

# HOME+GARDEN

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TIPS FOR GARDENING DURING THE DROUGHT

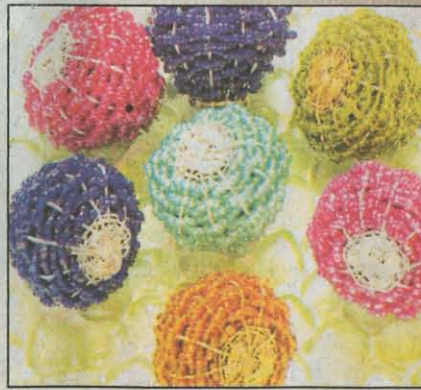
## KNOBS ARE CABINETS' CROWNING TOUCH

By Sandra Barrera  
Staff Writer

The kitchen in Adrienne Morea's new Palm Springs home is not quite ready for its close-up. Missing are the cabinet knobs and pulls the decorative hardware designer behind Atlas Homewares will tell you are akin to choosing the right fashion accessories. "It's the bling," she says. "It's jewelry, it's shoes. It's the last detail that really makes the outfit that is the kitchen sparkle."

Decorative hardware is an easy and relatively inexpensive way of giving kitchen and bath cabinets, or a piece of furniture, a needed jolt of style. And with the variety of materials available in today's market — from masculine leather-wrapped stainless steel to streamlined metal-plated finishes and whimsical vintage-style glass — replacing knobs or pulls guarantees practicality with flair.

Does it follow trends? "Absolutely," says Marisa Marcantonio, a former style editor for House Beautiful and O at Home, who now blogs about interior design at [www.style-beat.blogspot.com](http://www.style-beat.blogspot.com). "This is the sort of home trend



These stylish beaded knobs are part of the Bollywood Collection from Atlas Homewares.

### Atlas Homewares

**Information:** For a list of stores that carry the company's decorative hardware, or to shop online, go to [www.atlasmomewares.com](http://www.atlasmomewares.com).

KNOBS L5



# PULL IT TOGETHER



## 5 THINGS TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN

By Jack C. Christensen

**1** Remember to remove tree supports — both stakes and ties — as soon as your new tree becomes strong enough to hold itself up. For most varieties that's usually within a year or two of planting. Left on too long, ties and stakes could actually damage a tree in the long run. If your tree is still needs more time to become self-supporting, check the ties to make sure they are not too tight. If the bark seems to be bulging above and below the ties, they need to be loosened.

**2** Begin planting winter flowers now while it's hot. Give sweet peas a remarkable boost by first burying empty milk cartons

(with the tops removed) deep beneath the sweet pea beds. Fill them with soil and water then plant above them. Water will continue to collect in the milk cartons, creating an ideal safety zone of moisture that will encourage these fragrant beauties to blossom more and longer next spring. Other cool-season annuals to plant now include Calendula, pansies, poppies, primroses, snapdragons, stocks and violas.

**3** Plant Swiss chard now, too. The colorful variety called 'Bright Lights' has leaves ranging from green to burgundy and stalks in various shades as well as the traditional white.

First harvests of outer leaves and leaf stalks begin in about two months. Chard remains productive for over a year, so the plants you put in now will yield harvests through next spring, summer and fall, too.

**4** Plant strawberry starts in September and October, just like the "professionals" do. Planting now allows their little bushes to develop so they begin producing harvestable fruit in February or March. And they will continue producing strongly through spring and into summer. Use runners from existing plants, or buy new plants.

**5** Summer days are often too hot to do much in the garden, but it's the best time to start planting winter flowers and vegetables. They'll all get off to a great start in the heat and mature throughout the winter and spring months. That means more to harvest and more to enjoy. Some could even be ready for use on holiday tables.



Swiss chard

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### KNOBS

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that might move a little more quickly because it's small, it's easy and it can be affordable."

When looking for hardware for a custom television armoire, Jean Nayer, author of "Staged to Sell (or Keep)" and editor in chief of Woman's Day special interest publications, went to IKEA, where she got a pair of Attest knobs for \$3.99.

"They look just like some high-end knobs that we saw on another piece that was very similar," Nayer says. "They're just clean, classic and modern. It would be hard for anyone to not like the knobs. And you can't beat the price."

Before hitting IKEA, Liz's Antique Hardware, Restoration Hardware, Anthropologie or any of the other brick-and-mortar or Web stores experts rely on for their decorative hardware, it's a good idea to know what color, style, texture and material you want.

Often, the furniture or cabinets offer clues on where to begin.

"You can take a traditional piece and make it more modern by going with a more transitional style of hardware, or take a classic modern cabinet with flat-raised panels and make it more traditional by choosing hardware that leans traditional," Nayer says. "If you are in a space that looks modern, you can't deviate too far from your base. But you can push it one direction or another just by changing the hardware."

