmesan in a blender.

With the motor running, gradually add ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil in a steady stream until a smooth mixture forms. Place in an airtight container and refrigerate for up to a week. ✦





# Placement perfection

Find the right spot for plants and  
your garden will be a great success

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



## BUDGET TIP

You can avoid wasting money removing a plant or fixing any damage it may have caused by making the correct choices.

Selecting the right plants for your garden is not always an easy task.

Just take a walk around the block and you'll see all the gardening blunders. Climbers bringing down fences, trees uprooting paths and plants going feral and overtaking the garden.

Plant placement is one of the key steps to having a thriving garden. No matter how intrinsically beautiful, vigorous or colourful it is, a plant must have the climate and soil, light or shade and dryness or moisture that suits it.



Buy from your local nursery as they stock what grows well in your area.

Every plant will be able to reach its full potential and purpose if you pick the ideal position for it



### Do your research

To make sure you have the right plant for the right place, always do your research, rather than just buying it first and then trying to place it.

Don't buy a plant because it's very vigorous and hardy as, in the long run, it may not be suitable for your garden.

When making a choice, climate plays a big part, as a plant that is very well behaved in a cool climate could get out of control in a hot climate. ➤





# CLIMBERS

Versatile, visually impressive and useful, climbing plants are invaluable decorating tools. Used with ingenuity, they can soften dominating walls while taking up limited ground space.

They provide a creative solution as well when used in conjunction with pergolas to provide privacy and shade.

But when choosing a climber, you need to make sure that its growth habit is equal to the intended task and that the plant is suitable for its support.

Bear this in mind, in particular, with plants such as wisteria, potato vine, bougainvillea and creeping fig.

## Wisteria

This deciduous plant looks stunning with its pendulous blooms in spring.

✦ **UPSIDE** Grown over a pergola, it offers summer shade and winter sun.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** A vigorous climber, the support must be strong or it will eventually be pulled down. Prune long canes in spring and late summer to keep it under control. The roots can also invade sewerage pipes.

## Creeping fig

A wonderful climber, creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) is a self-clinger, using aerial roots to attach itself to a wall.

✦ **UPSIDE** The small young leaves lie against the wall, effectively covering it and creating a pretty picture.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** Creeping fig needs to be pruned constantly or it will send out long woody branches with larger, less-appealing leaves.

## Potato vine

The pretty white flowers appear throughout spring and summer.

✦ **UPSIDE** A potato vine is useful for providing quick cover.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** It becomes very invasive and can rapidly overrun everything in its path unless it is kept under control by regular pruning. It has the potential to become an environmental weed.

## Bougainvillea

This favourite looks fantastic for months, covered in colourful bracts.

✦ **UPSIDE** Drought-tolerant, it will thrive on neglect and still put on a fabulous flower show. It's great for covering walls and fences.

✦ **DOWNSIDE** Thorns grow on the stems, so take care where you plant it. Trim long water shoots, which are thorny and produce few flowers.



## HEDGES

A green hedge is ideal for hiding ugly views and providing privacy. But pick carefully or you could end up in an unending battle to control its growth.

One of the worst is the Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*), which has been the cause of many neighbourhood disputes.

But aside from upsetting neighbours by blocking light and views, it is fast growing and needs constant pruning. If left unpruned, it can grow to 20m.

There are lots of well-behaved options, including eugenia, camellia, box-leaved honeysuckle, pittosporum, oleander, silver-leaved *Teucrium fruticans*, photinia, *Viburnum tinus* or blue-flowering plumbago.

Scented choices such as murraya, osmanthus and port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*) will make both you and your neighbours feel good.

## GROW TIP

Think carefully before planting evergreen trees, as they can permanently block your neighbours' and your own light.

Citrus

TREES

*Viburnum tinus*

Not only do they provide shade, wind protection, clean air and a habitat for wildlife, trees beautify the landscape.

As with plants, they need to be planted in a spot and climate that suits them or they may not cope with the extremes of moisture or temperature and will never look healthy.

Before buying, research the height, width and growth habits of a tree at maturity, as that small stick-like plant you took home from the nursery could reach an enormous height.

Trees, such as jacaranda, casuarina poplar, liquid amber and fig, can also create problems if planted too close to foundations or over sewerage pipes.

Varieties such as citrus, frangipani, flowering plum, crepe myrtle and olive are ideal for a small yard. 🌳



# STARTING FROM SCRATCH

After lots of trial and error, a lush vegie and herb garden emerged from a patch of scrubby lawn

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Faced with a bare patch of land, it was determination and a can-do attitude that saw Amelia van Zyl create an abundant vegetable garden, one that feeds her family of four and provides extra for her neighbours.

With no real gardening experience, Amelia read countless books and talked to friends and professionals.

'It was so awful to look at, it really motivated me to do something with it, and quickly,' says Amelia.

