

Holiday Wrappings

by Jean Lund

Sketches by Nell Haxby and Florence Paulik

CHRISTMAS is the one time of the year when everything is done up extra special. You'll want your gifts for Mom, Dad, and your friends to look especially gay and festive, expressive of your own personality. So why not make your own wrapping paper this year?

An entirely new idea grew up during wartime shortages, when gaily wrapped exteriors had to make up for scanty package contents. No longer need you depend on gift store experts—you've learned how to wrap attractive packages yourself.

Now, as the gift paper business booms and prices of single sheets begin to equal those of expensive greeting cards, you can add another trick to your list of special abilities.

Your own individualized designs, plus made-to-each order color schemes, will make your packages the most exciting ones under the tree this Christmas.

Design's the thing! It makes your wrapping paper different than the usual store paper. Draw your own and put to use those ideas that crept into your head during applied art. Or, find an idea you like and trace it. Thumb through old magazines or perhaps you can borrow an idea from Christmas card and holiday displays in store windows. Traditional words such as "Merry Christmas" and "Greetings" can also be worked into interesting patterns.

Anything from brown store wrapping paper to thin tissue may be used for the background of your design. Heavy construction paper makes a particularly crisp looking package.

There's no end of ideas on how to color your gift paper. First, transfer your design onto your background paper. Then outline or fill it in with tempera paints, water colors, chalk, crayons or colored ink.

Let's forget those dated Christmas color combinations we've been using year in and year out. You know how effective fuschia and chartreuse looked in

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art class, so why not try something equally different? One striking combination is dark brown or black paper with the design outlined in gold or silver paint.

Block Printing

Here's a real time saver. Trace your design onto a linoleum block and cut away either the outline or background with a gauge or hook-shaped knife. Leave only what you want printed standing. Then take a rubber roller, roll in paint mixed on a sheet of glass, and cover the raised portion of the block. Place the block carefully in position on the paper and press firmly. Your total effect comes by stamping the design over and over again.

Screen Method

First make yourself a stencil by sketching your design on paper and then cutting it out. Place either your cut-out or the paper from which it was cut on top of your background paper and fasten with thumb tacks. Then hold a small piece of screen, available at any hardware store, over the stencil and brush paint back and forth over it.

Old Cards

Last year's Christmas cards make another unusual gift paper. Cut off all excess paper and around a few of the larger figures. Arrange cut-outs on tissue paper until paper is entirely covered.



Why not use leftover material from the peasant skirt you made this summer for wrapping packages? Simply wash, starch, and iron the material. Then pink the edges before wrapping.

Crepe Paper

Button up your package. Wrap your gift in crepe paper, then slip in halved doilies or semicircles of colored paper where the edges meet. Sew or glue on a colorful button opposite the middle of each semicircle.

Finger Painting

For strict originality, finger paint your paper. Or, make a plaid or striped paper by painting lines of varying colors and widths across the paper.

Anything goes. Trim your packages with pine cones, bits of greenery, yarn, colored straws, small tree ornaments, or colored popcorn strung together by thread. Bits of gay material make attractive bows. Pieces of felt may be cut into decorative shapes and pasted on.

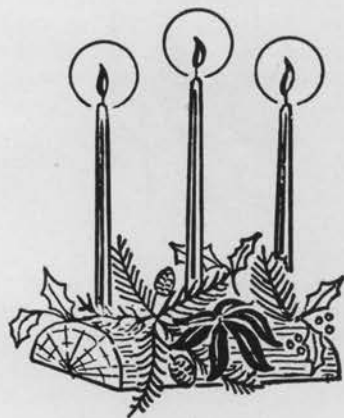


Trimmings

Small children will love cookie Santas decorating their presents. Thread a needle and make a loop through the top of each cookie before baking. Then tie it on the package with bright ribbon. Use colorful frosting.

If your wrapping paper's basic design is a Santa Claus face, paste on dabs of cotton for his beard. For the larger packages, fluffy cotton snow balls are attractive. Have loops of red ribbon peeping from beneath each ball.

After you've wrapped the package, apply thin glue and sprinkle on silver glitter or imitation snow for extra festiveness. Make personal gift labels by cutting out heavy paper stars or snowflakes and sprinkling with glitter.



How Times Change

Women's figures have changed astonishingly in the past 75 years. The modern girl is taller and more slender—but she weighs several pounds more than her grandmother did.

Today's glamour girl has a large waist and a bigger chest expansion, but her shoulders measure about the same now as they did then.

Principal causes for these changes are a freer style of dress, increased interest in sports, more abundant food and a faster pace of living.

Books For Christmas Giving

The Big Fisherman Lloyd C. Douglas
 Crusade in Europe .. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 Dr. Faustus Thomas Mann
 Of Flight and Life ... Charles E. Lindbergh
 New Song in a Strange
 Land Esther Warner
 The Old Beauty and Others... Willa Cather
 Family Circle Cornelia Otis Skinner
 Jonathan Fisher..... Mary Ellen Chase
 The Art of Flower Arrangement
 Tatsuo Ishimote
 The African Violet .. Helen Van Pelt Wilson

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