

EUREKA EASY DIY PROJECT – Piet Steenkamp

The item I made is a **DOUBLE NIGHT STAND**.

I used solid pine shelving and PAR (planed all round) which are readily available from most hardware stores. The cutting is so easy that it was not necessary to ask the store to cut.

1. The following is my shopping list:

Pine Shelving: 1 of 20x305x1800

Pine PAR: 2 of 21x44x3600

(the most economic lengths available at my hardware shop)

Eureka square drive cut screws: 3,5X40mm (I already had a packet of 500)

Wood glue (I use Pattex no more nails)

Stain: (I used imbuia obtained from Mistry's. Some makes of stain tend to lift the wood fibres more than others and you have to sand the very rough wood again, taking off some stain.)

Varnish: (I used Nova 17 matt. It dries quickly and the end product is a nice eggshell finish rather than a flat matt.

Brass hooks (optional)

2. Tools needed:

A good handsaw or if you have it, a mitre saw and/or a Black & Decker Scorpion.

Measuring tape, square and pencil.

One or two G clamps or "hand" clamps.

Hand or electric screw driver with an S1S2 square bit

Electric sander or sanding block and sandpaper.

3. Cutting list:

I DIM (did it myself) I am sure you can DIY.

3.1 Cut 2 rectangles from the shelving : 20x305x450

(the off-cut can later be used for another project)

3.2 Cut both lengthwise 140mm from the top.

You should have two rectangles of 20x140x450 and two of 20x165x450 (the second pair could be less than 165 depending on the thickness of your saw blade and the accuracy of the product supplied. However, this measurement is not crucial).

3.3 Measure 25mm from the bottom at the sides of the rectangles and draw lines to the middle at the top of the rectangles. Cut the corners of the rectangles according to the lines. You should end up with 4 triangular pieces, resembling coat hangers. The smaller ones will form 2 coat hangers at the top of the stand while the other 2 will form the feet. (See photograph P1010878)

3.4 Cut the following lengths out of the PAR:

2 of 1000 (uprights)

6 of 450 (4 bottom and 2 middle horizontals)

2 of 600 (top horizontals)

1 of 410 (bottom of the tray formed by top horizontals)

4. Assembly:

- 4.1 Glue and screw the 2 uprights to the 2 feet, ensuring that they are in the middle and square on. (Be careful that the screws do not protrude right through)



- 4.2 Glue and screw the bottom and middle horizontals in place. The 2 bottom ones go right at the bottom about 25mm from the “toes” of the feet. The next 2 go in the corners against the uprights and the feet, in line with, or slightly below the top of the downwards line of the feet.



- 4.3 The 2 middle ones go against the uprights, 700mm from the floor.
- 4.4 Glue and screw the 2 of 600mm horizontals against the uprights, ensuring that their tops are in line with the tops of the uprights and that the overhang on either side is equal (should be 75mm).
- 4.5 Glue and screw the 410mm bottom in place to form a tray at the top.
- 4.6 Glue and screw the 2 coat hangers in place, ensuring that they are centered and the bottoms aligned with the 2 top horizontals.



(you may drop them by about 40mm if you so wish. I just found it simpler to align them with the horizontals)

The cutting and assembly took me about 4 hours including a coffee break.

The cost of the product, excluding the off-cut shelving, stain, varnish and hooks, came to about R120-00. Total cost of the finished product is about R250-00



5. Finishing

- 5.1 Ensure that the stand does not wobble on it's feet. This sometimes happen if wood warps or if something went wrong during assembly. If not too skew, you can usually correct it by "bending" it the other way and leaving it under weight or clamps overnight (An easy way to create weights is by filling cans with water – 1 litre =± 1kg).
- 5.2 All but the first screws holding the 2 uprights in place must be screwed into the wood so that the screwheads can be covered with wood filler. (For hard wood one will have to use a countersink bit) Cover the screwheads with wood filler of the colour that your end product is going to be stained.
- 5.3 When dry, sand the entire item. You can use an electric sander where possible or a sanding block. I prefer using 100 grit then 180 and ending with 220.

- 5.4 Wipe off all dust with a cloth dampened with turpentine (never water)
- 5.5. If you so choose, apply stain according to the manufacturers instructions.
(I prefer spray if possible)
- 5.6 Apply varnish or sealer of your choice according to the manufacturer's instructions.
(As mentioned, I prefer Nova 17 matt, sprayed on)
- 5.7 If you so wish, attach hooks of your choice to the outer sides of the uprights and/or to the top horizontals. You can also line the bottom of the tray with felt.



6. Explanation of functionality

- 6.1 I designed the stand to be something different from the single ones available in shops.
- 6.2 The construction and measurements were planned to ensure simplicity and economical use of available sizes of wood.
- 6.3 Cutting was also made easy by not having too many many different lengths or intricate shapes. One could shape the hangers and feet with curves, but then you would need a jig saw and more work.
- 6.4 I believe the design makes for a durable item which is highly functional, modern and esthetically pleasing. (Funky and cool?)
- 6.5 The stand is designed to hold two or more pairs of shoes, two or more pairs of pants, two or more jackets/shirts, miscellaneous items such as jewelry, cellphones etc in the tray and anything that you may want to hang on the hooks.
- 6.6 If not in use the stand can also be stowed away in an empty wardrobe, which makes it ideal for a guest room.