

# FIRE UP!

Create a warming winter landscape in your garden



A firepit is a wonderful way to make the most of your garden during the colder months. Instead of just plonking yours on the grass and calling it done, why not create a landscaped area with the firepit as the centrepiece? A curved designer bench provides plenty of seating and you can convert an old garden shed into a walk-up bar so you can keep the drinks flowing.



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## PROJECT 1 LANDSCAPED CIRCLE



**STEP 1**



**STEP 2**

### Gather your supplies

- 75mm Link Edge aluminium garden edging, joiners and 150mm garden spikes
- Deco-Granite
- Roadbase
- Paving sand and pavers
- Sand and cement mix

### You'll also need

Hired turf cutter and plate compactor; lump hammer; wooden peg; stringline; marking spray paint; rake; rubber mallet; wheelbarrow; steel trowel

### Here's how

**STEP 1** Use hired turf cutter to separate the grass from the soil, then remove.

**STEP 2** To set your circle, hammer a wooden peg into the centre of your area and tie a stringline to it. Measure and stretch the stringline out from the peg to the edge of your circle. Hold a can of marking spray paint on the stringline and work your way around the circle, marking as you go.



Make the firepit the focus of your landscaped space.



**STEP 3**



**STEP 6**



**STEP 4**

**STEP 3** Lay out Link Edge aluminium edging around the circle and hold in place using garden spikes. Join edging using the supplied joiners.

**STEP 4** Spread Deco-Granite inside circle with a rake. Compact the granite into a hard surface using a hired plate compactor.

**STEP 5** For paved path, excavate ground below your finished level 80mm, plus the thickness of your pavers. Lay a 50mm bed of roadbase slightly wider than the width of the pavers, and compact. Spread a 30mm layer of paving sand on top and screed to the level so your paver will sit on it at the required height.



**STEP 7**

**STEP 6** Set up a stringline at the level of the top corners of your pavers, then lay them so this corner meets the stringline. Tap pavers down using a rubber mallet to bed them into the paving sand and so they are level with each other.

**STEP 7** Remove any excess roadbase from along the edge of your paved path. Mix sand and cement mix in a wheelbarrow and then use a steel trowel to lay a haunch on the edge of the pavers to hold them in place. Splay the haunch on a 45-degree angle away from the pavers.

## PROJECT 2 CURVED BENCH SEAT



**STEP 1**



**STEP 5**



Tapered boards will draw your eye towards the centre of the circle.



**STEP 6**



**STEP 7**

### Gather your supplies

- 18mm marine plywood (1 sheet)
- 70 x 35mm H3 treated pine (12 lin. m)
- 200 x 50mm x 2.4m treated pine sleeper
- 86 x 19mm spotted gum decking (45 lin. m)

### You'll also need

Timber batten; jigsaw; drill; 65mm galvanised screws; black exterior paint; painting equipment; 100mm galvanised batten screws; circular saw with fence attachment; router or trimmer fitted with a rounding over bit; sander; sandpaper; hired table saw (optional); countersinking bit; 50mm decking screws; clamps; mitre saw; decking oil

### For you to note

The frame for the seat is made from 2 halves which are clad and joined together.

### Here's how

**STEP 1** To make the compass to draw the arc of the outer curved frame, put a screw in a timber batten 1980mm from 1 end. Screw to plywood, swivel and scribe the arc. Move compass 90mm away from this arc and repeat to scribe a second arc.  
**STEP 2** Use compass to draw the inner curved frames, with the radius of the curve being 1520mm.  
**STEP 3** Cut out shapes using a jigsaw. Square cut 1 end, then

measure and square cut other end. The outer curves are 1520mm and the inner curves are 1140mm.

**STEP 4** Use shapes to mark out and cut 2 more of each shape.

**STEP 5** Construct seat frames using 70 x 35mm treated pine. Make frames 345mm high and 460mm wide. Predrill and screw together using 65mm screws. Make eight frames.

**STEP 6** Sit four frames on edge, then screw an inner and outer curve piece to the tops of the frames. Make a frame flush with each end of the curves, then space the remaining 2 frames equally between these.



## PROJECT 2 CURVED BENCH SEAT CONTINUED...



**STEP 8**



**STEP 9**

**STEP 7** Turn assembly over, then screw pairs of plywood on top of each other to the other sides of the frames. This will be the top of the seat.

**STEP 8** Paint seat assembly using black exterior paint.

**STEP 9** Cut up treated pine sleeper to create 100mm wide feet. Paint black, then screw to underside of seat using 100mm batten screws.

**STEP 10** Use circular saw with a fence attachment to cut full-length decking boards to width for the



**STEP 12**



**STEP 17**

inside curve on the front of the seat. Make the width of the boards 62mm. Use a router or trimmer fitted with a rounding over bit to round the corner on the face of the boards to match the corner on the uncut side.

**STEP 11** Sand cut edges of boards smooth. Start with a medium sandpaper before moving to a finer grade to remove any sanding scratches. Cut boards into 395mm long lengths.

**STEP 12** At the end of the seat, place board on inside of curve so it overhangs the end by 19mm,



**STEP 18**

which is the thickness of the boards that will cover the ends. Make 1 end of the board flush with the top of the seat. Predrill using a countersinking drill bit and screw board to frame with decking screws.

**STEP 13** Cut full-width decking into 395mm long lengths for the outside curve of the seat. On the exposed end of the seat, predrill and screw timber to the frame so it overhangs the end by 19mm.

