

# WORKSHOP

Build a workbench that perfectly fits your needs and can be adapted for whatever projects you've got on

# MAGIC



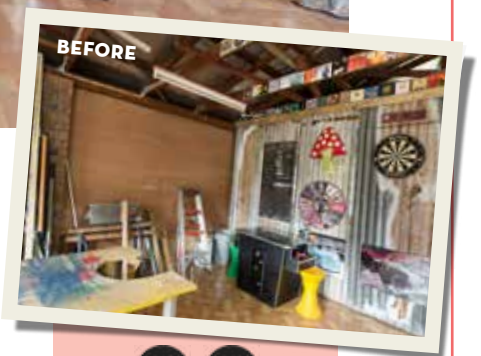
With help from the Make-A-Wish foundation ([makeawish.org.au](http://makeawish.org.au)), *BHG* TV presenters Adam Dovile and Jason Hodges were able to make the dreams of super-fan Sam McAuliffe a reality. Sam has lived with cerebral palsy since birth, but he's never let that get in the way of loving life or DIY ambitions. Now making his projects even easier, a custom workbench was built with easy access and storage for all his tools.

## 1 LIVING LARGE

Create a production hub for all your DIY projects. Start with a couple of flat-pack kitchen drawer cabinets, then top it off with a couple of hardy laminated timber panels that can take all you can dish out.

## 2 SUPER STORAGE

A recycled softwood pallet cut into sections is an easy storage solution for your workshop. Screw a slat from the pallet to the bottom to create a handy clamp storage shelf.



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## EASY STEPS TO YOUR WORKBENCH

This custom workbench uses standard flat-pack cabinets as the basis for the design. The depth has been extended to suit the user with sections of laminated timber panels forming the benchtop. You can modify the idea to use for anything from a sewing bench to craft table and home office – even a kitchen workspace.

### Gather your supplies

- 600mm 2-drawer flat-pack base cabinets (2)
- 70 x 45mm H2 treated pine
  - 2200 x 600 x 26mm laminated beech panels
- Recycled timber pallets

### You'll also need

Circular saw; drill and bits; 75, 20, 30, 50mm wood screws; clamps; timber blocks; spirit level; 85mm batten screws; 20mm connecting brackets; sandpaper; Feast Watson Proofseal; applicator pad



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6

### Here's how

**STEP 1** As the bench is deeper than that of the flat-pack cabinets, you'll have to build frames that will attach to the back of the cabinets to provide extra support. Use the 70 x 45mm treated pine to build the frames, screwing them together with 75mm screws. As we integrated Sam's existing bench, 2 frames were made to go on the back of each cabinet. If building a new bench from scratch, make a frame to go across the gap between the 2 cabinets.

**STEP 2** Assemble flat-pack cabinets then use clamps to hold bench support frames against back of cabinets. Make top of frames flush with top of cabinets. Predrill through back of cabinets into frames, then screw together.

**STEP 3** Screw blocks to the bottom of the cabinets to raise them off the floor. Make the height of the blocks to suit the finished height of the bench, allowing for the thickness of the benchtop in your calculations.

**STEP 4** Position and align all parts. Check they are level and use 75mm screws through rear of bench support frames to secure to wall. In this situation, the new section of benchtop will be in 3 parts. The rear section will be continuous and will serve to join the 3 modules together. Measure depth and width for rear benchtop and cut panel to suit.

**STEP 5** Predrill up through support frames using a long drill bit. Position benchtop piece on top of frames and screw together using 85mm batten screws.

**STEP 6** To prepare for fixing benchtop pieces that will sit over the cabinets, screw 20mm connecting brackets to the backs of the cabinets using 20mm screws.



**STEP 7**



**STEP 10**

panel to suit and secure from inside cabinets with 30mm screws.

**STEP 9** To create handy, hanging storage space, reuse old timber pallets. Cut them down into suitable sections, remove a slat from the pallet face and use 50mm screws to re-attach it to the bottom as a shelf base. These pallet sections can then be fixed to the wall with 75mm screws.

**STEP 10** Finally, lightly sand the new and old benchtops, wipe clean with a damp cloth, allow to dry and then seal all of the surfaces, including side panels if added, with a couple of coats of Feast Watson Proofseal. ■



**STEP 9**

**STEP 7** Use slats salvaged from old pallets as drawer fronts. Cut to length, clamp in place and then secure with 30mm screws from inside drawers. You can use any other material you have at hand or the drawer fronts recommended by the flat-pack supplier for a fancier look.

**STEP 8** To hide exposed sides of cabinets, cut sections of benchtop

**Stockists**  
**Bunnings Warehouse**  
**bunnings.com.au**  
 Kaboodle 600mm 2-drawer base cabinet, \$196. 70 x 35mm H2 treated pine, \$3/m. 75mm wood screws, \$8.80/pk50. 20mm wood screws, \$3.65/pk40. 30mm wood screws, \$9/pk100. 50mm wood screws, \$7.92/pk50. 2200 x 600 x 26mm beech laminated panel, \$101. Feast Watson Proofseal, \$35/1L.