

Multi purpose wooden box - Carel Ballack

My late grandfather was an electrician by trade and built wooden boxes that he used to carry tools and bits wherever he needed to work. In 195 he built three boxes which has stood the test of time and is still being used today.

We were looking for a solution to a herb garden, and found these boxes very helpful as they were deep enough to plant herbs.

They can also be used in the:

- garage for nuts and bolts,
- kids rooms for small toys,
- kitchen for herbs and spices,

This is a quick & easy, cost effective and multipurpose project that could still be used by generations to come as is the case with the original boxes. If you were planning to use the box outside it would be best to use solid wood, the harder the better. It is obvious that you would be able to paint it the colour of your choice and that would also depend on where you are planning to use the box.

I used a piece of off-cut timber so the project was very cost effective apart from the cost of glue and screws. Depending on the timber being used; the project cost could vary from R80 to R280. I used a total of 20 screws and about 30ml of wood glue.

Cutting list:

Handle bar	450mm X 60mm (1 Piece)
End Panel	190mm X 280mm (2 Pieces)
Side panel	480mm X 95mm (2 Pieces)
Floor	450mm X 190mm (1 Piece)

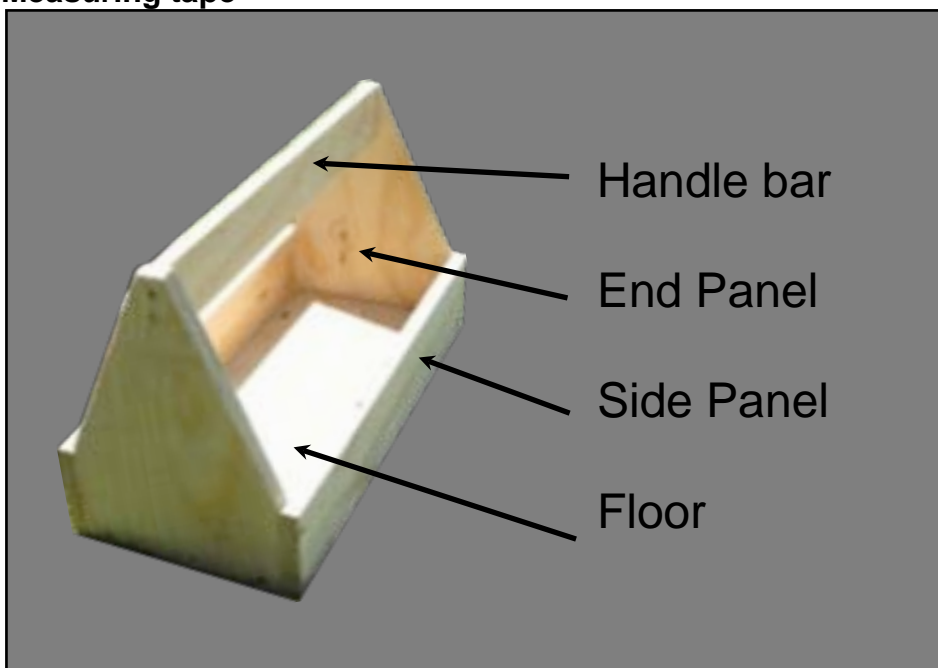
Tools required:

Drill: You need to ensure that the drill has an electronic switch. This allows the speed the drill is turning at; to vary in relation to how deep the switch on the drill is pressed. In other words, if you squeeze the trigger/switch hard the drill will spin fast, as you slowly release your grip, the drill speed will gradually decrease and vice versa. This will allow for accurately and safely turning screws with your drill.

Hand saw or jig saw: Required for cutting the end panels at an angle.

Pen or pencil

Measuring tape

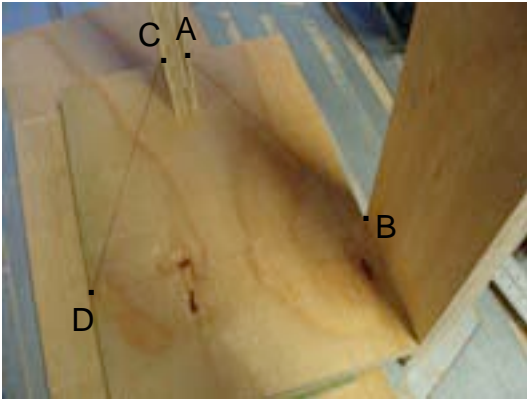


Building Process:

Take the sizes of the timber to your timber supplier and have the wood cut to size.



Lay down the end panel, allow the handle bar to stand in the centre top of the panel as indicated in the photo. Place the side panel next to the end panel as indicated. Use your pen/pencil and make a mark (A) next to the handle bar and mark (B) above the side panel. Do the same on the other side with C & D. Connect the dots. Now cut line A-B and C-D.



Your end panels are complete. Now apply glue to the bottom end of the end panel as indicated. Next; fit the the floor and assemble with some screws.



Once both end panels have been fitted, fit the handle bar and screw together applying a little bit of glue to each end.



Attach the side panels and there it is. It can now be sanded, painted or decorated the way you want it.



Below is a photo of the new(2011) and the old(1951) wooden box, ready to be put to work in and around your home.





In the kitchen as a spice container.....



For the kids as a toy storage container.....



For tools and bits.....



or finally;.... as a herb container / grower.....Minteeee!



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