



Kitchen Make-Over: Building Custom Counters for Beginners

Problem: Modernize the Qeynos Stove

Solution: Encase the antique-style stove in custom built counters

This kitchen make-over was for a young and hip male Kerra. He wanted to combine a modern aesthetic with the natural and quaint charm, of his acorn inspired Kelethin home.

Your Supply List

You can use this technique to make a wide variety of custom counters. Pick the wood styles, grain and colors that suit your tastes. In this case, I wanted to match the Ironwood counters included the overall redesign.

- **Surface** – Your counter needs a surface which can be supplied by tables, crates, shelves, etc. What you choose depends on the desired result and what you can find that matches the colors and/or affects your trying to achieve.
- **Sides Panels** – Depending on the size of the counter, you can use paintings or room dividers to create panels. Each counter needs 1 to 3 panels depending on placement. End counters need 2 (front and exposed side), interior counters need 1 (front). Free-standing need

3 (front, left & right). This assumes the back is against a wall or other solid object. If not, add another panel for the backs.

- **Room Divider** – If you're using paintings as your panels, you need to have at least 1 room divider available as a building tool. However, the more dividers the merrier, so you can keep them in place while you're making adjustments – which is an unavoidable activity.

How to Build Custom Counters

1. I find it easiest to have all of the furniture and supplies placed in a corner of the room where I won't be working.



2. Place each surface in its permanent location within the room layout.



- If you're using the backs of paintings as your panel, you need to position a room divider where you need to "hang" the painting so that its back will be exposed when the room divider is removed.



- Move yourself to the back side of the room divider. Positioning yourself into tight spaces to avoid the game making spatial misinterpretations can be challenging.



- Hang your paintings facing in toward your counter. Use Shift + Mouse Wheel to resize. Use Control + Mouse Wheel to raise/lower the picture vertically.



- After careful placement, you can remove the room dividers. You now have a front face on the counters. Repeat the process of placing the dividers, placing & sizing paintings, for the exposed sides.



7. The first time around, making the minute changes necessary to align the paintings appropriately on to each table / counter top is tricky. Moving the room dividers too soon causes the headache of having to put them back before you can move the paintings again.



8. Your last step is to add your own decorating flare. I modernized the look some more by adding an Ironwood counter in front of the stove workspace.

Above the freestanding island, I created a valance by using the same Ironwood counter, resized and centered, for additional visual interest.

