

## Caroling

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One of the first carols we learn as children is "Away in a Manger." This carol is one of the biggest mysteries to the experts, for no positive author has ever been named.

To change the scene slightly, imagine yourself in the high, desolate hills of Kentucky. It is Christmas Eve, and the stars are high in the heaven when the sound of a beautiful voice reaches your ears, and the music blends with the winds. Though plaintive and lonely, there is something about this haunting melody which appeals to you as you hear the words,

"I wonder as I wander

Out under the sky."

John Jacob Niles, a modern writer, has written down many of the folk songs of the United States which have been passed by word for generations.

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# Corsages for Christmas

by Jean Goul

EVERYONE LOVES TO RECEIVE Christmas packages with gaily-colored wrappings. It seems discouraging to the package decorator, however, to know that her artistic efforts will soon be ripped apart by an eager hand and thrown into the wastebasket.

A long life for your efforts can be a reality; this year your packages can have a new charm—decorate them with tie-on corsages which you can easily and inexpensively make. In a few minutes, you'll have a colorful decoration for a package or your Christmas table, fireplace or window.

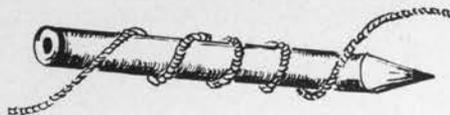
### Simple Equipment

The articles of equipment needed are found in every home—scissors, pencil and Scotch tape. Your bill for materials will depend on how many packages you wrap.

You will need chenille-covered wire, which can be purchased at a florist shop; it looks like colored pipe cleaners. Buy a variety of bolts of ribbon. Red, green and gold are traditional Christmas package colors, but the colors and widths are up to you. Novelty ribbons with snowflakes, berries or stripes are especially gay; and don't forget to buy at least one bolt of narrow ribbon. Holly leaves, berries, tinsel and a roll of thin wire complete your purchases.

With these materials you can construct festive corsages to wire or Scotch tape to your wrapped packages. A perky and crisp bow is the basis of many corsages, so practice looping and tying ribbon. If you want them big and puffy, don't skimp on the ribbon.

Start with the easy "Holly 'n Bow" corsage. Make three small red bows by looping ribbon around your fingers and then tying the loops in the middle. Wire them, one right next to the other, to a 4-inch piece of chenille-covered wire. Wire in four holly leaves at different angles, and your corsage is ready to go from package to Christmas tree or coat lapel. (1)

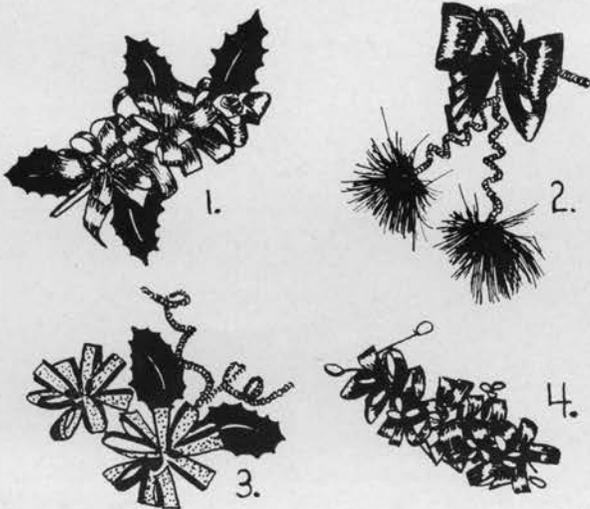


By wrapping chenille-covered wire around the pencil, you can make colored curls. Tie a bow each at the end of three such curls, and wire the bowed-ends to your package ribbon. This "Bowed Hello" corsage will reach right into the arms of the package's receiver.

Fold pieces of gold tinsel into 2-inch lengths. Wrap wire around one end of the bunch, and trim the other end with a scissors giving a whisk-broom effect. Wire

these gold tinsel bunches to one end of a curled chenille-covered wire, and wire gold bows to the other end. Tie the end with bows to your package. This corsage is especially effective on a package wrapped with green or gold paper. (2)

"Berry Bows" uses the same color scheme and is for the now-expert corsage maker. Place green ribbon on wider gold ribbon (makes the green look edged in gold), and make two bows. Wire berries in the middle of the bows. Take a 7-inch piece of chenille-covered wire, and curl 4 inches of it. To the other 3 inches, wire your bows, three holly leaves and another 3-inch curled piece of chenille-covered wire. When you look on this finished corsage, you'll imagine yourself a professional gift wrapper. (3)



Bows are the old favorite of Christmas wrappings. Wire six or seven small green bows and about 1 dozen berries onto 4 inches of green chenille-covered wire. When using narrower ribbon, as in this "Li'l Bows" corsage, lay loops of the ribbon side by side. Make as many loops as you need for the size bow you want, and draw the middle together with wire. (4)

Don't forget the simple but lovely single large bow centered with a little ball borrowed from your Christmas tree. Many variations can be obtained by using novelty ribbons. With these patterns and a simple change from tinsel or holly to curled wire or a bow, you can design numerous corsages yourself.

Decorate your packages with gay Christmas corsages and make your gifts the most exciting ones under your friend's trees.

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