

A photograph of a desk setup. On the left, a green desk lamp is on a wooden table with hairpin legs. In the center, a dark blue circular graphic contains white text. On the right, another wooden table with hairpin legs holds a pen holder with several pens. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

the hairpin leg co.

THANKS

FOR PURCHASING A SET  
OF LEGS FROM US.

This guide is here to take you through how to install, finish and maintain your new purchase. And if you have any further questions, ask away. We're always happy to help.





# INSTALLATION.

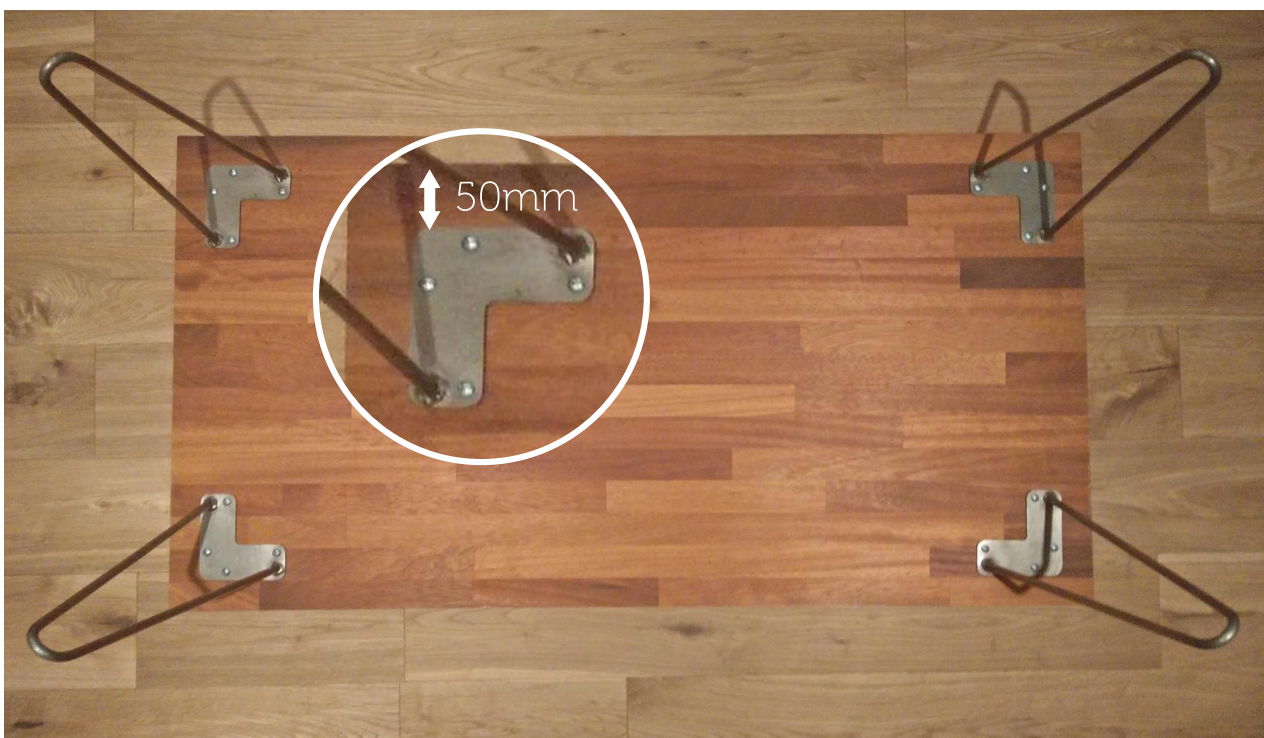


You'll find we've included a set of wood screws with the legs. These will be perfect for any wood 20mm or thicker.

To attach the legs, first mark out where they'll be going on your table top.

We'd recommend about a 50mm gap between the edge of the base plate and the edge of the table. This is of course dependent on your visual preference, but we've found this usually leaves enough room for skirting boards, so the top can sit flush against the wall.

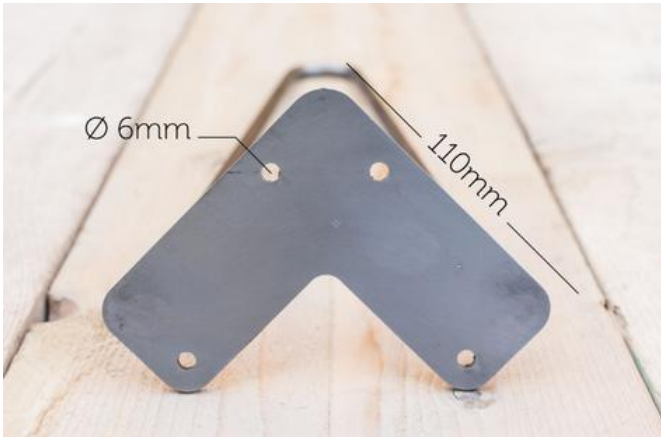
The legs should be attached as shown below, so the profile of the legs taper outwards slightly.



