

BRANZ

builder's mate



A perfect fit

If you want to fit a cabinet, shelf, plasterboard sheet or moulding to an irregular surface, a simple technique called scribing is the answer. You will get a perfect fit with no gap and no need for filler.

Scribing lets you transfer a profile from an existing building surface to another element. You cut or sand the new element down to the profile line, and you get a snug fit into place.

You are most likely to use scribing during renovations of older houses where walls and floors aren't all level, square and plumb. It is also useful if you have to fit a building element like plasterboard lining to an irregular surface, such as an exposed brick chimney. It doesn't need any expensive tools. If the irregularity is very small – around 3 mm or less – you may be

able to use just a carpenter's pencil. If it is more than that, a compass with a pencil inserted or even a small block of wood plus pencil will do the job.

For scribing small variations of just a few millimetres, use a pencil flat on one (vertical) surface – say the wall lining. Use the lead end to mark the item being scribed to the surface. >


WIN!

The DeWalt
ultimate drill bit set

The Tool Shed

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worth \$200!

INDUSTRY NEWS

LBP changes

Changes to the Licensed Building Practitioners Scheme have been scheduled for 2 November 2015. The main change is that two existing activities will become compulsory:

- Reading LBP News (part of MBIE's *Codewords* newsletter). The articles will focus on relevant changes in law and technology. There will be a short quiz on the key points.
- Identifying two examples of on-the-job learning over the 2-year skills cycle. For designers, this may be through using a new or innovative design method. For builders, it may be using a new product or construction method.

LBP's will still carry out other activities they choose, but the time requirement for these will be cut in half.

LBP's will move into the new scheme on the date of their next 2-yearly skills maintenance anniversary after 2 November 2015.

Green Star tools

Four special Green Star tools are being developed to help the design of Christchurch anchor projects such as the stadium and sports facility. The tools will help ensure the buildings are environmentally friendly. More info: www.nzgbc.org.nz.

HAMMER 'N' NAILS



If the gap is wider, you could put a small block of wood behind the pencil. For rough surfaces like an exposed brick chimney, a compass is the best solution.

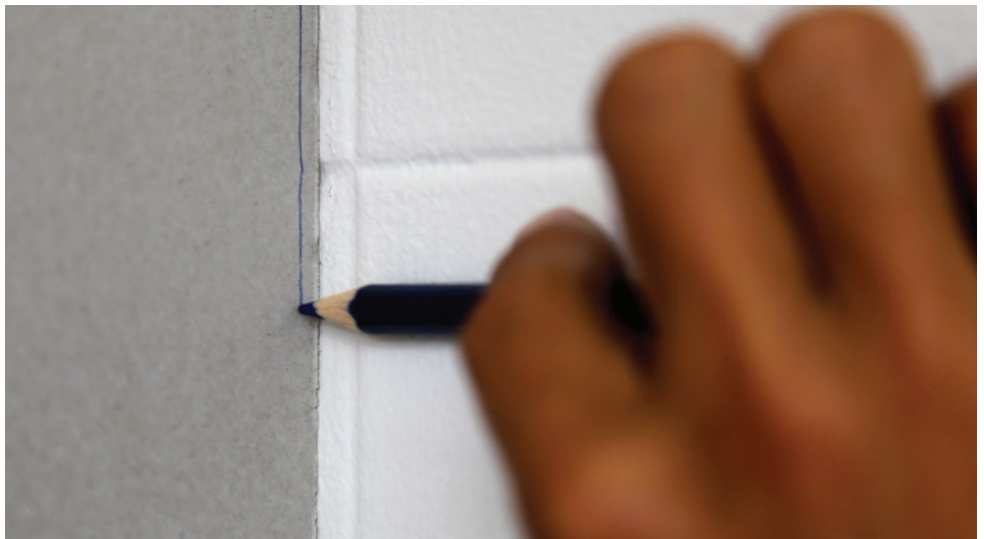
Here's how to scribe using a compass:

1. First, hold the cabinet/shelf/moulding etc. to the irregular surface. Make sure it is level and plumb and firmly in place. If it has to match existing elements – such as a wall shelf that needs to match a benchtop below – make the appropriate checks. Take your time with this stage to get it right.
2. Set the compass a little wider than the widest part of the gap. The best compass to use is one that has a nut that you can tighten so the setting doesn't change. Hold the compass at a right angle to the surface being scribed. Starting from one end, run the sharp foot of the compass against the irregular surface and the pencil along the surface of the material being scribed. You will be marking a wavy pencil line on the new material.
3. Saw, sand or plane the new material down, but not right to the line with the first attempt. It is better to cut away material slowly and do several tests to get it right.

