

Tricks with Trompe L'oeil

Create the illusion of space with this faux, mirrored gate.

You will need:

- 12mm tanalised plywood: 1100mm x 1600mm (base) 650mm x 2000mm (gate)
- 10mm x 5mm tanalised pine: 2 lengths at 1500mm 1 length at 1300mm
- 3 x mirror panels 300mm x 900mm
- Exterior construction glue
- Clear silicone sealer (exterior)

- 1 litre Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat
- 1 litre Resene Lumbersider in Resene Cutty Sark
- 2 x Resene Lumbersider testpots in Resene English Holly
- 1 x Resene Lumbersider testpot in Resene Nero
- Galvanised nails
- Paint brushes
- Skilsaw
- Hammer

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1 PRIME the lengths of tanalised pine with Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat.



2 PRIME both sheets of plywood with Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat.



3 ATTACH the lengths of pine to the top and side edges of the base sheet of plywood with glue and galvanised nails. Paint with two coats of Resene Cutty Sark.



4 USING the skilsaw, cut the main gate shape as shown with horizontal railings cut from the off-cuts of plywood. Prime the edges with Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat.



5 GLUE the mirror panels to the plywood base as shown, sealing around the edges with a bead of silicone sealer. Paint the false gate with two coats of Resene Cutty Sark. Allow to dry overnight.



6 Paint horizontal railings of the false gate with Resene English Holly and attach the gate to the plywood base with galvanised nails. Using Resene English Holly, paint vertical lines to suggest palings.



7 FIX gate in final position with large galvanised nails. Paint hinges on the gate with Resene Nero. Dry brush Resene English Holly and Resene Cutty Sark to suggest woodgrain and highlights.



8 ATTACH a bent nail to form a latch. Paint with Resene Nero.