

Kitchen Maker

Issue 7

Online

**SHAKING IT UP
IN THE KITCHEN**

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SHAKING THINGS UP IN THE KITCHEN

SHAKER furniture is a distinctive style developed by the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, commonly known as Shakers - a religious sect that had guiding principles of simplicity, utility and honesty. ...

Their work is typified by drawer pulls for dressers, or other kitchen furniture which were made of wood. Historically, Shaker design door & drawer fronts date back to the mid-18th century and are the embodiment of simplicity, combined with fine craftsmanship and functionality. Despite their purposeful lack of ornamentation the artistry of the cabinets is their divining charm.

The History of Shaker Style

The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing developed the furniture style early in their history and even lent their name 'Shaker Quakers' to their creations.

Believing that a good life should be lived with principles, the Shakers sort to install these morals in every factor of their lives, including the furniture they made.

Being a largely self-sufficient community,

the Shakers grew their own food, and maintained all of their needs through personal manufacture and long lasting construction.

Casting aside the ideas of "lavish living", the Shakers believed that all things should be practical, functional and, above all, honest. This is reflected highly in their







crafting process, as the lack of adornments cuts labour and material costs in the long term for a community who has to forage from only the natural resources around them. Off cuts of wood could be used to create tools, or as kindling for the fire, rather than used to embellish an already functioning piece of equipment.

Not only was Shaker's principle a practical one, but the community was very invested in their religion, which also played its part in the manufacturing process.

Immigrating to America in 1774 as outcasts for their pious beliefs, this branch of Protestantism found a new beginning in the New World although, sadly, they were still not safe from prosecution.

The Mastery of Crafting

As well as being stunningly beautiful the Shaker style showcases the skill and craftsmanship behind their manufacturing. The Shakers' belief that all things should hold a purpose and be crafted as a testament to God, gave them a magnificent drive to refine their crafting process and to pick only the best materials available.

In the modern world we have machinery and computers to help us with the manufacturing process, but the Shaker craftsmen would have used hand-made tools and precision of patience to refine their products and create the finished effect.

This crafting process was especially sophisticated for the construction of their cabinetry doors. Using the feature of a five-piece door front, the Shakers were able to create a beautiful door that was of sturdy construction and of course vastly practical.

By making the fronts from two rails, two stiles and a central panel there was little wasted wood, whilst maintaining a solid structure that looks amazing. This in turn became their signatory style - the framed panel or Shaker.

Not only was the prospect of adorning the furniture considered to be a wasteful pastime for practical purposes, but it was also in moral conflict with the Shakers beliefs. Seeing decorations and embellishments as prideful and at its most extreme being a form of deceit, the Shakers shirked from using such additional decorative features.

As such no carvings or inlays will be found on traditional, Shaker made furniture. Instead the Shakers kept their furniture in its most simplistic and practical form to display it honestly.

Just as a Shaker woman would not wear make-up, a cabinet door needed no fine borders to draw the eye away from the fact that the cabinet was simply a cabinet, its beauty lying in its functionality and practical nature,





thus reflecting the Shaker Maxim that “Beauty rests on Utility”.

Complimentary Colours and Wood Types

However, when one thinks of a lack of decoration, it is easy to imagine that the Shaker community lacked colour all together. Though it is true that the men and women of the community wore modest regiment with an almost uniform design, it is easy to confuse them with the early pilgrims whose black and white collared appeal has becoming signatory to America’s fledgling history.

Comparatively, the Shakers loved rich colours for their clothing. However, when it came to their furniture though the Shakers kept their colours limited to a primary palette.

Usually preferring to oil their natural wood, they were also known to paint it in red, yellow, green, or blue to add a depth to their open plan houses.

Using a variety of natural plants to create their paint and dyes, this created a very earthy tone, allowing for the natural beauty of the wood to shine through and giving the desired contrast to bare white plastered walls.

Cherry wood and maple were the most commonly used in the manufacture of Shaker furniture, being rich in colour, sturdy and locally abundant.

These beautiful pieces also look amazing in oak and sapele. Keeping with the Shaker traditions of natural

material, oak is a preferred material, as it allows for the grain pattern to show even when painted.

A Modern Twist

No Shaker household would be complete without everything having its own place, which was why storage took a definitive part in their furniture design. What good was having a table just to eat at, when the utensils still needed a place to live, hence drawers in the table front.

Other common features included a peg rail to hang outdoor garments, or even kitchen chairs would be suspended on them when not in use.

