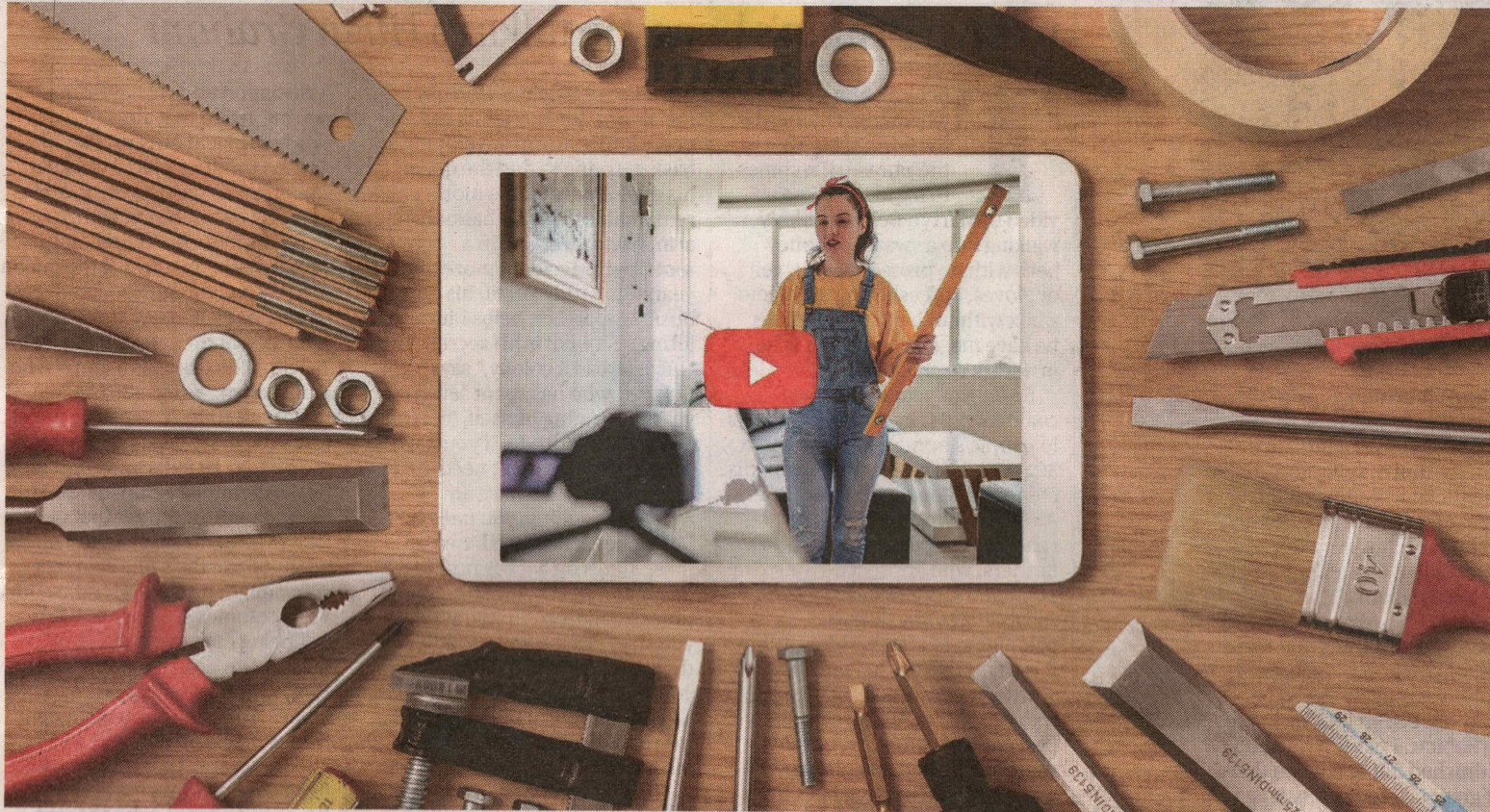


# CAN YOU FIX IT?

Not all DIY videos are made equal. *Victoria Brzezinski* on how to avoid the YouTube cowboys and click on the top-drawer tutorials

## YOUTUBE CAN

K  
Y  
M  
C



DORJIE DURJIEVIC/GETTY IMAGES

### THE BEST BRITISH DIYERS TO WATCH

**1 Ultimate Handyman** Chez Rossi from Lancashire has been uploading easy-to-follow, no-nonsense videos to YouTube since 2009. With millions of views, his channel is one of the most established on the site. His most popular uploads include a guide to removing a broken bolt in a deep hole (12 million views), seven ways to remove stripped screws (6.4 million views) and how to use a diamond core drill (3.1 million views).

**2 Skill Builder** You might remember Roger Bisby as the building expert from the BBC consumer affairs series *Watchdog* and, later, *Rogue Traders*. A plumber by trade, he and the carpenter Robin Clevett set up Skill Builder on their YouTube channel and now have 350,000 subscribers. New videos are uploaded three times a week, from two-minute tips to power tool reviews and step-by-step renovation series.

**3 Charlie DIYte** The self-taught DIY fanatic Charlie White, from Worcester, guides you through your everyday DIY quandaries, including step-by-step tutorials for fixing a Dualit toaster and cleaning out a shower waste. His idiot-proof guides are a hit; his most successful videos, explaining the difference between a power drill and impact driver, and the do's and don'ts of silencing, have both been watched 3.2 million times.

**D**id you pick up a power tool in the past month? Chances are a YouTube tutorial was one of your first ports of call. While they're not known for Hollywood production values and Clooneyesque charisma, the appetite for do-it-yourself videos has soared over lockdown – fuelled by

“**The video-sharing site has led to the successful use of a ‘terrifying’**

about sanding and refinishing are utterly unbelievable. It's like the blind leading the blind,” says an exasperated Ben Osborne, the professional floor sander behind the How to Sand a Floor YouTube account. In his compilation video (watched 2.3 million times) he calls out poor advice and wood floor refinishing fails by YouTubers

godsend for 30-year-old Karen Valeria Carrillo, from London, who founded the jewellery site vivavaleria.co.uk over lockdown. She says: “I don't know where I'd be without [YouTube]. I had terrible nightmares the first couple of weeks because of the pandemic, but the YouTube videos were motivating and inspiring”

down. Not a great look!” In the meantime they had also wallpapered in Carrillo's uncle's house. “We were tearing our hair out as we didn't know why the thin wallpaper he had chosen would not lay on the wall without bubbling,” she says. It was at this point they realised the importance of the water-to-glue ratio and that the