

MITREPLAN

Build a Timber BBQ Unit



PROJECT PLANNER

An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a 10/10 result.

Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.

Including materials checklist.

PLEASE NOTE:

Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is well worth your time to read through all steps first to be sure you understand what is required.

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No. 85

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MITRE 10 *All the help you need*

Your complete outdoor kitchen

Cooking and entertaining outdoors is a key part of the Australian way of life and practically every home has a barbeque of one type or another. Barbeques are available in a huge variety of shapes, sizes and quality. Many are mounted in mobile trolleys so they can be stored out of the weather and out of the way until needed. Others are built into the hard landscaping and are a prominent permanent feature of the entertainment area.

Cooking outdoors often involves many trips inside to ferry utensils, spices, food, plates, drinks and so on. This mobile unit can house everything you need and provide extra bench space for preparing and serving up your culinary creations.

This unit is quite easy and inexpensive to make and will only take about a weekend.

It folds up into a compact item that is only 600mm square, then opens up to provide a 1200 x 600mm workspace, with slide-out trays to accommodate food, plates, utensils, and cutlery. The door has room for spice racks and cooking utensils on hooks.

You can make your own spice racks or simply attach some from the kitchen range at your local Mitre 10.

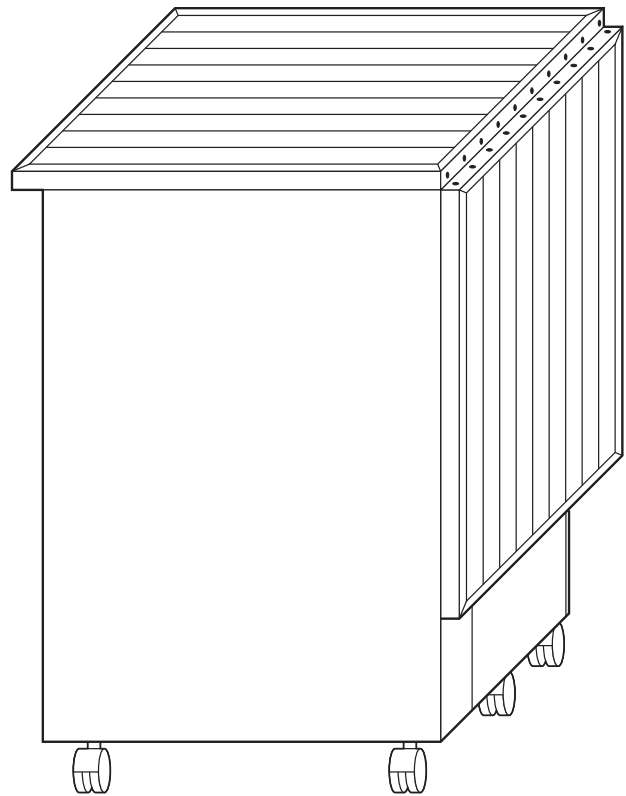
MITRE 10

Step 1: Buying your materials

This unit can be made from any material you like, but go for materials that are durable outdoors. We selected exterior grade plywood, which has either radiata pine or hoop pine veneer. This material is very robust and will accept stains and finishes that will match the hardwood tops.

Choose any hardwood decking you like – perhaps to match your deck, existing BBQ trolley or outdoor furniture.

Hinges, wheels and other fittings should be stainless steel or brass if they are to withstand the ravages of the outdoors.



Step 2: Cutting

Many Mitre 10 stores have a cutting service. For a small fee you can have your parts cut to size at the store so you can easily transport them home and get straight into Step 3 without the dust, mess and waste of cutting at home.

If you want to cut it yourself, use a circular saw to cut the plywood to size. Lay the sheet down on sacrificial lengths of 65 x 35mm pine, mark it to size, and clamp a straight-edge guide to the sheet so that your saw will cut accurately and dead-straight. Check that the sheet is actually square already, and if there's one good long and short edge you have a good starting point. If all edges are damaged you'll have to trim about 10mm off with your saw and straightedge before marking and cutting all the parts to size.

Start by “ripping” the sheet into full-length strips, and then cut the strips to length. The cutting pattern shows a simple way to lay out the parts on the sheets. Remember to allow for the thickness of the saw cuts as you go. The best way is to make a cut then mark the next measurement – rather than trying to mark out a whole sheet in one go.

Cut the small parts to length with a mitre saw. Trim one end of each piece of timber square before measuring and cutting each part. Every part should be straight, and have square ends.

Cut the mitred facings to fit the actual tops one at a time. Make sure the mitres all fit tightly, without gaps.

Step 3: Assembling

Glue and nail the cabinet parts together as a single unit. Use a good quality exterior adhesive, such as Aquadhere Exterior, and 40 x 1.6mm galvanised nails. Punch all the nails, putty with exterior wood stop and allow the glue to completely cure.