Shaker kitchens have a traditional appeal, which is quite timeless in terms of their design. However, if you are aiming for a modern 21st century kitchen with a twist, there are a number of ways to spice up your own Shaker style kitchen, everything from the colour you choose to paint it, to the handles you fix to the cabinetry and the worktops you choose.

Aperture beading can be added to Shake doors to really help the design come alive. Alternatively, you can opt for a touch of rebellion to be added to the basic simplicity of a Shaker design with a choice of cornices and a mix up of slab or “V” groove end panelling.



KITCHEN MANUFACTURER HAA THE WISDOM TO INSTALL WOODWORKING MACHINERY PRODUCED BY MARTIN

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WOOD & WISDOM is a specialist joinery company based in Balcombe in Sussex with a strong emphasis on producing a stunning range of hand-made bespoke kitchens, which are built to last.

Many of the made-to-measure fitted luxury kitchens and free-standing kitchen furniture items produced by Wood & Wisdom are of typical Shaker styles and are built using traditional techniques and construction methods.

Each step in the construction process of a hand-made kitchen is designed and carefully crafted to meet the original vision of the individual client.

Most factory-made contemporary kitchens are either wood veneered, or use plastic coatings over a moulded particle-board core, but Wood & Wisdom's bespoke kitchens are fundamentally different.

In a solid wood kitchen all the components, from doors and worktops to the panels of the carcasses themselves are made from planks of wood.

Once machined, they are bonded together, forming a super-strong structure. Even when solid wood kitchens are painted, it is obvious that they are not made from veneer-covered particle board, because the natural

grain of the timber shines through.

Wood & Wisdom operates out of 5000ft² workshop premises, where the company's professional craftsmen provide an expert design, fabrication and installation service to architects, contractors and private individuals throughout Kent, Surrey and Sussex and in Central London.

The master craftsmen at Wood & Wisdom may be skilled in traditional techniques, but the company's joinery workshop is cutting edge.

Here Wood & Wisdom has invested heavily in state-of-the-art machinery



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and equipment, including a dedicated CAD and setting out facility to help the company meet its clients exacting requirements with unparalleled levels of efficiency and within pleasingly short lead times.

In short, according to the company, the Wood & Wisdom workshop is “where traditional techniques meet state-of-the-art machinery”.

Here one of the latest machines to be installed in the workshop is a Martin T27, which replaced a simple CNC spindle moulder.

Martin’s T27 spindle moulder is renowned for its flexibility. Setting up a spindle moulder can be a major challenge. However, this is not the case with Martin’s T27, which features a modern touchscreen controller.

The integrated tool calculation enables the operator to set up complex moulding patterns in no time at all and with the spindle in the tilted position.

The large tilting range of 2 x 46deg can be efficiently deployed on this basis. All you need to do is follow your

inclinations lock, stock and barrel!

The 5.7in touch screen control unit features self-explanatory coloured icons, comprehensible text messages and the clearly arranged menu structure will support even inexperienced operators and ensure first class results.

The bilaterally guided fence provides the highest level of position exactly where it counts. It is set by means of a hand wheel, according to a digital display in the control unit in the basic version of the T27. The motorised version is controlled completely electronically.

If the fence has to be removed from the machine table, for example for moulding on the ring fence, no time-consuming referencing is required after re-configuration, owing to the precise and reliable mechanical fittings.

The electrical table rings (invented by Martin in 1999) can be infinitely variably adapted quickly and efficiently to tools with diameters ranging from 70mm to 250mm. As the table opening can also be adjusted to the tilting tool,

the operator will quickly appreciate this added capability.

The feed support with electric motor positioning, together with its ingenious latching mechanism, provides genuine workload relief.

The height adjustment of the feed unit can be easily specified and approached via controller and can also be integrated in the programs.

The setting of the feed depth can be vary easily adjusted thanks to the ball-raced guide. In addition, if the feed is not currently required, it can be simply swivelled away to one side-without losing the previously made settings.

The machine frame is a sturdy, thick-walled composite structure – the design of which is a particular feature of all Martin machines.

According to Martin, many manufacturers like to think of their machines as having composite frames, however, if you examine them more closely, you will quickly discover that Martin is the only manufacturer of standard woodworking machinery to





use steel and concrete in a genuine composite construction.

One component is of no use without the other and only the intelligent combination of these materials provides a first-class frame. Martin's frame offers the customer the perfect basis for superior work.

