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HOME**



WITH LISE

MATERIALS AND TOOLS

NB this project involves some items that can be dangerous and require responsible adult supervision.



Corrugated cardboard box
(h. 20 cm x l. 50 cm x w. 40 cm)



Thin cardboard sheets
(eg. household appliance packaging)



2 old shirts or 2 old long-sleeved T-shirts
(sleeves at least 45 cm in length)



Scissors



Fabric or decorative paper
(to sheathe the base)



Cutter or sharp knife *to be handled by an adult only



Sticky tape



Stapler (or pins, or a needle and thread: *to be handled by an adult only)



Ruler



Pencil



Brush and/or spatula



Liquid glue
(*see home-made recipe using rice-, wheat- or corn flour)



Chopping board or cardboard sheet



Large books (or any large, heavy flat object, for pressing the components)



Tape measure
(as used for clothes-making, or DIY)

*HOME-MADE GLUE RECIPES

For the strongest fix: use rice flour or cornflour

- 1 part rice flour or cornflour
- 1 part water

Alternative: use flour and sugar

- 1 cup of flour
- 1 soup spoon of sugar
- 1 glass of water

To make the glue: Pour all ingredients into a saucepan. Warm over a gentle heat until the paste is smooth and thick. Allow to cool. This glue can be used for paper, card, fabric or small objects. It will keep for 2 or 3 days in the refrigerator or in a sealed container.

ASSEMBLY

1. PATTERN, STRUCTURAL CARDBOARD ELEMENTS

Take apart the cardboard box and lay it out flat. Taking into account the direction of the corrugated grooves, plan where you will cut out the components for the footstool/pouffe (see patterns below).

2. DRAW AND CUT OUT THE FOOTSTOOL COMPONENTS

Draw and cut out the following parts, from the dismantled cardboard box:

- 4 rectangles 210 x 11.3 cm (the 'cross')
- 2 x 21-cm squares (the top and bottom plaques)
- 8 x 10.2-cm squares (4 for the top, 4 for the bottom)
- 2 rectangles c.12 x 80 cm (the large strip; this can be made in several pieces if your

cardboard isn't long enough)

- 3 rectangles, 3 cm wide and c.90 cm long (the small strip)
- 2 rectangles, 6 cm wide and c. 95 cm long (the finishing strip)

All the strips will be adjusted when the pouffe is assembled and glued.

3. PREPARE THE BASE

The 'cross': use the 4 rectangles (2 pieces stuck together 2 x 2).

- Ensure the grooves of the corrugations run parallel to the width of the rectangle. Stick the pieces together 2 x 2 and leave them to dry under a press (two large books or other large flat, heavy object). Make a 6 mm-wide slit halfway along the longest side of each rectangle so that the two pieces can be assembled as per a 'cross halving joint'.

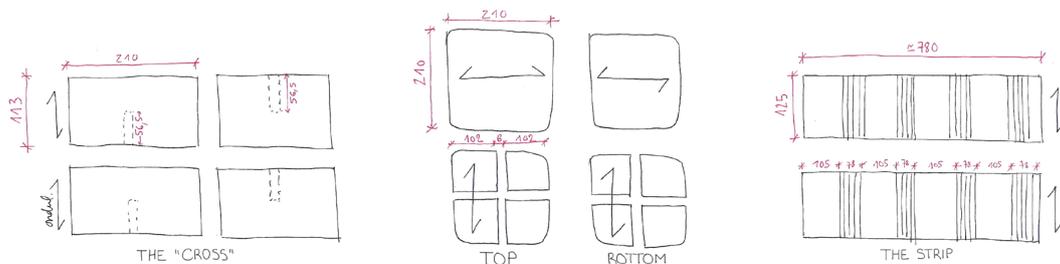
The top and bottom plaques: use the 2 x 21-cm squares and the 8 x 10.2-cm squares.

- Stick four 10.2 cm squares onto one 21-cm square, making sure their corners are aligned with the corners of the bigger square. This will leave a 6-mm cross-shaped slot in the middle of each square. NB: For added strength and rigidity, make sure the corrugated grooves of the 21-cm square run in the opposite direction to those of the 10.2-cm squares. Repeat for the second plaque.

