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Choose Your Gifts From the Man's Angle

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Choose Your Gifts
From The Man’s Angle

If you’ve held his hand enough to know how big it is, you can give gloves for Christmas. If not, Tom Swearingen suggests other gifts for him.

The evenings are crisp, the leaves have fallen and it won’t be long until sleigh bells will be jingling. We are haunted by those little signs telling us there are so many days until Christmas. And the big question is, what to buy HIM.

If it’s only a casual friendship and you’d like to make it something more, don’t go too far in this matter of gifts or he will feel obligated.

If it’s more than casual, talk it over with him and give him something that you know he will like.

If he’s a smoker, the problem is simple. Cartons of cigarettes always are welcome. If he likes a pipe, give him a new one. Tobacco and pouches are also good gifts. If he’s the kind that’s always looking for a match, get him a lighter. There are many models on the market that give good service and aren’t too expensive. Cigarette cases fall in the same category.

All right, so he doesn’t smoke. But he reads a lot. Get him a couple of the recent good books. Or if he likes magazines, give him a subscription to his favorite one. Better yet, look into these subscription deals that offer a combination of the better magazines. They give a lot of good reading matter per dollar and make a gift that is appreciated the whole year.

Probably the next best bet on this list is leather goods. Most men are pretty careless about their billfolds. They carry one until it falls apart and it suddenly dawns on them that they need a new one. There are many styles and kinds to choose from. The current choice is leather with the Western motif. Some plastic models are still available, but leather seems more popular. Some of the billfolds come in sets with a matching key case and are fine if he owns a car or has other keys that he uses daily.

And you can get leather belts to match some of the billfolds. The trend in belts seems to be Western, too, and there are even some sets that feature a matching tie clip in leather.

One thing that’s always welcome is a good leather toilet kit. The same thing is true here that’s true of billfolds. A man will use a toilet kit until it’s cracked and bursting out at the seams, but he’ll seldom buy one for himself.

If he’s the conservative type, you can still find something that will suit him. You can usually find a pair of socks that will match the tie. That makes a winning combination as a gift.

Maybe you’ve never held his hand enough to tell what size glove he wears, but you can guess fairly close. And with these Iowa winters, a good pair of gloves is always appreciated. If you think he wants a pair to wear around the campus, get something lined, but if they’re to be for more formal wear, pick a pair that’s unlined.

You have little to worry about if he’s a camera fan. Just ask him to show you his camera, or to take your picture. If he’s a real fan he’ll get all his equipment out for such a job, and you can see how complete his outfit looks. Ask him if he has filters. Maybe he could use an exposure meter. Perhaps he has everything but a cable release or a case for the camera. And there are a lot of good books on photography, too.

Maybe his car is one of the things closest to his heart. Get him a steering wheel cover, or a compass or any one of the many things the auto supply stores have that dress up a car. This is dangerous ground, though, because a car is one thing he usually takes good care of himself. But you probably can find some little gadget that will delight him, both because he never thought of it and because he will like what it does for the car.

He probably doesn’t write his letters under water, but if he ever wants to try it, you can get him a foun­tain pen that will do the job. Most of the men around the campus already have pens, but those who do wouldn’t be adverse to having a better one. Check up on his writing equipment.

Speaking of writing equipment, how about some stationery? When he writes home, it’s probably on the first piece of paper he can find, more than likely a sheet out of a notebook. And you can get him some fine stationery with his name or initial on it. If he’s the athletic type, perhaps he’s expressed a desire for a pair of skis. Or maybe he’s wished he had a pair of ice skates.

Ever look at his wrist watch? Does it have a leather strap? If it has, get him a spring steel band. A man who has had one of those on his watch will never go back to the leather strap. They are available in either stainless steel or gold plate to match his watch.

What about a key chain? If he’s a BMOC, he’ll want something to wear his activity keys on, as well as for car keys.

Does he play a lot of bridge? If he does, the chances are the cards he uses are pretty well worn. There are some new plastic playing cards on the market that can be washed, and they’re stiff enough that they don’t get that dog-eared look, either.

He’d probably laugh if you asked him if he wanted a brief case, but if he did get one, he’d probably find himself wondering how he ever got along without it.