The infinitely variable rotational speed control for the cutter spindle enables the operator to tailor the speed of the tool perfectly to the demands of the working process within a range of 1,000-12,000rpm – even during operation.

In addition to the very slow profile sanding heads, the large speed range means that small high-speed tools, such as end mills can be used with an ideal cutting speed without any problems. Motors are available from 7.5kW to 11kW to provide the required power.

On the T27 motorised positioning of the fence is an extremely useful addition, irrespective of whether a spindle moulder, or tilting arbor spindle moulder is concerned.

The operator can therefore make the most frequent settings for a spindle

cutter, the cutting height and depth, with the complete support of the controller, because the electronics are now responsible for doing what you once did by means of a hand-wheel.

The fence settings are approached with pin point accuracy owing to the extremely high reproducibility of +/- 0.025mm.

Even critical settings such as those for cutting counter profiles can be precisely positioned. Like the cutting height in the basic equipment the cutting depth is therefore also a component of any program and the controller carries out the positioning in accordance with program specifications.

Motorised positioning of the infeed jaw presents itself when the purely digital display is no longer sufficient. The operator obtains complete control over the fence with this option, which is only available in conjunction with electromotive positioning of the fence.

The operator makes all the settings on the fences from the controller. This option is recommended for users who frequently carry out extensive moulding operations on the workpiece.

The new HSK tool interface is the ideal extension for users who regard their spindle cutter as an effective supplement to their CNC machining centre, or wish to change their tools quickly and easily as a unit with the arbor.

If the basic T27 spindle moulder is equipped with Martin's proven DornFix quick-change system, the pneumatic HSK clamping system can be selected as an option.

Using this technology, you can change the tool/arbor unit within a few seconds and achieve enormous savings on the amount of time required for-setting up purposes.

Furthermore, you can use suitable CNC machining tools on the spindle cutter without any problems, thereby relieving this expensive machine from capacity-consuming traversing moulding jobs.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.woodandwisdom.co.uk



Option T2080 / T2680 - Sliding table

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ALPHACAM UPDATE ALLOWS KITCHEN DOOR MANUFACTURER TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

A COMPANY manufacturing around 65,000 doors/week for kitchen cabinets says that its future lies with robotics, automation and increased efficiencies.

Based at Dungannon in Northern Ireland, O & S Doors uses Alphacam CAD/CAM software to drive 17 Biesse CNC routers, four Reichenbacher machines and one Homag.

The Biesse machines, including two five-axis models and the Homag, are all programmed for full production runs, with the Reichenbachers largely used for bulk production.

The company's range includes cabinet doors and drawer fronts made principally from an MDF core with PVC, or acrylic fascias, along with some solid wood doors.

While recent updates to Alphacam's powerful nesting function have substantially improved their material yield, O & S Doors' projects manager, Paul McCullagh says that the software's five-axis capability is also an important part of the equation.

'Our five-axis machines give us the capability to produce what we claim to be the widest and most flexible range of curved doors made to order in the UK and Irish markets,' says Paul.

'Virtually every design we offer can be recreated in a curved format along with matching accessories. The use of the Alphacam software is invaluable in this regard,' he adds.

Alphacam's new nesting engine improves material yield by between six and eight per cent on each sheet, which Paul says equates to a lorry-load of board every week.

'This is contributing towards offsetting increased raw material costs,' says Paul.

'Increasing efficiencies in this way allows us to continue investing in other automation projects within the factory and, ultimately adds to the company's bottom line,' he adds.

It's automation that Paul sees as being the way forward. O&S already has a robotic arm for loading boards at the start of the process where the acrylic

front is laminated on to the MDF core.

In addition, two Alphacam modules - AUTOMATION MANAGER and CDM (Cabinet Door Manufacture) - work in conjunction to automate bulk programming.

Once the team has imported an Excel file of all the doors of mixed sizes for a production run, the software produces NC code for any machine on the shop floor.

'Irrespective of how many doors they're working on, AUTOMATION MANAGER takes the list and creates the code for all the door sizes,' says Alphacam area manager, David Mcintyre.

It means that O & S Doors don't have to carry out individual part programming. So whether they're working on 50, 150, or 500 doors, the whole batch is fully programmed in the same time it would take to program just one door.

'Nowadays, a conventional OEM CAM system processes each file individually, but it won't write 50 or 500 programs in

just a couple of minutes,' says Paul.

