

DESK TO DRAWERS

Turn an old tallboy into a work station for a piece of furniture that serves double duty



So many more people are working from home at the moment, but if you're struggling to find an office nook or spare space for a desk, this upcycle idea with a tallboy is exactly what you need. Simply transform an old chest of drawers into a work station with a pull-down desktop and give it a high-end look with faux bone-inlay stencilling. The result is a 'new' item of furniture that's not only functional, but is also a very stylish piece of decor when not in use.



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EASY STEPS TO YOUR UPCYCLED DESK

Gather your supplies

- 21mm plywood
- Stain blocker
- Chalk paint in Black and White
- Stencil or plastic lace
 - Piano hinge
- Drawer handles
- Magnetic door catch
- Decorative chain supports with mounting plates

You'll also need

Screwdriver; timber filler; 180- and 240-grit sandpaper; multitool; hammer; PVA glue; tape measure; pencil; drill; nails; spatula; sander; microfibre rollers; paintbrush; paint tray; self-adhesive paper; craft punch; painter's tape

For you to note

- This tallboy was 127cm high. The standard height desk is 74-76cm high, so the top two drawer sections were used for a fold-down desk.
- A piece of 21mm plywood with the drawer fronts attached makes it look like a complete unit when shut.

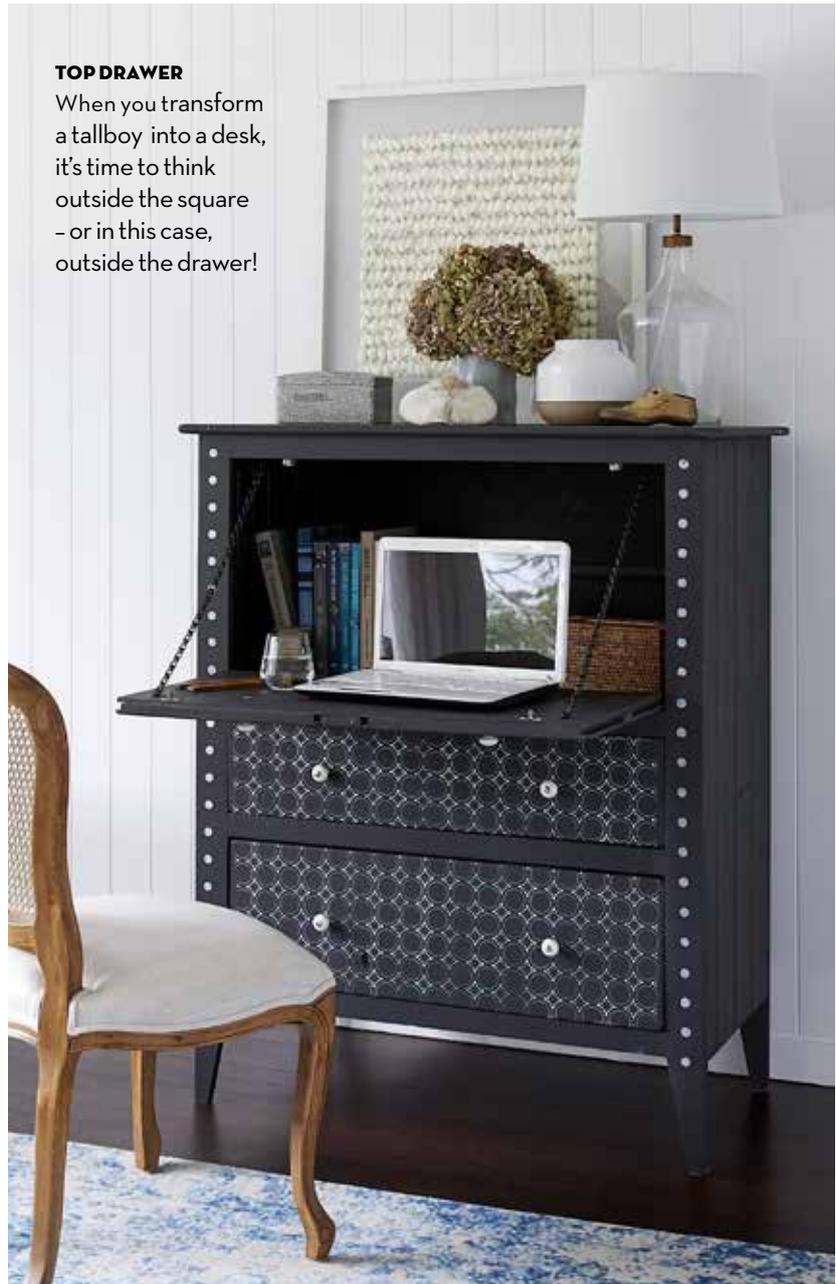
Here's how

STEP 1 Remove all drawers from your tallboy and then take off handles. Fill resulting holes with timber filler and sand.

