

Make a Hacking Cane

Hacking canes add a nice finishing touch to a rider's show turnout plus they're easy and cheap to make!

What you need....

- **Lengths of cane** We bought some for 95¢ per 2 metre length which made our two canes with some left over. You can also buy a bundles of cane for around \$4 which would make HEAPS! Cane is available from Bunnings Warehouse and most plant nurseries.
- **Doorknobs** These decorate the top of your hacking cane. We bought ours from Bunnings for around \$4.50 per knob (you can also get silver doorknobs) or you

could try a speciality doorknob company and get even fancier tops such as crystal etc.

- **Stain/gloss varnish (& brushes)** We used a 250ml tin of stain and varnish in one (around \$25, it was the smallest available) and our cane only needed one coat for a rich colour and high gloss so one tin would do a LOT of canes! You can also buy the stain and gloss varnish separately if you wanted different

coloured canes.

The second cane pictured with the smooth door knob wasn't stained, just painted with gloss varnish for a natural finish.

- **Sandpaper** (medium grit).
- **Glue** Araldite or superglue (please be very careful with this!)
- **Hacksaw and screwdriver.**



1 Using a hacksaw (you might need help with this) cut your cane into the desired lengths. Ours are 42cm for the natural colour while the darker one is 50cm. Length is up to you. Sand well, rounding off the bottom of your cane. The doorknobs come with screws and the head of the screw will need to be removed with the hacksaw or a boltcutter. Screw the doorknob onto the end of the head-less screw. The cane is hollow, so put some glue into the hollow, then insert the screw with doorknob attached into the hole. If it won't fit, widen the hollow using a screwdriver. Allow the glue to dry thoroughly.

When the glue is dry, paint or varnish your cane using long, smooth strokes. Make sure you wear old clothes for this and varnish in a ventilated area as the stuff pong! There's lots of nice stains available, we used 'Antique Cherry' but walnut and jarrah would also look nice. Our stain and varnish combo only needed one coat while the gloss varnish needed 2-3 coats. Watch for drips and if any appear, wait until the varnish is dry, then remove them by sanding lightly and

2 re-varnishing. After each coat of varnish, hang your cane to dry by tying string around the doorknob and suspending it somewhere safe.

3 Once your coat/s of varnish are dry, it's finished! You can make lots of different styles; you can paint the cane in your Pony Club colours, add glitter, stars, diamantes...anything goes (although they probably wouldn't go down too well in the show ring!) Note: When buying your doorknobs, make sure their bases aren't too big for the cane—take a piece of cane with you when shopping around for them. Also avoid buying heavy doorknobs which will make the cane top-heavy. And remember, when your friends ask where you got your stunning new cane, tell 'em about Horseywise!