'I look back now and see my lack of experience as a blessing, as I wasn't fearful of messing anything up. This is the garden that trial, error and a big dose of good luck built.' ➤



**LEFT** Raised levels and beds provide a vegie garden with structure.

**RIGHT** Team tomatoes and basil for a classic culinary combination.





## TIDY TIP

To make sure pipes are concealed from view, plan your irrigation before you build any walls or start planting.



Silverbeet can be sown all year in most areas and is easy to grow.



## Time to harvest

Variety was the cornerstone of Amelia's plan for her vegetable garden, and all the available space has been used for raised beds, large planters and various trellis and arbour structures.

'I had a basic plan and it was drawn to scale on graph paper. But when it came to it, it didn't work well, so I had to change a few elements. I've found that being willing to adapt is a crucial factor in gardening,' she says.

'Spring is when most vegetables are ready to be harvested. Once ready to be picked, till the soil and add more nutrients, ready for the next crop. If a particular variety has flourished in that spot, plant it again,' says Amelia.

'And don't be afraid to cut back your herbs at the end of the season or if they're overcrowding other plants, as they will sprout much better.

'You can use the trimmings to flavour your meals or make a fragrant posy for indoors,' she says.



It's hard to beat picking a basket of vegies and herbs from your own garden.



Trellises can be made from waste materials.



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### Sow it and see

The best vegetable gardens are busy and productive, and this doesn't require precision planning.

Landscape gardener Jarret Clynick advises a sow-it-and-see approach for the best long-term results.

'If you're starting from scratch, as Amelia was, first get your expectations in check. Don't imagine you will have a bountiful vegetable garden within the first few seasons,' says Jarret.

'Choose three or four things you really want and plant multiple packs of seeds. This allows you to see what will thrive and what won't.

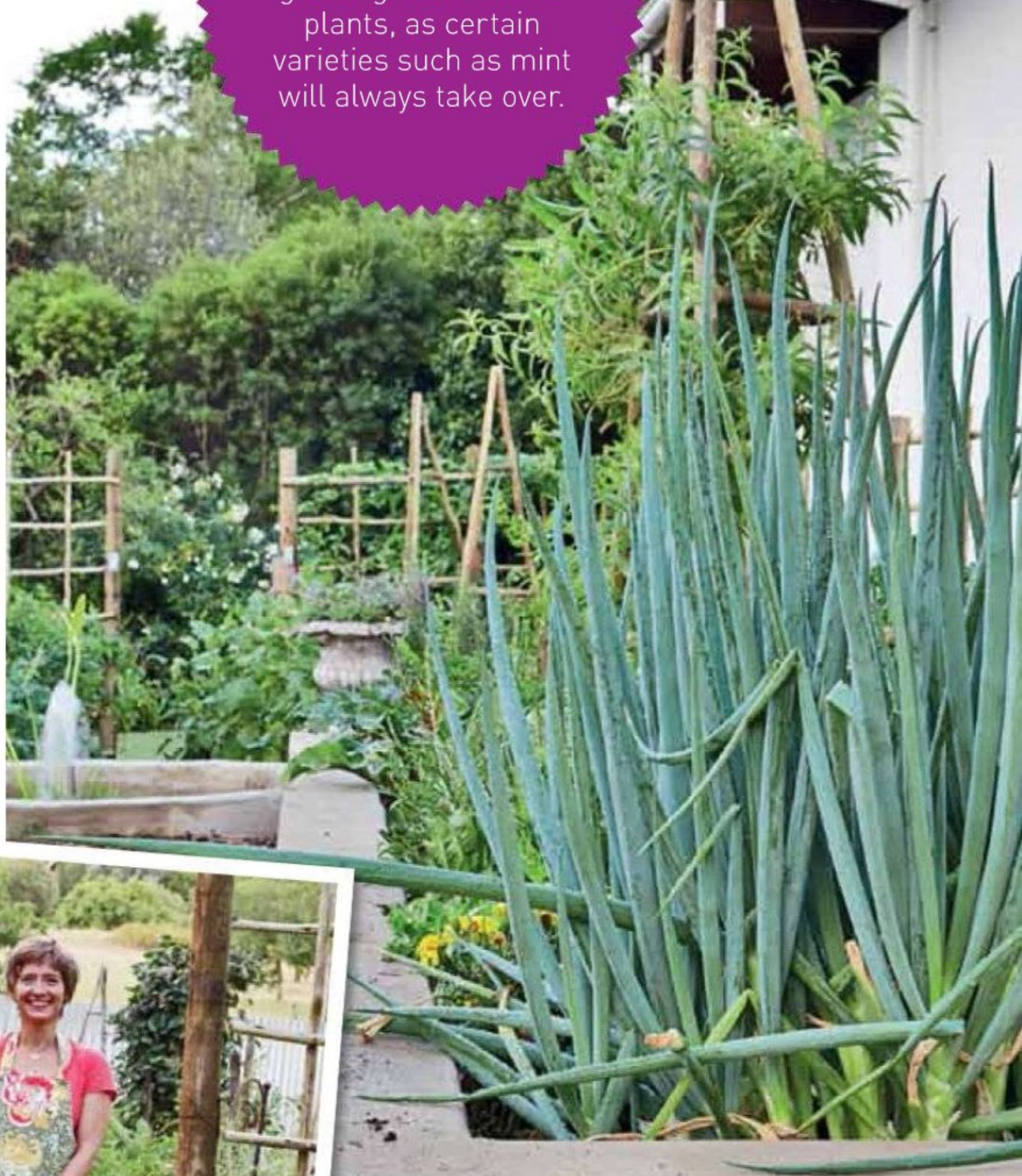
'Build on your food garden layer by layer. If you stick with it, you will be rewarded with abundance,' he says. 🍷



