POTTING BENCH: SILVER LEVEL

Potting Bench

CUTTING LIST

Item	Material	Size L x W x T	No.
Upper frame	DAR merbau DAR merbau DAR merbau	1200 x 90 x 18 600 x 90 x 18 564 x 90 x 18	2 1 1
Lower frame	DAR merbau	864 x 90 x 18 600 x 90 x 18	2 2
Wheel supports	DAR merbau	700 x 90 x 18 90 x 90 x 18	2 2
Back legs	DAR merbau	750 x 90 x 18 260 x 90 x 18	2 2
Top slat	DAR merbau	600 x 90 x 18	9
Bottom slats	DAR merbau	600 x 90 x 18 524 x 90 x 18	7 2
Bottom guard rail	DAR merbau	860 x 66 x 15 590 x 66 x 15	2 1

MATERIAL LIST AND COSTING

Material	Size (mm)	No.	Unit Cost	Total Cost
DAR merbau	1800 x 90 x 18 1800 x 66 x 15	12 2	$8.00 $5.20	$96.00 $10.40
Wheels	160mm	2	$5.30	$10.60
Galvanised bolts	3 x 1/2inch	2	$1.60	$3.20
Washers	1/2inch	4	$0.20	$0.80
Nyloc nut	1/2inch (pkt 4)	2	$3.15	$3.15
Galvanised screws	40 x 8g 28 x 8g	100 100	$7.30 $7.20	$7.30 $7.20
Bowl		1	$5.10	$5.10

TOOL LIST

- PPE
- 12mm spade bit
- Combination square
- Tape measure
- Drill
- Router/trimmer
- 5mm rounding over bit
- Jigsaw

INTRODUCTION

This mobile potting bench is made from merbau – a durable and weather-resistant hardwood – that, combined with galvanised screws, will withstand the test of time. The optional plastic bowl provides a handy and temporary storage solution for your potting mix. The height of the workbench may be altered to suit your own requirements. However, you should keep in mind the larger pot sizes. The lower shelf will accommodate spare pots and bits and pieces that will be retained by the guard rail while wheeling the bench around. **Approx $370**

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1.

Comfy handle
Draw out the handle shape at one end of both top rails. The shape and proportions of the handle will be determined by the size of your own hand. Cut out with a jigsaw and round over edges with a 5mm radius bit in the trimmer.

2.

Upper frame
Glue and screw the upper frame together with two 40 x 8g galvanised screws. Check the frame for square by measuring the internal corner diagonals (from corner to corner). An equal measurement equals a square frame!

3.

Framing up
Assemble the lower frame and attach legs to the inside of the frames by gluing and screwing with 28 x 8g galvanised screws. The space between the upper and lower frames should be a consistent 400mm.

4.

Solid footing
The double thickness of the back leg serves two purposes – it increases the thickness of the footprint, which will reduce the impression left in soft ground, and also support the cross slat. The shorter piece attached to the front leg serves as a support only. Both are glued and screwed in place.

5.

Angle cuts
The top corners of the legs and support pieces are removed with a tenon saw to allow water to run off rather than have a chance to soak into the end grain. The angle of the cut is not critical.

6.

Rounded over

Removing the sharp corners of the bottom of the back legs will prevent the material splintering when the trolley is moved around and set down on a hard surface. Cut to shape with a jigsaw and round over cut edges with a 5mm rounding over bit in your trimmer.

7.

Attaching slats

Drill two 5mm clearance holes 10mm in from the end and 15mm in from the edges. Hold the slat up against a 12mm spacer and drill a 3mm pilot hole into the edge of the frame. Glue and screw slat with 40 x 8g galvanised screws. Repeat this process for the lower slats. Tip: Check overall spacing before fixing slats.

8.

Handy bowl

Lay face down in one corner, ensuring the outer edge of the lip does not overhang the frame. Trace around the perimeter, remove and measure the underside of lip overhang. Use this measurement to draw another line inside the first. Cut out the inner shape with a jigsaw.

9.

A little support

Glue and screw a support strip to the underside of the slats next to the tub. This will strengthen the remaining portion of the cut-out pieces. I ripped a 30mm strip off an offcut of the slat material.

10.

Guard rail

Glue and screw the surrounding guard rail to the legs with two 28 x 8g screws. Tip: Using an offcut as a spacer will ensure an even clearance gap is achieved under the rail too. Round off the sharp cut edges.

11.

Axle hole

Using a 12.5mm (1/2 inch) spade bit, drill a hole in the centre of the front leg, 35mm up from the bottom. Drill from one side until the centre point protrudes from the other, then complete the drilling from the reverse side. This will prevent splintering.

12.

Make it mobile

Insert bolt through the centre of the wheel. With a washer between the wheel and leg, secure with another washer and nyloc nut. Secure tightly and check for free rotation. Round over any cut edges, sand and apply two coats of outdoor furniture oil.