Build an Eight-Sided Planter

A decorative planter is a great way to enhance the beauty of your plants.

Are your pots ruining the natural beauty of your plants? Maybe your décor has evolved to the point that simple terra cotta won't quite do anymore. Save yourself the trouble and your treasured plants the shock of repotting. Making your own planter is a simple fix that's both functional and attractive. This project is for any woodworker and requires only basic workshop tools. In a short time, you can have an unique decorative planter. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a service to you.

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Materials

- Table saw
- Miter saw
- Jig saw
- Hammer
- Clamps
- Tape measure
- Drill/driver with bits
- Dust mask
- Goggles
- Hearing protection

- 2x4 lumber
- 1/2" plywood
- 3d finish nails
- 1" wood screws
- Wood glue
- Finishing materials of your choice

Critical Dimensions

1. Each row of side pieces equals 3/4" of height for the planter.

   Example: If the planter needs to be 9" high, divide 9 by .75 to determine the number of rows.
   9/.75= 12 rows of side pieces

Note that two rows of side pieces are highlighted. This represents 1 1/2" of height on the planter.

2. The number of side pieces in each row is equal to half the number of sides on the planter.

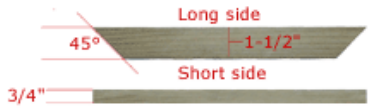
   Example: If the planter has 8 sides, divide 8 by 2 to derive the number of side pieces needed for each row.
   8/2= 4 side pieces per row

3. The total number of side pieces required is equal to the number of rows multiplied by the number of side pieces per row.

   Example: If the planter requires 12 rows and 4 side pieces per row, multiply 12 by 4 to find the total number of side pieces needed.
   12x4= 48 side pieces

4. The length of the side pieces determines the maximum diameter pot the planter can hold. Use our chart to size the side pieces for your planter.

Side Piece Longest Edge	Maximum Pot Diameter
10"	13 1/2"
9"	11 1/2"
8"	9"
7 1/2 "	6 1/2"



Side piece dimensions

Cut the Side Pieces

1. Rip the 2x4 stock into 1 1/2x3/4" pieces.

Make the first angled cut in the right end of the work piece.

Flip the work piece edge for edge before you make the second cut.

2. Set your miter saw to cut a 45º angle to the left. Cut a 45º angle in the right end of one of the 1 1/2x3/4" pieces, as shown in the illustration. Measure and mark the work piece for its second miter cut. Flip the work piece edge for edge and make the second miter cut.

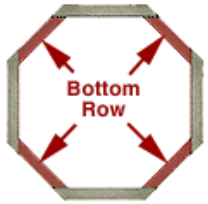
3. Unplug the saw and lock it into the closed position. Butt one end of the piece from step 2 against the saw blade and clamp a stop block against the other. With the stop block in place, all you need to do is flip the work piece, butt it against the block and cut to make uniform side pieces.

Use a stop block on the right side of the miter saw to ensure uniform pieces.

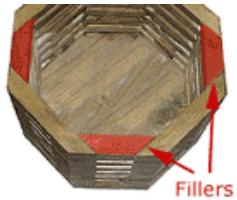
4. Cut enough side pieces to complete the planter.

Assemble the Side Pieces

1. Lay out the bottom two rows of side pieces as shown in the graphic. Glue and nail the pieces in place.



When viewed from the top, the the planter should look like this.



Install filler pieces in the top rim to give the planter a more finished look.

2. Continue gluing and nailing side pieces until they are all assembled.

Cut and Assemble the Top Rim and Bottom

1. Cut small pieces of side piece stock to fill in the top rim of the planter. Glue and nail the pieces in place.

2. Trace the planter's outline on the plywood and use a jig saw to cut it out. Secure the plywood to the bottom of the planter with 1" wood screws.

3. You can finish the planter in any manner you choose, using paint, stain and a clear topcoat or with an oil finish. For more decorative finishing ideas visit the finishing projects section in Lowe's Woodworkers.