



Wheelbarrow Planter DIY

If you can't bear to throw away odds and ends of old timber, try turning them into a rustic wheelbarrow planter like this one!



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1

The first step is to make up the wheel for the wheelbarrow. Cut six pieces of paling, each 40cm long. Lay three pieces together on your bench, then lay the remaining three on top, running at right angles to the ones on the bottom. Glue and nail together as shown in Diagram 1. Leave these to dry for 24 hours, then draw a circle (35cm diameter) on the surface of this block and cut out the wheel with a jigsaw. Then, using a 1-inch spade bit, drill a hole through the middle of the wheel for an axle.

2

Next, it's time to make up the frame that will support the tray. Cut two fence rails, each 130cm long, for the side supports/handles and round off the front end of each rail with the jigsaw and a sander or hand plane. Lay these two rails on the bench with the wheel positioned between them (as in Diagram 2). Position the back cross-rail 30cm from the ends of the handles, and put the front cross-rail 38cm from the wheel end. Make sure you've left a gap of about 5cm between the main rails at the wheel end.

3

Now you can fix the rear cross-rail. Mark and chisel out a recess in each of the main side rails for the back rail to sit in. Then glue and nail the back cross-rail into position. This will set the angle for the frame. The front brace simply sits on top of the rails, so you won't need to chisel out recesses for it. Just glue and nail it on top of the side rails.

4

Now that your main frame has been put together, you can attach the wheel. Measure 15cm in from the rounded end and cut a 2.5cm square notch out of the underside of each main rail. This forms the hole where you will fit the axle.

5

With your frame and wheel joined together, you can attach the legs in preparation for the tray. Fix the legs to the rails by screwing in from the sides and the top. Position one leg just forward of the back cross-rail.

6

Now you can make up the tray. All the tray sides will be angled at 25 degrees. The measurements and cutting of the palings for the tray will vary according to the width of your palings. As a guide, cut the eight palings for the tray floor

to 56cm in length and make the two floor supports 60cm long. Glue and nail the palings for the tray floor to the supports.

7

Now that the bottom of the box is done, you can put together your front and back panels. Cut four palings, each 80cm long, and join two pieces for each panel by gluing and nailing a 15cm length of paling toward the ends of each pair as braces. See Diagram 3. Mark out 56cm across the base.

8

Plane the front and back edges of the tray base to an angle of about 25 degrees. Now you need to transfer the same angles (25 degrees) to the bottom edges of the completed front and back panels, then glue and nail the panels to the base.

9

Now that your front and back panels are in place, you can attach the sides. Measure the length required for the side panels and repeat step 8 to make up the side panels. Fit them in exactly the same way.

10

We added a couple of braces to the outside of each panel for strength.

11

Now the tray has to be screwed into the rails. We also put a couple of draining holes at the front. Pre-drill, glue and screw the tray into position, and your wheelbarrow should be complete. Even if you had to buy the nails, screws and glue, it should cost you no more than \$20. You can make your wheelbarrow from any hardwood timber that weathers well.

DIAGRAM 1 :

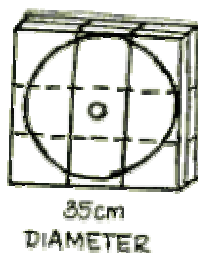


DIAGRAM 2:

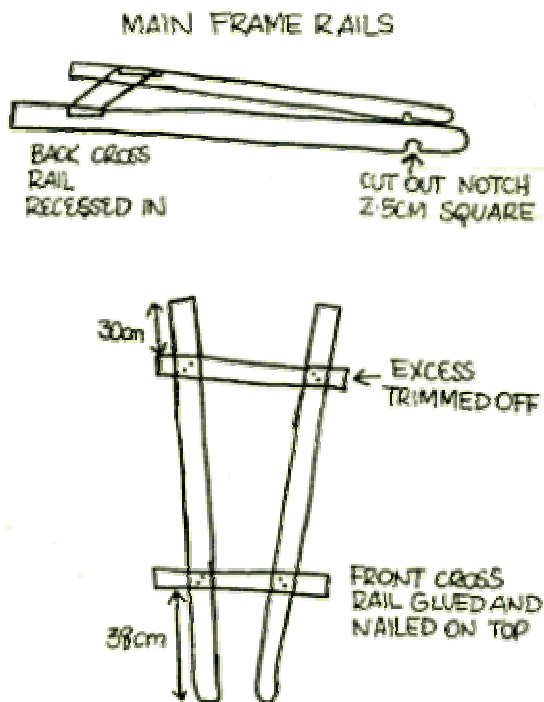
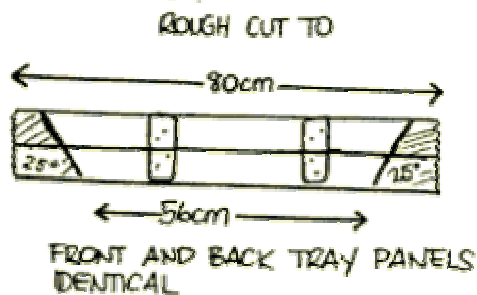


DIAGRAM 3:



MATERIALS

- Recycled fence palings
- Liquid Nails
- 1-inch and 3-inch galvanised nails
- Dowel
- 1-inch spade bit to drill hole for dowel

TOOLS

- Handsaw
- Jigsaw
- Hammer
- Drill

MORE INFO

Fence palings can be collected anywhere, from the council tip to the side of the road. Galvanised nails, dowel and glue are available from the hardware store.