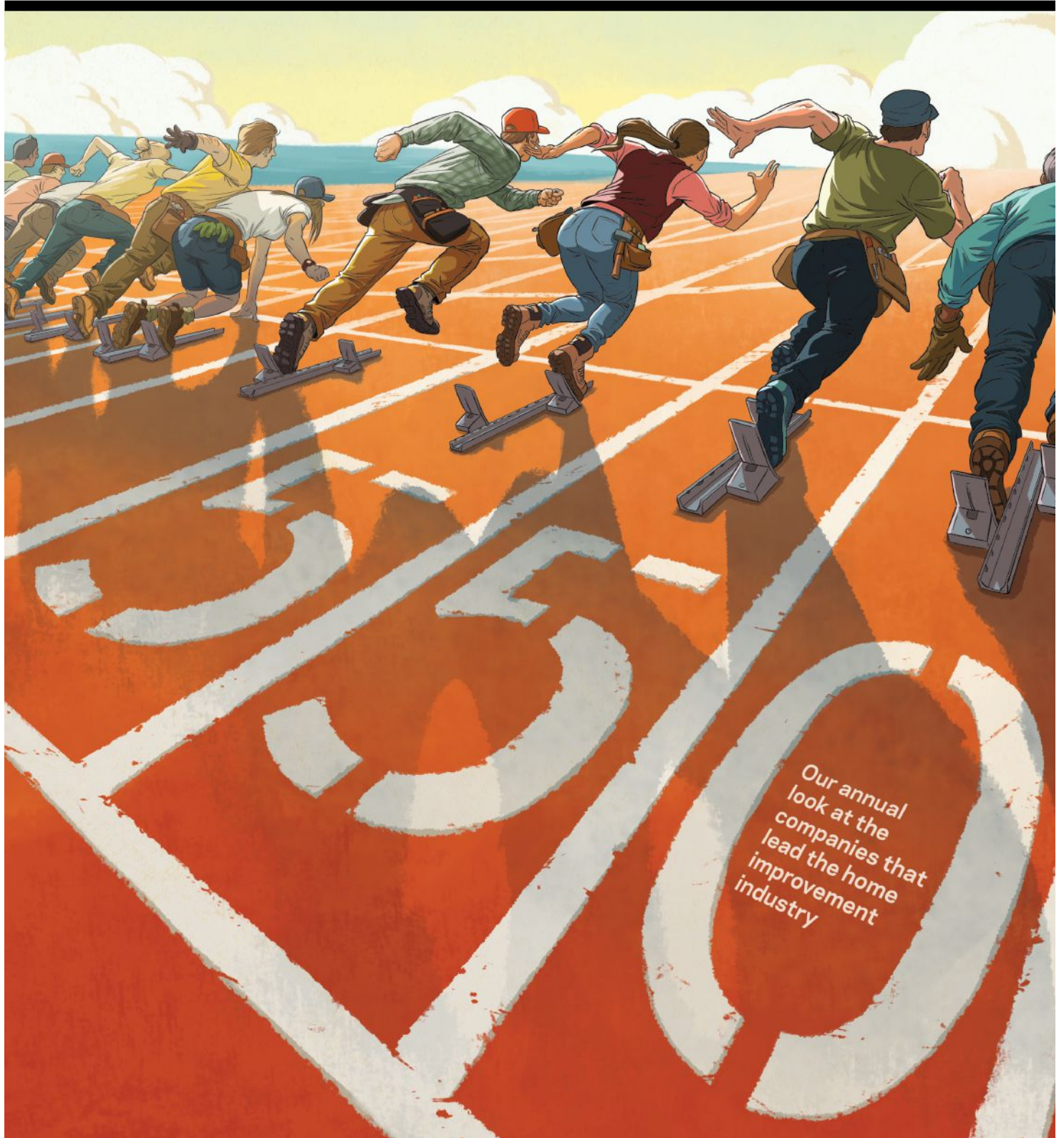


# remodeling

YOUR TOOLBOX FOR SUCCESS



Our annual look at the companies that lead the home improvement industry

# Products

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## Perfect Finish

A client may not focus on these details, but the right hardware can make a remodel complete

BY LAUREN SHANESY

**Homeowners looking to** redesign a kitchen, or any other room in their home, may not think it matters what kind of pull or knob they put on their cabinet doors. Hardware pieces and other small additions to a space are often seen as an afterthought, and their importance can be easily overlooked. But as designers will attest, these details aren't just an embellishment, they're the finishing touch that completes the whole design.

When it comes time for your clients to choose window hardware, cabinet pulls, door knobs, trim, and more, here's why it's important not to neglect the small stuff.

