

Better Half

A fixture in 18th-century French entry halls, demilunes—half-moon tables—prove small accent pieces pack big style power

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That narrow hallway off the kitchen? What about the odd spaces flanking the fireplace? Enter demilunes. First developed by the Romans and dubbed *mensa lunata*, or “moon table,” the semicircular creation that fits flush to a wall became a mainstay in French foyers by 1750.

Large, primitive designs evolved into daintier tables with tapered legs and ornate detailing. Today’s demilunes come in surprising materials and finishings and sport a variety of bases. Extra credit for a display shelf or concealed storage!

PUT A PAIR OF THE VERSATILE LITTLE TABLES TOGETHER TO CREATE A CENTER OR DINING TABLE OUT OF THIN AIR.”
—designer Paloma Contreras



Denise McGaha for Currey & Company The shapely “Castille” demilune table is clad in gray faux shagreen accentuated with strips of maple (curreyandcompany.com). **Gabby** Linear carving and a distressed white finish give the “Chelsea” demilune cabinet textural appeal (gabbyhome.com). **Jonathan Charles** White brass leg caps and octagonal door handles bring flair to the oak “Demilune” storage cabinet in bold Vermillion Red lacquer (jonathancharles.com). **Mr. Brown London** A marble insert and five legs wrapped in gold rings turn up the glam on the “Bartoli” demilune (mrbrownhome.com). **Mr. and Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture** Select any custom finish, including ebony, for the clean-lined “Nearly Round Table,” composed of gmelina wood with white maple veneer (sherrillfurniture.com). **Arteriors** Speckled cast-brass hardware complements the “Leilani” console’s eucalyptus veneer with brindle-stained finish (arteriorshome.com). 