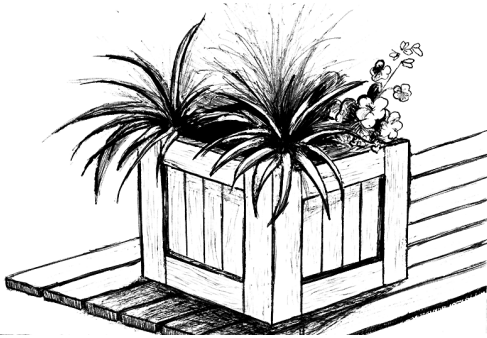




# PLANTER BOX 7



**Before purchasing tools, timber and materials, read every step thoroughly then talk to one of our experts**

This planter box is a breeze to make. Based on stacking square frames together to form the planter sides, then attaching outer rails and a base, this planter, although a simple design, will add that special something to your outdoor decor.

With a few simple modifications, you could make your planter taller or wider to suit your potted plants. You could build two and use them as the legs of a garden bench or build a long one, then add a removable top to make a simple bench with storage underneath.

## Step 1: Choosing Materials

Being such a versatile design you could use just about any timber for this project, but consideration should be given to the durability, under exposed conditions, of the selected timber. It is recommended that, under all circumstances, the base of the planter (which will get wet when watering) be constructed from a preservative treated timber. With this in mind, and for simplicity, we have used treated pine with an H3 rating.

It would be prudent to measure and cut as you go, to compensate for any sizing or cutting variations.

For your planter you will need:

- 10/545mm pieces of 90mm x 20mm for frames
- 10/585mm pieces of 90mm x 20mm for frames
- 8/450mm pieces of 90mm x 20mm for the vertical rails
- 8/405mm pieces of 90mm x 20mm for the horizontal rails
- 4/545mm pieces of 70mm x 45mm for the base frame
- 7/545mm pieces of 70mm x 20mm for the base slats

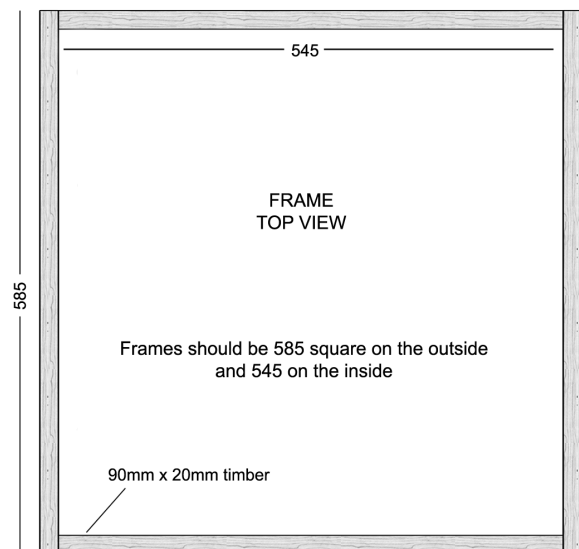
The timber above is treated with compounds of copper, chromium and arsenic, termed CCA. When using this material:

- Wear gloves and dust masks when sawing.
- Any cut or sawn surface of this material will need resealing to ensure its effectiveness in resisting attack.
- Dispose of any off cuts by burying them. Don't burn them as the smoke and ash are toxic.

All fixings should be hot-dipped galvanised to ensure maximum resistance to corrosion and also to reduce marking of the timber from rust stains.

## Step 2: Assemble The Frame

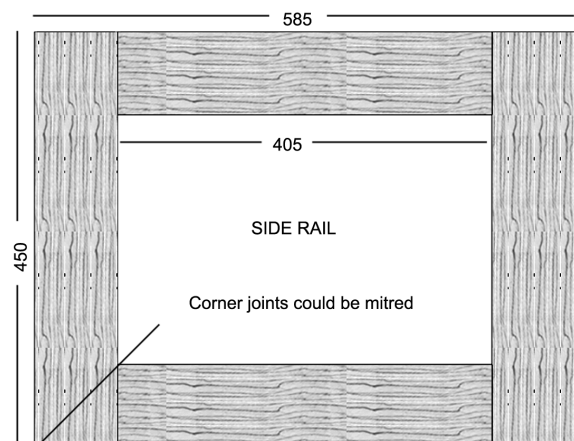
Take 2/545mm pieces and 2/585mm pieces of 90mm x 20mm and (after pre-drilling) join them using two 45mm nails (or screws) per end. You should now have a square frame that is 585mm square on the outside and 545mm square on the inside.



Continue making up sets of frames, stacking each squarely on top of the other as you go. You should end up with a stack of five frames that is around 450mm high.

## Step 3: Attaching The Rails

The five frames are held together by a series of horizontal and vertical external rails. Use 2/450mm pieces of 90mm x 20mm for the vertical rails and 2/405mm pieces for the horizontal rails for each side of the planter.



It would be a good idea to measure the stack of frames before cutting the rails. You could use a mitre joint on the rails if preferred.

The rails are fixed to the planter from the inside of the frame as shown, using 30mm nails (or screws) Don't forget to pre-drill first.

Many people paint or stain their projects prior to assembly to ensure that all pieces have a complete coating of paint.

## Step 4: Making The Base

The base is made up of 4/545mm pieces of 70mm x 45mm for the base frame and 7/545mm pieces of 70mm x 20mm for the base slats and is designed to fit inside the assembled planter frame.

You should check the internal measurements of the planter before cutting any timber for this step.

Make up the base using 4 pieces of 70mm x 45mm timber. We've used a mitre join, but you could use a butt join by trimming two pieces of the timber. Fix corners with one 75mm nail (or screw). Check for fit into the planter frame.

## Planter Hints

- x The plan allows one set of rails for each side of the planter, but you could get away with only two opposite sides if you preferred.
- x There are a few places where a mitre join could be used, but all cuts can be squared and butt joined and still retain the good looks of this project.
- x If you want to move your planter around, simply attach four castors to the base unit. If you choose to do this you should install the base 10-12mm above the bottom edge of the planter.
- x To add that "extra touch", you could fix a mitred surround to the top of your planter.

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Next lay out the 7/545mm pieces of 70mm x 20mm across the top of the frame (the spacing will be around 9mm). pre-drill holes and use two 40mm nails (or screws) at each end of each board.

Once the base is assembled, install it into the base of the planter, leaving about 10-12mm below the bottom edge of the planter. This will keep the sides of the planter a little off the ground and help keep them dryer.

Drive five equally spaced 40mm nails (or screws) through the bottom rail of each side into the base to tie everything together.

## Step 5: Finishing Off

Depending on the "look" you're after, you can let your planter weather naturally or you can use 2 or 3 coats of a suitable outdoor acrylic paint or oil based stain to match your outside décor and prevent surface checking.

