

Bronze ring door knockers

Both these models deliver a satisfying *thunk* and are handsome enough to do any house proud. Read on for the fine points that account for their difference in cost By KELLY BEAMON + Photograph by DARRIN HADDAD

Descended from a centuries-old style, a classic ring knocker will flatter the door of almost any house, from Colonial to contemporary—especially if you keep all the hardware in a similar finish for a unified look. But not all rings are created equal. Each of these high-quality models has the weight of bronze and will age beautifully; together they offer a lesson in the nuances of look and feel.

High-End

Rocky Mountain Hardware

5-INCH DOOR KNOCKER IN WHITE BRONZE DARK

Weight: 2¼ pounds Warranty: Lifetime

→\$267

IS IT WORTH IT?

If you want a piece that not only evokes history but also looks as if a blacksmith forged it into being.

the metal

Solid white bronze, a blend of copper, nickel, zinc, and manganese, with a silvery undertone and copper hue.

the process

Each custom order starts with a handcrafted wax model, which is used to create sand molds, complete with finger imprints and slight irregularities. The molds are then hand-filled with molten bronze.

the finish

To get that liquid-smooth gloss, workers tumble the knocker in ceramic bits, then hand-buff it with paste wax. The wax disappears with time, allowing the finish to age.

Budget

Baldwin Hardware

5-INCH RING DOOR KNOCKER IN DARK BRONZE

Weight: 2¼ pounds Warranty: Lifetime

\$95←

IS IT WORTH IT?

If you want a smart-looking knocker—and don't mind if it's not the only one like it in your neighborhood.

the metal

Solid silicon bronze, a blend of copper, tin, zinc, silicon, and other elements, with a dark undertone.

the process

The piece's computer-assisted design is imprinted in sand molds, which are hand-filled with molten bronze in large batches. A special type of sand gives the knocker its finely pebbled surface.

the finish

Each piece is hand-buffed to retain its subtle texture. Naturally darker than other kinds of bronze, silicon bronze continues to darken with age.