

BIG CHANGES ON A small budget can be done!

Using money-saving solutions, **Briony Teasel** colour-boosted her kitchen with soft pastels, faux terrazzo and warm wood tones



TOTAL
£1,326

'I painted the existing cupboards pastel green, because I like the soft tone with pinks and a pop of terracotta,' says Briony. 'The terrazzo-effect finish on the worktop is stylish and heatproof – we love it'

My problem kitchen

Although the kitchen was new when we moved in, some of the cupboards were a bit wonky, and an overpowering wood-effect wallpaper had been hastily put up to hide the poor condition of the walls. The black and white decor wasn't to our taste, and I wasn't keen on the cheap lino floor either.

How I made it work

We kept everything but gave the space a full facelift by painting the cupboards

and adding new handles, installing a new splashback, shelving, and flooring, and covering the laminate worktops with a terrazzo effect we discovered we could create ourselves.

My favourite part

I was prepared to spend money on improving the cheap worktop, but creating a terrazzo style with epoxy resin ended up being one of the most money-saving things we did. We absolutely love the look.



About me

I'm Briony Teasel, @sixtythreehouse, a content coordinator for a homewares company. I live with my partner, Matt Burton, who works in digital content. Our home is a 1920s three-bed semi in Sheffield, bought in December 2022.

'We were really pleased to find a table to seat four that would fit in here. The stool storage is a bonus as a place to keep the blender, coffee pods and peg bag'



This is the first home we've owned – we bought in Sheffield because we love the buzz of the city, while still being close to the countryside and our hometown of Nottingham. An investor had done up the property on the cheap, and painted everywhere white to flip it. We didn't have the budget to fit a new kitchen, so we were pleased this one was brand new – however we were less pleased to find it was a bit of a botch job! We also weren't keen on the white gloss units and black laminate worktop, not to mention the busy black-and-white lino floor and overwhelming brown wood-effect wallpaper everywhere.

I had a laidback-California-modern vibe in mind, as the room gets a lot of natural light, and I imagined soft pastels, warm wood flooring and a terrazzo worktop. I looked at how we could do this within our budget and discovered we could cover the worktop in epoxy resin and seal in colourful chips. We painted the cupboards in a matcha green to soften the room and create a relaxed feel, and we tiled the white splashback and made the shelves.

We'd had the walls replastered at the start and I'd painted them with a faux limewash, but I wasn't happy with how the tones looked in the evening light. As the project came to an end and the new floor went down, I still didn't like the wall colour, so I painted them again in a peachy pink using paint I'd already bought for our bedroom. It worked! The shade goes perfectly with the red and pink chips in the worktop, warms the wood tones, and complements the fresh green cupboards. The kitchen looks like new now, and we love it.



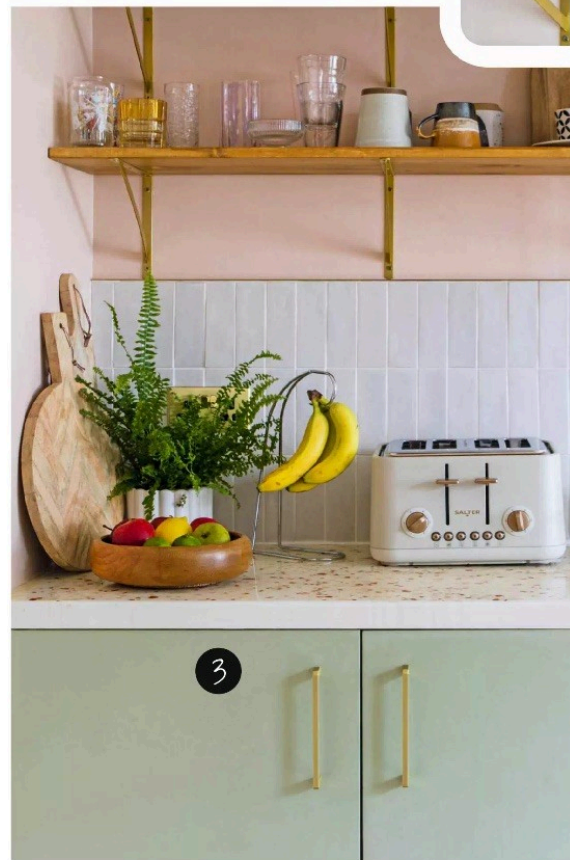
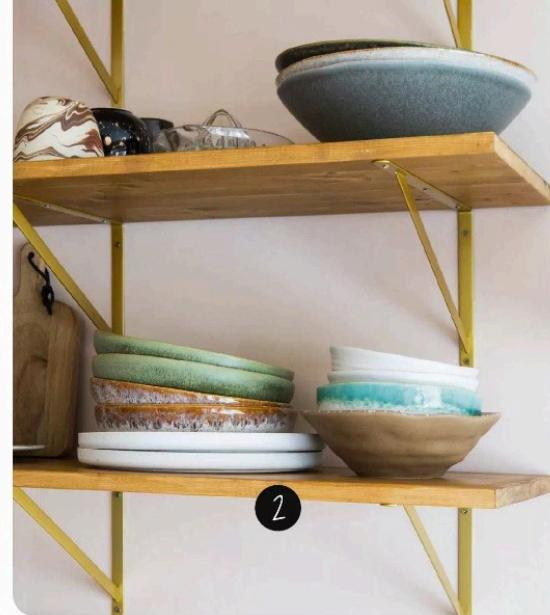
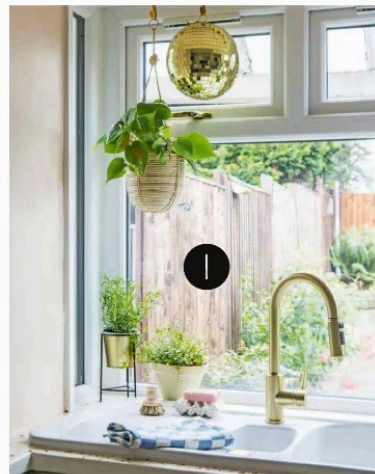
'I love the bold stripe of the terracotta fabric, which became a way to get more colour and pattern into the kitchen,' explains Briony. 'My Nannar sewed the curtain and the table runner was made from an offcut'



