

Gay Gifts Inside and Out



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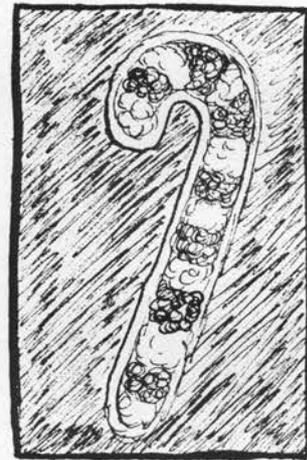
Tie on a shining bow or tack on a shimmering bangle when you're wrapping packages for those special people this coming Christmas, and watch the shine in their eyes. The joy both you and they will know through the time and care you take will more than match your extra efforts. So gather up your supplies, and lock yourself away with your imagination.

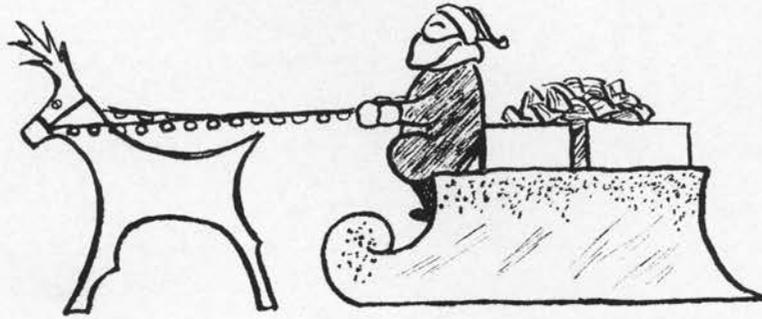
Sweeten the moments preceding the unveiling of children's gifts by constructing a candy tree. Wrap the box in plain paper, and lightly sketch on a topiary tree. Fill in with shiny hard candy or vari-colored gumdrops. For the trunk and base use either metallic paper or metallic tape, depending on the size of the package. Deliver your present in Santa's sleigh by, first, wrapping the package and then attaching cardboard runners to the side. Perch a gay Santa on top, and let him drive a styrofoam reindeer.

Try a giant candy cane with a yarn outline "painted" with cinnamon "red-hots" for the red stripes and miniature marshmallows or white gumdrops for the white stripes. Using jelly beans for the facial features, a Santa created with the same materials might also bring a bright smile.

Many other things can be done with yarn alone. For instance, wrap a present in plain red or green paper and sketch on in white yarn several ornaments, a tree or an angel. Left simple or glamorized with added baubles, a striking effect can be accomplished.

For something pretty, but quick and easy, use bright paper topped by a huge bow, and hang ornaments from the ribbon ends. Another possibility is to run three stripes of ribbons down the package, staggering the tailored bows on the stripes.





The flower of Christmas is the poinsettia, which is an excellent addition to any gift. Cut the petals from red foil paper, the flower centers from gold, and the leaves from green, folding the petals and leaves sharply down the middle for a three-dimensional effect.

Net butterflies sprinkled with glitter and scattered over a package will fly right to the heart of any feminine friend on your Christmas list. Make a pattern, cut the shapes, and glue on sequins and sparkle. Pinch the forms in the center with wire or gold string, and pin or paste to the present. Shimmery white paper, wreathed with lacey white bows to which are tied silver-touched bells, might also charm a lady.

Wrapping all your gifts in the same motif identifies them as yours and makes a pretty sight under the tree. A striking result can be achieved by using bright-colored tissue and a spray of flocked white needles or flocked white twigs.

The problem of odd-shaped gifts has now been simply done away with since the arrival of gift bags on the market. These bright metallic paper

sacks really have answered this puzzle neatly while allowing room for the adventurous person to add touches of his own.

Another exciting newcomer to the gift-wrapping world is the plastic transfer. One manufacturer has come out with a wide selection of seasonal transfers in a variety of colors and sizes. These can also be applied to glass and other smooth surfaces for household decorations.

Attractive bows are probably the most important accessory in wrapping presents. There are tailored bows, which are oblong loops with flat loops around the middle, circle bows, which start with a small loop surrounded by three or four gradually larger ones, and the commonly used pompom. The last type is made with eight or more layers of ribbon in a ring. Flatten and fold in half, and cut wedge-shaped pieces at the center. Pull loops out and firmly forward, one at a time.

Simple ingredients, coupled with patience and ingenuity, can turn out presents that are gifts both inside and out.