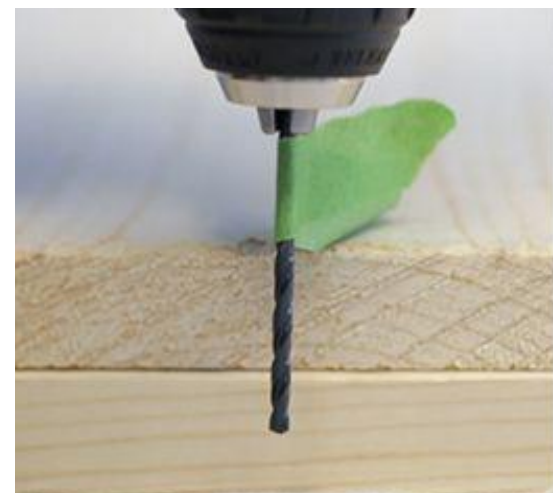
- 50mm normally gives enough clearance to skirting boards

# INSTALLATION.

## Base dimensions



Mark out the pilot holes with a pencil. Use the base of the leg as a guide to mark the positions, this will ensure accuracy.



Once the holes are marked, drill pilot holes into the wood. If you're using the screws provided, they'll need to be 2.5mm for soft wood or 3mm for hard wood.



*TIP: To drill your holes to the correct depth, mark it out with a bit of sticky tape. You don't want to drill through the lovely oak top you've been working on!*

Screw the legs to your surface using a pozidrive head (number 2 size if you have it).



# INSTALLATION.

## BOLTING



### METAL

Some people use threaded bolts as they can be taken on and off more easily than wood screws. They're also suitable if you have a thin table top, or you're planning to drill a through-hole.

We recommend using an M5 size fixing (5mm diameter). The holes are 6mm, giving you room for any slight misalignment.

### WOOD

For bolting into wood, we'd recommend threaded inserts. If you can, use stainless steel or brass inserts as opposed to the zinc plated type. They're a lot more robust, especially for if you're driving into hard woods like oak.





# FINISHING YOUR LEGS.



Our customers generally buy bare legs to achieve the classic raw steel look. But if you plan on finishing them yourself, below are some tips on our favourite alternative finishes.

## PAINTING

We'd suggest using at least two types of paint: a primer and a top coat. You may even want to add a third layer of clear lacquer. This is how a car would be painted (and is the proper way to do it). But in our opinion the legs look great and remain durable without it, as long as you follow these steps.



## CLEANING

One of the most important steps is to make sure your legs are really clean. We suggest some WD40 and a green washing up scour pad to remove any dirt, followed by a wipe down with a rag and a final removal of any grease using acetone, or another similar de-greaser.



# FINISHING YOUR LEGS.

## PRIMER

The primer acts as a key to the steel and is mainly there to make sure the colour sticks really well. Many people want to skip this step as it doesn't seem to make any difference to the finished surface. Although visually it doesn't, it does make sure the paint is really well stuck to the steel and won't easily chip off over years of use.

We recommend an acid etch primer in a spray can, which is specifically designed for metal. Most car shops will sell this. Apply at least 2 thin coats of primer, ensuring it doesn't go on too thick and run.



## TOP COAT

Once you have left the primer to dry for at least 24 hours, it's time for the top coat. We suggest a single part (1k) automotive paint in a spray can. Apply 2 - 3 thin and even coats, allowing a few hours of dry time between coats. Once complete, leave for 24 - 48 hours before attaching to your new piece of furniture.

*TIP : For a metallic finish, we'd recommend the Valspar range. They do a very nice copper and gold - much better than the cheaper rattle cans around.*



# FINISHING YOUR LEGS.

## PENETRATING OIL

Another option to protect your legs from rust is a penetrating oil finish. These are applied with a rag and left to soak into the metal. As the oil fills the microscopic gaps in the metal, it forms a barrier to rust.

One advantage to this finish is that you can't easily chip the coating, making it very robust. We've used Oratrowl in the past, with great effects on everything from indoor furniture to garden gates. This option works well if you wish to keep the natural look of the steel as the finish is almost invisible when dry.

Search "Owatroil oil rust inhibitor" for more info



TIP: Don't use linseed oil! It never dries (unless it's the stuff with drying agents, then it dries slightly yellow).

## WAX

Furniture wax is another good option if you wish to preserve some of the natural character of bare steel. It'll give more of a dull sheen to the metal.

As the wax doesn't penetrate the metal, it won't be suitable for any heavy use like outdoor. But it will provide a robust finish that can be reapplied every few years if needed.

As with any coating, ensure the legs are clean and dry before applying. Once the wax has been applied, you can buff it up to give a higher sheen.



TIP: Clear Bowling Alley wax works very well for steel too!

AND  
THAT'S IT!

BEAUTIFUL LEGS  
INSTALLED, FINISHED  
AND READY FOR  
ACTION.

ALL THE BEST,  
THE HAIRPIN LEG COMPANY