

REAL SIMPLE

LIFE MADE EASIER

Set up a
breakfast
nook

Say buh-bye
to popcorn
ceilings

Fake built-in
shelves

& more!

Get It Done!

25 PROJECTS TO CROSS OFF YOUR LIST

+

Sweet ways to
celebrate
Mother's Day

MAY 2023

KITCHEN



Update Your Cabinet Doors

There's no reason to rip out perfectly good cabinets! Just give the fronts a little makeover.

MAKE THEM SHAKER-STYLE

Turn flat-faced doors into trendy but timeless ones. How? Add four pieces of plywood around the edges to create a frame. (More quality time with your nail gun!) Once they're framed, you'll have to sand, prime, and paint each door, so it's a high-effort project, but the results will be worth it.

MAKE THEM MOODY

Drew and Jonathan Scott, a.k.a. the Property Brothers (catch them on HGTV), tell us painting doors a dark color makes a big impact. "It's a simple change that can add lots of personality, elegance, and warmth," they say. A couple of their favorite shades: After Hours by Backdrop and Current Mood by Clare. Find more inspo at thescottbrothers.com.

MAKE THEM BOUGIE

Cabinet hardware is like jewelry for your kitchen. Swap those builder-grade knobs for more stylish, sculptural pulls from a source like Emtek, Anthropologie, or Schoolhouse.



Practical Pull

Bar Cabinet Knob, \$14;
emtek.com for info



Floral Accent

Handcarved Gulliver Knobs, \$28 for 2;
anthropologie.com



Golden Touch

Hive Knob, \$24;
schoolhouse.com



Get Fancy with a Wine Fridge

You're probably not building a wine cellar anytime soon (if you are, please invite us over when it's done!). Instead, treat yourself to the next best thing: a wine fridge. Aaron Thompson, a sommelier and co-owner of Osteria Stella in Knoxville, Tennessee, stocks hundreds of bottles at once and recommends picking a fridge with dual-zone temperature settings so you have options. (Store reds and whites at the same time! Or whites and champagne! Or lots and lots of reds!) His favorite: the Frigidaire 45 Bottle Two-Zone Wine Cooler (\$599; frigidaire.com for info). If you get one, our request stands: Please invite us over. We'll bring snacks.

ADD EXTRA LIGHTING

Under-cabinet LEDs can illuminate your work space and create a whole mood. Plus, you can install them without having to go to electricity school, because most options plug into an outlet or run off batteries. Get one with a self-adhesive sticker, like the GE LED Light Bar (from \$11; amazon.com) or the Energizer LED Tap Light (\$6; target.com).