'The use of Alphacam's AUTOMATION MANAGER means that 2D and 3D CAD files, along with solid models from third party software, can be batch processed, from file preparation right through to applying tool-paths, with the NC code automatically generated,' says Paul.

Alphacam has also worked with O & S Doors on several bespoke operations to improve efficiency further, including the ability to show accurate timings for producing every sheet.

'We found that we had a number of jobs waiting to be processed on the factory floor, but no way of knowing how long they'd take...a full sheet could take between 10 minutes and an hour,' says Paul McCullagh.

An Alphacam engineer spent two days working with them to set up a time management project for the routers, by making bespoke amendments to the software and post processor and liaising with a company that produced a web interface to monitor production on the factory floor.

'We've now got a module to show the time each router spends on cutting each sheet. This has led to several improvements, as we can now easily monitor the efficiency of every router to ensure we're getting the absolute best we can from each one,' says Paul.

Operating from a 400,000ft² factory with around 350 employees, O & S Doors says that the company's Sage Line 500 ERP system has been adapted to integrate with Alphacam.

'Once the orders are keyed in, we take a CSV file across to Alphacam's Cabinet Door Manufacture module, which produces our nested sheets,' says Paul.

'On a project basis, we design our

doors in Alphacam and send samples to the customer. Once they're approved, the production run is nested and the nested sheets go to the factory floor, while the stores bring the board to the routers ready for machining,' says Paul.

Alphacam creates the NC code and reports, along with labels which are then applied to the back of the doors,' says Paul.

Another Alphacam benefit is that it allows the parts to be fully rotated on the nest...or if specific grain direction is required, it locks the axis, so the boards all face the same way.

In conclusion, Paul says that whilst automation already plays a key role in their manufacturing process, the company is continually seeking to

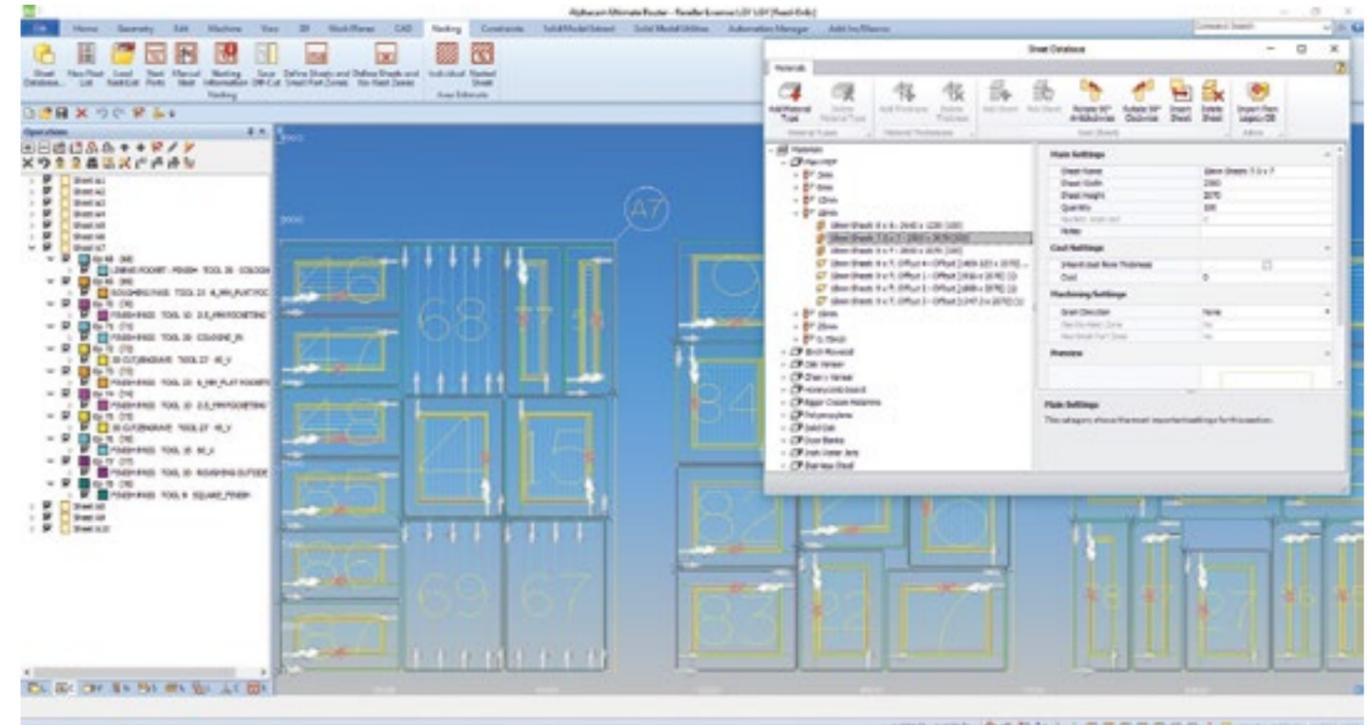
drive further efficiencies with fewer clicks and less manual input.