### ◀ TOP KNOBS

A combination of knobs, decorative pulls, and appliance pulls from five of Top Knobs' series, the Devon collection introduces two new finishes: a metallic ash gray and honey bronze, a light brass tone. Designed with an industrial-meets-classic aesthetic, the pieces blend in both traditional and modern settings. The collection's 36 new pieces range from a 1-inch knob to a 1.2-inch appliance pull, and are available in black, brushed satin nickel, polished chrome, sable, and umbrio. [topknobs.com](http://topknobs.com)

## Products



### LEATHERNECK HARDWARE

The Flat Track Hardware line brings industrial detail to sliding barn doors, providing everything from a simple straight wheel to designer pieces. Hardware is available with a range of nine hangers supporting 400-pound door tracks, nine types of wheels, and 10 hangers in the Designer Series. All hangers are available in nine standard finish styles, HydroGraphic matte printed finishes ranging from camo prints to wood grains, and customizable PhotoSteel powder coat imaging gloss prints in finishes such as dark brick or cracked concrete. [doorhdwe.com](http://doorhdwe.com)



### METRIE

Metrie's Then & Now Finishing Collection features five families of coordinated trim packages, including wainscot molding for creating stylized wall paneling designs. The moldings echo the design elements in each family, such as the French curves style (shown). The coordinated paint-grade profiles and boards are designed to ease installation. Each molding collection includes a stile and rail board, a chair rail, and at least one additional molding profile. [metrie.com](http://metrie.com)



### MARVIN WINDOWS & DOORS

Keeping on trend with the growing number of dark interior finishes and expanding its Contemporary Studio line, Marvin Windows and Doors introduced matte black hardware for its window and door products. The reflection-free finish of this collection allows the lines and form of each pull, crank, lock, door handle and hinge to stand out in contrast to other elements of the home for owners looking to make a statement, the company says. [marvin.com](http://marvin.com)

Likening home design to fashion, Knikki Grantham, Trend Manager at Grandville, Mich.-based hardware manufacturer Belwith-Keeler, says that “hardware is the accessory that tops off the whole outfit. There’s no better way to express yourself than how you accessorize yourself, and when you don’t pay attention to those little details it’s kind of like an unfinished palette; it just doesn’t quite look complete.” If our fashion choices are an expression of who we are, our homes too are a reflection of our taste, and details are the pieces that pull the look of a whole room together.

“If your effort to recreate a look falls short, examine the details,” says Ted Roberts, a design expert at ELEVATE Design Collective and style and design chief for Allegion. “Molding, window treatments, lighting, and levers and knobs might not be the focus of your space, but they are supporting elements and need to do

their part to complete the story. This attention to detail ensures the design is complete.”

Hardware pieces are elements of the home that are prone to some of the most frequent remodeling, and it may not just be because they’re easy to switch out and are susceptible to design trend changes. After looking at what seems like endless choices for kitchen cabinet colors, finishes, faces, and more, the cabinet pull may be the last thing a homeowner wants to spend time and energy selecting, says Grantham.

“Hardware is one of those things that [the homeowner] gets to and says, ‘I’m burned out and I need to just move on.’ It’s something they don’t pay attention to the first time around, and plan to come back to it later,” she says. “So they tend to go with what the simplest choice is instead of what the best choice is.”



### ◆ ATLAS HARDWARE

Inspired by a modern take on geometric shapes, the Tableau Collection provides versatile hardware pieces for cabinets. The collection of round and square bases and rectangular and arc handles in four finishes—polished nickel, brushed nickel, polished chrome, and French gold—comes unassembled, so homeowners can create custom configurations. The handles can also be installed without bases. Pieces range in size from 1 7/16 inch to 3 inches. [atlastothetrade.com](http://atlastothetrade.com)



### ◆ HAFELE

The new SLIDO Design 80-M from Hafele is a unique piece of hardware that is virtually invisible on interior sliding doors, giving the door the appearance of floating. The track and small running wheel are concealed behind the door, eliminating any appearance of a track system. The hardware can be used on wood or frameless glass doors up to 176 pounds, and features an incorporated self- and soft-close function. [hafele.com](http://hafele.com)



### ◆ BELWITH-KEELER

Taking inspiration from the organic shapes and movement of natural elements, the Olivet collection puts a modern twist on the fluidity and subtle curvature of objects found in nature such as plants, flower stems, roots, or even animal antlers. The eight designs of Olivet pulls and knobs are available in a number of different lengths and four finishes—polished nickel, polished copper, oil rubbed bronze, and satin nickel. [belwith-keeler.com](http://belwith-keeler.com)

It may seem daunting to your clients to have to pick out one more thing after a long day of designing, but this last element is just as important as the cabinet faces or kitchen countertops they picked out earlier. Encourage your clients to put thought into the hardware pieces, even if it means taking a break before making a selection.

Grantham also believes that the small details of a home are the perfect place to get homeowners out of their comfort zone and take a risk. Choosing an unusual decorative finish instead of something standard opens up a home to new design possibilities and introduces ways to tie different pieces together, even if it's through decorative interior elements such as throw pillows or furniture.

"You can really take the design and accessorize throughout the

house based on that little step out of the box with the hardware," she says.

At the end of the day, carefully choosing the right design embellishments, whether it be trim or a door knob, is what makes a homeowner's space their own.

"A home with fine details says something about the people that live there, and our homes are a representation of our values," says Mette Aamodt, architect and CEO at Cambridge, Mass.-based Aamodt/Plumb Architects. "So it's a question of quality, care, and craftsmanship—the details show care and attention to the design and what the homeowner wants to represent about themselves and the home that they live in."

As Grantham says, "The little details are really what makes the home versus the house."