

# there once was a wardrobe



Remove the witch, and turn an old robe into smart, stylish pieces. Then you get to live happily ever after!

Old furniture pieces, such as wardrobes, are often discarded or sold cheaply, and are ideal to be repurposed. The beauty of a wardrobe is it gives you plenty of material to play with.

When you're changing the use of a piece of furniture, make sure it's structurally sound. Some pieces may need extra bracing for safety.

This wardrobe is about 1800mm high x 1050mm wide. The front panels and door were used to make a screen, and the wardrobe was converted into a seat.

## Buying at auction

If you don't have a suitable wardrobe to convert, you can often pick one up inexpensively at an auction. However, before you bid, check out the terms and conditions of the auction, and any commissions you may have to pay.

Also, have a price in mind that you are willing to pay for the wardrobe. Make sure the piece is suitable for your purposes, that it is sound and doesn't have any cracks. And of course, be sure the final result of your project will be worth the purchase.



1. You can make a screen from the two side panels and the mirror door of your wardrobe. Here, the small mirrors are cut to fit the oval indents.

2. The original wardrobe drawer is retained as a part of the bench seat, which is finished with timber rails and armrests.

3. Who would have believed that an old wardrobe can be turned into a charming seat with a drawer and a handy screen.

## Screen and seat

### GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

- Support cleats for seat (various) 42 x 19mm Oregon
- Front uprights (2) 42 x 19mm Oregon
- Side and back rails (3) 70 x 19mm Oregon
- Armrests and capping (3) 70 x 19mm Oregon

### YOU'LL ALSO NEED

1200mm brass finish piano hinges (2); white interior acrylic low-sheen paint (here, Dulux China White); drawer handles; extra mirror panels (optional, cut to desired size); mirror adhesive; cabinet maker's wax **Note:** The lengths of timber material will depend on size of your wardrobe.

### HERE'S HOW

**STEP 1** Begin dismantling wardrobe by removing any doors and drawers (if they're

still attached). Remove any visible nails or screws holding top in place.

**STEP 2** Use a chisel to prise top off wardrobe, giving a light tap with a hammer from the underside to help it along if it's difficult to remove. At it starts to loosen, check to see if there are any previously hidden fixings that can also be removed.

**STEP 3** To remove 2 panels for screen, lay wardrobe on side. Use a power saw to cut immediately behind first panel to release it from glue blocks and sides of wardrobe. Make sure you stop cutting before you run into bottom section of wardrobe. Finish with a handsaw, if necessary. Repeat for other panel.

**STEP 4** The shelf above the drawer of this wardrobe will become a seat. Draw a line 900mm up from bottom, across the sides and back of wardrobe. Then cut along line with a power saw.

**STEP 5** Lay seat on its back. Cut 2 support cleats to size to fit width of drawer space. Glue 1 cleat in place at top of space at back. To fix in place, drive 2 screws from cleat into back of seat. Also, install cleat across front (allowing space for drawer front) – this acts as a stiffener. Then add 4 short cleats between front and back. Alter drawer, as necessary, if it fouls on cleats under seat. The drawer needs to run properly and be supported when open. Stand seat upright, then drive 4 screws from back into rear cleat.

**STEP 6** Glue and screw uprights to front edges of seat sides. Screw into remaining

glue blocks where available, or into wardrobe sides after careful predrilling, so they're flush with outside face of robe.

**STEP 7** To give sides stability, glue 2 side rails to inside of seat top so they sit flush.

