

This Old House

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43

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IDEAS

p. 68

→ BONUS PROJECTS

Cottage-style
flower box

Handsome
pet gate

Vintage
keepsake
storage

Oversize bar pulls

When it comes to cabinet hardware, sometimes bigger is better. These hardworking handles will add substance and style to your cabinets, armoires, and more

By DANIELLE BLUNDELL + Photographs by MARK WEISS

The old saw is true: Changing out cabinet hardware is one of the quickest ways to refresh a tired kitchen. And a popular swap-in these days is an extra-long bar-style pull, often a plain chrome cylinder, with two “legs” that fasten to doors or drawer fronts. These oversize handles make a big statement, of course, but they’re also practical: easy to grab, with room to tuck in a towel. Luckily there are lots more decorative alternatives to that ubiquitous basic bar, and most come in a wide range of lengths, from 5 to 10 inches and more, often with appliance pulls to match. They work well beyond the kitchen, too, easily perking up sideboards, dressers, vanities, and media cabinets. One tip: If you’re looking to put new pulls in old holes, you’ll want to note the center-to-center measurement. Here, 21 standout versions that raise the bar for style.

feather look

ANNE AT HOME
Made of: Pewter with a hand-rubbed, iron-red patina
Length: 9 inches (5 inches center to center)
Try it: As a warm, refined complement to wood-finish kitchen cabinets.
 \$24; myknobs.com

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polished pull

ATLAS HOMEWARES
Made of: Solid brass with a nickel finish
Length: 7⁵/₈ inches (6⁵/₁₆ inches center to center)
Try it: As a chic accent—complete with little round escutcheons—to make off-the-shelf kitchen cabinets your own.
 \$13; atlashomewares.com

wrapped up

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARDWARE
Made of: Recycled patinated solid bronze
Length: 8 inches (6 inches center to center)
Try it: As a handsome finishing touch on closed-door library storage.
 \$64; doorhardwareusa.com



colonial craftsman

LEE VALLEY TOOLS

Made of: Cast iron with a silvery finish

Length: 10½ inches (8¹³/₁₆ inches center to center)

Try it: On flat-panel cherry cabinets with leaded glass fronts. \$9; leevalley.com



curved and tapered

HÄFELE

Made of: Zinc with a chrome finish

Length: 7¼ inches (5 inches center to center)

Try it: In a galley kitchen, where its low-profile ends won't catch your clothes. \$9; myknobs.com



natural beauty

MODERN OBJECTS HARDWARE

Made of: Solid pewter with brass fittings and an antiqued brass finish

Length: 7 inches (3 inches center to center)

Try it: To reinforce a Far East theme in a powder room. \$47; handlesets.com



organic lines

TOP KNOBS

Made of: Bronze

Length: 7⁹/₁₆ inches (5 inches center to center)

Try it: On an old pine or oak dining room hutch. \$30; homeclick.com



flared cylinder

LEE VALLEY TOOLS

Made of: Stainless steel

Length: 7¾ inches (6⁵/₁₆ inches center to center)

Try it: To give slab-style kitchen doors a sleek design detail. \$11; leevalley.com



bean pod

MODERN OBJECTS HARDWARE

Made of: Solid pewter with brass fittings and an antiqued finish

Length: 7½ inches (3 inches center to center)

Try it: On pantry cupboard doors or as a fun touch on a baby's bureau. \$32; handlesets.com

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woven wonder

ATLAS HOMEWARES

Made of: Solid brass with a dark bronze finish

Length: 7½ inches (6⁵/₁₆ inches center to center)

Try it: As a touch of basketweave texture alongside traditional, polished furnishings. \$19; atlashomewares.com



two-tone arc

HÄFELE

Made of: Brass with a polished chrome finish bar and satin-finish supports

Length: 5⁷/₈ inches (same center to center)

Try it: To tie together polished chrome faucets and stainless-steel appliances. \$52; myknobs.com



asian flair

D'ARTÉFAX

Made of: Pewter with a brass insert and an oil-rubbed bronze finish

Length: 5 inches (3 inches center to center)

Try it: On bamboo cabinetry in a Zen-inspired bath. \$24; interknobs.com