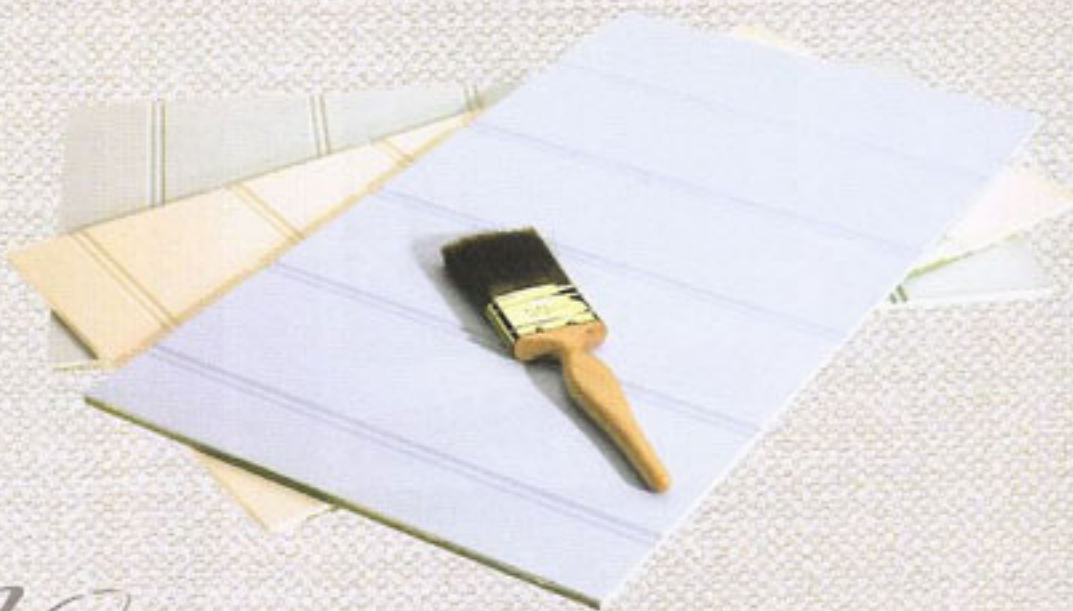


**PAINTS**, from left Duck Egg, emulsion, £23.95 for 2.5 litres, Paintworks. **Pointing**, Estate Emulsion, £21.99 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. **Powder Blue**, matt emulsion, £13.99 for 2.5 litres, Crown.



## Key ingredients

**SURFACES**, from top Camilla hand-painted tile, 68p, Elton. **Maple**, 110 mm, £20.35 sq m, The Natural Wood Floor Company. **Brushed and Lined Oak** with OS wax finish, from £58.16 sq m; **Elegance Oak Wide** with birch oil finish, from £46.24 sq m; both Broadleaf.



**FABRICS**, from top Alvine Ros, cotton, 150 cm wide, £4 m, Ikea. **Pale Blue**, denim, 155 cm wide, £25 m, Lena Proudlock. **Ladder Stitch Rows 074**, linen, 140 cm wide, £55 m, Volga Linen Company. **Harebell**, linen, 150 cm wide, £36 m, Nordic Style. **Stone Small Check**, linen mix, 150 cm wide, £28 m, Nordic Style. **Ticking 01** in Sea Green, cotton, 137 cm wide, £12.50 m, Ian Mankin.



# Finishing touches



1. Bench stool, £275, Sofia collection, Nordic Style.
  2. Belman round table, from £1,300; Anna carver chair, £500; Anna chairs, £400 each; all Gustavian.
  3. Gustavian dresser, £2,585, The Blue Door.
  4. Gustavian three-drawer chest, £560 painted, £350 unpainted, Scumble Goose.
  5. Milnsbridge chandelier, £150, Laura Ashley.
  6. Ingolf chair in Grey/White, £40, Ikea.
  7. Kristian single bed in Antique Kristall White with hand-carved detailing, £995, Gustavian.
  8. Heart mirror, £165, Chic Shack.
- Where to buy items listed, page 32



# Country Classic

While classic English country style is inspired by the decoration in rural cottages, in recent years it has been simplified to make it more suitable for the contemporary home. Rustic furniture, either in natural wood or with a plain or distressed paint finish, pale paint shades, pretty floral fabrics and wallpapers combine to make this an informal look that is as easy to live with as it is to achieve. In bedrooms, mix Victorian-style iron or brass beds with patchwork quilts for the ultimate in nostalgic, homespun charm, while traditional sofas upholstered in classic chintz and checks give sitting rooms a cosy, timeless feel. With pattern provided by curtains and cushions, natural flooring works best: combine thick wool carpet or wooden boards with textured rugs and runners, while slate tiles or flagstones are traditional choices for hallways and kitchens. Of all the decorating styles, the country look relies most on carefully chosen accessories, making it perfect for those who love trawling antiques markets for china, simple paintings, wicker baskets and needlework cushions. To update the look, choose pale flooring, walls and woodwork and be careful not to mix too many patterns – one dominant design is usually enough. As with any successful scheme, restraint is essential; plenty of planning with a mood board will ensure that the overall effect isn't overbearing.

Country decorating is the perfect balance of practical and pretty. Think sturdy stripped pine tables and dressers, iron bedsteads and footed baths offset by old-fashioned florals and checks for a restful, lived-in look.



This page: The light, airy hallway sets the tone for the whole house. Opposite: Moosie inherited the chandelier in the dining room from her grandmother.



# Pale and interesting

COOL COLOURS PROVIDE THE BACKDROP FOR SCANDINAVIAN FURNITURE AND ORNATE ANTIQUES IN THIS ECLECTIC HOME.

WORDS RUTH CORDEY PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS TUBBS