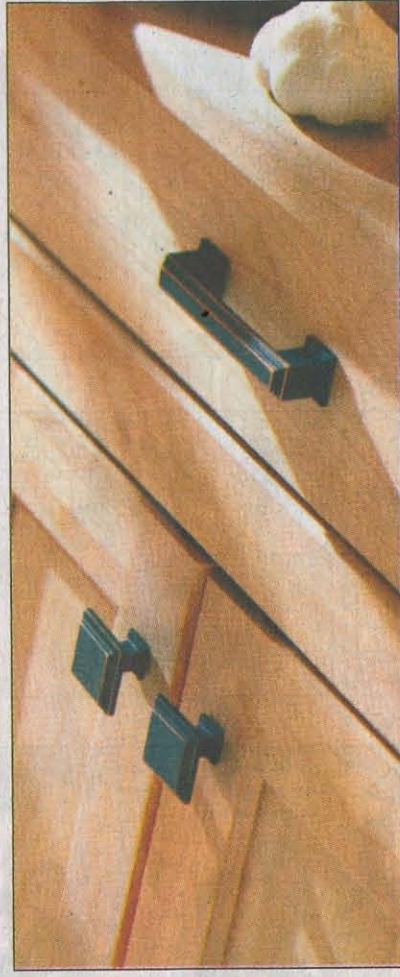
Morea knows this firsthand. While shopping for her new digs, she walked through model homes and builder's models whose cabinetry tended to come without hardware.

At the moment, she can't wait to get her hands on her new kitchen.

"I know I want to be modern because it's a flat-roof house," Morea says. "But do I want to do stainless, do I want to do bamboo and make it look Asian? A lot of that will depend on the rest of the decor."

"So, it's the last thing you decide on," she says. "You don't build an outfit around a pair of shoes unless you're Carrie Bradshaw."

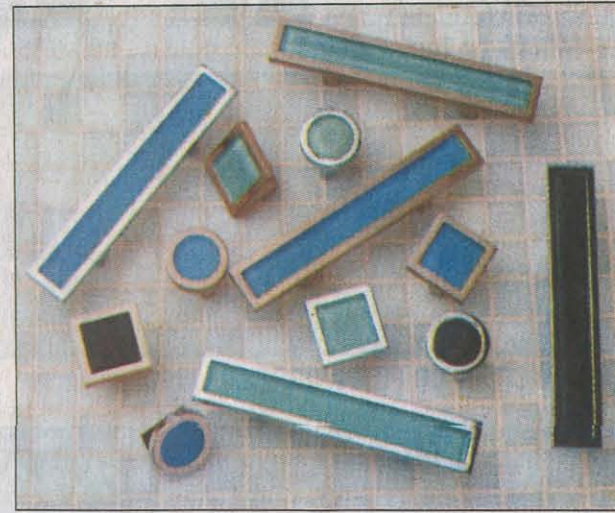
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The furniture or cabinets offer clues on which style you want to convey. The hardware you select can make a traditional piece more modern.

#### ON THE COVER:

A variety of knobs and pulls make it easy to accessorize cabinets. Clockwise from top left: Atlas Homewares Small Espresso Leather Knob; Atlas Homewares Mod Round Knob; octagonal knob from The Nanz Company; Atlas Homewares Tangeres Glass Pull; glass knob from The Nanz Company.



### ADVICE

# Inappropriate shower gift from future daughter-in-law?

Dear Annie:

My fiancé and I have lived together for 28 years. We would have married, but we had a slight legal problem. "Jed" was still married and for various reasons never got a divorce. Nine months ago, his wife suddenly passed away. We decided it was time to marry, and we've set the date for October.

Jed's 35-year-old daughter, "Diane," thinks it is too soon. She didn't attend my bridal shower (this will be my first wedding). She said it makes her feel bad when people ask what she thinks about our upcoming marriage. She did, however, drop off an appalling gift. It contained Vaseline, jaw pain relief lotion, earplugs, female sexual stimulating gel and size 4 thong underwear (I am a plus size). There was no card inside.

I found these items offensive and let her know it. She lashed back at me, saying it was all a big joke and meant to be funny. Now we are not speaking. I believe the whole thing was intended as a slap in the face, illustrating her displeasure with the situation. We had been close until her mother passed away.



### ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Am I being too sensitive? What do you think?

— New Bride

Dear Bride:

Bridal shower gifts traditionally include racy, amusing items. Even if you didn't find her presents funny and weren't sure they were well-intentioned, you still could have laughed it off and made light of the situation.

When a parent dies, many children, for a variety of reasons, feel guilty for not treating them better. This could be why Diane is showing her loyalty to Mom now. Also keep in mind that her mother died less than a year

ago and she is probably still grieving. It might help your relationship with Diane to treat her with a little more sensitivity, and we hope you will try.

Dear Annie:

My husband and I have neighbors who have get-togethers every weekend, and they always invite us. We like them well enough, but we cherish our time alone together or with friends and really don't want to socialize with the neighbors every weekend. We know they are offended when we turn them down. How do we handle this?

— Canada

Dear Canada:

You are not obligated to tie up your weekends with them, so please don't allow them to bully you into doing so. Say as sweetly as possible, "We're so sorry, but we have plans this weekend. Maybe another time." Repeat as often as needed. If they are offended,

so be it.

Dear Annie:

I read the letter from "Shorty's Mom," whose 18-year-old daughter is mistaken for a child. I am a petite 18-year-old girl. I barely reach 5 feet and weigh 100 pounds. I am always mistaken for being younger — usually around 13 or 14: When I step out of the driver's seat of the car, people assume I am just 16.

Although my size makes some things difficult (I once had to ask a boy in my art class to reach the paint off the top shelf), I am proud of my height. Sure, I get

discouraged sometimes, and let's not forget the neck cramps from always looking up. But, hey, that's what makes me who I am.

Tell Shorty's Mom to let her daughter know she is not alone in this world. There are a lot of us out there who are mistaken for children and we're OK. It doesn't kill us.

— Another Shorty

Dear Another:

We love your positive attitude and appreciate your taking the time to send those words of encouragement.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar were longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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