

Contemporary colours

Mercury 1200 dual fuel range cooker in Blueberry (H94.5xW119xD70cm), A energy rating, multifunction 68L oven, 79L fan oven, heavy-duty stainless-steel shelving, separate grill, five powerful burners, storage drawer; also available in eight other colours, £4,300, Mercury (0870 756 1236; mercuryappliances.co.uk)



Range cookers

Once the preserve of the classic country kitchen, modern range cookers are now bang up to date with contemporary styling and a multitude of handy features **Words** Beth Murton

For a professional look in the kitchen, it's hard to beat the appeal of the latest range cookers. They're a top choice for cooking enthusiasts, combining several multifunction ovens, hobs, grills and even warming drawers in one handy appliance.

The first thing to consider is the size of range cooker you want to go for, which will depend on the space you have available and the number of features and oven capacity you require. Any cooker wider than 60cm is generally considered to be a range cooker, although the best-selling sizes are 90cm and 110cm wide. Some

manufacturers, such as La Cornue, also offer bespoke sizes to tailor the cooker to your exact needs.

Next on your list of decisions is what type of fuel you'd prefer to use. 'Bear in mind how you like to cook – are you a fan of electric ovens or do you prefer gas?' says Holly Johnson, product manager for Rangemaster, Falcon and Mercury. 'By far the most popular option is dual fuel, which offers a combination of an electric oven and gas hob, although it is possible to buy an all-gas or all-electric model.' The latest designs also incorporate induction technology, so you can combine →



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an electric oven with a fast-response induction hob.

From the very traditional to the ultra contemporary, there's a range cooker to suit every style of kitchen. 'Black, cream and stainless steel are still the favoured colours, but we have seen an increase in the popularity of bolder hues,' says Johnson. To create a sleek finish, consider teaming your range cooker with a matching splashback and cooker hood from the same manufacturer.

In terms of features, look out for technologies such as rapid response. 'This can heat the oven 30 per cent quicker than a standard model,' says Johnson. Pyrolytic cleaning is also becoming more commonplace on range cookers, making scrubbing the inside of the oven a thing of the past as food residue is simply burned off when you run the oven on a special high-temperature programme. And the majority of designs now include features such as wok rings and griddle plates as standard to offer the ultimate in cooking flexibility. **GD**

12 of the best

1 The classic choice

Three-oven heat storage range cooker in Pearl Ashes (H85.1xW98.7xD67.9cm), available as natural or propane gas version or electric version; roasting, baking and simmering ovens (32L each), available in 12 different colours and also as a two- or four-oven option, £4,995, Aga (0845 712 5207; aga-web.co.uk)

2 Double fan ovens

DB4 Professional dual fuel range cooker in stainless steel (H90-93xW90xD60cm), AA energy rating, two fan ovens (both 62L), five gas burners, wok burner, cast-iron pan supports, separate variable

electric grill; all-electric version also available, from £1,010, Belling (0844 248 4149; belling.co.uk)

3 Bold as brass

Elise SE dual fuel range cooker in Cherry Red (H91xW109.2xD59.5cm), A energy rating, 69L multifunctional oven with browning element and base heat; second 69L fan oven, six-burner stainless-steel hob, cast-iron wok stand; available in six other colours, £2,370, Rangemaster (0870 789 6110; rangemaster.co.uk)

4 Induction hob

900 Deluxe induction range cooker in black

(H93.7xW90xD60cm), A energy rating, multifunction 62L oven and tall 53L oven, roll-out grill, catalytic liners; also available in six other colours and as a dual fuel option, from £3,745, Falcon (0870 755 6486; falconappliances.co.uk)

5 Superbly spacious

Professional 1000 dual fuel 10450GF range cooker (H90xW100xD60cm), B energy rating, 50L fan oven, 50L conventional oven, separate electric twin grill, 35L storage compartment, six burners including a wok burner and two rotating 90° fish kettle burners, cast-iron griddle plate and

wok stand; hob can also be converted to LPG, £1,130, Cannon (0800 092 1922; cannoncooking.co.uk)

6 Colourful customer

Richmond dual fuel range cooker in Sushi (H90xW110xD60cm), programmable 69L electric main oven (A energy rated), conventional 39L oven and dual circuit grill (B energy rated), seven-burner gas hob including wok burner, cast-iron pan supports and griddle; available in a range of colours, and as an electric version with induction hob; LPG conversion kit available, from £1,450, Stoves (0844 815 3740; stoves.co.uk)

7 Packed with features

SR11PSWAA dual fuel professional range cooker in Anthracite (H91.5-93xW110xD62cm), AA rated, multifunction 68L main oven, 36L conventional oven, seven burners including 5kW double-crown wok burner and two oval fish kettle burners, heavy-duty cast-iron pan supports, triple-glazed doors, warming and storage drawer with three heat settings; also available in stainless steel, from £3,500, Scholtès (0800 158 5500; scholtes.co.uk)

8 Sleek and stainless

EG902G dual fuel range cooker in stainless steel

(H90xW90xD60cm), B energy rating, main electric multifunction 54L oven, second 36L oven, two variable twin grills, five gas burners including triple ring wok burner, £939.99, Hotpoint (0800 092 1922; hotpoint.co.uk)

9 High-gloss finish

JLRC903 dual fuel range cooker in Gloss Black (H90xW90xD60cm), AA energy rating, main 55L multifunction oven, second 29L conventional oven, full-width grill, five gas burners including a wok and simmer burner, £999, John Lewis (0845 604 9049; johnlewis.com)

10 Made to measure

Chateau 120 dual fuel range cooker in Sahara Sand (H95xW120xD66.5cm), A energy rating, one gas oven and one electrical oven, can be equipped with a wide range of features to suit your needs, such as solid brass burners, electric plate or even a ceramic hob, available in a variety of sizes and 25 enamel colours (bespoke colours also available), from £18,000, La Cornue (0870 756 1235; lacornue.co.uk)

11 Great-value option

KP9F11SRG dual fuel range cooker (H85xW90xD60cm), B energy rating, 68L electric oven, five gas burners with

cast-iron supports; also available in black, stainless steel or gloss white and with a ceramic hob, £649, Indesit (0800 092 1922; indesit.co.uk)

12 Cook like a professional

Sigma SI-11XGC-SLX-S dual fuel range cooker in stainless steel (H91xW110xD60cm), AA energy rating, main 53.4L oven with nine functions, second 43.7L oven, separate grill compartment, large storage drawer, six burners and a stainless-steel hotplate; also available in black and cream and in a 100cm-wide version, from £4,499, Britannia (0800 073 1003; britannialive.co.uk)