Maximise your yields and variety of plants by building up with simple trellis structures

### GROW TIP

Take into account the growing habits of the plants, as certain varieties such as mint will always take over.



Amelia uses her vegetables and herbs daily and shares the excess with friends.

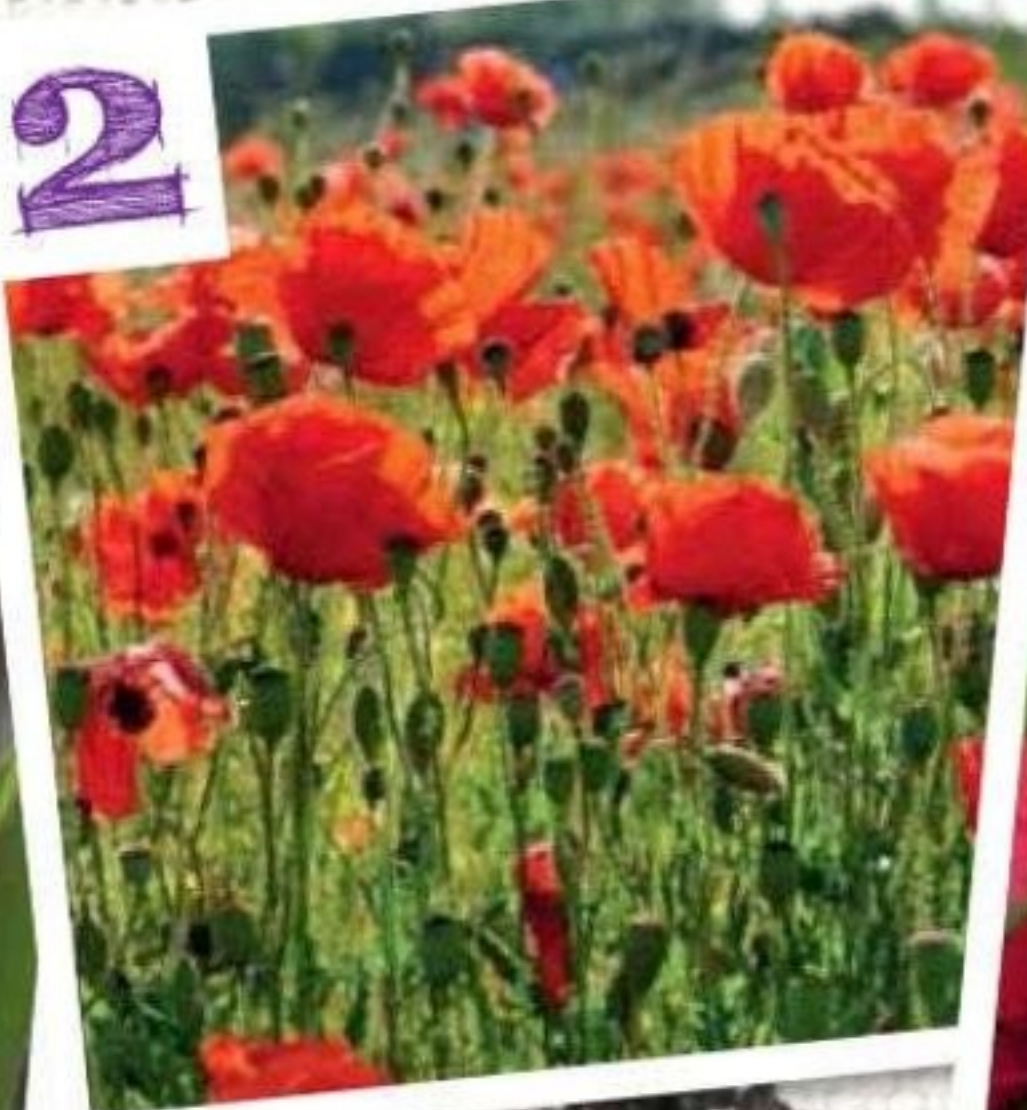
Add dimension and interest by planting tall varieties with root vegies and climbers.



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POP QUIZ!

# Name that *flower*

Test your knowledge of plants by trying to identify these garden favourites. You'll find the answers at the bottom of the page.

8



7



6





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