



Mailbox

magic

Craft a mailbox with character.

MAILBOXES are functional objects but don't have to be drab or unattractive. Build your own plywood mailbox following our simple guide or just revamp an existing one with these creative suggestions.

To make the basic mailbox, you will need:

- 22mm treated plywood cut into the following pieces:
- Upper back section – one piece 300mm x 100mm.
- Back flap – one piece 296mm x 250mm.
- Base – one piece 300mm x 240mm.
- Front – one piece 300mm x 340mm.
- Roof – one piece 350mm x 380mm.
- Pitched sides – two pieces 300mm wide with a front edge of 400mm sloping down to a 350mm back edge.
- 40mm galvanised jolt head nails, exterior PVA glue, hinges and latch.



ASSEMBLE the mailbox in the following order, using 40mm galvanised jolt head nails and exterior PVA glue.

1. Attach the upper back panel to the two sides (nail through from each side).
2. Attach the base to the sides (position 22mm in from the back edge and nail through from each side).
3. Attach the front to the base and sides (nail through from each side).
4. Attach the roof, allowing an overhang of approximately 50mm along the front edge (nail through the roof into the sides and back).
5. Fix the back flap into place with hinges and attach the latch.



Over the rainbow

TO create this colourful 70s-inspired design follow these steps:

1. Prime the entire basic mailbox with Resene Quick Dry primer undercoat. Leave to dry for two hours.
2. Paint the inside and outside (excluding the front panel) with two coats of Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Paua, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.
3. Using low-tack masking tape for a neat edge, paint seven equal stripes, using two coats of the following testpot colours: Resene Havoc, Resene Broom, Resene Japanese Laurel, Resene Resolution Blue, Resene Bullit, and Resene Cristalle.
4. Apply one coat of Resene Sun Defier acrylic UV protective glaze to the outside of the mailbox (this will ensure the colours stay brighter for longer).
5. Attach a brass number to the centre of the front panel.





On the tiles

USE coloured ceramic and vitreous glass tiles to create this simple yet effective sun-burst design:

1. Prime the entire basic mailbox with Resene Quick Dry primer undercoat. Leave two hours to dry.
2. Paint the inside and outside with two coats of Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Monza. Allow two hours for each coat to dry.
3. Lay the mailbox on its back and place a round plate on the front panel. With exterior PVA glue, fix 45mm x 45mm orange ceramic tiles and 25mm x 25mm yellow ceramic tiles in a circle, using the plate edge as a guide. Ensure tiles are at equal intervals.
5. Remove the plate. With exterior PVA glue, fix 20mm x 20mm white vitreous glass tiles within the circle to form numbers. Allow glue to dry thoroughly before standing upright.

Go with the grain

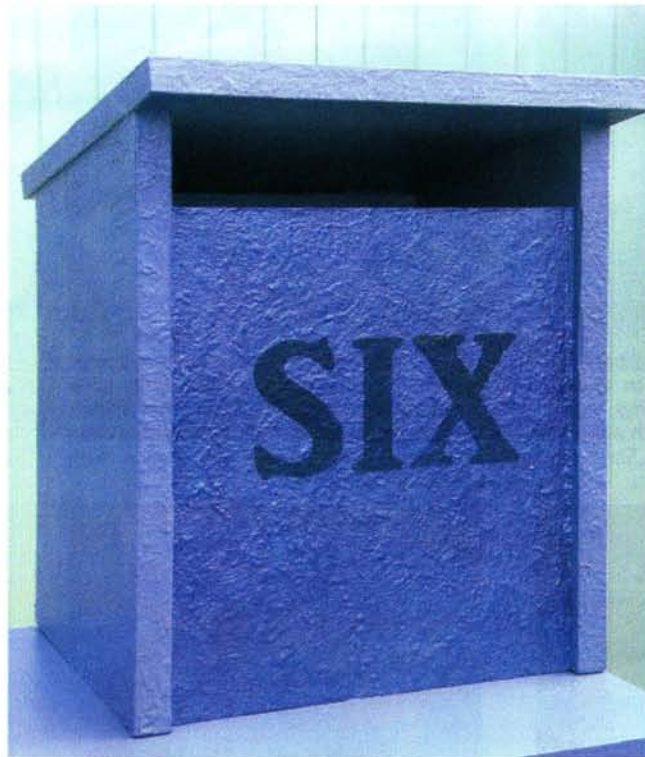
COLOURED wood stain enhances outdoor timber and plywood. For this natural-looking version of the basic mailbox:

1. Punch in nail heads and fill holes with exterior plastic wood filler. Allow to cure.
2. Lightly sand the wood filler and sand any rough edges.
3. Following the manufacturer's instructions, stain the inside and outside (excluding the front panel) with two coats of Resene Woodsman waterborne wood stain tinted to Resene Touchwood.
4. Stain the front panel with two coats of Resene Woodsman waterborne wood stain tinted to Resene Grey Green.
5. Use tin snips to cut out a house number from a piece of pressed aluminium and fix this to the front of the mailbox with 20mm zinc plated panel pins.

Mosaic masterpiece

COMBINE small aquarium pebbles with white and clear glass nuggets to create this subtle effect.

1. Prime the entire basic mailbox with Resene Quick Dry primer undercoat. Leave to dry for two hours.
2. Paint the inside and outside (excluding the front panel) with two coats of Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Chardonnay. Allow two hours for each coat to dry.
3. Paint the front panel with two coats of Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Alabaster, again allowing two hours for coats to dry.
4. Lie the mail box on its back. Glue a row of clear glass nuggets around the edge of the front panel using a generous amount of exterior PVA glue. Use the same technique to glue white glass nuggets to form the central number.
5. Infill the 'background' using aquarium pebbles, again using a generous amount of exterior PVA glue. Allow to dry thoroughly before standing upright.



Metal mania

CREATE this industrial-style version of the basic mailbox with textured and metallic paint.

1. Prime the entire mailbox with Resene Quick Dry primer undercoat. Leave to dry for two hours.
2. Paint the outside of the mailbox with one coat of Resene Sandtex Mediterranean effect, dabbing the paint on with an old brush to create a textured effect. Leave to dry for several hours.
3. Paint the entire mailbox with two coats of Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Astronaut, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.
4. Lay the mailbox on its back. Paint the front panel with one generous coat of Resene Enamacryl Metallic tinted to Resene Time Warp, dabbing the paint on to add to the textured effect. Leave to dry for two hours.
5. Cut out a photocopied enlargement of a house word/number to make a stencil and use a test-pot of Resene Indian Ink to stencil the word/number on the mailbox. Apply a second coat, if necessary. Allow to dry.
6. Apply one coat of Resene Multishield+ satin to the outside of the mailbox and allow to dry for two hours.

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