

Classic Trunk

DIY \$280

HAVE IT DONE \$880

SKILL 2/9

TIME 1.5 days

This elegant trunk with its distressed blue paint finish and aged brass fittings has a traditional look but is actually made entirely from modern, renewable pine products from the Porta timber products range (www.porta.com.au). The decorative brass is supplied by The Traditional Hardware Company (www.tradco.com) and the Rustic pad lock is from Mother of Pearl and Sons (www.motherofpearl.com).

The trunk has been scaled to fit neatly at the foot of a bed to house linen but it works equally as well placed under a window, against a wall or even used as a coffee table. At 1200mm long and 403mm deep the design allows for minimum cutting of the off-the-shelf pine panels and at 450mm high the top of the trunk is ergonomically ideal to sit upon.



portamouldings

MATERIALS LIST

- 4 x Pine Laminated Panel (405 x 19 x 1200) Clear or PIFJ
 - 1 x Pine Laminated Panel (405 x 19 x 900) Clear or PIFJ
 - 2 x Porta FJ Pine DAR Moulding (90 x 18)
 - 2 x Porta Pine Insert Moulding (23 x 18)
 - 1 x PVA Adhesive Glue (300ml)
 - 1 x 25 x 1.5mm bullet head nails (pack of 100)
 - 1 x Wattyl gel stain in Wenge (200ml)
 - 1 x Master Touch French Polish (500ml)
 - 1 x Acrylic Paint (500ml sample pot)
- Alternatively you can finish the trunk with a clear or coloured stain or limewash

SPECIAL HARDWARE (OPTIONAL)

- Hinges
- Handles
- Haspe & staple
- Lid stay
- Decorative corners
- Rustic padlock

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Circular saw
- Cordless drill and bits
- Finishing sander
- Router and bits (optional)
- Jigsaw (optional)
- Measure
- Straight edge
- Hacksaw
- Paint brush
- Safety Gear

CUTTING LIST

Laminated Pine	Size	QTY
Trunk Sides	1200 x 405 x 19	2
Trunk Ends	365 x 405 x 19	2
Trunk Top and Base	1200 x 405 x 19	2
Finger Joint Pine		
Skirt front and back	1236 x 90 x 18	2
Skirt front and back	439 x 90 x 18	2
Trim Mouldings		
Trim Front & Back	1236 x 23 x 18	2
Trim Sides	439 x 23 x 18	2

Porta Classic Trunk Step by Step Instructions

All the decorative Brass used in project was sourced from a specialist decorative brass manufacturer, the Traditional Hardware Company. It arrives in shiny new condition and is then treated with a special solution to give it the aged "Penny Brown" look.



Cutting trunk sides

The trunk front, rear, top and bottom are made from full sized 1200 x 405 laminated pine panels however the two end panels do need to be cut from one 900 x 405mm panel. Measure and mark 365mm from each end and cut to size with a circular saw guided by a straight edge.



Outer carcass construction

With the PVA applied to the cut ends of the side panels, position the front panel. Using a 3'n1 drill bit, which simultaneously drills a pilot hole for a screw thread, a clearance hole with a counter sink for the shaft and head and a plug hole to cover the head, drill 5 evenly spaced holes down the joint. Screw together.



Top and bottom

Apply adhesive around bottom edge and position base panel. Align one end flush to begin with and affix with more screws. Pull the trunk sides into square and then affix these and opposite end. A small 1-2mm over hang should be present along one side and one end. Repeat for top panel.



Plugs

Fit a plug cutter to your drill chuck and cut a series timber plugs from a pine off cut. Break these free with the tip of a screwdriver and then tap plugs into holes over screw heads with a small daub of adhesive. Once dry sand these and any overhanging edges flush.





Open the box

Fit a ripping fence to a circular saw set at 90mm from the blade. Use this to cut down each side and end of the sealed trunk carcass to separate a lid. Reset the fence to 20mm and remove a further strip of timber from the top of the trunk base.



Fit Skirt

After cutting the 4 pieces of skirt to fit around the base with a 45degree mitre at each end mark a line 60mm up from the base of the truck. Apply adhesive to this area and then position each piece of skirt leaving 30mm proud at the base. A few 25mm bullet head nails can be used to tack skirt into position. Tip Apply adhesive to each mitre face as well.



Fit Skirt trim

Use Porta 23x18mm insert moulding to trim the top of the skirting. Cut each piece to size with a 45degree mitre at each end and then position with adhesive. Some 25mm bullet head nails may also be needed to affix. Apply adhesive to the mitre faces as well. Wipe away excess adhesive with a damp rag.



Cut skirt base

Measure 140mm from each end of the skirt and square in to 30mm. Use the base of a 500ml paint can mark a curve leading back towards the ends. Fit a 18mm copycat cutter to a router and trim off the 30mm overhang at the base of the skirt, freehanding the cutter around the marked curve at each end.



Finish step 1

Apply pine coloured putty to nail holes and any open joints and blemishes across over entire trunk and then sand with a fine (180grit) and then extra fine (240grit) abrasive paper. Clean away dust and then coat entire trunk with dark gel stain (we used Watty! Wenge gel stain.) Apply to one face at a time with a sponge brush and then blend in with a rag.



Finish Step 2

Once dried seal surface with a coat of shellac. Apply a coat of acrylic paint over each external face (we used Dulux 'Blue Smart'). Whilst the paint is half wet rub back with a wet rag to expose some of the brown stain below and highlight the moulding details. Once dry, complete with a coat of dark wax, to seal, protect and further darken details.



Fit darkened brass hardware

Fit a pair of decorative surface mounted hinges to hold the lid in place then carefully measure and mark positions for trunk handles, hasp and staple, and decorative top corners. Brass screws are notoriously soft and easy to damage, drill pilot holes and fit with a handheld screw driver. Tip. A self centring drill bit is ideal for fitting screws into countersunk fittings. (see image, self centring drill bit in use).



Lid Stay

An important safety feature on any trunk with a lifting lid is to fit a lid stay to prevent trunk lid falling on fingers or open back too far. Place trunk against a wall and open lid to position just past 90degrees. Fully extend lid stay and fit to lid whilst in this position. Next time the lid opens it will stop in the same position.

Project instructions and photos supplied by Darryl Chapman.