

# Boot box

A clever storage solution for all your shoes

Your boots may be made for walkin', but where do you put 'em when they're not on your feet? Our shoe box will store all your boots and shoes. Country singer and presenter of Play School, Col Buchanan, shows which foot the boot is on as he builds this cabinet. By Dieter Mylius

## Here's how

**1** Cut base, back, sides and rails (A, B, C, D). Mark front exposed edges of base, sides and front rail and apply iron-on veneer edging (E). Cut a strip for each edge, place in position and use an iron to warm the glue so it sticks. Firm edging into place with a cork block. Trim edges with a file working from face of edging and smooth with sandpaper on a cork block.

**2** Cut 16 x 100mm housing (F) to take back top rail. Edge-veneer front edge. To drill holes for the adjustable shelving pins, make a template out of 150 x 350mm MDF. Measure 50mm in from one long side and draw a line parallel with the side. Measure 180, 230 and 280mm along this line and drill 5mm holes. To drill dividers, clamp template to the dividers, aligning sides and bottom, and drill 8mm deep holes. Flip template over to drill other row. To drill holes in sides measure 320mm from back and use this mark to align front edge of the template. As the base butts against the sides, hold a scrap piece of 16mm MDF under the template to get the correct height spacing.

**3** Glue and screw back to base, then add sides. Pre-drill screw holes to prevent the material delaminating. Add front rail, then set out three equally spaced dividers. The spacing between them should be 290mm. Screw dividers in from the back and base then

add back rail, screwing in from sides and into housing in the dividers.

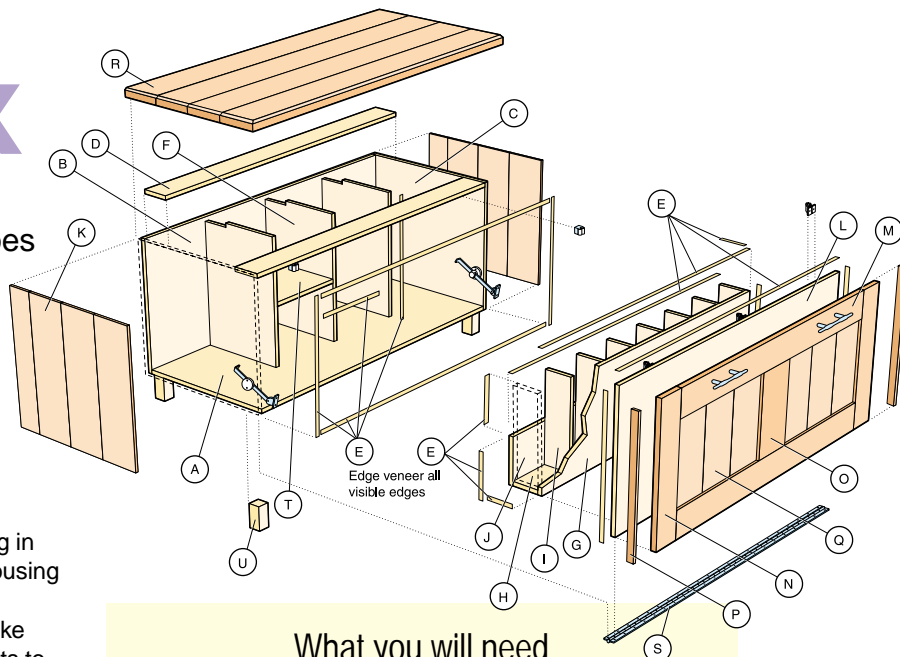
**4** In the same way make the shoe compartments to fit on the door flap. After cutting pieces edge-veneer all edges which will be visible as in step 1. Join base (G) to back (H), then add sides (I) which fit inside the base and back. Measure across the base for the six remaining dividers so they are spaced equally and screw them in place. Fix top (J).

**5** To soften edges of side panels (K), plane a small bevel down sides, then glue and nail to sides of main unit. Rip the back panel to suit the space.

**6** Cut door (L) and edge-veneer the visible edges. Lay out trim pieces (M, N, O) on the surface, check for fit, glue and nail in place. Add edge trim (P) which is the offcuts from side panels. Infill decorative frame with the door panels (Q).

**7** Working face down, join four boards that make up top (R) by edge-gluing and cramping together. Reinforce glued joints with corrugated nails on the underside, or use dowels or biscuit joins or even cut off nails between the boards as a mechanical fixing aid. When dry, clean up joints, plane top smooth and plane a 45° bevel around edge.

**8** Locate top on cabinet and screw on from underside. Position shoe compartments on back of door, spaced 45mm from bottom edge to



## What you will need

| Item | Part                    | Size              | Material     |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| A    | Base                    | 1208 x 524 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| B    | Back                    | 1208 x 500 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| C    | Sides (2)               | 540 x 500 x 16mm  | Veneered MDF |
| D    | Rails (2)               | 1208 x 100 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| E    | Edging (total)          | 22mm x 16m        | Iron-on pine |
| F    | Dividers (3)            | 484 x 320 x 16mm  | Veneered MDF |
| G    | Shoe base               | 1150 x 346 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| H    | Shoe back               | 1150 x 100 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| I    | Shoe sides/dividers (8) | 330 x 100 x 16mm  | Veneered MDF |
| J    | Shoe top                | 1150 x 170 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| K    | Side panels (8)         | 145 x 10 x 500mm  | Oregon       |
| L    | Door                    | 500 x 1240 x 16mm | Veneered MDF |
| M    | Long trim (2)           | 100 x 20 x 1040mm | Oregon       |
| N    | Short trim (2)          | 100 x 20 x 500mm  | Oregon       |
| O    | Central trim            | 170 x 20 x 300mm  | Oregon       |
| P    | Edge trim (2)           | offcuts from K    | Oregon       |
| Q    | Door panels (6)         | 145 x 10 x 300mm  | Oregon       |
| R    | Top (4)                 | 145 x 30 x 1300mm | Oregon       |
| S    | Piano hinge             | 900 or 1000mm     | Metal        |
| T    | Shelves (3-6)           | 290 x 320 x 16mm  | Veneered MDF |
| U    | Legs (4)                | 45 x 45 x 90mm    | Oregon       |

We used pine veneered MDF (medium density fibreboard) for the structure of the cabinet. The non-standard sized oregon panels were milled to size by our timber supplier. Check all components against unit as it is being built. You will also need 12 to 24 shelf pins, assorted screws and nails, two handles, two stays, two roller catches.

clear base of cabinet. Centre then screw in place.

**9** Stand unit upside down and hold door in opening. Fix door to cabinet using a piano hinge (S). Stand unit right way up, open door and block so it sits flat. Fix two stays inside sides and on back of door. Cut and edge-veneer shelves (T).

**10** Fit four legs (U) about 20mm in from edges by screwing from inside. Add handles and roller catches to the door. Fill holes, sand

cabinet smooth and finish with Danish oil.

**Note.** If you have small kids, add a catch to hold the heavy door shut.

## Better tip

To make the cabinet lighter, substitute plywood for the MDF and build the shoe compartments directly on the door.

Photography Ian Hofstetter, John Halfhide; styling Jan Hook; diagrams Tech View Studio