

DIY

# PLANTER BENCH

It's easy to utilise the edge of an existing low raised bed or border and incorporate this stylish planter bench.

WORDS & PHOTOS MARK RAYNER



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



the paint the professionals use



## You will need

- 50mm exterior screws
- 100mm exterior screws
  - Existing low raised bed or border (ours was also made from tongue and groove landscaping timber)
- Exterior PVA glue
  - Hammer
  - Paint stirrer
  - Paintbrush
  - Pencil
- Resene Woodsman wood oil stain tinted to Resene Grey Green
  - Saw
  - Screwdriver
  - Spirit level
  - Tape measure
- Tongue and groove landscaping timber cut to the following dimensions:
  - 6 x 650mm
  - 8 x 500mm
  - 2 x 1260mm
- Turps for cleaning brush
- 2 x 50mm x 50mm treated timber cut to 450mm
- Trellis capping cut to the following lengths:
  - 4 x 660mm
  - 4 x 600mm
  - 2 x 1260
- Spade for levelling ground
- Wood chisel



**Top tip**  
If you don't have a suitable low raised bed or border simply cut an additional two 650mm lengths of landscaping timber to complete the back of each planter box.



the paint the professionals use

For more on paints and stains phone 0800 RESENE (0800 737 363) or visit your Resene ColorShop or [www.resene.co.nz](http://www.resene.co.nz)

### STEP ONE

Measure, mark and cut the landscaping timber to the dimensions listed above.

### STEP TWO

Assemble four of the 650mm pieces and four of the 500mm pieces to form the top layer of the planter boxes, as shown, fixing at each corner with 100mm screws.

### STEP THREE

Turn these over and attach the remaining 650mm and 500mm lengths to complete the front and sides of the planter box, fixing together using PVA glue and 100mm screws. Allow glue to dry.

### STEP FOUR

Ensure the existing low raised border is level using the spirit level.

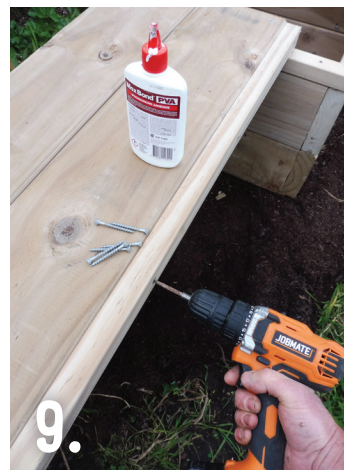
### STEP FIVE

Level the earth in front of the low raised border and place the first planter box in position, ensuring the back 'groove' rests on the 'tongue' of the low raised border. Use a spirit level to ensure the planter box is level on all sides and then fix to the low raised border with 100mm screws. Repeat with the second planter box positioning it approximately 1200mm away from the first.





**Watch out**  
Take care when applying the PVA glue in the project and avoid any visible glue as this will prevent the wood stain from penetrating the wood.



**Handy hint**  
Mulching the planter boxes as we did (with red bark chips) will help to retain moisture in the soil and deter weed growth.



**To finish**  
Fill the planter boxes with good quality potting mix and plant up with your favourite vegetables, herbs or flowers – we chose *Lavandula stoechas* 'Avonview'.

**STEP SIX**

Measure, mark and cut the trellis capping to the lengths listed above. Mitre the corners of the 600mm and 660mm lengths so that they will form two rectangular frames.

**STEP SEVEN**

Attach the trellis capping to the top of both planter boxes using PVA glue and 50mm screws. (Note: you will need to chisel off a little of the 'tongue' at each corner to fit the capping neatly)

**STEP EIGHT**

Attach the two 1260mm lengths of tongue and groove landscaping timber between the two planters to form the bench seat, as shown, fixing with PVA glue and 100mm screws. Ensure the 'tongue' edge is at the front.

**STEP NINE**

Run a line of PVA glue along the 'tongue' edge of the bench seat and fix one 1260mm length of fence capping into position using 50mm screws. Fix the second 1260mm length along the back edge of the bench seat using 100mm screws.

**STEP TEN**

Attach the two remaining 450mm lengths of timber to either end of the bench seat. Again, fix with PVA glue and 100mm screws.

**STEP ELEVEN**

Carefully stir the Resene Woodsman tinted to Resene Grey Green.

**STEP TWELVE**

Apply two coats of Resene Woodsman tinted to Resene Grey Green to the entire planter bench allowing 24 hours for each coat to dry. Clean brush in turps.