



Bird botherer

Protect strawberries and other crops with
Mark Rayner's novel bird scarer.

You will need

- Old broom handle or piece of thick dowel
- Two pieces of 25mm x 50mm treated battening cut to 750mm and 250mm
- Chisel, saw and hammer
- Pencil
- Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Time Out
- Resene Quick Dry
- Large nail and nail punch
- 40mm galvanised nails
- Exterior PVA glue
- Garden twine
- Paintbrush
- Large stainless steel spoons (x6)
- Tin cans (x4)
- Drill with 4mm drill bit
- Galvanised staples

THE top section of this nifty bird-scarer spins in the wind, while the hanging spoons and cans make plenty of noise.

Top tip: When fixing the spoons to the revolving top, make sure the bowls of each spoon face in opposite directions to catch the wind.



1 Mark a 50mm strip across the broom handle and make a series of parallel cuts in this strip at a depth of about 10mm, as shown. Carefully chisel out the sections of timber between these.



2 Attach the larger piece of battening across the broom handle, fitting it into the cut out section, as shown. Fix with two nails and PVA glue.



3 Cut two 60mm slots down either end of the other piece of battening, as shown, and drill a 4mm hole in the centre.



4 Slide two of the spoons into each of the slots and apply a generous amount of PVA glue to fix. Bind together tightly with garden twine, as shown, fixing the ends with a generous amount of PVA glue. Allow the glue to dry.



5 Apply one coat of Resene Quick Dry to the wooden cross piece and the smaller wooden top piece, as shown. Leave to dry for two hours.



6 Punch a hole in each can's base and thread a knotted piece of twine through it. Tie a piece of twine to each remaining spoon's handle, using a blob of PVA around the knotted twine to keep it in place.



7 Paint the wooden crosspiece and the smaller wooden top-piece with two coats of Resene Time Out, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



8 When the glue is dry, attach the spoons and cans to the crosspiece, as shown, using the staples. Tie off the twine and secure it with a big blob of glue. Fix a nail in the broom handle's top. Place the turning, top section in place.