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Make Yours Different

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Delight your friends by making their gifts and original wrappings suggests Jane Hakes

A GIFT for Christmas, expressing the personality of the giver, is always joyfully received. Tabulate the little quirks and quibbles of each of your friends and make a gift which will truly please her.

If you start early and are ambitious, you can make your own wrapping papers. Spattered papers are fascinating and fun to do. Pin on the sheet of paper a repeat design, such as stars, your own monogram, a border of geometric Christmas trees, candles or gaudy lions or giraffes. Spray over it with brilliant paint.

When the paper patterns are removed, you have a wrapping paper of your own creation. Christmas carol paper is effective with a pattern of musical notes on a score and the words "Silent Night" on a black background.

For a block print paper, use a repeat design of your self-designated Christmas card, or nonchalantly stamp "Present from Pat" or "Cheer from Connie" all over the sheet. For an extra-special gift, spread a thin layer of paste in polkadots over scarlet wrapping paper and sprinkle with sparkling Christmas snow.

If you haven't time for making your own papers, use the commercial ones in new and exciting ways. Trap a box for little sister in transparent cellophane, stitched together with crimson wool and tie across the top a huge peppermint stick.

A cylindrical shape, such as a shaker of talcum powder, can be wrapped with blazing red paper, topped with a shock of tissue paper to make a fire cracker package. Shiny midnight blue paper pasted over with gold Sunday School stars and tied with an extravagant bow or black paper with multi-colored elastic bands to hold it in place, makes attractive packages.

From scraps of felt, band a white tissue papered box with crimson felt, cut with the pinking shears and wrap a large felt bow. A gift from a young friend may be wrapped in blue oilcloth with white oilcloth animals cut out and pasted on to serve as a nursery tablecloth later.

The gift as well as the wrappings can express the ingenuity of the giver. Smart accessories can be made from scraps of bright-colored leather. A leather covered button and belt set is simple to make. Materials necessary are a few pieces of leather, heavy cardboard, glue and picture screws.

Tiny leather animals for coat lapels are fun. Cut two silhouettes of a horse's head from leather, prepare cotton stuffing, whip the edges together and let him wave a bright yarn mane.

An absurd little purple cow with a zipper up her spine forms a coin purse. Leather bound books and portfolios are welcomed by literary-minded friends and scrap-book enthusiasts.

If you like to paint and you have a friend interested in the culinary arts, design a gift for her informal table settings. Buy a large wooden bowl with fork and spoon at the ten cent store. Stencil on a bright colored design and shellac. For serving sandwiches, olives and other dainties, a matching wooden platter may be included.

If you have a convalescent friend, a reversible bed jacket is guaranteed to raise her spirits 100 percent. Make it a sleek smooth satin on one side and a soft fluffed wool on the other. A crisp bright apron with multi-colored panels makes the kind of Christmas gift you would like to receive yourself and one that you will appreciate in home management.

Destined to take the spotlight in sport accessories are spats—not the old-fashioned gray, button-up-the-side type—but cheery, dashing wool plaid or felt spats. Give them yarn embroidery, lacing up the back, or felt applique, to keep up the spirits on shivery clays across the campus. Add a gay note to wool anklets by embroidering designs or monograms on in angora yarn.

Pastel flower prints, or silhouettes of you and your sister done with pastel chalk and framed, would brighten mother's room. Fragrant additions for cedar chests, clothes closets and linen shelves are spicy clove apples or oranges. Force row after row of cloves into the fruit until it is thickly covered and tie a perky ribbon on the top. Block-printed stationery, book plates and place mats are original and have the finesse of hand-made work.

Girls from grade school on through college delight in mittens of all kinds. Using your hand as a pattern, you'll find them simple to cut. You can introduce various types of decorative stitching on the seams.

Soft white kid, luxuriously embroidered with gold floss, will enhance your roommate's black evening attire. If she likes to ski and skate, make her some mitts with leather palms and soft furry backs. Bright felt makes up cleverly with contrasting applique designs.

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