Glue and nail the mitred facings to the plywood tops. Pre-drill the nail holes close to the ends to prevent the facings from splitting. Glue the hardwood decking pieces into the tops using exterior construction adhesive, such as Liquid Nails Landscape. Space the boards evenly and leave the tops undisturbed until the glue sets.

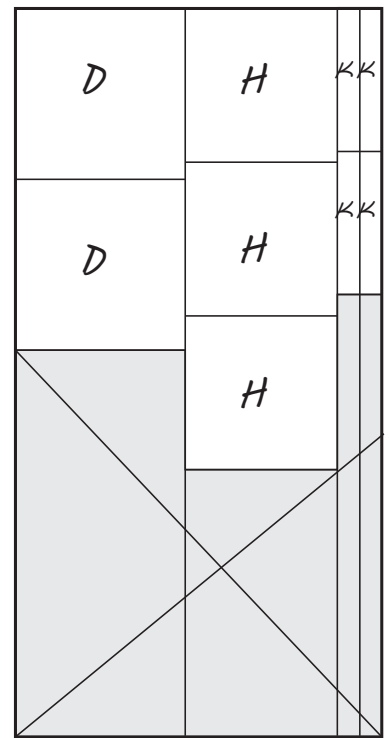
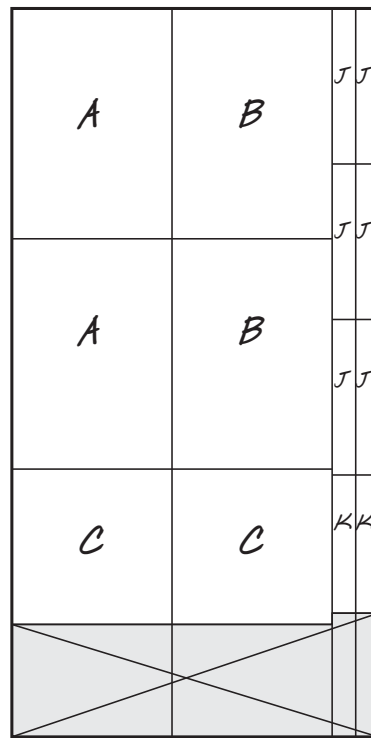
Assemble the trays with glue and nails and check that they are square by measuring the diagonals to make sure they are identical. Leave them to dry on a flat surface.

Sand the box well so that all joints are flush. Use a sharp blade in a circular saw (a fine blade works best) with the depth set to about 20mm, set the fence to cut off 125mm, and carefully cut one side off the box.

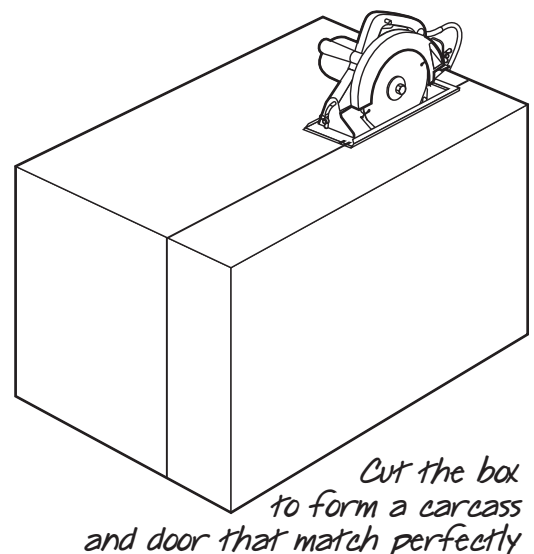
Cut a length of stainless steel piano hinge to match the height of the box and screw it to both halves so the door swings smoothly and closes to match the main carcass.

Lay the two tops side-by-side and screw on a stainless steel piano hinge down one side. Make sure the decking boards all align in one direction.

Glue 4mm packing strips to the top of the carcass. These provide enough space for the door to swing past the piano hinge on the underside of the tops. Place the carcass on the underside of one top, align it



Cutting pattern



with 25mm overhang on the back and two sides, and then screw through the cabinet into the top with 32mm screws. Glue an additional packing piece on the outer end of the door to hold the top flap straight.

Step 4: Finishing

The unit can now be finished with your chosen products before fitting the trays, castors and other items. Use your choice

of exterior stains, oils, acrylics or polyurethanes. If the unit is to be left in strong sunlight, a non film-forming finish is probably the best choice. Apply the finish inside and out to protect all surfaces and provide balance to the panels. If you apply to one side only, the other side will absorb moisture or dry out unevenly and will cause warping of the panel. Sand and finish the trays too, as well as any other extras (such as cutlery divisions) that you intend to fit.

Putty nail holes after the first coat or two to avoid a nasty “ring” stain from the putty.

