

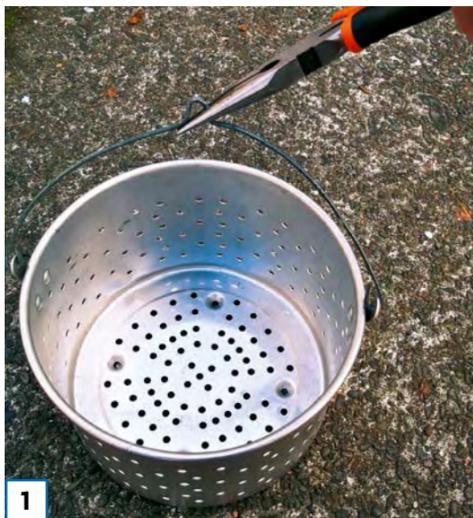


Hanging herb basket

Mark Rayner turns an old aluminium kitchen colander into the ideal hanging planter for a handy clump of herbs near the kitchen window.

You will need:

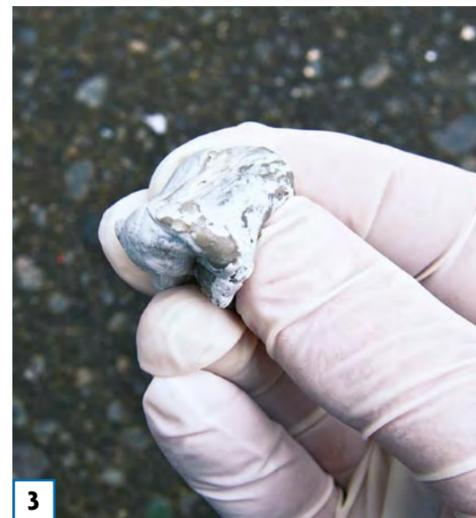
- 5mm snap hook
- 3mm galvanised chain
- Clean cloth
- Old aluminium kitchen colander
- Fine sandpaper
- Pliers
- Paintbrushes (including an artist's brush)
- Polythene planter bag to fit colander (ours was a PB 6.5)
- Resene Multishield+ (gloss)
- Resene Quick Dry
- Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer
- Resene Testpots in Resene Alabaster, Resene Riptide and Resene Wild Thing
- Selleys multipurpose Knead it
- Latex gloves
- Good-quality potting mix and 3 parsley plants



1 Make a small upward bend in the centre of the wire handle of the colander using pliers.



2 Lightly sand the colander with fine sandpaper and remove any sanding dust with a clean cloth.



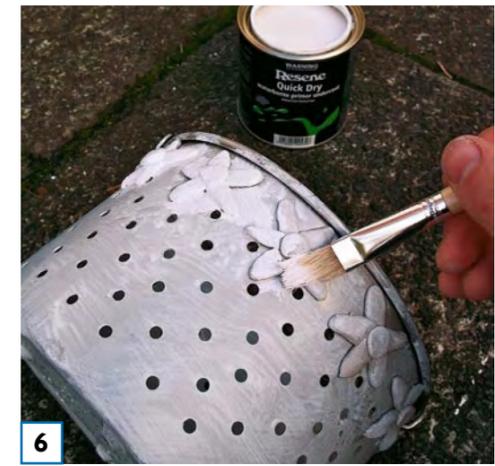
3 Wearing latex gloves, mix a little Knead it epoxy putty, following manufacturer's instructions.



4 Form the Knead it into a row of daisy shapes around the top of the colander, firmly pressing on to the surface. Allow to cure for an hour.



5 Apply one coat of Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer to the colander and allow two hours to dry.



6 Apply one coat of Resene Quick Dry to the daisy shapes and allow two hours to dry.



7 Apply two coats of Resene Riptide to the inside and outside of the colander, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



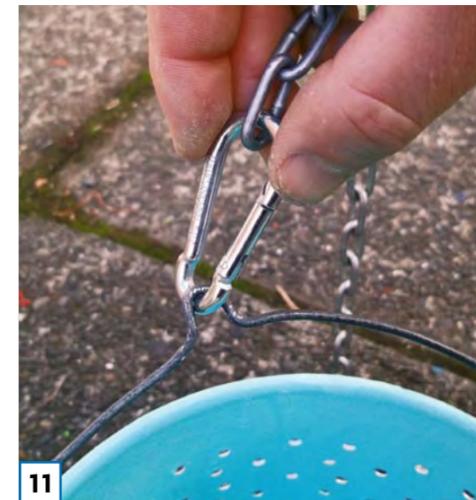
8 Paint the daisy petals with two coats of Resene Alabaster, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



9 Paint the centre of each daisy with two coats of Resene Wild Thing, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



10 Apply one coat of Resene Multishield+ to the hanging basket and allow two hours to dry.



11 Fix the chain to the handle with the snap hook.



12 Line the hanging basket with the polythene planter bag, folding over or cutting the edges to fit. Fill the hanging basket with good-quality potting mix and plant with three parsley plants. Other herbs such as coriander, chives and thyme could be used as well.

Top tip: If your colander doesn't have a handle, simply drill three equidistant holes around the edge and hang with galvanised wire or chain. ■