

NOVEMBER 2014

Better
Homes
and Gardens



get into THE SWING

Hole in one! Well that's the aim with this fun putting game you can make for your backyard or verandah

Using a stick to roll a small ball into a hole has been popular everywhere from major international events to office comps with paper cups. The fun of a miniature course is the crazy obstacles you negotiate to get that pesky ball into the cup. This mini-fairway is made in 1800 x 1200mm sections with moveable obstacles, and can be stored away when not needed.

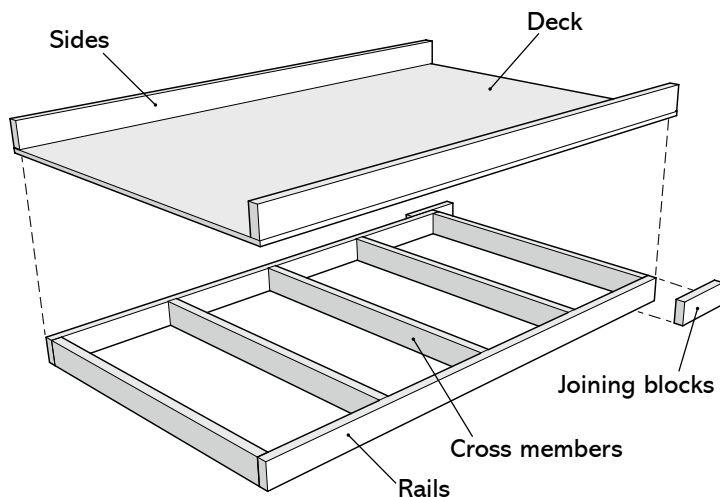


As the hazards are not fixed, move them around between rounds to vary the challenge

Create your own crazy minigolf fairway. Then turn it into a course, adding more sections.



Common Deck Diagram



steps



COMMON DECK

This is the basis of all sections of the putting lane. Put the decks end to end in multiples to make a lane between 3600 and 7200mm long. The teeing-off area is on one, and the hole is in another deck at the far end. Then it is up to you to add hazards in the middle. These can be complex such as those on the following pages, or simply screw barriers in place that you have to get around. Change things up whenever you feel you can do no better in your score.

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 35mm treated pine 3.6m (2), 2.4m (3)
- 15mm CD plywood, 2.4 x 1.2m (1 sheet)

Components

- Rails (2) 90 x 35 x 1800mm treated pine
- Cross members (5) 90 x 35 x 1060mm treated pine
- Deck 1800 x 1200 x 15mm plywood
- Sides (2) 90 x 35 x 1800mm treated pine
- Joining blocks (2) 90 x 35 x 250mm treated pine offcuts

You'll also need

Artificial grass (different pile lengths makes things interesting); artificial grass adhesive; offcut of 85 or 110mm PVC pipe and

hole saw to suit; PVA; screws; self-priming exterior acrylic paint; painting tools

Here's how

STEP 1 Predrill 2 rails, so they can be screwed to 5 cross members. These are spaced with 1 at each end of the rails, and 3 equally spaced between ends. Apply glue and drive in 2 screws per joint.

STEP 2 Apply glue to top surface of frame, then place deck over top so it is flush at each end, and has a 35mm overhang at each side. Screw down.

STEP 3 Glue and screw sides to deck, so they are flush at ends and along sides. Screw up from underside. Prepare joining blocks as needed to screw across the joints under deck; these will allow a number of sections to be joined together. An alternative is to use cabin hooks.

STEP 4 Paint outside of deck and sides with self-priming exterior acrylic in a colour of your choice (we used white), then glue down short pile artificial grass. A good putting lane length would be two or three (3.6-5.4m) of these sections joined together.

STEP 5 These decks form the basis of other all sections. Leave 1 plain for teeing-off area. In another, using hole saw, bore a hole and fit a section of 85 or 110mm pipe in another as the hole. It should be a tight fit so tap in using a block of wood and hammer. Add simple hazards such as timber barriers, which you can screw in place and change when needed. Another interesting idea is to use a combination of long- and short-pile artificial grass to create manicured lane and rough areas that a player needs to negotiate.