Seal between the decking boards with an exterior gap filler or sealant. This will prevent food scraps and other debris from being trapped between the boards, but still allows the boards to expand and contract without damage. The visual effect is like a boat deck, so choose filler that is black, white or beige.

Step 5: Final fitting

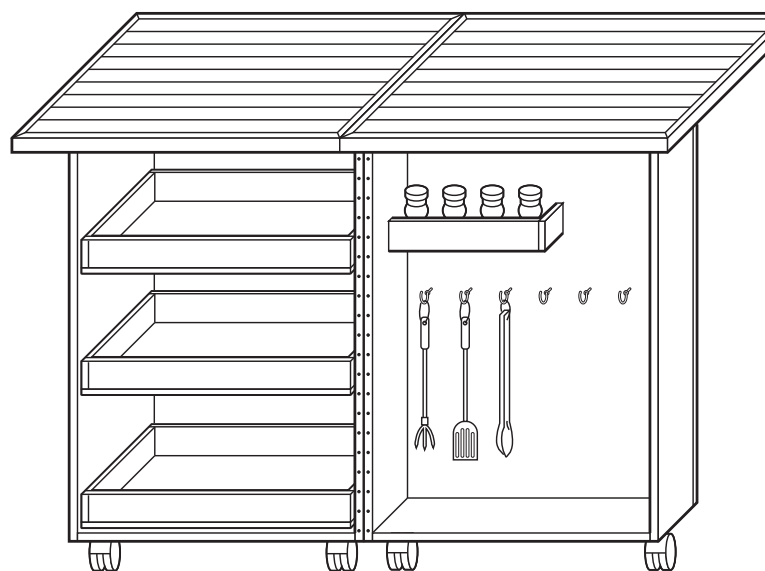
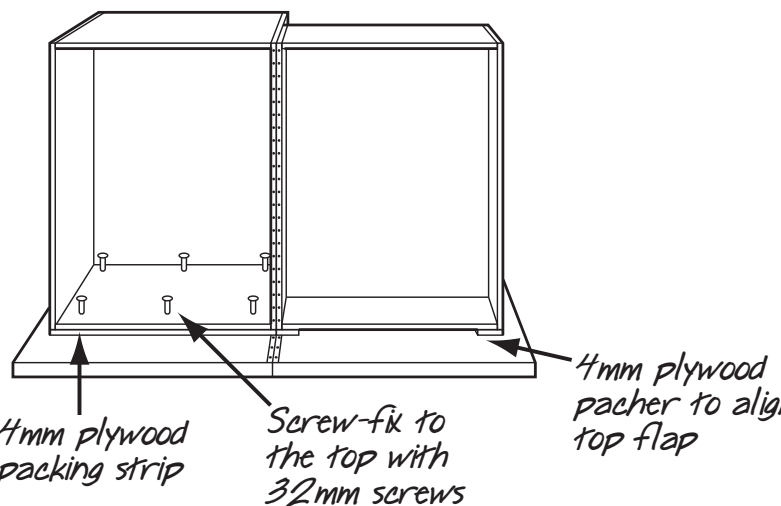
With unit upside down, screw the 100mm castors onto the cabinet and door. Place the castors as close as practical to the corners so the unit is as stable as possible when standing up. Fit the barrel bolt to the door, and drill two holes in the underside of the tops for it to lock into – one in the closed position and one in the open position. Make these holes accurate and a tight fit so the unit doesn't rattle.

Screw the drawer slides to the tray and cabinet. Measure accurately so the trays sit flat and move smoothly. Fit a cleat (part L) to either inside edge of the door so when it's closed it prevents the trays from sliding open within the cabinet as it's moved around.

