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Wall-mount mailboxes

Whether aged copper or graphic steel, these letter holders will add vintage charm and a boost of curb appeal to any home  

By DANIELLE BLUNDELL  Photographs by TED MORRISON

A familiar sight today, mailboxes weren't always a house-front staple. Letters were first hand-delivered to residents in urban dwellings in the mid-19th century. Wall-mount boxes didn't appear until the 1890s. Back then, some were made of glass; their transparency offered a convenient letter check. In these security-conscious times, wall-mount mailboxes are made almost exclusively of metal with weather-resistant finishes, and many have locks to secure homeowners' personal information. With bold graphics, raised design details, and various finishes, today's styles are also larger to accommodate catalogs, greeting cards, small packages, and—of course—the latest issues of This Old House. Here, find 15 designs that will look at home on a wide variety of house styles.

arts and crafts style

ARROYO CRAFTSMAN
Made of: Patinated solid brass
Size: 17"W x 4"D x 8"H
Try it: On a bungalow or other low-slung cottage, where its verdigris patina and C.R. Mackintosh-inspired angles can play off earth-tone shingles and a low roofline. $217; bellacor.com

french twist

BLINK MANUFACTURING
Made of: Galvanized steel with a painted panel
Size: 10 1/4"W x 4 1/4"D x 14 3/4"H
Try it: If you like to change things up on a regular basis. Tire of the golden fleur-de-lis design, and you can swap in another artwork panel or background color for an instant update. $175; mailboxexchange.com

nordic classic

LIDAB
Made of: Powder-coated galvanized steel
Size: 9 1/4"W x 4 1/4"D x 14"H
Try it: Anywhere its simple shape and hot shot of color will be welcome. French horns like the one depicted here once announced the arrival of mail in 19th-century Sweden. $57; hemstjd.com
**vertical victorian**
*SPECIAL LITE PRODUCTS*
*Made of: Powder-coated aluminum*
*Size: 13"W x 4"D x 17½"H*
*Try it: On a Second Empire or Queen Anne home. The burgundy hue will mesh well with historically accurate paint colors, and the scrolled backplates will complement decorative trimwork.*
*$135; signaturehardware.com*

**embossed emblem**
*ARCHITECTURAL MAILBOXES*
*Made of: Stainless steel with antiqued-brass plating*
*Size: 16½"W x 6½"D x 13½"H*
*Try it: For a dose of classic charm on a 20th-century home, where the clean lines, raised motif, and hand-polished finish will gracefully stand out.*
*$194; homedepot.com*

**hand hammered**
*WATERGLASS STUDIOS LTD.*
*Made of: Copper with an oxidized, antiqued finish*
*Size: 9½"W x 4"D x 17"H*
*Try it: On a rustic cottage or Craftsman-influenced home, where its retro newspaper scrolls, hand-burnished finish, and dimpled detailing will look at home.*
*$432; houseofantiquehardware.com*

**black beauty**
*SALSBURY INDUSTRIES*
*Made of: Aluminum with a brass flap*
*Size: 15¾"W x 5¼"D x 20"H*
*Try it: If you’re nostalgic for a box that harks back to the Pony Express—with a 21st-century tweak: a front access door that allows for quick retrieval of deliveries kept under lock and key.*
*$80; mailboxes.com*

**deco detailing**
*REJUVENATION*
*Made of: Lacquered polished brass*
*Size: 7½"W x 4"D x 14½"H*
*Try it: To add vintage character to a pre-World War II home. Scaled up from its original size, this reproduction of a popular style from the 1930s and ’40s eschews magazine scrolls for a larger vertical shape.*
*$275; rejuvenation.com*

**well aged**
*SALSBURY INDUSTRIES*
*Made of: Solid brass with an antiqued finish*
*Size: 11½"W x 3½"D x 14½"H*
*Try it: If you’re an old-house owner who prizes convenience: The decorative window grid lets you see from afar when the day’s mail has been dropped off.*
*$80; mailboxes.com*