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# Stencils, Pine Sprigs, Wallpaper Dress Up Christmas Packages

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## STENCILS, PINE SPRIGS, WALLPAPER

# Dress Up Christmas Packages

*Original Christmas wrappings add a note of cheer despite shortages, says Rosalie Reglin*

**E**XCITING and gay will be the gift wrapping this holiday season if you express yourself with original ideas. It's the unusual little touches on packages piled under trees and tucked into stockings which give your friends a special feeling of appreciation. Originality keyed with conservation of paper is the theme for 1944 Christmas gift wrappings.

Conservation is an easy goal to attain if you are fortunate enough to have scraps of unused wallpaper. The texture and design of this type of paper makes attractive packages but the corners must be folded and creased carefully because wallpaper cracks easily.

With a roll of plain white wrapping paper, some crayons and ingenuity, you can have fun designing your own wrapping papers. If you're giving an album of records to a music-loving friend, use black crayon to sketch musical notes on the paper. Initials spelled out in notes on the staff personalize the wrapping.

A cheerful Christmas note written in your best Spencerian script on the white wrapping paper which encloses a serviceman's gift will bring a smile of pleasure when it's received. He'll also chuckle if he finds his present wrapped in his favorite Sunday comic section.

If you enjoy making stencils, design a simple flower motif, paint or color it on the paper and you'll have a charming wrapping.

Tucking his gift in the toe of a man-sized G.I. sock tied at the top with a perky red bow is a novel way of presenting the serviceman's Christmas package. The idea applies equally well to the college coed or high school miss who never has her anklet quota filled.

For the woman who appreciates unusual ideas, wrap cosmetics in a bandana which is knotted around a stick to form a hobo's bag.

White corrugated paper is inexpensive and easily cut, so trace around a Christmas tree or animal cookie cutter to get a motif which can be pasted on the top of a plain red or green package. Tiny jingle bells purchased at the ten-cent store and tied on the package will add a jolly note. A walk in the woods might produce abundant supplies of pine sprigs and cones for conversation pieces on your packages.

Those who use bits of material remaining from sewing ventures also are paper conservationists. A cotton or rayon print is novel and attractive as a slipcover on a box of stationery. The lowly dishtowel may become the glamorous dress for a package

if it is trimmed with a fluffy bow. Later the towels will serve a practical purpose in the kitchen.

If you like unusual Christmas cards you'll enjoy making them out of unbleached muslin. Dip the muslin in a starch solution and iron it while it's damp to give a slick finish. Cut the material into desired sizes, fringe the edges and decorate the front with your own drawings or a gay gift tag. Your best wishes inscribed on the inside will complete the card.

A map of the United States or the world will serve as an unusual frontispiece for a greeting card to a friend with whom you correspond infrequently. By attaching labels you may designate the location of members of your family or friends who are away from home.

For a gift to a special friend, dot your brightly colored wrapping paper with a thin layer of paste and sprinkle with sparkling Christmas snow. Personalize the package by writing your friends' name in snow. Tie a huge peppermint stick to the top of your young sister's Christmas package.

*Design and personalize your wrapping paper by printing last year's Christmas card blockprint on a neutral paper*