'Around 90 per cent of our products go through Alphacam and most orders have a three-day lead time, which includes a full day from order entry, through the nesting operation, to the shop floor for machining, says Paul.

'We're currently looking at ways of how Alphacam can help us reduce that to just three hours,' concludes Paul.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.alphacam.com

COMPUTER SOFTWARE



TITUS LAUNCHES SPACE-EFFICIENT SLIMLINE DRAWER RANGE

CABINET hardware expert, Titus has launched a second-generation range of its popular Tekform double-wall drawers.

The new slimline versions feature a sleek and visually-appealing design and have 14mm side panels that maximise efficient utilisation of drawer space.

They also incorporate the precision engineered Titus hydraulic dampers to ensure a reliable and consistent soft closing action, combined with low pull-out force.

Tekform slimline drawers are available in three heights – 70mm, 145mm and 182mm – and can be supplied in a range of visually appealing finishes that ideally complement contemporary furniture designs.

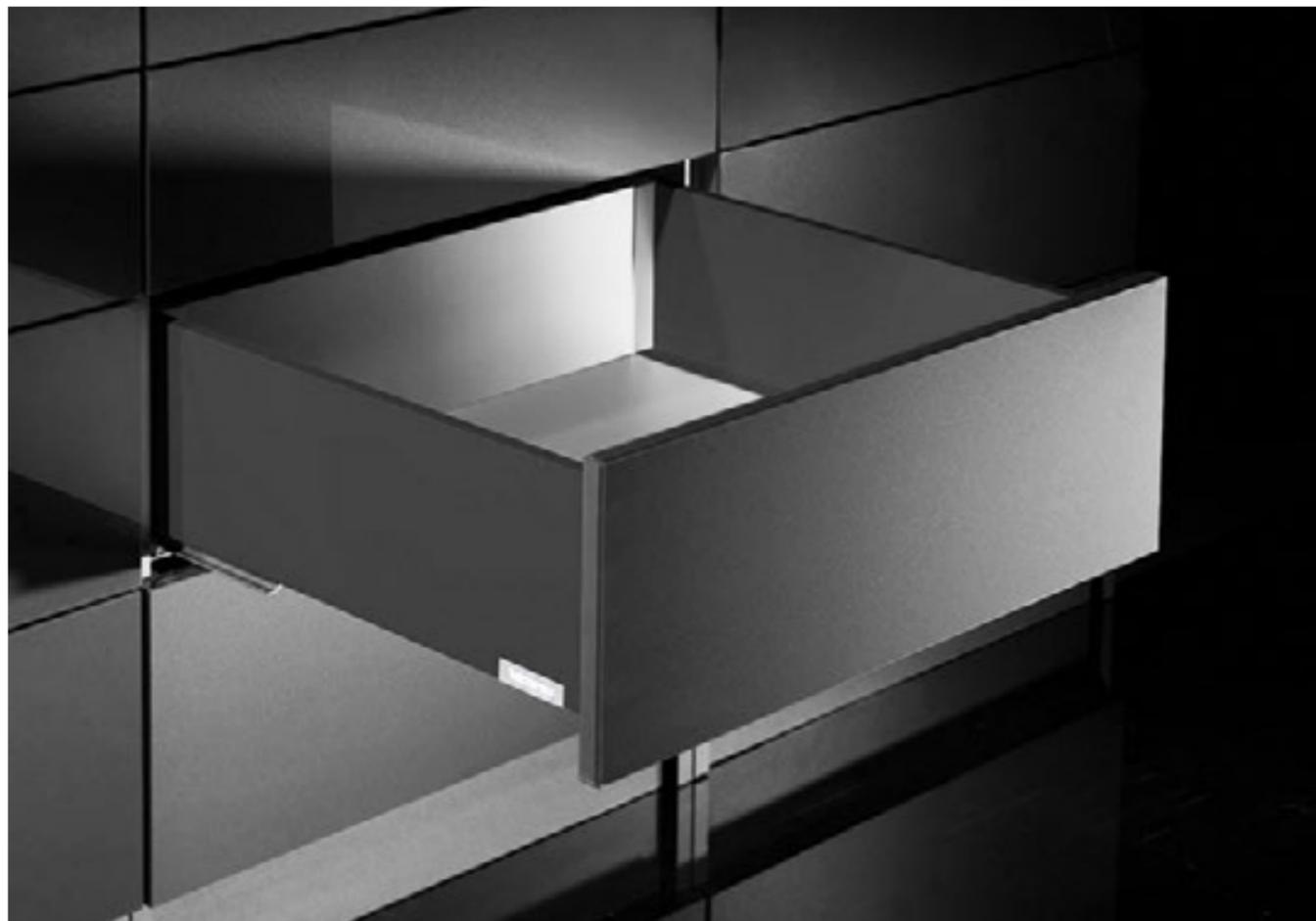
A further key benefit is that they use the same drilling pattern for runners as their predecessors, which facilitates mounting in existing products and designs.

