

WOOD STORAGE SHED

Part 1

Neil Lawton makes a wood storage shed for the back garden

Like many people these days, we have a log burning stove. Ours was fitted about four years ago and at that time, I built a shed to store the fuel. We are lucky enough to have a few contacts to obtain free wood, mainly through my partner's work as a professional gardener. The wood, of course, is green and requires seasoning before it can be used and the original shed was built with this in mind.

Some of the wood we get is far too good to burn and from a turner's point of view, it would be a crime to do so. The design of the original shed has proved very successful at seasoning timber, so I decided to replicate it. One shed for burning timber and another for turning timber!

1 The original shed was in a more shaded spot, so it was left open fronted. When full, it contains a winter's worth of fuel.



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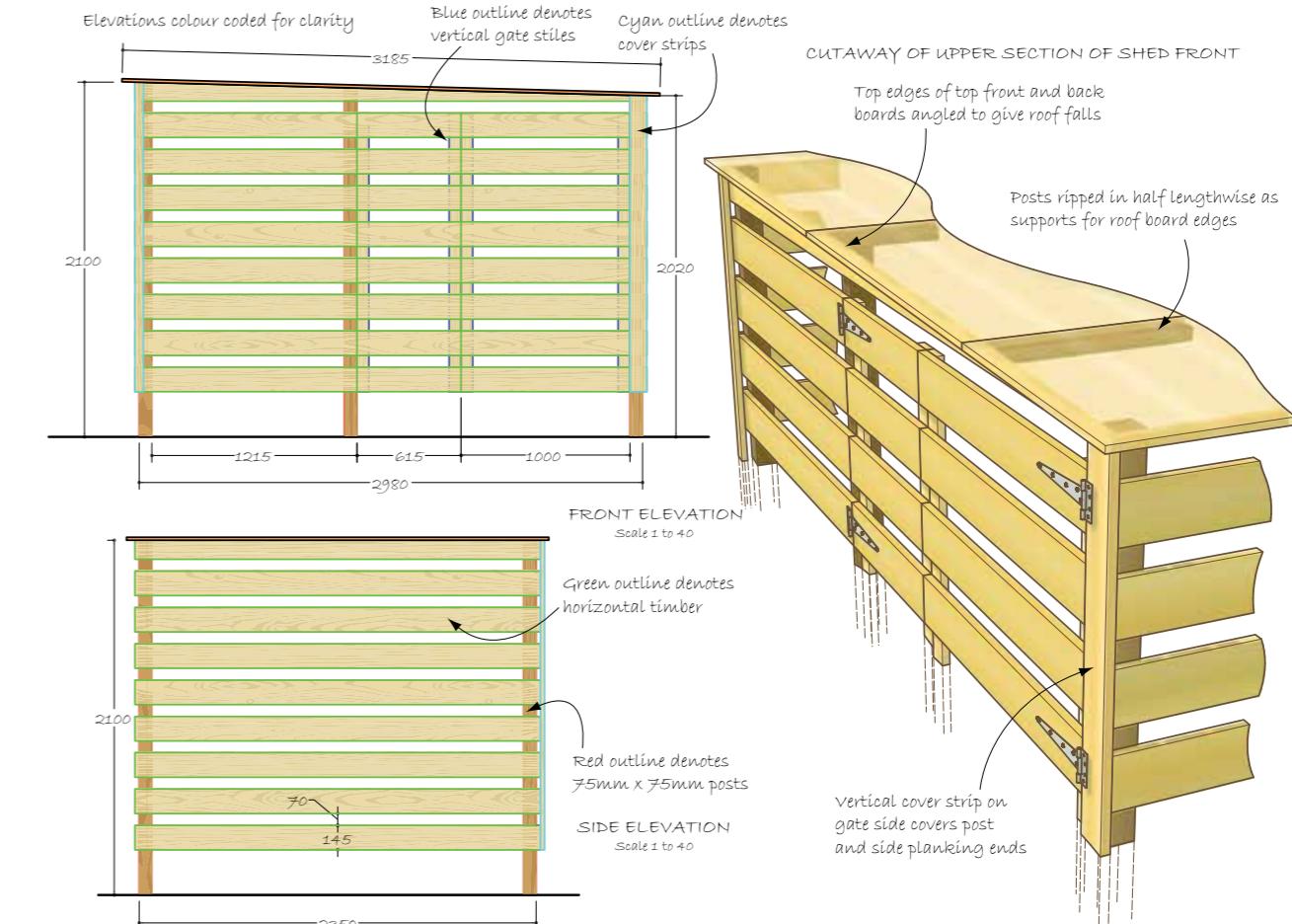
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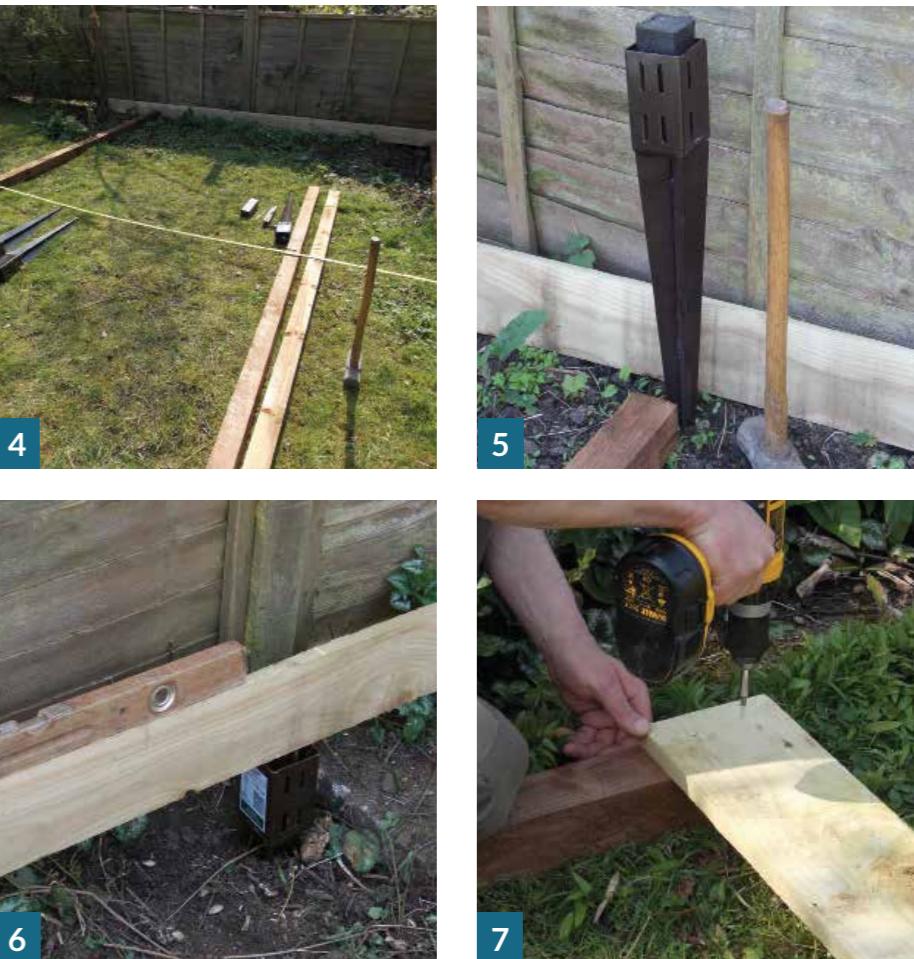
2 The new shed site – an old trellis arch was removed and plants cut back. A small lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) tree had to be dug out at the back.

