



JOIN THE RATTAN REVOLUTION

From £5 to five figures, the fad furnishings

from 2018 are now home essentials in 2022

KATRINA BURROUGHS

@Kat_Burroughs



It happened with the colour pink and pot plants, and now it's happened with rattan. The blushing of our interiors and the accumulation of greenery began as seasonal trends; charming, uplifting and photogenic ways to refresh a room. And then they somehow stuck.

Woven natural fibre furniture was initially a niche taste – a bit of conservatory cosplay for the home, popular on social media for its evocation of Seventies nostalgia – about four years ago. Then, instead of peaking and withering, rattan flourished. So here we are in 2022: another summer collection, another crop of timeless rattan designs that sit beautifully in a contemporary interior.

As your amateur room shrink, let me propose four reasons why rattan has taken root in our interiors. It ticks all the boxes of the current consumer: it's lightweight and portable, good for renters; it's natural and eco-friendly, and tough, which spells longevity at a time when we actively seek out alternatives to unsustainable fast furniture; and it's tactile, the woven

texture feels as good as it looks, which is crucial post social distance. Finally, the trend landed at a moment just before the metabolism of the interiors market slowed. During the pandemic there were fewer launches, the cycle of seasonal trends decelerated almost to a standstill and we developed a tendency to appreciate our homes rather than crave perpetual novelty.

This seems a rather healthy attitude to our living spaces, doesn't it?

Still, the shops can take comfort that rattan continues to sell spectacularly well.

At Barker and Stonehouse, for instance, sales of the Lille Rattan Bed Frame, £1,179, a wooden bedstead with fancy rattan head and footboards, have rocketed by 700 per cent in the past year. Bestsellers at Oka, for two decades a purveyor of posh rattan, include the Balabac sideboard, £1,395, which has been such a hit that Sue Jones, the brand's creative director and co-founder, is adding new pieces to the range in her autumn collection, including a curved-fronted desk and sidetable, and a table lamp with rattan detailing.

There is also plenty of rattan available for home-improvers on a sub-four-figure budget. For entry-level rattan, scour Zara Home and Ikea.

At the latter the Kaktusfikon plant pot starts at £5. Zara's table lamp, £39.99, a cylinder of woven fibre set on three

slim metal legs, has the look of a bestseller-to-be.

Find a sophisticated take on rattan – the black/rattan blend – at John Lewis, La Redoute and Rockett St George. John Lewis's rattan bed, from £575, incorporates panels of natural coloured rattan plus a black frame, as does La Redoute's Cedak rattan headboard, £295. Lucy St George, co-founder of Rockett St George, a devotee of the black/rattan blend, says her Chez Pitou bar stool, £225, with rattan seat details and curved black frame, introduced in 2021, quickly became one of her bestsellers.

If you missed the memo in 2018 and have yet to acquire a scrap of rattan, get on board. It's the perfect material to solve the terribly modern problem of how to create an office in a living room or bedroom. A rattan room divider allows light and air through, while giving a certain amount of privacy – or at least functioning as a “do not disturb” sign for the rest of the family, until it is folded away for the evening. Made.com and Graham and Green have admirable rattan screens in their current collections, though they aren't cheap. Made.com's Svea costs £285; it's probably worth investing – what with subvariants of Covid and rail strikes, WFH is another agreeable trend that looks set to stick.





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La Redoute's collection includes the Calamus rattan bench, £625, and armchair, £365, [laredoute.co.uk](https://www.laredoute.co.uk)



Lightweight and light-filtering, woven rattan lends itself to use as in-room dividers. Svea rattan screen, £285, [made.com](https://www.made.com)



Ikea delivers a modern perspective on the rattan seat, with the Ulriksberg armchair on a black steel frame, £115, [ikea.com](https://www.ikea.com)



Black cane chest of drawers from Rockett St George, £625, [rockettstgeorge.co.uk](https://www.rockettstgeorge.co.uk)



Rose and Grey's retro bookcase is perfect for plants, ceramics, and even — gasp! — a book, £325, [roseandgrey.co.uk](https://www.roseandgrey.co.uk)





John Lewis's smart rattan bed, with painted black frame, from £575 for a single, £729 for kingsize, [johnlewis.com](https://www.johnlewis.com)



A go-to brand for rattan, Tikamoon's Lisbeth elm and rattan wardrobe, £1,549, [tikamoon.co.uk](https://www.tikamoon.co.uk)





Oval rattan dog basket by Charley Chau, £260, provides pet comforts, charleychau.com



Mataram eye-shape wall mirror in natural rattan, £72, iamfy.co





Zara Home is your first stop for sophisticated but affordable rattan this season. Standout designs include these rattan folding chairs, £129.99, [zara.com](https://www.zara.com)

