



Penthouse *tweet*

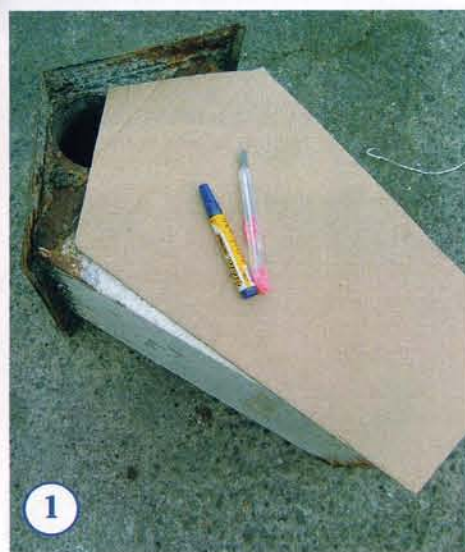
MARK RAYNER transforms an old letterbox into an upmarket bird bed and breakfast.

To get the look

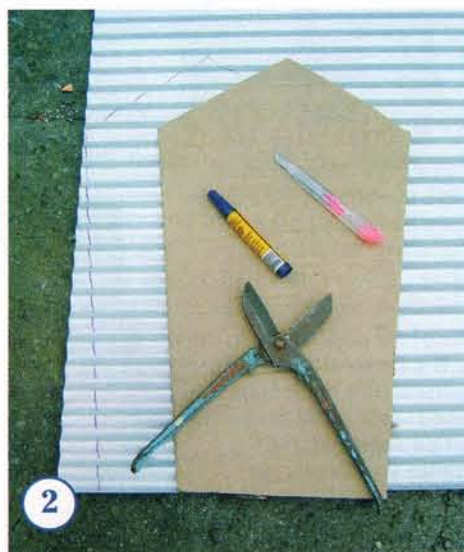
MARK hung a homemade bird pudding on the copper pipe (see recipe bottom left), filled the feeding stand and tray with pieces of bread and fruit and fixed half a coconut on the roof screw to form a satellite TV dish.

You will need:

- An old letterbox
- Offcuts of "baby" Zinalume
- Offcuts of marine ply
- 12 stainless steel rods (40cm long)
- Perforated saucepan lid or sieve
- Rectangular galvanised nailing plate
- 4 large galvanised nails
- 1 large steel screw
- Loop of galvanised chain
- Lid from Resene testpot
- Plastic corner edging
- Copper pipe
- Tying wire
- Wire brush
- Cardboard
- Tin snips
- Parcel tape
- Marker pen
- Builders' exterior construction glue
- Small amount of builders' filler
- 2 large rubber bands
- Resene Galvo One Primer
- Resene Quickdry Primer/Undercoat
- Resene Lumbersider in 'Silver Chalice'
- Resene Enamacryl in 'Silver Aluminium'



1 USING a wire brush, clean the letterbox of any rust. Cut templates of the front and sides from cardboard.



2 TRANSFER the template shapes on to the Zinalume using a marker pen and cut out with tin snips (or an angle grinder). Cut two panels for the roof.



3 WITH the tin snips, cut a hole in the front of the old letterbox. Cut two slits in the front Zinalume panel and curl the centre section up to form the door.



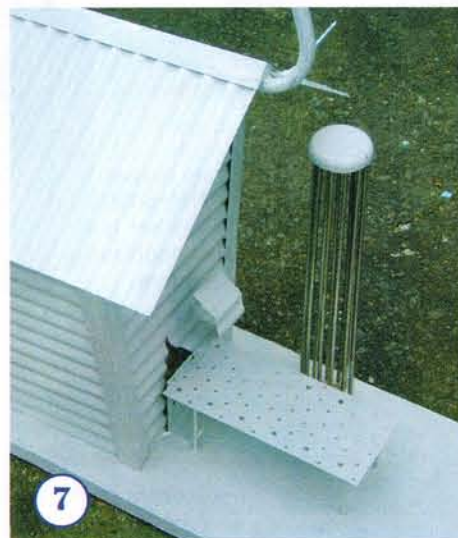
4 USING builders' construction adhesive, glue the front, side and roof zinalume panels to the mailbox, fixing in place with parcel tape until the glue has set. Screw the letterbox to an offcut of marine ply. Attach copper pipe to underside of roof with wire and glue.



5 HAMMER four galvanised nails into the ply and glue the metal nail plate to the top of each nail to form a platform. Trace around a Resene testpot and, using a hammer and large nail, make 12 holes around the circle. Insert a steel rod into each of these holes with a dab of glue to make the feeding stand.



6 MAKE a hole in the top edge of the roof and insert the large screw from beneath. Keep in place with builders' filler. Cut plastic trim to fit front edges and apex of roof. Fix with builders' glue, holding in place with rubber bands until dry. Apply Quickdry Primer to the ply and Galvo One Primer to the Zinalume.



7 PAINT the entire birdhouse except for the steel rods with two coats of Resene Lumbersider in 'Silver Chalice'. Allow to dry. The Resene testpot lid sits on top of the steel rods.



8 FINISH off with two coats of Resene Enamacryl in 'Silver Aluminium'. Allow to dry, then nail and glue the aluminium saucepan lid to form the feeding tray.