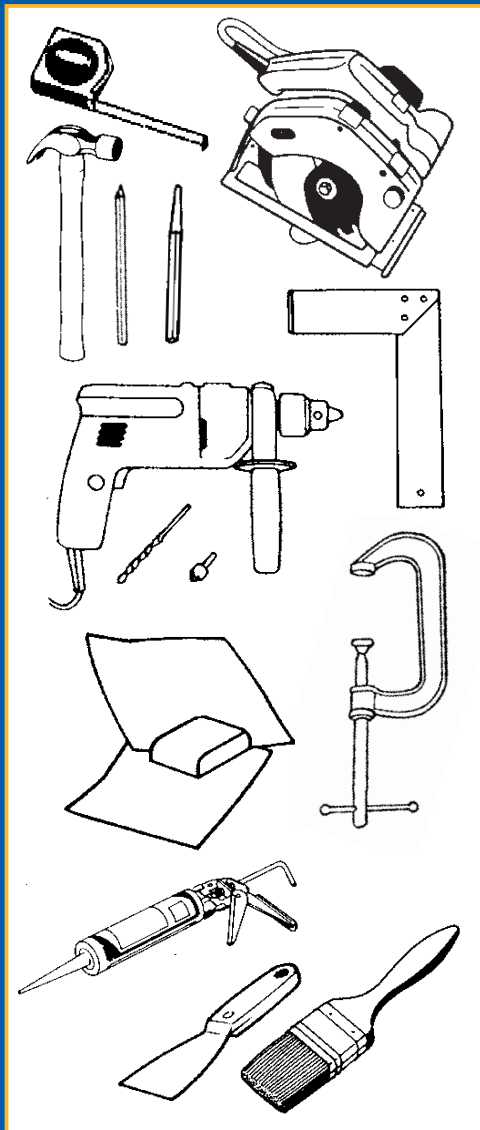
Maintenance

If you use a stain or oil to finish your BBQ unit you can simply clean it and re-apply the finish annually. Paints and other film-forming finishes may require scraping or stripping before re-finishing.

Keep the castors clean and lubricated, and tighten any loose screws as they develop.



Tools for the job



Tape measure, try-square, pencil

Cordless drill / driver and bits

Circular saw, straightedge guide, clamps

Claw hammer and nail punch

Sander, sanding block, 40mm dowel, and sandpaper (80, 120, 280, 400 grades)

Putty knife

Cartridge gun

75mm paint brush, rags, wash-up equipment

All the help you need

✓ Your Materials Checklist

	PRICE
TIMBER	
4/ 4.2m lengths of 65 x 19mm hardwood decking boards	
1/ 1.2m length of 40 x 19mm radiata pine	
2/ 2.4 x 12.m x 16mm exterior grade plywood	
Scrap 4mm plywood for packing	
HARDWARE	
1 small pack 40 x 16mm bullet head nails (stainless steel or gal)	
3 pairs of 100mm exterior grade castors (one pair with brakes)	
1.5m stainless steel piano hinge	
1 small pack 15mm x 4G stainless steel csk screws (for hinges)	
1 small pack 32mm stainless steel csk screws (or galvanised)	
1 small chrome-plated brass barrel bolt	
3 pairs 500mm drawer slides	
Spice racks to suit personal requirements	
Screw-in hooks for BBQ utensils	
OTHER MATERIALS	
1 litre Wood stain (colour of choice)	
1 litre Clear satin polyurethane	
1 litre Deck Oil	
1 cartridge of exterior gap filler or sealant	
1 small tube of wood stop (putty): colour to match timber or stain	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

Cutting List

All measurements in millimetres

	PART	QTY	LGTH	WDTH	THICK	MATERIAL
A	Front & back	2	765	550	16	Exterior plywood
B	Ends	2	765	518	16	Exterior plywood
C	Cabinet top & bottom	2	518	518	16	Exterior plywood
D	Tops	2	562	562	16	Exterior plywood
E	Top decking boards	16	562	65	16	Hardwood decking
F	Top facings (mitre both ends)	8	600	35	19	Hardwood decking
H	Tray bottoms	3	493	500	16	Exterior plywood
J	Tray fronts & backs	6	493	50	16	Exterior plywood
K	Tray ends	6	468	50	16	Exterior plywood
L	Cleat	1	733	40	19	Pine
M	Packers	2	550	50	4	Plywood
N	Packer	1	125	50	4	Plywood

Our experienced Mitre 10 staff will be pleased to assist you with all the materials and advice that you will need, to make your next project a complete success.



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10/10 handy hints to make the job easier.

■ Centre the piano hinges perfectly on the joints to make sure the parts align as they should. Initially fix with just a few screws (2 at each end and 2 in the centre) and test its operation. To adjust, simply slacken the initial screws, reposition the hinge slightly and put new screws in the next holes along. Retighten the initial screws and test again.

■ Piano hinges may be cut with tin snips. After cutting, straighten the slight bend from the cut with pliers or hammer and block.

■ Stainless steel and galvanised screws are generally easy to snap off, so drill appropriate clearance holes and pilot holes for them. Lubricate the screws with paraffin wax (candle wax) to make the job easy and to avoid snapped screws (which can be very difficult to remove)

■ You can make an extra tray or two for the unit. Fit one close to the top and fit it out with cutlery divisions. Simply nail 50mm strips of plywood in equal spacings to form individual "troughs" for knives, forks and spoons. Alternatively, plastic cutlery insert trays are available to simply cut to size and sit in the plywood tray.

■ Allow at least 25mm space above the top tray to allow the wheels of the drawer slides to drop into position.

■ Fit hooks on the inside of the door to suit your BBQ tools

■ Protect your eyes and ears when you use power tools. Protect your helpers too.

■ Some Mitre 10 stores can refer you to trustworthy local tradespeople.

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WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.



Your local MITRE 10 Store is:

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All the help you need