

# Rules For Do-It-Yourselfers

Almost any built-in the-do-it-yourselfer will tackle is made up of a number of fairly simple boxes all put together. Thus, the first step in mastering the art of home carpentry is learning how to make a simple wooden box. Skil Corporation, Manufacturers of Power Tools, provides some easy step-by-step directions.

The basic box consists of

four pieces of the same width. Strips of plywood may be cut to the right width, or solid wood boards purchased that are wide enough for the box you want to build. Cut the side pieces (A) to a length equal to the overall height of the box. Top and bottom pieces (B) are equal to the length of the box, less twice the material thickness. For instance, in a box 24

inches long, made from 3/4-inch plywood, piece B would be 24 inches less 1 1/2 inches, or 22 1/2 inches long.

2. To give the box strength, nail on a back, usually of a thinner material, like 1/2-inch plywood or 1/4-inch hardboard.

3. Cut this back piece 1/2-inch less than the overall height of the box and 1/2-inch less than the overall width of the box. This way, when you nail it on, it will be about 1/4-inch from the edges of the box and much less noticeable.

4. The top piece (B) can be overlapped so the joint won't show as much.

5. An alternative is to set the bottom piece (B) up a little from the bottom edges of the side pieces (A) to provide toe room or to act as a shelf.

6. When a shelf is installed, be sure to get the bottom piece square, at right angles to the edge of the side piece. A convenient tool, the combination square, will help mark the position of piece B on side piece A. Make corresponding marks on both sides of piece A so

you'll know where to start your nails.

7. Now that you have your basic box, you can put hinged doors on it.

8. For a neater job, cut mortises in the edges of the doors to inset the hinges. Trace around the hinge, then use a wood chisel to cut the mortise. Hold the chisel vertical and outline the area with light hammer taps. Now, make a series of light slanting cuts very close together inside the outlined area to clean out the excess wood to a depth equal to the thickness of both leaves of the hinge.

9. If the doors don't fit exactly right, use a block plane to take a little wood off the door edges until they have enough clearance. If your plane is sharp, you won't have to remove the door. Where the doors meet, plane off a slight level so they'll clear each other as they open and close.

10. Sliding doors may be installed instead of hinged doors.

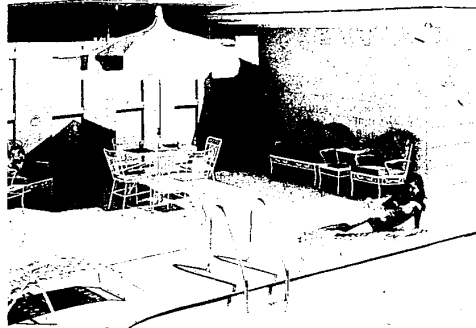
11. Buy a metal or plastic sliding door track, cut it to length, and fasten it in with brads or small screws. Set the

track back a bit from the edges of the box.

12. Sliding doors should be made from 1/2-inch material—hardboard, plywood, or plastic. Cut them about 1/2-inch longer than half the box opening width and about 1/2-inch wider than the distance between the two tracks. Slip a door into the inside upper track, then swing it into the inside bottom track. Do the same for the outside door. Finger holes should be drilled in both doors for opening and closing.

13 and 14. If you make your box from plywood, cover up the edges that show. Use wood edging tape or thin strips of wood, like screen bead molding. The edging tape is just a paper-thin strip of wood glued on with contact cement. Coat the strips and the plywood edge with cement, then let both dry for half an hour. Stick on the strip, being sure to get it positioned right the first time.

The cement sticks too well to permit repositioning. Screen bead molding can be glued and nailed on. Set the nail heads and fill over them with wood putty. If the molding is too wide, plane it off.



UNUSUAL FENCE provides both safety and privacy around home swimming pool. Built by amateur carpenters of alternating panels of textured, moisture-resistant Masonite Ruf-X-90 Grooved Siding on two sides of the framework, fence features a 3-inch overlap which permits circulation of air. One of the 2x7-foot panels is hinged to serve as a door.

## Perimeter Fence Gives Privacy

An attractive, functional fence is needed around every backyard swimming pool for safety and privacy. Design and materials should be sturdy, too, for this busy area. A suburban homeowner and a neighbor built a perimeter fence of unusual design to provide both requirements.

Planning the project was the first step. All materials were ordered and tools assembled, including the rental of the post digger. With materials on hand and a definite plan to follow,

the two men completed the project in two weekends.

At intervals of 10 feet, post holes were dug for a 4 x 4-inch posts 10 feet long.

Cross-pieces of 2 x 4-inch lumber then were nailed to the posts at the center and 8 inches from the top and bottom of the fence. The post installations and framework were completed in one weekend, the installation of panels in another.

AS SHOWN IN the illustration 2 x 7-foot panels of Masonite Ruf-X-90 Grooved Siding, a hardboard with a textured surface, were used alternately on the front and back of the framework. A three-inch overlap permits the circulation of air through the fence but assures complete privacy. The plan arranged for the posts to fall behind the panels facing the pool. One of the

panels was hinged, however, to form a gate.

A space of about 2 inches at the bottom of the fence allows for drainage and an easy outlet for sweepings.

The texture of 4 x 3-foot hardboard panels were trimmed to size with a power saw. Different colors were used on the alternating Ruf-X-90 panels facing the pool—bittersweet and an off-white with a slight yellowish cast. The textured sides of the panels face the pool. The backs, visible from the outside, were all painted bittersweet orange.

In addition to its function as a fence, the perimeter barrier serves as an interesting backdrop for patio furniture. Several towel rings were installed on the panels for convenience of bathers.

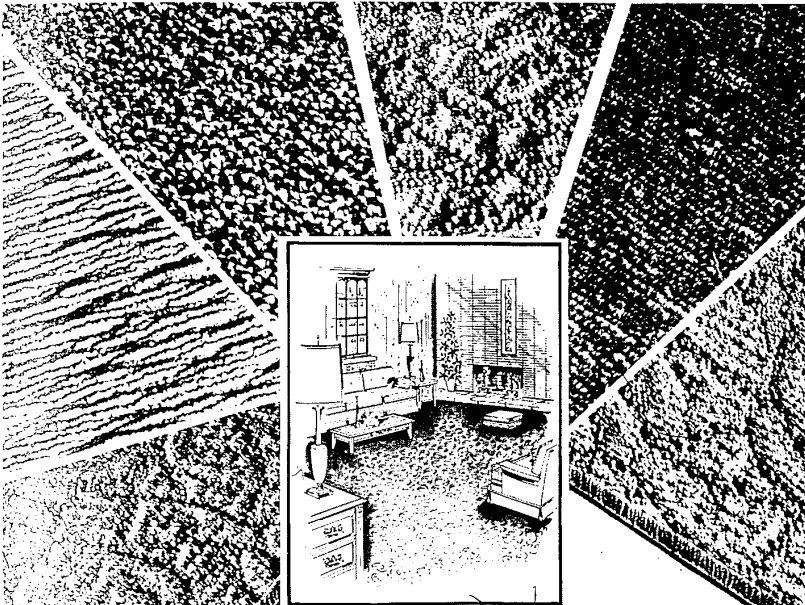
Original concept for the fence came from the Masonite Home Service Bureau.

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