- Trace the rounded corners of each plaque using an upturned bowl (c.10 cm in diameter) and cut them out.

For the large strip: 2 rectangles, 12 cm wide and 78 cm long.

- Make a set of scores in the cardboard strip every 10.5 cm, in four sections, each c. 8 cm wide. The exact width of each section depends on the radius of the bowl used to create the rounded corners (above): measure one rounded corner by placing a tape measure along it on the plaque. To score the cardboard, make a slit to half its thickness, between two corrugations, with a cutter or sharp knife. The scored areas will help to fold the strip around the corners of the footstool/pouffe.



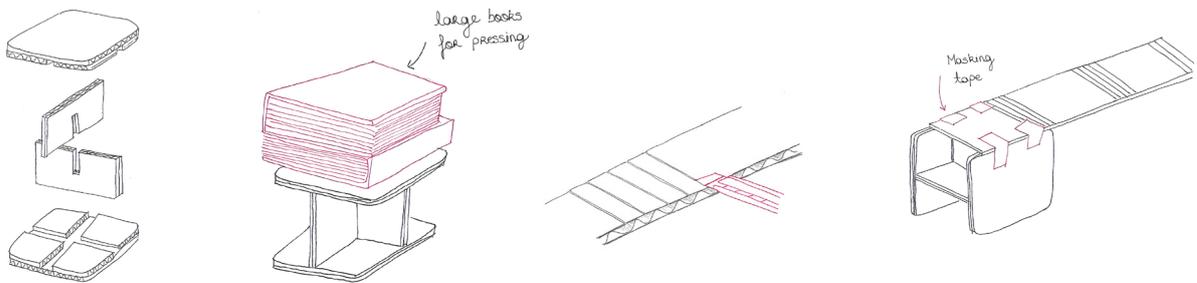
4. ASSEMBLE THE BASE

- Apply glue to the cross-shaped slots in the top and bottom plaques, assemble the cross and insert into the slots. Hold everything together very straight and press under two large books or other flat, heavy object until the glue has dried.

- Apply glue to the thin edges of the top and bottom base plaques. Gradually stick the small strip to the plaques, holding it in place as you go, with pieces of masking tape (the masking tape will ensure that the cardboard surface isn't torn when you remove the tape later). Remove the tape when the glue has dried.

- The finishing strip: 2 rectangles, 12 cm wide and c. 80 cm long.

- Make a set of scores in the cardboard strip every 10.5 cm, in four sections, each c. 8 cm wide. The exact width of each section depends on the radius of the bowl used to create the rounded corners (above): measure one rounded by placing a tape measure around it on the plaque. To score the cardboard, make a slit to half its thickness, between two corrugations, with a cutter or sharp knife. The scored areas will help to fold the strip around the corners of the pouffe.



5. SCORE AND FIX THE STRIPS AROUND THE TOP OF THE BASE

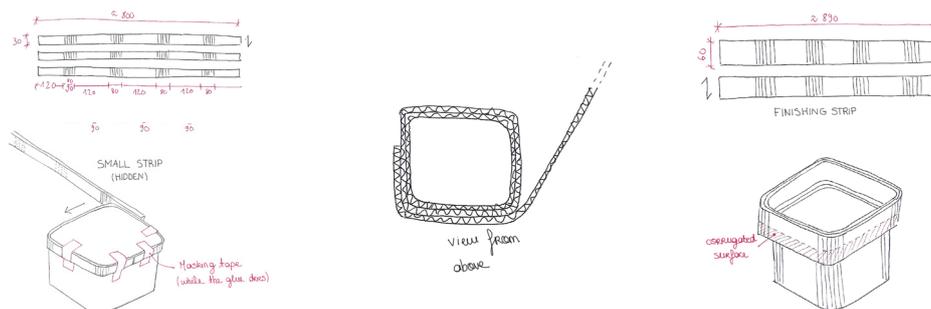
Refer to the diagrams below.

- Score the smaller strips (the 3 cm-wide rectangles) every 12 cm, to a width of about 8 cm, so that they can be bent around the rounded corners.