**STEP 14** Cut decking to length for top of seat. Make the boards overhang the pieces that are screwed to the sides.

**STEP 15** Cut the taper on the seat boards to suit the curve of the seat.

The boards taper from full width at one end to 62mm wide at the other, so 12mm needs to be cut from each side. Take care cutting timber along its length. A hired table saw makes this a fast and safe operation if using a mitre saw make sure the timber is firmly secured.

**STEP 16** Round the corners on the top face of the boards with the router. Use sander to smooth all cut edges.

**STEP 17** Sit decking boards on top of seat so ends align with those on the sides. Predrill and screw in place.

**STEP 18** Continue attaching

## PROJECT 2 **CURVED BENCH SEAT CONTINUED...**



**STEP 19**

boards to the sides and top, leaving a 10mm gap. Check the boards look even. There will be a little bit of juggling with gaps to make it look right. Leave the last two boards off the end of the seat frames where they will join.

**STEP 19** Cut boards to fit along the exposed ends of the seat frame and screw in place.

**STEP 20** Place the halves of the seat frame together in position. Clamp to hold, then screw using the 100mm batten screws.

**STEP 21** Screw remaining boards in place over the join.

**STEP 22** Apply 2 coats of decking oil to timber.



**STEP 20**



**STEP 21**



Take a seat and enjoy the warmth of the blazing fire.



## PROJECT 3 **SHED BAR**



Bring the party to your firepit with a garden shed conversion.

### Gather your supplies

- 20 x 15 x 15mm aluminium channel
- Primed pine
- 12mm marine plywood
- 86 x 19mm spotted gum decking
- 3mm stainless-steel chain
- 9mm pine V-groove board
- 17mm Formply

### You'll also need

Sandpaper; black exterior paint; painting equipment; angle grinder with metal cutting blade; drill; pop rivets and gun; construction adhesive; nail gun or hammer and nails; 100mm hinges; screws; 25mm hex head screws

### Here's how

**STEP 1** To help the paint stick, sand your shed first to roughen the metal surface. Clean.

**STEP 2** Apply 2 coats of black exterior paint to the shed. Allow to dry after each coat.

**STEP 3** Mark out the servery window on the outside of the



**STEP 1**

shed. Cut along marked lines using an angle grinder fitted with a metal cutting blade. Retain section cut out for use as the servery.

**STEP 4** Cut aluminium channel to fit around the edges of the hole cut for the window. Make them overlap in the corners so you can join them together. Paint black, then fit around opening.

**STEP 5** Predrill through the channel where they overlap in the corners



**STEP 2**



**STEP 3**



**STEP 4**

## PROJECT 3 SHED BAR CONTINUED...

and join together with pop rivets.

**STEP 6** Use primed pine to line around the inside of the servery window. Glue timber to walls of shed and nail together.

**STEP 7** Take the servery and further reduce size so it is 10mm smaller than the opening. Cut more channel to fit around the edges and join together.

**STEP 8** Cut a square of marine plywood to sit on the inside of the cut-out and paint black. Attach lengths of decking to plywood by screwing through the decking into the plywood. Spread adhesive on the plywood and glue to the cut-out. Leave to dry.

**STEP 9** Attach easy-fit hinges to edge of cut-out, then attach to bottom edge of the opening in the shed. Use a combination of metal and timber screws as required.

**STEP 10** Screw a length of chain to each side of the cut-out towards the front. Stretch the chain up to the inside of the lining on the inside of the window so the servery sits level. Screw through chain into the lining around the window.

**STEP 11** To line the inside walls of the shed, cut V board to size, then screw battens to the back of the board at the top, middle and bottom. Hold against the walls on the inside and screw through the outside into the battens using 25mm hex head screws.

**STEP 12** Construct and install shelving units using Formply.



STEP 6



STEP 9



STEP 10

Make the shelves 300mm deep and line the back of the units using 9mm V board to match the walls. ■



STEP 11



STEP 12

### Stockists

**PROJECT SUPPLIES** [Bunnings bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au) 18mm marine ply, \$177 per sheet. 70 x 35mm H3 treated pine, \$2.80/m. 200 x 50mm treated pine sleeper, \$10.50. 86 x 19mm spotted gum decking, \$7.10/m. 65mm galvanised screws, \$44/pk 500. Dulux Weathershield exterior paint, \$96.90/4L. 100mm treated pine batten screws, \$18/pk 25. 50mm stainless-steel decking screws, \$49/pk 500. Cabot's exterior decking oil, \$66.90/4L. 20 x 15 x 15mm aluminium channel, \$40.20/3m. 9mm V-groove board, \$68/sheet. 17mm Formply, \$79/sheet. 3mm stainless-steel chain. 4mm pop rivets, \$12.07/pk100. 100mm easy-fit hinges, \$14.39/pk 2. 25mm hex head screws, \$18.70/pk 150.

**SHOPPING DETAILS** [Adairs adairs.com.au](http://adairs.com.au) Basket, \$39.99. Vintage washed linen cushion 50 x 50cm in Plum, \$69.99. Capri stripe cushion 50 x 50cm in Rust, \$74.99. Inartisan Hardie natural street stump stool, \$199. Zana bar stool in Natural, \$229. [Pillow Talk pillowtalk.com.au](http://pillowtalk.com.au) Lavelle throw in Lilac, \$69.95.

**The Lost and Found Department** [thelostandfounddepartment.com.au](http://thelostandfounddepartment.com.au) Round slate plate, \$14.95. Bottle openers, from \$9. Black round pot medium, \$49.95.



Fold-out your precious outdoor serving space.