

# color shift

This once dark and dated kitchen got a lightened look thanks to the homeowner's DIY spirit and a lot of paint.



**J**essica Davis went back and forth about remodeling her

New Jersey kitchen for so long that she finally tired of the talk. Figuring a paint-centric facelift would tide her over, the interior and hardware designer overhauled the cabinets with easy-to-apply chalk-finish paint in a mossy sage green. "The color has a lot of historical reference, so it fit with the 1879 house," she says. Plus, it distracted from the reddish-brown patches in the granite countertops. "I realized I needed to think of it like makeup," she says. "If you're trying to hide red spots, you use concealer with green in it." Other updates included hardware from her Nest Studio collection and a graphic pattern she stenciled onto the tile floor. "I thought the makeover was going to be a Band-Aid, but it looks great."

A counter-height table doubles as an island in Jessica Davis' kitchen. "The room became so much more useful once we added it," she says.

**CLEVER DESIGN HACK**  
Jessica painted right onto the existing floor tile. Details on page 66.





**[DO IT YOURSELF]**  
**JESSICA'S TIPS**

**CHOOSING PAINT**

"Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan doesn't require priming, so I just cleaned the cabinets with Clorox wipes and filled holes with wood putty. The paint dries really fast, so I could do two coats in one paint session."

**PAINTING STRATEGY**

"I worked on the cabinets in stages. I'd remove the doors or drawers from a section then paint the box."

**HANDY HELPER**

"My dining room table served as my workshop while I was painting doors and drawers. I used painters tripods to elevate them. A 10-pack is about \$5 at Home Depot."

**PRO TRICK**

"I put a piece of painters tape where I'm about to drill holes. It gives the drill bit something to grip, and the wood is less likely to split." She also uses a hardware installation template to line the holes up (under \$10 at Lowes).



*blend it*

Jessica mixed an even ratio of two paint colors to get the right green.

"If you see two colors and want something between them, play around by mixing sample pots. A 50/50 mix is pretty simple."

**TOP** Provence  
**BOTTOM** Château Grey (Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan)



▶ The range slips into what originally was a cooking fireplace. Adding panels on each side gives it the look of a built-in.

▼ Jessica painted upper cabinets white for brightness but left the window trim stained to tie in with her "island" table and the interiors of glass-front cabinets on the opposite wall.



# GAME CHANGERS

A few key updates went a long way in revamping Jessica's kitchen. "I wanted to honor the style of the house," she says. Making decisions through that filter helped her pull together the details.



**BEFORE**

**COLOR CORRECTION** The 1990s stained cabinetry made the room dark and looked out of place in the 1879 Victorian. The cabinetry's new green hue has enough gray in it to avoid being jarring.



**FINISHING TOUCH** Oil-rubbed bronze pulls from Nest Studio's Mod series balance the cabinets' traditional profile. "I like a dark finish because it can look both modern and traditional at the same time," she says.



**CONNECTING THE DOTS** "I wanted a backsplash that didn't feel too modern and that tied into the style of the house," Jessica says. She chose penny tile—typically used on floors—for its texture and vintage look.



For a similar look, try Royal Design Studio's Concrete Quilt Stencil.

**FAUX EFFECT** To get the look of unglazed encaustic tiles, Jessica applied white chalk-finish paint to the existing 10½-inch porcelain tiles then stenciled a black pattern on top. Two coats of sealer protect it.

## EASY RETROFIT

Slide in one of these 30-inch freestanding ranges without demoing any cabinets. Their features will have you cooking like a pro.



### SAMSUNG

An oval-shape fifth burner evenly heats oversize pans. NX58R4311SS, \$999; [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)



### KITCHENAID

Punch the recipe temperature in, and this oven converts it for convection cooking. KFGG500ESS, \$1,399; [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)



### BOSCH

This range, which has a warming drawer, fits flush to the wall and countertops so can appear built-in. HG18056UC, \$2,299; [bosch-home.com](http://bosch-home.com) ■