'We replaced the wall cupboards with shelves to make the room feel more casual and open,' says Briony. 'The simple white splashback is made with textured Zellige tiles that catch the light'

My shopping list

Cupboards painted in Green 09; **walls** painted in Pink 02, from £39 for 2.5L, both Lick. **Worktop** covered in epoxy resin for worktops, £76.99, Epodex. **Jesmonite chips**, £50, Lumo and Sonne. **Matt Brass square angular 160mm cabinet handles**, £8.08 each, Handle & Home. **Fellini Bianco matt tiles**, £69.60 per sq m, Claybrook Studio. **Pull out modern single handle kitchen tap** in Gold, £140, Debenhams. **Emily Bond Elliot curtain fabric** in Ginger, £18 per m, Dunelm. **Ouvin Gold shelf brackets**, £18.59 for 4, Amazon. **Seasons herringbone laminate flooring** in Early Autumn, £23.49 per sq m, CM Flooring Supplies. **Hateme 4-person dining set** in Red Oak, £179.99, Wayfair. **Hultarp rail 80cm**, £9, IKEA. **Ripple glassware**, from £39 for two champagne flutes, Ferm Living. **Handmade ceramic Brown swirl mug**, £22, Leon & Miko. For similar, try set of 6 Paloum **dinner plates** in Green enamel stoneware, £64.99, La Redoute. For similar, try Falmouth travel **poster**, from £35, The John Dyer Gallery.



Style advice

Three simple tricks to try in your own home

1 Add fun features

Briony fitted a wall-hanging utensil rack to the ceiling over the sink alcove. 'I decorated it with a hanging plant, a sparkly disco ball and wind chimes, which are lovely in the breeze,' she says. 'The rail is a fun way to get personality into the room without taking up worktop space, and reflects the relaxed feel I wanted in here.'

2 Save money on shelves

Stylish shelves were an affordable project, as they were made with standard wood planks bought from a DIY shop. Briony and Matt cut the planks to size, sanded them down, and stained the wood in a tone to complement the gold brackets. 'We used the same honey colour we'd used to stain our living room floorboards,' says Briony. 'I like having our things on display, as it's more casual and personal. We look for handmade crockery from independents rather than uniform sets, as I like the eclectic mix of random pieces.'

3 Rejuvenate worktops

Briony and Matt created a terrazzo look for their worktop by painting the laminate white and sealing in chips of sand, terracotta and pink. 'You can seal anything in epoxy resin,' Briony explains. 'I used jesmonite pieces after coming across Lumo and Sonne, an independent business making terrazzo homewares – they were happy to sell me a bag of the chips. I scattered them across the work surface and poured over the resin. It's a bit of a messy job – we covered up the cupboards to catch the run-off – but the finish looks amazing.'