

They brought British style home

Period-look appliances and hard-wearing, time-tested finishes add English-cottage charm to this kitchen

BY GILLIAN BARTH + PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN



Kathy and Chris Parsons

GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
"We refused to chicken out on using bold colors."

"WE HAVE A COMPLETE aversion to stainless steel," says Chris Parsons, who grew up around vintage homes warmed by traditional cast-iron AGA cookers in his native England. So when it came time for him and his wife, Kathy, to remodel the hodgepodge kitchen in their 1920 house, two big splurges—an updated dual-fuel AGA range and a matching fridge—set the tone for a cozy English cottage-style space.

The cream-and-black appliances also inspired the color scheme. Sourcing the rest of their materials from home centers, the couple chose cream granite counters with black flecks, and a vent hood and cabinets with a deep-peppercorn-brown finish. "We were buried in swatches for months," Chris says. A checkerboard of buttermilk-yellow and cherry-red floor tiles complements the focal-point range; golden-yellow walls and a red worktable island help brighten the "durable vintage look" the couple was after.

The result is a cheerful space brimming with cottage character. For ideas on assembling a similar look in your own home, read on.



shapely kettle

Kathy's collection of colorful teakettles includes one like this old-timey enameled-steel model. \$40; overstock.com



pot-washer faucet

This industrial-style high-arc faucet makes dish duty go a lot faster. \$320; faucetdirect.com



bold tones

The kitchen gets its feel-good vibe in part from its color palette: gold walls, creamy trim, and a red-and-yellow checkerboard floor. Armstrong vinyl composition tile, \$1 per square foot, and Valspar paint in Delightful Moon (walls) and Jekyll Club Veranda Ivory (trim), \$30 per gallon; lowes.com



mixing bowls

A display-worthy collection of bowls is an easy way to add hits of cheery color. Solid, \$25 for two, and stripe, \$37 for three; kmart.com



vintage-look cooker

A cast-iron AGA stove costs nearly \$15,000. The couple opted for the updated and more affordable AGA Legacy. \$5,699; aga-ranges.com for dealers

• get this look

clear-glass pendant

A simple globe showcases an old-fashioned Edison bulb for a warm glow. \$118; lowes.com



message center

Pair a red-rimmed blackboard with an enameled clock, as the homeowners did, or choose this combo version. \$126; piperclassics.com



beadboard breadbox

This painted-and-distressed pine box helps keep loaves fresh, while a handy pull-out drawer stows a bread knife within easy reach. \$119; touchesofcountry.com



colorful dish towels

Mixed stripes and plaids in absorbent cotton are pretty and practical. Red, \$15 for three, and yellow, \$13 for two; surlatable.com

jam and honey pots

Just add scones! Teatime is more fun with these cheerful condiment jars. Their silicone-tipped dippers make contents easy to spread. \$28 each; lecreuset.com



PHOTOS: (BOWL, TILES, MESSAGE CENTER, BREADBOX, BREADKNIFE) YUNFEE KIM; STYLING: ANDREA CAUGHEY