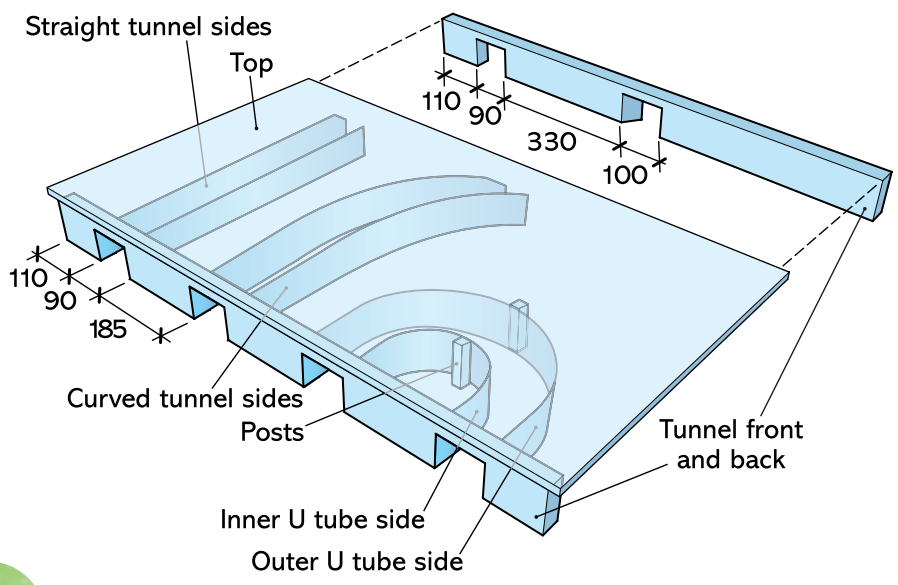
The mini-putting game

Miniature golf courses first appeared in the early 1900s, and have gone through several cycles of popularity over the decades. The popular name of Putt Putt is a registered trade name of an American company that builds and franchises miniature golf courses.





Tunnel Hazard Diagram



steps



priming exterior acrylic paint; painting tools; PVA; screws; 20mm nails

STEP 1 Build tunnel hazard upside down. Mark out front and back of tunnel obstruction. Front piece has four 90mm-wide openings. The first is spaced 110mm from left side, then remainder are 185mm apart. Back piece only has 2 openings. Looking from the back, there is a 90mm opening 110mm from right-hand side, then a space of 330mm followed by 100mm-wide opening. This should leave 500mm to left end. Set a saw to cut 70mm deep, then cut out all openings, except the 100mm-wide one, with a series of parallel cuts.

TUNNEL HAZARD

This obstacle is a good challenge, especially for first-time users. One hole goes straight through, one causes the ball to veer off in a direction that you do not want, and one is a 'U' shape that returns the ball to you.

STEP 2 To make final 100mm opening, leave saw cutting to 70mm deep but rotate blade to cut at a 45° angle back towards other hole.

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 35mm treated pine 2.4m (1)
- 15mm CD plywood (1/2 sheet)
- 19 x 19mm pine or similar 180mm offcut
- 3mm plywood, 1000 x 500mm (1 sheet)

STEP 3 Set front and back out on table in correct position, with cut-outs face down so there is a 600mm gap between them. Glue and screw the top on, so front and back edges are flush and top overhangs by 35mm at each side.

Components

- Tunnel front and back 90 x 35 x 1130mm treated pine
- Top 1200 x 670 x 15mm plywood
- Straight tunnel sides (2) 670 x 70 x 3mm plywood
- Curved tunnel sides (2) 750 x 70 x 3mm plywood
- Outer U tube side 980 x 70 x 3mm plywood
- Inner U tube side 535 x 70 x 3mm plywood
- Posts 19 x 19 x 90mm pine

STEP 4 Turn top assembly upside down and test-fit tunnel plywood pieces. The U tube sides come back out the adjacent hole, the far-left tunnel goes straight through and middle tunnel veers off at an angle.

You'll also need

1200 x 670mm artificial grass; artificial grass adhesive; self-

STEP 5 Start 20mm nails in ends of plywood ready to drive into front and back openings. It makes fitting strips less fiddly.