The distance you set between the compass point and pencil tip determines how much material you will remove and therefore the final position of the new material. Work this out before you start scribing.



Scribing with a compass involves running the compass point along the irregular surface and marking the shape on the material to be cut.



This photograph shows the principle of scribing with just a pencil – keeping the pencil flat against the irregular surface, move it slowly along, transferring the shape to the material to be cut.



Mouthpiece

New LBP skills maintenance coming on stream

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recently announced changes to the skills maintenance regime for licensed building practitioners (LBPs). The new scheme focuses on quality learning results rather than being a purely compliance or points-gathering exercise. It seeks to use naturally-occurring evidence of learning and provides more certainty regarding what constitutes a credible or relevant learning opportunity.

Having a part in designing the new scheme has allowed me to reflect on my own building journey.

In 1993 I completed a carpentry apprenticeship, and like most young tradesmen, I thought I knew my stuff. I worked alongside very good carpenters. Some were also gifted teachers. I still recall some enlightening tutorials, such as learning to use a dumpy level or hanging my first door. My leading hand, Mr Piki

Emery, took pride in announcing the verdict – a pass or fail, nothing in between. Fortunately, I usually got an 'Emery pass'. After building for 15 years I now have the privilege of administering the LBP Scheme, working with MBIE and the Building Practitioners Board colleagues.

My varied work has given me useful insights, one of which is that regardless of your job, you never stop learning. Maintaining a current skillset is vital to keeping ahead of the game, avoiding rework and running a good operation. Learning doesn't stop once you have become qualified.

The new LBP scheme comes into force on 2 November 2015 and will see information on regulatory and technical change communicated directly to LBPs. The scheme will still include self-directed learning, but a reduced amount.

Paul Hobbs

Registrar Building Practitioner Licensing

Cable know-how

It is hard to imagine working on a building site without electrical tools and extension cables. Unfortunately, each year, people get electric shocks, faulty gear leads to fires and builders are injured tripping over cords.

Here's how to keep the convenience and reduce the risks.

First up, if you're using electrical tools with an extension cord outside, always use a residual current device (RCD) or an isolating transformer.

An RCD monitors the electric current flowing through a circuit. If you touch a live wire or faulty equipment and electricity flows through you to the ground, the RCD senses the reduction in current and shuts off the electricity. This reduces the risk of a serious or fatal injury.

Next, test and tag your power tools, extension cables and RCDs every 3 months. The tag should include the date of the test and the date the next test is due.

To test an RCD, plug in a small appliance and push the test button. A working RCD will switch off. If it stays on, stop using it and take it to an electrician or replace it.

Do not use double plugs or multiboards with a single outlet RCD, and only use multiboards that have an RCD built into the unit.

Other precautions to take with extension cables and power tools:

- Don't overload circuits.
- Regularly check for damage to cords or switches, and don't use them if damaged.
- Make sure that the outlet sheath of the cable is firmly clamped so the wires don't pull out of the terminals.
- Keep extension cords away from sharp edges or cutting equipment, liquids or heat/flame.
- Use cords fully extended – using cords tightly wound around storage reels increases the electrical resistance, which can lead to overheating.
- Never staple or nail a cord to keep it in place – use tape or clips.
- Pull a cord out by holding the plug, not the cable.
- Put cords away when you have finished.
- Use cordless tools in very damp conditions.

Weatherproof outdoor switches and power sockets should be installed where electrical equipment is frequently used outside.



build

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WWW.BRANZ.CO.NZ

Competition

Here's a tool.



What is it?

Win!

The DeWalt ultimate drill bit set



Worth \$200!

This 90-piece set comes in a robust plastic case with sturdy latches. The quality screwdriver bits and drill bits include some from the Dewalt extreme range, especially made for exceptional performance.

The prize is provided courtesy of The ToolShed.

All you need to do to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool (above).

Email your answer to buildersmate@branz.co.nz. Put "April Competition" in the subject line. The message should include your answer, your name, postal address and phone number. One entry per entrant please.

Don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of *Builder's Mate*! The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Friday 8 May 2015. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website (www.branz.co.nz) and in the next edition of *Builder's Mate* due out on 1 June 2015.



The winner of the February issue was Nancy Gubb of Auckland. Nancy wins an Arges 950w rotary hammer drill and breaker. The mystery tool was a locking C clamp.

Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ and The ToolShed shops. The competition will close at 9 am on Friday 8 May 2015. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

What's wrong in these PICTURES?



1 EXTERIOR TAP

2 EXTERIOR PAINT

1. Exterior tap penetration through brick veneer is not sealed.
2. Very poor preparation and finishing of paint job on exterior wall.

ANSWERS



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