



design a garden room

See page 25 for instructions on how to transform plain concrete pots using an antique copper finish.

Sponsored by **Pretoria Treated Timbers** and using the **Easy-Clip** decking system, we recently completed a deck project that anyone can easily and affordably tackle. You will find step-by-step instructions for building your own deck in the ***** issue of **The Gardener** magazine, and we will also feature the project in the January issue of Home-Dzine Online.

As part of the deck project we decided that we not only wanted a deck, but an entertainment area. In this article we show you step-by-step how to build your own outdoor leisure seating and make your own accessories from leftovers and a few bought items.

Most of the accessories featured above are made using offcuts and leftovers from the deck project, plus a few items that were lying around and just needed a quick makeover.

For step-by-step instructions on building the deck and structure, remember to view the January issue of **Home-Dzine Online**.

Suppliers:

Foam - www.foamfactory.co.za

Blinds - www.decorlattice.co.za

Deck - www.timberstructure.co.za

Easy clip - www.easyclip.co.za

Roofing - www.modek.co.za

Plants & decor - www.gardenshop.co.za

You will need:

260 x 45 x 45mm pine - front legs
800 x 45 x 45mm pine - back legs
565 x 100 x 22mm pine - sides
450 x 100 x 22mm pine - seat slats
490 x 45 x 45mm pine - back slats
400 x 100 x 22mm pine - front and back
20 x 20mm pine - battens/seat supports
Assorted cut screws
Bosch multi sander with 120- and 180-grit sanding pads
Bosch drill/driver plus assorted screw & drill bits and countersink
Woodoc 30 wood sealer and Imbuia stain concentrate
Paintbrush
Woodoc steelwool
Cloths
6 x 500 x 600 x 250mm high density foam
(www.foamfactory.co.za)
6 x 50 x 50cm cushion inners
3 x 25 x 25cm cushions inners
Sewing machine and sewing accessories
Waterproof fabric - we used fabric lining
Fabric for cushions

Here's how:



1. Sand all the wood with 180-grit sandpaper before assembly.
2. At the top of each back leg sand off the corners and smooth to a rounded corner - see image left.



3. At the base of all the legs sand at a 45-degree angle and then smooth for a nice finish - see image left.
4. Round off all the other square edges on all timber.

DIY Tip:

Don't skimp on the sanding process. The preparation that you put in will provide a smooth finish.

5. Begin assembling the seat frame by joining the sides and legs together using battens - see images right. Drill 3mm pilot holes and countersink for all screws, and when screwing from top and sides, remember to stagger the placement of the screws.
6. The seat support battens are fitted to the seat frame sides at a depth of 22mm from the top so that the seat slats will sit flush and level with the top of the seat frame - see image right.



- The seat slats are screwed to the seat support batten - don't forget to drill pilot holes and countersink.
- Attach the back slats to the back legs, again remembering to drill pilot holes and countersink.

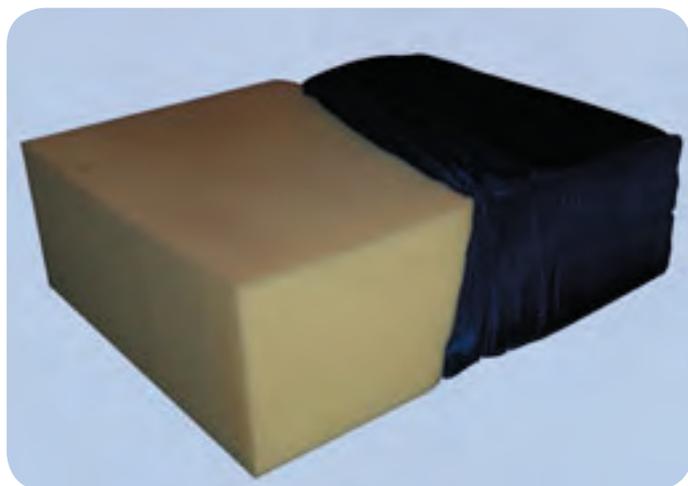
Your chairs are now assembled and ready for finishing. For this project we used Woodoc 30 Exterior Polywax Sealer and added 2 bottles of Imbuia stain concentrate.

- Use a paintbrush to apply the sealer liberally over the chairs, adding extra to the ends of the wood and particularly the bottom of the legs. Allow to dry.
- Use Woodoc steelwool to rub down the chairs and remove any surface residue and apply a second coat. Allow to dry.
- Wipe down with Woodoc steel wool and apply the final coat.



DIY Tip:

It is essential to apply 3 coats of sealer for proper protection. The first coat is absorbed into the wood to nourish, the second coat bonds with the first coat and starts to build up a protective layer, and the third and final coat completes the protection.



Making the cushions

Just to let you know that I am awful when it comes to sewing, so I always look for the easiest way to do my sewing projects - if you haven't already noticed! To cover the foam squares I wrapped the fabric around, cut out the shape, pinned it all together and then sewed it up

- leaving one end open to insert the foam. To give the cover a nice tight fit, I sewed along all the seams on the outside to create a double seam. The open end was sewn closed by hand sewing.



ABOVE: I used lining fabric for the seat, which only cost R9.00/metre. Very similar to parachute fabric, it is easy to wipe clean (I have three dogs!), very tough and dries quickly.