

RYOBI

LETTERBOX: BRONZE LEVEL



Letterbox

CUTTING LIST

Item	Material	Size L x W x T (mm)	No.
Gable ends	Western red cedar	225 x 240 x 18	2
Sides	Western red cedar	358 x 105 x 18	2
Bottom	Western red cedar	320 x 240 x 18	1
Roof	Western red cedar	450 x 240 x 18 450 x 220 x 18	1 1
Post	Western red cedar	1200 x 42 x 42	1
Cross rail	Western red cedar	260 x 42 x 42	1

MATERIAL LIST AND COSTING

Material	Size (mm)	No.	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Western red cedar	2400 x 240 x 18	1	69.60	69.60
	1800 x 42 x 42	1	20.80	20.80
Piano hinge	600mm	1	7.20	7.20
Piano hinge screws	15mm x 4g	50	5.35	5.35
Galvanised steel screws	40mm x 8	100	7.20	7.20
Ball catch	43mm	1	3.28	3.28

TOOL LIST

- PPE
- 10mm straight cutter
- Router/trimmer
- Cordless drill
- 10mm spade bit
- Jigsaw
- Handsaw
- Combination square
- Chisel
- Hammer/pneumatic brad gun
- Clamp
- 3 and 5mm drill bits
- Tape measure

INTRODUCTION

The daily ritual of checking your mail has never been better with this cool looking letterbox perched on your front fence - YEP, even if they are all bills! It is made from Western red cedar - an imported timber species that, although extremely soft and easy to work with, has an exceptional resilience to outdoor weather extremities. Galvanised steel screws are used, but concealed with timber plugs to enhance the overall appearance.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1.



Decorative touch

Mark out the window and door positions (see Diagram 1) or to your own specifications. Set up your router or trimmer with a 10mm straight cutter to a depth of 5mm, and carefully rout freehand or, alternatively, clamp a straightedge to the work as a guide.

2.



Keep the postie happy

The mail slot is produced by making two cuts, the first 20mm above the junction of the gable and the second at the junction of the gable. Square these positions across the front and cut with handsaw or jigsaw.

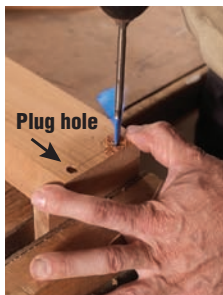
3.



Angled edge

Transfer the roof pitch to both ends of the side pieces, draw a parallel line on them and carefully plane the long top edge of each piece to the marked angle, paying particular attention to the line as you go.

4.



'Look' no screws

Mark out the screw positions and drill the counter-bore holes to a depth of 10mm with a 10mm spade bit. Masking tape wrapped out around the bit will act as a depth stop. Glue and screw the sides to the ends with two 50 x 8g screws.

5.



Attach the bottom

Repeat the counter-bore process then glue and screw the bottom in position. Ensure all edges are flush. Clean off excess glue squeeze-out with a damp sponge.

6.



Mail access

Cut 75mm off the bottom of the back gable end piece to form the door and set aside. Glue and nail side to back with either 35mm brad nails in a brad gun or 40 x 1.8 bullet head nails.

7.



Roof assembly

Glue and screw the roof panels together, ensuring the wider piece overlaps the narrower one. Glue and screw the cut off gable to the roof assembly, 45mm in from the end. Use two 50 x 8g screws.

8.



Put on the roof

Ensure the front gable is aligned with the front wall and attach the roof assembly by gluing and screwing to the back gable and the side pieces. The screws into the side need to be drilled parallel the side or, in other words, at a 45 degree angle to roof pitch.

9.



A few plugs

10mm diameter plugs are simply cut from an off-cut of cedar. Drill the piece with a plug cutter then simply remove with gentle levering using a small flat-bladed screwdriver. Apply a small amount of PVA onto the plug and push into the hole. Tip: Align grain direction and flush off with a trim saw.

10.



Hinging the door

Cut a piece of piano hinge to length, two small butt hinges may also be used if that is your preference. It is important that dedicated piano hinge screws be used to ensure proper operation of the door is achieved. Fit ball catch.

11.



Bridle joint

Adjust your combination square or marking gauge to 10mm and gauge a line from each face on the end of the post and down 42mm on the adjacent faces. Clearly mark the centre waste and remove by sawing and chiseling.

12.



Half-lap housings

Without making any adjustments to the combination square, mark out the corresponding joint on the cross rail. The width of the joint is 42mm (the width of the post) but this time both outer portions of the joint are waste and removed by sawing and chiseling.

13.



Finish off

Attach the post assembly to the underside of the letter box with 50 x 8g stainless screws. Flush off any remaining plugs, sand with 120-grit abrasive paper and finish of with 180-grit. The material may be left raw to age naturally or, alternatively, sealed with oil or an outdoor clear finish.