3 The uprights consist of 75mm fence posts, to be hammered in to metposts. Create a rough layout to help you to visualise the size.



What you will need:

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Sledge hammer
- Drill/driver
- Jigsaw
- Hand saw
- Hammer
- 108M 22 x 150mm treated carcassing
- 6 x fence posts – 75 x 75mm x 2.4m
- 6 x Metposts – 75mm x 600mm
- 3 x OSB board – 2,440 x 1,220 x 18mm
- 1 x mineral roofing felt – 10m x 1m
- 6 x T hinges
- Screws and tacks



8 Next, mark the bottoms of the posts for the positioning of the first plank.



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9 With the first plank cut to length and fixed, there is now no need to measure. Cut two blocks of wood to the required gap size and move up with the planks as they are screwed into position. Leave the planks at their full length and simply saw back to the post after they are installed.



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10 Once up to the required height, mark the plank at the top of the posts at an angle, then remove from the frame.



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11 Use a jigsaw to cut the plank along its length. The two angled pieces should create a 'fall' for the roof.



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12 With everything trimmed, manoeuvre the back into position and knock it into the metposts alternately, until the posts are fully seated.



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13 The first front post can now be positioned.



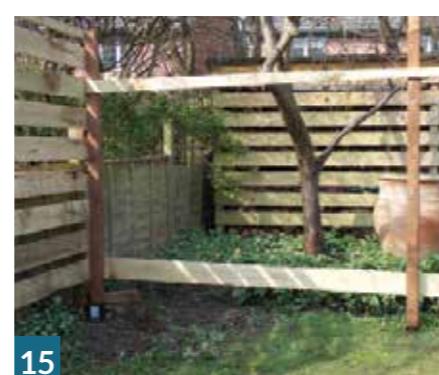
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14 Should the ground around your site rise up at this point – like mine does – put the post a long way in to level up with the back.



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15 Temporarily fix the front roof plank to the front post and attach the first plank.



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16 As before, use spacers to determine the positioning and cut back the planks to the post.



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17 Then, repeat the process for the other side and front.



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Storing wood

Having built a store, you need to make sure you keep the right sort of timber in it. Stacking correctly is important. Make sure you not only stack timber neatly, but also ensure there is ventilation between the boards and blocks of wood, so it all gets a chance to air dry properly. Once the wood has a long enough period to dry, you will need to complete the drying ready to work it. Often the best way is to cut components over size and bring them into the house and stored 'in stick' – under the bed is good!

18 Here, you can see the planks all trimmed back and the roof planks put in place.



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19 The back is a long span and needs tying together. Rather than installing another post, use an offcut to support a plank screwed to each piece.



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20 Cut a post in half lengthways to support the edges of the roofing boards. My roof did require more support to stop any sag towards the middle, but it had to wait – torrential rain was forecast and the thought of soggy orientated strand board was not appealing.



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21 The roofing felt can be quickly cut. You may need additional help to lay the felt roofing down.



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22 The gate width is determined by the length of the available offcuts. Some rips were added to the corners of my shed to tidy up the edges.



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23 Use a pile of offcuts to help hold the larger gate in the correct position while fitting the hinges.



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24 Next, screw a piece of hardwood to the smaller gate at the top and bottom. These simply lock the gates together when closed.



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25 Now, back to the roof. Use offcuts to make supports for a plank edge.



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26 This runs the length of the shed and stops the roof boards sagging in the middle.



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27 Now, with stage one finished, it's just a path, a floor and storage shelving to go! ■



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Neil Lawton

Neil is a woodworker/turner who specialises in the use of reclaimed and recycled materials in his projects and seasons native timbers for his turning work. He works from his home workshop in York, North Yorkshire and works part time in the Design Technology department of the local school.



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