

## FLOWER POTS

These small pots were originally supposed to be for herbs or flowers but there's only one little problem ... they're made of wood so wouldn't last too long once they're in constant contact with moisture – even if there were drainage holes at the bottom – which there aren't.

So you could either get a small plant that is in a pot with a base and put that inside (if it fits) or you could use them in your kitchen to hold utensils. Your other option is to get pottery or stone bases and work on those instead of the wooden ones.

### YOU WILL NEED

- Wooden flower pots
- White acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Sandpaper (optional)
- Small green glass tiles
- Small red glass tiles
- Tile adhesive
- Palette knife
- Flower embellishments
- Toothpicks
- Soft pencil
- Glazed lime green ceramic tile off-cut
- Glazed dark green ceramic tile/s
- Glazed red and white ceramic tile/s
- Side biters
- White grout
- Grout applicator
- Firm sponge
- Lint-free cloth

Paint the inside and top edges of the pots using the acrylic paint. If the wood feels slightly rough after the first coat, sand it lightly before applying subsequent coats. You will probably have to give them at least 2 – 3 coats, allowing drying time between coats.

Glue strips of green tiles at both the top and bottom edges of both pots, working all the way around them until all four sides are done. Add an extra strip of red tiles above the green ones on the bigger pot.

Work out where you want the flower embellishments and glue them down, removing any excess glue from their sides with a toothpick. Use the pencil to draw stems coming down from the flowers.



Now use the side biters to cut the lime green off-cut into small pieces and glue them down to make the stems and leaves. Once done, begin cutting and gluing dark green pieces around the flowers, covering the entire front - there is no need to stick to any particular shape or size. When you have finished with the green, move on to the red and white tiles, and work in

exactly the same way, completing all sides. Leave overnight to dry. Mix the tile grout according to the manufacturer's instructions and apply using the applicator. Once you have finished grouting, leave it to dry for about an hour. Then take the sponge, dip it in water and squeeze it until it's almost dry. Wipe it gently over the top and

edges of your work in order to smooth the grout and also wipe away the excess from the surface of the tiles. Keep cleaning the sponge as you work but ensure that you squeeze out as much water as possible each time you do so. Leave it overnight to dry and then buff with a lint-free cloth.



HANDY HINTS



- Use the natural straight edges of the tile pieces at the top and bottom or your sides (next to the rows of glass tiles). It gives your work a neater finish.
- We only had one of each of the dark green and red and white tiles, so we really couldn't afford any waste. The larger pot has three red and white sides and the smaller one only two (there's a green one at the back).
- Toothpicks are really handy when it comes to removing excess grout from between the petals.

