

the garden issue

# Better Homes and Gardens®

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easy spring beauty

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and Out





# I Did It!

“We wanted a sandbox that was handy but wouldn’t be in the way when we entertain.”

Kristy Kropat



**Now you see it, now you don't.** An impressive magic act is regularly performed on the deck of Kristy Kropat's San Diego home. She and her husband, Martin, cut a rectangular hole in their ipe wood deck, then recessed a plastic mortar tub (\$40 at a local home center) into it to create a sandbox for their sons, Karsten and Lukas. The section of planks the couple removed was reconfigured into two hinged lids that lie flat when open and seamlessly cover the box when the family wants full use of the deck. Holes drilled in the bottom of the tub allow water to drain. ("The kids love filling it up with water!" Kristy says.) And 2x4s support the unit at the right height. "Cleanup is easy," Kristy says. "We just sweep the stray sand right into the box." ■ KIT SELZER

 **Show us what you did!**  
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