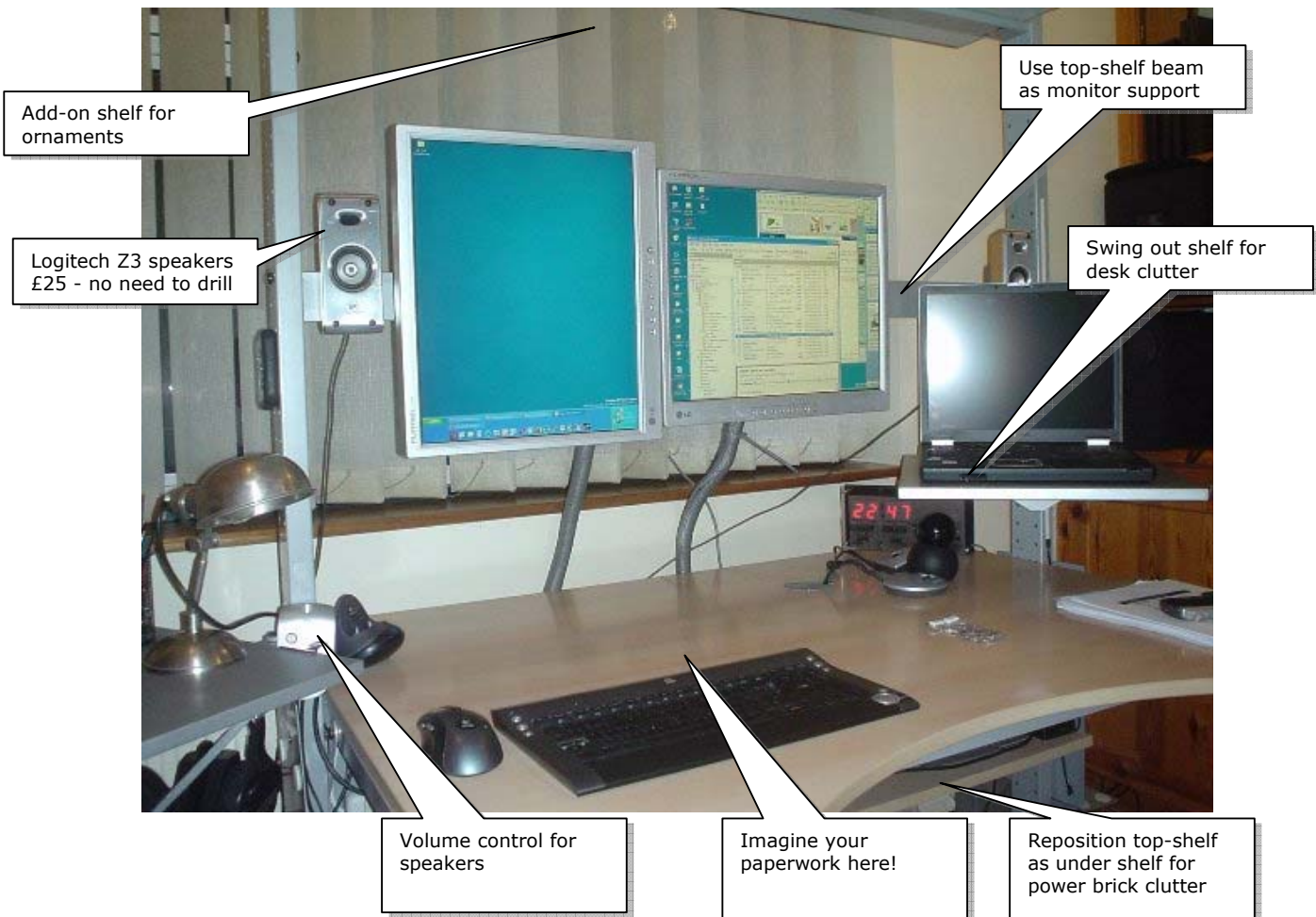


Mounting slim flat panel monitors

Pop into any computer room and you very often see LCD screens replacing the spaces that were once occupied by CRT monitors. In many cases, the space the LCD actually saves will be brought into question. Often you need to change the desking to reap a space-saving benefit.

