A simplified version of the traditional Japanese shoji screen can be easily made using basic tools and skills. These lightweight, stationary panels, with their clean-lined Oriental design, add sophisticated elegance to a room.

shoji screen

You will need:
- 15mm wide strips 6mm SupaWood
- Rice paper, home made or
    sturdy decorative paper
- Double-sided tape (carpet tape is also good)
- 40mm wood screws
- Wood glue, wood filler and sandpaper
- Paint or stain and clear acrylic glaze
- [2] hooks and eyes for mounting the screen
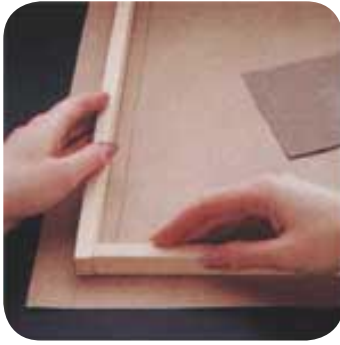- Craft knife
- Roll of brown paper

Tools: drill, bits and countersink, mitre box and backsaw

Here's how:

1. Measure window frame to determine outer measurements of screen. Draw an outline of screen on a large sheet of paper. Draw outer frame of screen 15mm wide with sides running the full length of frame; with top and bottom sections abutting sides at inner edges. Draw stiles and rails 15mm wide, inside outer frame; stiles run full length between top and bottom sections of outer frame, with rails abutting stiles at inner edges.

2. Draw inner lattice of screen as desired (right); draw all sections 15mm wide, butting ends of lattice sections to inner edges of stiles, or rails. Sections should abut each other at right angles. To allow for the insertion of screws, stagger placement of ends that abut opposite sides of same section.

3. Tape finished pattern to window frame to check that the pattern is accurate.

4. Measure pattern for length of each of wood sections, including stiles, rails, lattice, and outer frame. Keeping 15mm side of frame face up, mark and cut for each section. Cut on outside of line, using a mitre box and backsaw, leaving each section slightly longer than desired finished length. Check lengths by placing sections over the pattern (left). Sand ends to fit exactly.

5. Repeat step 4 for stiles, rails, and all lattice sections until the entire framework is laid out on pattern (right).

6. Remove left stile from pattern and place face up near the edge of a flat work surface. Abut bottom rail to stile, with lower edges even; clamp. Mark placement for screw on outside of stile, in line with centre of the rail (left).

7. Predrill and countersink holes; screw pieces together. Repeat this step for top rail.

8. Position stiles and rails over lattice pieces on pattern. Align all pieces for a perfect fit. Make small pencil lines at every abutting section.
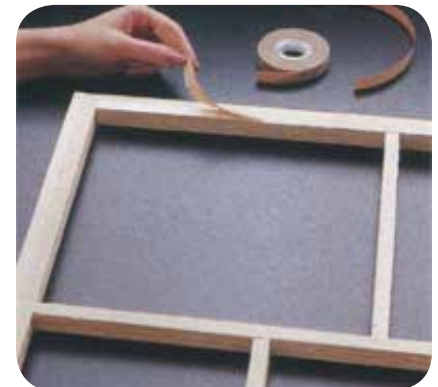
9. Join section of lattice, working from centre outward and aligning pencilled markings. Keep lattice flat on work surface, and predrill holes in line with centre of section being joined; screw.

10. Apply wood glue to upper side of top rail and top ends of stiles. Place frame-work face up on a flat surface. Place strip of 3mm thickness next to top rail. Rest top section of outer frame on straightedge to offset slightly; glue to top rail. Clamp into place.

11. Repeat step 10 for bottom section of outer frame. Then glue side sections of outer frame to stiles, using straightedge to offset them. Clamp in place until dry.

12. Cover any holes with wood filler, allow to dry and lightly sand entire screen. Paint or stain.

Making the screen

Cut the paper 25mm longer and wider than the outer frame. Place the screen framework face down on a flat surface; apply double-sided tape to all styles, rails, and lattices (right). Centre paper, right side down, and affix onto framework. Trim off any excess using a craft knife. Use heavy-duty double-sided tape on back of framework to attach the screen to inside of window frame.