



DIY

A great garden arbour

Create a stylish arbour that's perfect for espaliering a pair of fruit trees.

WORDS & PHOTOS MARK RAYNER

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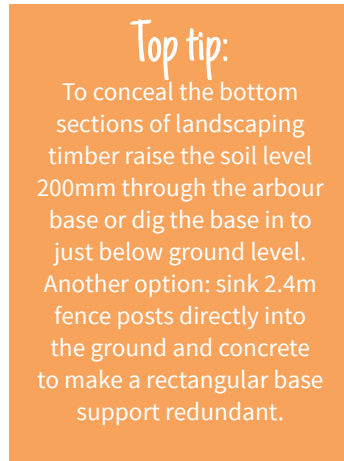
the paint the professionals use

You will need

- 65mm exterior screws
- 100mm exterior screws
- 4 x fence posts: 100mm x 75mm x 2200mm
- 6m of 200mm wide tongue and groove landscaping timber
- 16 x 1800mm fence palings
- Just over 6m of 100mm x 50mm fencing timber
- Approx. 3.6m of 50mm x 50mm treated timber
- Approx. 6m of 90mm x 40mm decking
- Drill with 3mm drill bit
 - Exterior PVA glue
 - Ladder
 - Large clamps
 - Paintbrush
 - Paint stirrer
 - Pencil
- Resene Waterborne Woodsman tinted to Resene Cherrywood
 - Sandpaper
 - Saw
 - Screwdriver
 - Set square
- Spade for levelling ground
 - Spirit level
 - Tape measure

To get the look:

Mark planted plums 'Sultan' and 'Burbank' either side of the arbour to eventually espalier up and over the structure. This combination of varieties is good for pollination.



STEP ONE
Measure and mark the piece of landscaping timber into two 1800mm lengths and two 1200mm lengths.

STEP TWO
Cut the landscaping timber to size and smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

STEP THREE
Ensure the intended site is level and clear of any weeds and other plants.

STEP FOUR
Assemble the pieces of landscaping timber to form a rectangular base, as shown. Use a spirit level to ensure that it's flat and a set square to make sure corners are at right angles. Use 100mm screws to fix at each corner, drilling pilot holes first.

STEP FIVE
Clamp an upright fence post in one corner of the base frame, as shown. Check that it's plumb using a spirit level and then fix to the base frame with 100mm screws, drilling pilot holes first. Repeat with the three remaining fence posts.

STEP SIX
Measure, mark and cut the decking into six 950mm lengths with ends cut at 45 degrees, as shown. Smooth rough edges with sandpaper.

STEP SEVEN
Measure, mark and cut six 150mm x 150mm squares of fence paling. Smooth rough edges with sandpaper.

STEP EIGHT
Measure, mark and cut three 1200mm lengths from the 50mm x 50mm timber. Smooth rough edges with sandpaper.



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Handy hints:

From the apex of the roof to ground level this structure is approximately 2700mm high, making it suitable for a larger garden. To create a smaller structure, cut the corner fence posts to 2000mm and use 1500mm fence palings for the roof and walls.



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For best results position your arbour in a sunny but sheltered spot, protected from strong winds, where the espaliered fruit trees will thrive.

HERE'S ANOTHER IDEA:
Use this basic design to create a frame for a garden shed or even a greenhouse.

STEP NINE

Fix two of the lengths of decking together to form an 'L' shape with a square of fence paling either side, as shown. Attach with PVA glue and 65mm screws fixed from both sides. Repeat with the remaining lengths of decking and squares of fence paling.

STEP TEN

Fix the 1200mm lengths of 50mm x 50mm timber across the base of each 'L' shape to form three triangular roof trusses, as shown.

STEP ELEVEN

Measure, mark and cut two 1800mm lengths and two 1200mm lengths from the 100mm x 50mm fencing timber. Smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

STEP TWELVE

Clamp an 1800mm length of 100mm x 50mm fencing timber to the top of two of the upright fence posts (along one side of the arbour) and fix with 100mm screws, drilling pilot holes first. Remove clamps and repeat with the other 1800mm length of timber across the other side of the top of the arbour.

STEP THIRTEEN

Fix the triangular roof trusses into position, as shown, using 100mm screws. Again, use clamps to ensure each truss is correctly positioned before drilling and screwing.

STEP FOURTEEN

Clamp one of the 1200mm lengths of 100mm x 50mm fencing timber across the top of the arbour's front and then drill and fix with 100mm screws. Repeat with the second 1200mm length of timber across the top of the arbour's back.

STEP FIFTEEN

Using 65mm screws, fix eight fence palings (approx. 150mm apart) to form the roof of the arbour and the remaining 10 fence palings (approx. 200mm apart) to form the side walls of the arbour. (Tip: use two offcuts of 150mm fence paling as spacers for the roof and two offcuts of 200mm landscaping timber as spacers for the walls.)

STEP SIXTEEN

Carefully stir the Resene Waterborne Woodsman.

STEP SEVENTEEN

Apply two coats of Resene Waterborne Woodsman to the entire arbour, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.