

Mosaic mailbox

Mark Rayner shows how you can make a letterbox with a difference.

You will need:

- 22mm treated plywood cut to the following dimensions:
- 380mm x 250mm (x2) for front and back of mailbox
- 250mm x 300mm for base of mailbox
- 900mm x 400mm 'stucco' aluminium sheeting*
- Green glass nuggets and glass pebbles
- 40mm galvanised jolt head nails

- Drill with 10mm drill bit and jigsaw
- Stainless steel hinges and catch
- Hammer, screwdriver and tape measure
- Paintbrush, sandpaper, pencil and PVA glue (exterior)
- Resene Quick Dry waterborne primer undercoat
- Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer
- Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Palm Leaf
- Testpot of Resene Nero
- White exterior grout
- Bucket, large sponge and clean dry cloth



For more on paints
phone 0800 RESENE
(0800 737 363) or visit
www.resene.co.nz

*'stucco' aluminium sheeting was purchased from Mitre10 Mega

Top tip: To get even and identical semi-circles, we simply traced around a large dinner plate.



1 Draw identical semi-circles on the tops of two 380mm x 250mm plywood panels. Cut out with the jigsaw. Mark a mail slot about 210mm x 50mm on the front panel and a 160mm x 200mm 'door' on the back one. Cut these out. Sand rough edges.



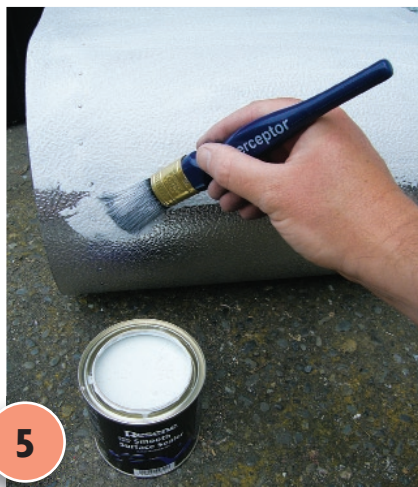
2 Attach the front and back panels to the base, as shown, fixing with PVA glue and galvanised nails.



3 Apply a coat of Resene Quick Dry primer to both plywood mailbox sides. Allow to dry for two hours. Paint the mailbox inside with two coats of Resene Nero. Allow two hours for each coat to dry.



4 Bend the piece of aluminium over the plywood to form the mailbox 'roof', as shown, fixing with galvanised nails and PVA glue.



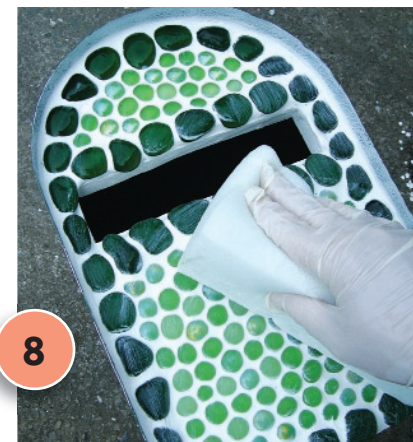
5 Apply one coat of Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer to the aluminium roof. Leave for two hours to dry.



6 Glue glass pebbles and nuggets to the mailbox front with a generous amount of PVA. Leave to dry for 24 hours.



7 Paint the roof, back panel and 'door' with two coats of Resene Palm Leaf. Allow two hours for each coat to dry. Fix the door in position with the stainless hinges and screw the latch in place.



8 Mix the grout, according to instructions. Wearing latex gloves, work it into the gaps between the pebbles and nuggets. Wipe off excess with a damp sponge. Once the grout has set, remove residue with a clean cloth.