Here's my solution, based on an IKEA 'Jerker' desk, which also happens to be cheap. IKEA 'Jerker' desks have won fans and become a legend for the way that you can load them up with home office technology. You can for example attach power extensions (using Velcro strips) to the low cross beam. As of this moment mine has 20 out of sight power outlets for a phone, PDA, clock, lamp, computers, monitors, cassette recorder, speakers and external hard drive that have become part of this hilarious space called the home office. Designer Nicolas Cortolezzis deserves a prize... and so do you if you can follow the instructions on the following pages.



Below: how to kustomise the IKEA 'Jerker' desk ...

Before we go further, you need first to *like* the IKEA 'Jerker' desk which comes in a choice of finishes. You also need a room that suits the style since, as with everything IKEA, 'their stuff goes with their stuff'. If you're liking, read on but also note the Jerker comes in different varieties.

As intended by IKEA, this desk offers a generous working surface and a head height shelf for a printer. You can assemble it with the work surface at a choice of heights which is more useful than at first seems. The desk costs £80 (US \$129)



Jerker as nature intended



A variant called 'FREDRIK' might also succumb to the customising described below.

All of the following are optional extras

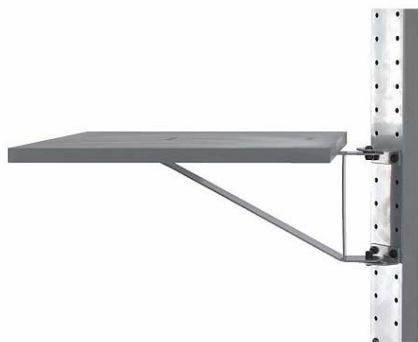
A matching add-on shelf for £25 adds a very high level shelf ... the shelf is matt silver but you can replace it with a 'Mossby' stainless steel-look shelf for £17.50 ...



Jerker add-on shelf.



A 119 cm Mossby shelf



...and a swing-out monitor shelf for £10.

You could do without the above extras but you do need one or more LCD VESA mounting brackets for the monitor.

These brackets cost anything the shop cares to charge. I found two brackets in a Tesco Extra store for less than £8 each.



You may need two nuts and bolts and a drill to fix this bracket. I used 4 sturdy cable ties to fix it. When I was happy with the height I went at it with the drill. With two monitors one can be fitted to swivel up-down and the other swivels right-left.



Work out how to rotate the screen image using the graphics card driver setting.

Assembly:

- Assemble the desk frame and fit the desk surface at a height to suit your sitting position. Your bent arm is meant to be parallel with the surface.
- Now position the upper shelf support beam level with ... your face. You will fix the LCD and monitor bracket to this – using it as a monitor support instead of a shelf support. Fit the beam facing you rather than horizontal. You may need to drill through the beam to fix the LCD bracket to it with a couple of nuts and bolts.
- Fit the monitor bracket to the LCD. Before final assembly of the bracket, check that the height of the screen. Move the repurposed shelf support up or down to suit. See the pictures. Note the clear desk!
- The next modification was to reposition the high shelf to be a below-desk knee level shelf. On this I keep an Ethernet hub, docking unit for a camera, power extensions with power bricks for a PDA, phone and laptop. Basically this is for stuff you don't need to see. To fit the shelf cheaply, drive chipboard screws from the desk frame into the ends of what would have been the high level shelf. Don't stress the shelf and it will stay solid for years.
- Next add a swing-out shelf for a laptop. At £10 this is a steal.
- Finally fit the £25 add-on shelf as a high-level shelf. Instead of the silver shelf supplied I used a 'Mossby'. This is coated with foil and looks extra cool.

Konklusion

A change in furniture helps reap space benefits when you replace a CRT with an LCD. If you go to the wrong shop looking desperate for an LCD bracket you can pay the wrong money. But here, for £100 - £150 you've a desk that looks like you never do any work.

Where to ko:

- Nearest IKEA – about 50 miles, on a Monday night and without the kids.
- Jerker page – variety of designs and solutions
<http://adam.pra.to/content/jerker>
- IKEA fans may care to see:



- http://nationallampoon.com/nl/08_features/ikea_desk/ikea_desk.asp