

TRACT STAR

Sleek, modern styling defines the kitchen that Kenny built



WHO Kenny Sharrocks, shop foreman for a trade-show exhibition firm

WHAT "My goal was to fix all of the shortcomings of our basic tract home," explains Sharrocks. In five short months, he gave his kitchen a contemporary face-lift that included 16-inch tile flooring, new cabinet pulls, cupboard doors and drawers faced in custom laminates, stainless steel appliances, high-tech low-voltage lighting, galvanized steel accents, and five coats of lively red paint. While Sharrocks is the do-it-yourselfer, it was his fiancée, Penny Coleman, who suggested the vibrant color that now fills the room.

Sharrocks reconfigured some of the existing cabinetry to maximize space, hide clutter and achieve a built-in look for the refrigerator. He custom-ordered a 24-inch-deep refrigerator, so that only its doors are visible, and added a large cabinet above. Additional pre-made cabinets were re-covered in laminate and are used for storage.

To make entertaining in the small space easier, Sharrocks took the original kitchen island, set it on wheels, and covered the top with laminate. Its mobility allows the couple to reconfigure the kitchen for large parties. While some new appliances were purchased, Sharrocks gave an inexpensive dishwasher a new look by adding a stainless steel face.

To coordinate with the red walls, Sharrocks reupholstered the dining table chairs to match. The results are striking.

WORDS OF ADVICE "The key factors are to have a good game plan and to have a budget," says Sharrocks. "A project this size can get away from you if you don't have a plan. Try thinking outside of the box; but go to stores and read magazines to get ideas." —CH

See Resource Guide.

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