Mail order

Mark Rayner makes an art deco style letterbox.

You will need:

- 17mm tanalised plywood cut to the following sizes
  400mm x 400mm – lower front panel
  150mm x 400mm – upper front panel
  250mm x 600mm (x 2) – side panels
  366mm x 250mm – inside base
  400mm x 100mm (x 2) – upper and lower back panels
  300mm x 400mm – door
  300mm x 366mm – roof panel
- 400mm quarter round wooden beading
- Stainless steel house number
- Stainless steel hinges
- Stainless steel catch
- PVA exterior glue
- Exterior filler
- 30mm galvanised clouts
- Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat
- Resene Sandtex Mediterranean Effect
- Resene Lumbersider in the following colours: Resene All Black, Resene Oyster Bay, Resene Curious Blue
- Pencil
- Steel rule
- Paint-tin lid
- Saw
- Screwdriver
- Hammer
- Sandpaper

To get the look

Mark fixed the letterbox to a concrete plinth painted with Resene Bondi Blue.

1 USING the PVA glue and galvanised clouts fix the two sections of front panel to the side panels.
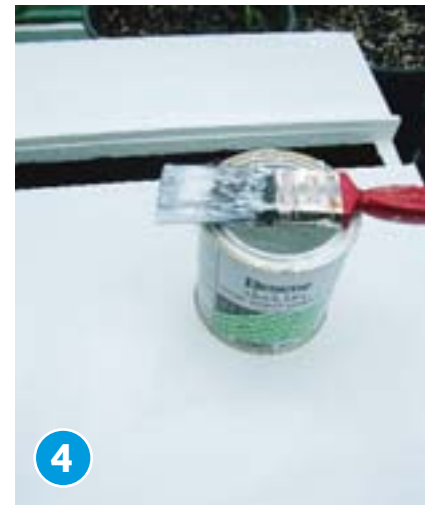

2 USING the PVA glue and galvanised clouts fix the inside base and lower section of back panel.

3 USING the PVA glue and galvanised clouts fix the roof panel into position, pitching it, as shown, to allow rain run off. Fix door panel to upper section of back panel with two stainless steel hinges. Fill gap between upper edge of pitched roof and front panel with builders' filler.

4 USING PVA glue, attach the length of quarter round beading above the front letter slot. Let glue dry then paint the entire mailbox inside and out (including unattached hinged section) with one coat of Resene Quick Dry Acrylic Primer Undercoat. Allow to dry.

5 PAINT inside the letterbox and back of unattached hinged section with two coats of Resene All Black. Allow to dry.
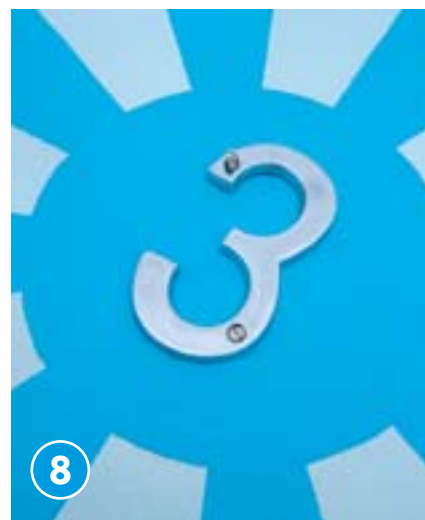

6 USING the PVA glue and galvanised clouts fix the hinged section to the back of the mailbox, ensuring the door opens and closes freely. Using a stippling technique, apply one coat of Resene Sandtex to the exterior of the letterbox. Allow to dry.

7 PAINT the exterior of the mailbox with two coats of Resene Oyster Bay and allow to dry. Using the pencil and steel rule, draw 16 equidistant lines radiating out from the centre of the lower front panel. Place a paint-tin lid at the centre point and trace around it.

8 PAINT the centre of the sun and alternating sunrays with two coats of Resene Curious Blue. Allow to dry then fix stainless steel house number to the centre of the sun and stainless steel catch to the door.