STEP 2 Use multitool to cut through

TOP DRAWER

When you transform a tallboy into a desk, it's time to think outside the square – or in this case, outside the drawer!



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 5



STEP 4



STEP 7

frame on top-tier drawer divider, then sand cut edges smooth. Frame pieces will also be attached to the false drawer front/fold-down desk.

STEP 3 Remove side cleats for the top 2 drawers using a hammer.

STEP 4 Cut 21mm plywood to size for base of desk section, which will sit inside second-tier drawer frame section. Run a bead of PVA glue around edges of desk base and position inside frame.

STEP 5 Dismantle top 3 drawers with a hammer to remove drawer fronts intact.

STEP 6 Measure tallboy to cut a piece of 21mm plywood for fold-down desk.

STEP 7 Mark positions of 3 drawer fronts and original frame pieces on the plywood using pencil.

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Create bespoke double-duty furniture with an easy upcycling project you can do in a weekend
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SHELVE IT
You can use the cavity where the drawers were to store books, folders and stationery.



WHAT A CATCH!
The desk lid stays closed thanks to easy-install magnetic catches.



STEP 8



STEP 9



STEP 10



STEP 11



STEP 12



STEP 14



STEP 15



STEP 16

STEP 8 Predrill drawer fronts and frame pieces.

STEP 9 Apply PVA glue to back of drawer fronts and frame pieces, and then position on plywood desk front.

STEP 10 Secure drawer fronts and frame pieces to plywood desk using a hammer and nails. Fill holes with timber filler and a spatula and sand smooth.

STEP 11 Use a power sander and 180-grit sandpaper to sand tallboy, drawers and desk front.

STEP 12 Apply a coat of stain blocker to the tallboy, drawer fronts and desk front. Work in a well-ventilated area and wear protective equipment. Hold spray can about 30cm from surface and aim for a light, even coat.

STEP 13 Leave stain blocker to dry, then lightly sand all surfaces using 240-grit paper.

STEP 14 Use a roller to apply 2 coats of Black paint to the drawer fronts, desk front and tallboy top and sides. Leave paint to dry after each coat.

STEP 15 Apply Black paint to tallboy edges and frame pieces with a paintbrush. Leave to dry.

STEP 16 Cut a piece of self-adhesive paper to fit vertical frame piece on desk front. Cut 2 more pieces to fit side pieces of tallboy frame. Use a craft punch to make equally spaced holes in strips of self-adhesive paper.

STEP 17 Cut pieces of plastic lace or stencil sheets to fit drawer front pieces on the desk front, as



STEP 17



STEP 18



STEP 19



STEP 20

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You can get the
designer look
on a budget
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well as front of 2 bottom drawers. Secure lace or stencils with painter's tape and then apply White paint with a roller.

STEP 18 Remove lace or stencils while paint is still tacky, pulling it away on an angle and being careful not to smudge paint. Leave paint to dry.

STEP 19 Attach strip of self-adhesive paper to frame piece on drawer front and use a brush to apply White paint to punched holes. Carefully remove paper while paint is still tacky. Repeat with longer strips to paint dots on tallboy frame sides. Leave paint to dry.

STEP 20 Repeat bone-inlay process (Steps 17 & 18) across top of tallboy. When paint is dry, add handles to drawers and desk front.

STEP 21 Replace bottom drawers in tallboy. Secure desk front to tallboy using a piano hinge. Attach decorative chain stays and magnetic door catches. ■

WHAT IS BONE INLAY?

Intricate and luxe, bone-inlay furniture is one of the big movers and shakers in the interiors world. Artisans have been using inlaid bones to decorate furniture for centuries and the same techniques are still being employed today to create intricate, contemporary statement pieces that are as ornate as they are sleek. While bone inlay is often found in the boutique hotels and grand palaces of India, it is increasingly being found in contemporary settings, where it provides personality, a point of

difference and an all-important link to an authentic, handcrafted tradition. Bone-inlay pieces are still handmade and any small imperfections are to be celebrated as the mark of a true craftsman's work. Bring on all the global feels!

Stockists

Bunnings bunnings.com.au Blue Jacquard durry rug 160 x 230cm, \$149. Magnetic door catches. Piano hinge. **Freedom** freedom.com.au Gusana wall art 70 x 70cm in Natural, \$229. **Provincial Home Living** provincialhomeliving.com.au French dining chair in Natural, \$699. Horse bookends in Black, \$49.95. Billie table lamp in Clear, \$219.95. Kingdom spot jar in Off White & Black, \$34.95. Kingdom spot box in Black and White, \$29.95. Mandalay tissue box in Natural, \$89.95. Shoe last right in Natural, \$14.95. Nisha linen throw in Indigo, \$129.95.