



# Bench Mark

MARK RAYNER gets crafty with this stunning mosaic seat.

## You will need:

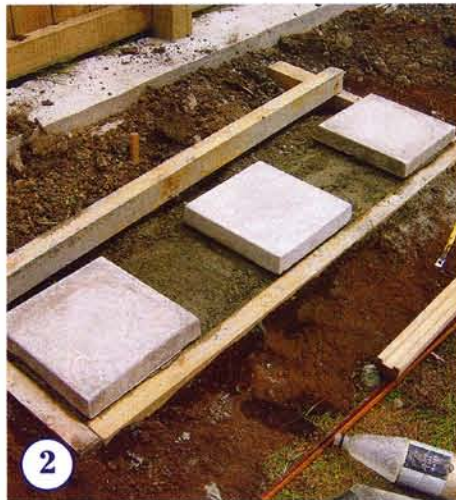
- Offcuts of scrap wood for concrete shuttering and supports
- 10mm steel reinforcing rods (2 lengths of 1400mm)
- 3 x 25kg bags ready mix concrete.
- 1 x 25kg bag builder's plaster mix
- Sand and/or stones for fill
- Exterior cement tile adhesive
- Exterior tile grout
- 3 x concrete pavers 300mm x 300mm
- 2 x concrete pavers 500mm x 750mm
- 3 x round terracotta pipes 300mm x 300mm
- 4 x terracotta tiles 300mm x 300mm
- 42 assorted terracotta and ceramic tiles 100mm x 100mm
- 4.2m tanalised wooden trim 60mm x 10mm
- Wood primer
- 1 testpot dark green paint (we used Resene 'Black Forest')
- 12 small masonry nails
- Exterior construction glue
- Weedmat
- Stones
- Spade
- Tile cutter
- Hammer
- Spirit level

## Get the Look:

MARK planted perennial zebra grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus') behind the bench. For a different look, use smaller mosaic tiles or flat pebbles.



**1** EXCAVATE and level soil to a depth of 100mm and construct a base of (level) wooden shuttering measuring 1500mm x 350mm. Pour 2 1/2 bags of mixed concrete into shuttering, embedding the reinforcing rods for strength. Level the concrete with a long wooden post.



**2** USING the builder's plaster mix, cement the three 300mm x 300mm concrete pavers to the concrete base. Ensure the pavers are level.



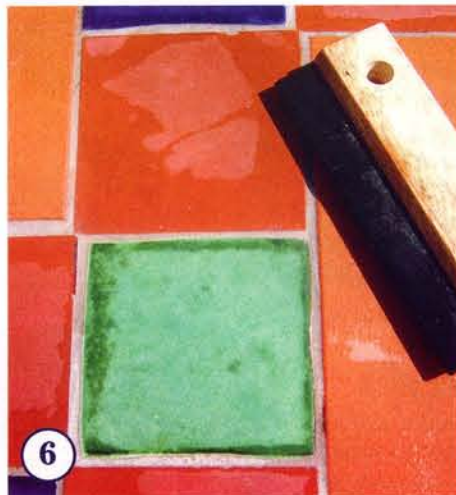
**3** PLACE the terracotta pipes on top of the concrete pavers and fill the base of each one using the remaining half bag of concrete. Fill the pipes with stones or sand to 50mm below the rim.



**4** FILL the remainder of each pipe with builder's plaster mix and cement the two 500mm x 750mm concrete slabs into place to form the seat, leaving a central gap of 50mm. Fill this with the rest of the plaster mix, using scrap wood for additional support.



**5** ONCE the cement is dry, remove the wooden supports and lay out the tiles in your chosen design. Using cement tile adhesive, attach your tiles to the concrete plinth.



**6** LEAVE to dry for 24 hours then grout the bench with an exterior tile grout.



**7** CUT the tanalised wood trim and attach to the edge of the bench with construction glue and masonry nails. Prime, then paint with dark green exterior paint.



**8** FINISH off by laying weedmat around the base of the bench, concealing the concrete base with stones or gravel.