Drawers are fast and easy to assemble, thanks to the EasyFix locking system used for the front-panel connector, which requires only hand insertion and a quarter of a turn with a screwdriver to lock the panel securely in place.

Reliable life-long ConfidentClose soft closing is assured by the use of the renowned Titus single-direction precision-engineered hydraulic dampers, which smoothly slow down the linear movement of the drawer, as it reaches the closed position but offer minimal resistance to movement when the drawer is being opened.

Installation of the drawers within the cabinet is fast and straightforward. Extended tolerances in cabinet construction can be accommodated without compromising accurate alignment, smooth and silent operation and excellent stability in the open position. In addition, variations of up to ± 1 mm in bottom panel width size are acceptable.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.titusplus.com



LATEST NEW DECORS ON OFFER IN RERNOLIT'S STOCK RANGE

NEW DECORS

A TRADITIONAL kitchen is one of the most popular and versatile style concepts that includes several design elements, including warm colours and symmetrical lines and which allows homeowners to feel comfortable and elegant at the same time.

A modern contemporary interpretation of traditional combines new fresh woodgrain designs with plain colours in matt, or supermatt textured surfaces.

Keep an installation current by

connecting up-to-date decors with the latest trend toned solid colour doors, or within the surrounding room by the use of accessories and soft furnishings.

Oak remains a firm favourite in this genre.

Renolit Alkoren Kendal Oak is a smooth oak with subtle details and an even uniformity of colour. A gentle linear structure flows around attractively proportioned swirling knots. The surface has a light distribution of linear pores

giving it a natural look with a velvety, pleasant touch.

An alternative contender and representing a break from the norm, is the up-and-coming Rockford Hickory. One the latest new décor's on offer in Renolit's stock range, it is robust and versatile. This sophisticated design is created by light pores and contrasting cathedrals.

Variation of pattern and colour emphasises its inherent beauty.



Renolit Alkoren White Grey Modern Ash.

Complement with the subtle tone of Stone Grey Supermatt and a fresh forest green to create a traditional effect with modern appeal.

A more recent development of a traditional kitchen is the appearance of painted look woodgrain textured single colour doors that give a modern twist to conventional kitchen design.

The painted timber look, such as Renolit's 3D thermo-formable Modern Ash, is particularly suited to present-day new build homes where the owner desires the quality and design statement associated with a traditional kitchen, but in a smaller space where a full woodgrain décor may be domineering.

Modern Ash is a deep, visual ash structured surface emboss which creates an up-to-date contemporary painted timber finish – a style which fits well with a variety of five-piece, or routed door styles.

The Modern Ash emboss matches Egger's ST27 and Renolit offers a wide spectrum of seven colours. Illustrated here are two different colourways; dark and light to illustrate how trending accessorising, or a change of wall paint will have a dramatic effect on the overall feel of a kitchen.

The dramatic dark colour of Onyx Grey provides a statement to any room. Needing little to lift the effect further,

it can be easily combined with a variety of colours to meet the individual's preferences.

Onyx Grey is shown here combined with Tin Plate, OakENDgrain Delight, or Fern to create a pleasant interior.

At the other end of the spectrum, the soft light tone of White Grey Modern Ash provides an ideal backdrop which can be enriched with bolder woodgrain designs, such as Inedito 1 SC, or by adding warm metallic Rose Gold to provide a bright and cheerful atmosphere.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.renolit.com



Renolit Alkoren Onyx Grey Modern Ash.



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