



SCREEN TIME

Sleek new screens and a lush botanical theme update a 1970s patio into a modern bonus space ready for entertaining.

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A MODEST MIDCENTURY HOME IN DES MOINES CHECKED ALL THE BOXES FOR NEW HOMEOWNER JOSEPH WANEK...EXCEPT FOR THE SAD SCREENED PATIO ON THE BACK OF THE HOUSE.

“The 1970s screen framing was rotting, and the concrete floor was dirty and neglected,” Joseph says. With the goal of gaining bonus space for entertaining friends, he brainstormed budget-friendly solutions for rehabbing the covered patio. While rescreening the structure seemed daunting, removing the screens and leaving the patio open to the bugs was not an acceptable option. Plus Joseph and his boyfriend, Nick, wanted a secure space for their cat, Julio, to enjoy fresh air.

With the discovery of a screen system that could be customized to fit the space and that they could install themselves, the patio was fashioned into a second living room. They then added a trellis along one wall and a mini bar that withstands the elements. “We hang out there most evenings in the spring and summer, and our favorite thing is sitting out there during a thunderstorm,” Joseph says.



STANDING OVATION Plant stands made from 1-inch square dowels elevate potted houseplants on X-shape platforms, *left* and *above*. To make a platform, cross two rods in an X large enough to support your pot, removing a 1-inch square in the center of one rod at the intersection. Drill holes in the ends and use 1/4-inch fluted dowel pins and wood glue to connect the pieces. Secure the platform to the legs at the desired height in the same manner.



MAKE IT

INSTALL A SCREEN SYSTEM

MATERIALS

- Straightedge
- Screen Tight Mini Track screw clips
- Drill
- Screen Tight Mini Track channel (available in 8-foot pieces)
- Chop saw
- Rubber mallet
- Utility knife
- Fiberglass screen
- Screen Tight Mini Track spline
- Screen Tight roller knife

Step 1 Using a straightedge, draw a line through the center of each side of the opening to be screened. Measure and mark the placement for the screw clips 8–10 inches apart along the line, starting and ending 2 inches from each corner (A). Drill a pilot hole at each mark. Insert a screw clip into each hole; do not overtighten (B). Use a small channel piece to properly adjust the height of each screw clip (C) so the channel slides easily over the screw without being too loose.

Step 2 Cut channel pieces to fit the top and bottom of the opening using a chop saw. Install the pieces by sliding the end of a channel piece over an end screw, then tap the rest of the channel onto the screw clips with a rubber mallet (D). After top and bottom channels are installed, measure, cut, and install the side channels in the same manner.

Step 3 Cut a piece of fiberglass screen a few inches larger than the opening. Starting at the top of the opening, lay screen across top channel track. Using a roller knife, evenly push spline into the top track channel groove, fastening the screen into the groove as you go. Continue pushing the spline into one side track (E), then repeat on the opposite side, ensuring that the screen remains straight as you work. Insert the spline into the bottom channel track last. If needed, remove the spline and adjust the screen as needed.

Step 4 Trim excess screen mesh flush along each edge using a utility knife.

FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 108.

SPECIAL THANKS SCREEN TIGHT MINI TRACK SYSTEM, SCREEN TIGHT; PLANTS, COSTA FARMS; EPOXYSHIELD CONCRETE FLOOR COATING, RUST-OLEUM



AFTER REMOVING THE OLD SCREEN PANELS AND BEFORE THE NEW INSTALLATION, JOSEPH PAINTED THE FRAME OPENINGS USING VALSPAR STORM COAT IN NOIR.