



DIY: Make Your Own Porta Dowel Christmas Tree

with Porta timber dowels and dressed all round.



Make the base



Step 1

Cut the dressed all round in half lengthways (600mm) and sand any rough edges. Measure 90 x 19mm in the centre of each piece of timber.

Porta Tip

We used 90 x 38mm Porta Tasmanian Oak for this project. If you are using 90 x 45mm General Purpose Pine, measure 90 x 22.5mm.



Step 2

Cut out the pre-measured 90 x 19mm area in the centre of the timber to make the check out area.

Porta Tip

The depth of check out area is half the thickness of the timber.



Step 3

Use a hammer to knock-out the excess in the check out area.



Step 4

Use a chisel to clean-up the check out area.

Porta Tip

Ensure that the check out area is flat as this may affect the stability of the tree.

What you'll need

Materials

To make one 1.8m tall Christmas tree:

- 1.8m Porta Tasmanian Oak 45mm dowel
- 6.65m Porta Tasmanian Oak 22mm dowel
- 4.1m Porta Tasmanian Oak 9.5mm dowel
- 1.2m Porta Tasmanian Oak 90 x 38mm dressed all round or 1.2m Porta General Purpose Pine 90 x 45mm dressed all round.

Items are available at your local timber and hardware supplier.

Tools

- Circular saw or handsaw
- Drop saw or handsaw
- Drill press or hand drill with 22mm and 9.5mm drill bits
- 45mm holesaw attachment
- Chisel
- Hammer
- Orbital sander with 240-grit sanding pads, or a hand-sanding block with 240-grit abrasive paper
- Set square
- Ruler, measuring tape and pen

Make the trunk



Step 5

Sand any rough edges and slot the timber together - ensuring that the base is flush.



Step 6

Mark the centre and drill a 45mm hole through both pieces of the timber. We used a 45mm holesaw attachment. You can use a 44mm holesaw attachment and sand the base of the 45mm dowel to fit.



Step 7

Cut the 45mm dowel to the desired length. Mark 'top' and 'bottom' on the 45mm dowel.



Step 8

Divide the 45mm dowel into quarters by marking four lines along the length of the dowel. These lines will be the front, back, left and right of the tree trunk.



Step 9

Measure and mark 160mm increments around the width of the 45mm dowel, along the entire length.

Porta Tip

Pre-measuring will ensure that the branches are placed evenly along the trunk.



Step 10

Carefully mark your drill holes along the 160mm increment lines:

- Start with two drill holes (one on the front, and one on the back) on the first 160mm line.
- The second set of drill holes (one on the left and one on the right) will be on the second 160mm line.
- Alternate between the 'front & back' and 'left & right' along the entire length of the 45mm dowel.



Step 11

Once the drill holes have been carefully measured, use a drill press or hand drill to drill 22mm holes at a 5° angle - ensuring that the dowel faces the same direction at all times.

Porta Tip

To create consistent angles with a hand drill, drill through a block of timber (at your desired angle) and use this as your template on all drill holes.

Make the branches



Step 12

Cut the 22mm dowels to length:

- 2 x 580mm
- 2 x 525mm
- 2 x 470mm
- 2 x 415mm
- 2 x 360mm
- 2 x 305mm
- 2 x 250mm
- 2 x 195mm
- 2 x 140mm
- 2 x 85mm



Step 13

Divide each 22mm dowel branch into quarters and mark drill holes along the dowels (along the left and right sides of the branches).

Porta Tip

Tree branches and twigs can be positioned at your preferred angle.



Step 14

Drill 9mm holes at 5° angles - ensuring that the dowel faces same direction at all times.

Porta Tip

Keeping the tree trunk (45mm dowel) and branches (22mm dowel) facing the same way when drilling holes ensures that all the branches and twigs face the same direction.

Make the twigs



Step 15

Cut the 9.5mm dowels to length:

- 24 x 125mm
- 8 x 100mm
- 4 x 75mm



Step 16

Give all dowels a light sand.

Porta Tip

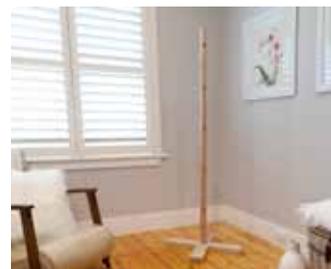
It is important to sand with the grain of the timber.

Assemble the tree



Step 17

Insert the 9.5mm dowels into the holes on the 22mm dowel branches.



Step 18

Insert the 45mm dowel into the base.

Porta Tip

Tree can be waxed, painted, stained or varnished.



Step 19

Insert the 22mm dowel branches into the trunk (45mm dowel) - starting with the longest branches (22mm dowel) at the base through to the smallest at the top.



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Porta Dowel Christmas Tree

Specifications

45mm Dowel
Tasmanian Oak
DOW45TOSL
1800mm QTY 1

22mm Dowel
Tasmanian Oak
DOW22TOSL
85mm QTY 2
140mm QTY 2
195mm QTY 2
250mm QTY 2
305mm QTY 2
360mm QTY 2
415mm QTY 2
470mm QTY 2
525mm QTY 2
580mm QTY 2

9.5mm Dowel
Tasmanian Oak
DOW09TOSL
75mm QTY 4
100mm QTY 8
125mm QTY 24

90 x 38mm Dressed All Round
Tasmanian Oak
DAR9038TOSL (Shown)
1.2m QTY 1
90 x 45mm Dressed All Round
General Purpose Pine
DAR9045PISB (Alternative)
1.2m QTY 1

