

1943

Be Distinctive- Make Your Christmas Gifts

Marian Hoppe
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hoppe, Marian (1943) "Be Distinctive- Make Your Christmas Gifts," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 23 : No. 13 , Article 4.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol23/iss13/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Iowa Homemaker* by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.



Crocheted animals stuffed with cotton and displaying felt ears, eyes and nose will provide hours of pleasure for young children

Be Distinctive—

Make Your

Christmas Gifts

Clever fingers and a few spare hours produce attractive Christmas gifts, says Marian Hoppe

CHRISTMAS shopping problems are solved by the ingenious coed who creates her presents from discarded articles and inexpensive materials.

Mothers or engaged sisters will appreciate a set of place mats or a bridge cloth made especially for them. Flour, sugar and feed sacks supply good materials because they are firm and have an interesting texture. Water softener bags made of osnaburg also are excellent fabrics and any pencil marks made on them can be removed with water.

Simplicity is the theme of the best designs made by using plain masses or lines. Any pattern may be carried out effectively by tacking the yarn to the surface of the material with a finer thread. A line design can be created by drawing threads and weaving in brightly colored yarns.

Stenciling with textile paint also is a simple method of applying a design. It is advisable to follow the directions with a stencil paint kit to insure successful results. The paint is washable and with proper application it produces a lasting and attractive design. Head scarves and aprons may be personalized by these methods or small bits of brightly colored material may be applied on them.

Woven place mats may be made from simple materials including corn husks, floor mops and oiled silk cut into strips. The best corn husks are those immediately around the ear of corn. They should be rolled and woven together with brightly colored threads. The cords from the mop and the strips of oiled silk make washable mats. The width of the mats is determined by the length of the strips of material.

That personal touch can be added to gift stationery by stenciling it with a monogram or a simple border design. Heavy oiled paper can be used for the stencil and tempora paint or linoleum block printing ink are best for the design. If tempora is used, it is important to apply it with a dry brush and an up-and-down motion.

Any college woman will enjoy a pair of warm slippers which may be made by adding felt soles and a bit of embroidered

or appliqued design to a pair of heavy woolen socks. Scraps of printed fabric padded with blanket material and quilted can be fashioned into handy and attractive scuffs. A strip of salvaged elastic across the instep helps them fit more securely.

Knitted or crocheted hats, mittens and purses always are on the list of desirable gifts. Decorating them—with sequins or beads—adds highlights of sparkle and color. Mittens made from contrasting colors of woolen scraps are practical and original gifts.

An old felt hat will hardly be recognized under the Christmas tree after it's been transformed into a pair of gloves, a book cover or a smart drawstring bag. Commercial patterns for gloves guarantee the best results.

An original closet combination may be made by covering a hat box with gingham and decorating a shoulder protector and hanger to match. A three-fold desk or dressing table picture frame made from cardboard and covered with the same material will carry the idea into the room.

A patchwork ball made from scraps of printed oilcloth and stuffed with cotton makes a colorful baby gift. The washable oilcloth makes the toy practical.

A little ingenuity coupled with scraps of material from Mother's work basket will produce a variety of novelty pin cushions to use as gifts