- Score the finishing strips (the 6 cm-wide rectangles) every 12 cm to a width of c. 10 cm so that they can be bent around the rounded corners.

- Provisionally stick the small strip around the upper edge of the base using masking tape.

- Stick the other three small strips permanently into place with glue (the strips will form three layers), and the wider finishing strip (2 layers) around the bottom edge of the first small strip.



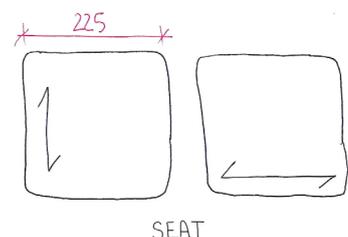
6. MAKE THE SEAT

For the seat: use 2 x 22.5-cm squares

- Draw and cut out both pieces from the corrugated cardboard.

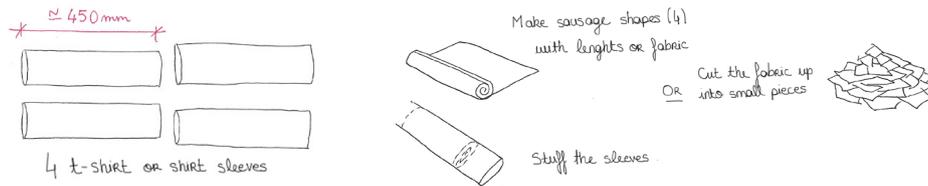
- Stick the two squares together. For added strength and rigidity, make sure the corrugated grooves of the two squares run in opposite directions (perpendicular to each other).

- Trace the rounded corners with a bowl (c. 10 cm in diameter), then cut them out.

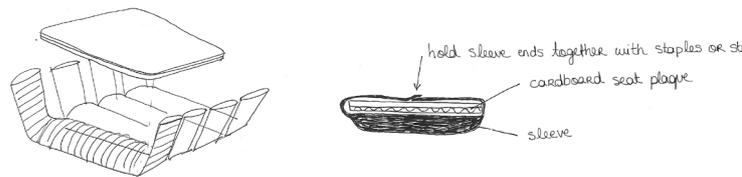


7. MAKE THE CUSHIONS

- Cut off the four sleeves of the old, long-sleeved T-shirts or shirts. Stuff them with shredded scraps of fabric or lengths of fabric rolled into a sausage shape.



- Position the 4 cushions next to one another on the seat and pull the ends of each sleeve down over the edge, to the underside of the seat. Pull them taut so that the cushions look smooth, then staple, pin or sew the opposing sleeve ends together.



8. SHEATHE THE COMPONENTS OF THE BASE

The base may be covered with materials you can find at home: fabric, decorative paper, waxed cotton etc.

- Remove the temporary masking tape and detach the 'frame' of smaller strips from the base.

- Sheathe the large strip around the base: Cut out a rectangular strip of fabric measuring c. 18 cm wide and 82 cm long. Apply glue to the large cardboard strip around the base and stick the fabric or paper rectangle to it, pressing and smoothing it to remove wrinkles and air bubbles. Cut slits into the excess corners of the fabric or paper with scissors so that you can fold and stick it to the reverse or underside of the top and bottom plaques.

- Sheathe the bottom part of the base: Cut out a 21.5-cm square of thin cardboard, draw and cut out the rounded edges (identical to those on the top and bottom plaques). Sheathe this plaque with fabric or paper, folding and sticking the excess to the reverse of the plaque. Stick this sheathed plaque to the underside of the base.

- Sheathe the small strip: Cut out a rectangle of fabric c.14 cm wide and 92 cm long. Apply glue to the outer face of the finishing strip. Apply the rectangle of fabric to the finishing strip, pressing and smoothing it as you go. Cut slits into the corners with scissors so that you can fold the excess fabric or paper top and bottom without folds or double thicknesses. Apply glue to the innermost side of the finishing strip, fold and stick down the excess fabric.

- Assemble the base and the seat 'frame': Spread a ribbon of glue 1 cm wide around the top of the base. Gently fix the sheathed 'frame' over the top of the base. Be careful, it's quite a tight fit !

