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Holiday Homework

Joan McGhie
Iowa State College

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Tricks with colored cellophane and tape give two-tone effects, bows and even a Santa Claus figure coming out of a chimney

Holiday Homework

by Jean Mc Gbie

Technical Journalism Sophomore

CLEVER COEDS are dreaming up exciting ways of personalizing every package under the Christmas tree this year.

Gay oilcloth or a pretty dishcloth, topped with a big red bow, gives a new touch to the plain, but practical household items Mother often gets. And practical Mother will smile when she finds her name on the package that's wrapped in a yard (enough for an apron) of bright gingham and tied with a measuring tape or rick rack.

For wrapping Mom's more frivolous gifts, try scraps of colorful printed wallpaper.

Camouflage a child's gift

The little boy, who scorns traditional fancy wrappings, will be thrilled with a gift wrapped in a bright dime-store bandanna and thick white cord. He'll also appreciate colorful packages trimmed with cowboy cutouts.

His little sister will love you if you trim her gifts with crepe paper, ribbons and lollipops.

Bulkier children's packages can be made to form a smiling Santa's face. Wrap three sides of the package in red tissue, and the fourth in white. Santa's face, nose, and mouth can be drawn on with crayon or cut-out features can be pasted on. A red tissue paper cap can be put at the top and trimmed with cotton or white tissue. Rows of white tissue paper fringe, cut 1/2 inch wide, and curled with a silver knife form his beard.

Don't let the man in your life be a problem. Try wrapping his tie in ordinary black and white newspaper set off by a wide, red ribbon. Or, try a suede-finished paper with green bows and a pine cone or two.

If you're giving him a shirt, might as well not try to surprise him. . . the shape of the box will give you away. Instead, try trimming the front of the solid color package to look like the front of a folded shirt.

Two inch ribbon of a contrasted color pasted in a strip down the middle forms the shirt front. Ribbon pasted in a flat circle at the top, and short strips pasted diagonally in the bottom corners resemble collar and cuffs.

Christmas cards are fun to make at home, too. Metallic gift wrapping paper cut in 10 x 12 inch squares, folded twice, make good starters with which you can work to create many original and beautiful designs. These designs need not be complicated. The simpler, the more effective they are.

For instance, you can cut a pine tree design from green metallic paper and criss-cross it with lines of glue. Metallic glitter sprinkled on and allowed to dry will resemble garlands of tinsel. This can be pasted on a folded card of red paper or cloth which has been cut with pinking shears around the edge. The greeting (cut with pinking shears from an old card) can be pasted on the inside.

A glamorous card can be made with a base card of shiny black paper and a thin sheet of styrafoam. Cut a simple tree or snow man design from the styrafoam and trim it with varicolored sequins. The message can be written on the inside with white ink.

Greeting card composite

Candles are always a traditional part of Christmas, too. Why not try making your own candle this Christmas? A thick red candle can be made by melting scraps of old candles in the top of a double boiler. If you don't have red candles, use old lipstick stubs to give the color. Pour the melted wax into the mold (an old tin can). Suspend the wick (salvaged from an old candle) from a wire across the top of the can. When the wax has hardened, cut the bottom from the can and remove the candle.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without gay wrappings, greeting cards and decorations. Make yours a personalized Christmas by using these new wrapping and decoration ideas.