Minigolf has been a great distraction on weekend excursions for decades



steps



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 8



STEP 9



STEP 10

STEP 6 Apply glue, then hold inner U tube side in place and tack to frame.

STEP 7 Repeat for outer plywood strip for U tube.

STEP 8 To fix the curved tunnel sides, fit outside of curve first so you can nail off the inner side to the angled opening. The straight sides you can do in any order you like.

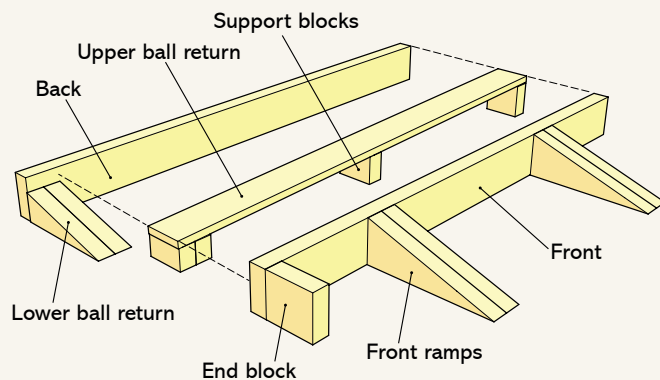
STEP 9 To help support the U tunnel sides at back of curves, cut two 90mm-long posts of pine offcuts. Glue and screw to outside of outer curve and to inside of smaller curve so tunnel is not obstructed. You will only get the top screw in. The 'bottom' of posts are screwed to the top when it is turned over.

STEP 10 Cut any excess plywood from openings, if necessary, sand openings smooth, then give 2 coats of paint allowing to dry between coats. When dry, glue artificial grass to top. This hazard is not fixed and can be slid up and down lane to change the course.

Stockists

Power tools, **Bosch Australia, 1300 307 044, bosch.com.au** 90 x 35mm treated pine; 15mm CD plywood; exterior acrylic in colours of choice; Coolaroo 40mm Plush Synthetic Turf, 1.83m wide, \$79/m; Coolaroo 9mm Pile Synthetic Play Turf, 1.83m wide, \$28.97/m; artificial grass; Grass Adhesive, 1L, \$19.10, **Bunnings Warehouse, (03) 8831 9777, bunnings.com.au** or stores nationally.

Ramp Hazard Diagram



RAMP HAZARD

This is a simple hazard where you need to tap the ball up the ramps. Too soft and the ball will not make it and roll back down the ball return. The hazard also sits loose and can be moved to any position.

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 35mm treated pine 2.4m (2)
- 15mm CD plywood 1200 x 80mm offcut

Components

- Lower ball return (2) 90 x 35 x 215mm treated pine offcut
- Front ramps (4) 90 x 35 x 260mm treated pine offcut
- Back 90 x 35 x 1130mm treated pine
- Support blocks (4*) 90 x 35 x 80mm treated pine offcut
- Upper ball return 1060 x 80 x 15mm plywood offcut
- End block 90 x 35 x 100mm treated pine offcut
- Front 90 x 35 x 1060mm treated pine

* need to be cut to height, see Step 2

You'll also need

Self-priming exterior acrylic paint; painting tools; PVA; screws to suit

Here's how

STEP 1 Cut wedges for lower ball return and front ramps and screw pairs together. Sand or plane inclined surfaces smooth and flat so ball is not deflected. Screw lower ball return to back at one end. You can make this right- or left-handed.

STEP 2 Cut support blocks to height. You will need 1 at 75mm, 1 at 60mm and 2 at 45mm. Screw 45mm blocks together, then screw to back left beside lower ball return. Screw 75mm block to far end and remaining block in middle.

STEP 3 Screw upper ball return to blocks so it is flush with high end.

STEP 4 Screw end block to front, then add front ramps, screwing on from back. These can be spaced wherever you want as long as position does not coincide with blocks holding upper ball return. Then screw front ramp assembly to blocks under the ball return and also 1 screw from end block into lower ball return. Paint in 2 coats of colour of choice allowing to dry between coats.