

Gift
Ideas

"Scent"sational Christmas Potpourri

Simmering potpourri – use it to fill your home with the sweet smells of Christmas!

To use, simply place in a pan with 3 or 4 cups of water. Bring to a boil, and then simmer for as long as scent is desired. Watch carefully and add water as needed. This batch should keep nicely on the stovetop for several days.

To make new potpourri, combine any of the following ingredients: dried orange peel or slices, cinnamon sticks, whole nutmeg, whole allspice, whole cloves.

Wooden Clothespin Soldiers

Materials Needed:

Wooden Clothes pins (these are the ones that do **not** have a spring to open and shut)

Acrylic Paint: navy blue, red, black, yellow

Paint brush

Instructions:

Before you paint the clothespin, mark with a pencil how you want to divide the pin into 4 body segments - including a hat, face, red shirt, and blue pants. Mark all the clothespins with the pencil so they will all be same. Paint the top segment of the clothespin black so it looks like it is wearing a little black hat, then leave the next segment of the pin blank (you'll come back and paint on eyes later), paint the third segment red, and the long legs navy blue. Give each at least 2 coats of paint.

When they are dry, use the "stick" end of your paint brush, and dip it lightly into the yellow paint. Use this to make "button" dots on the red shirt and a button on the center of the hat. Then, using the 'stick" end of the brush again, dip it in black and make 2 dots for the eyes. Last, use the brush end of the paintbrush to paint on a black smile.

The Bread Of Life

Just as the Babe of Bethlehem was born, humble and low, then exalted to glory, common, everyday, humble bread has been raised to a lofty station.

Consider that:

Bethlehem, where He was born, means "House of Bread".

His first temptation in the wilderness was "to turn stones to bread".

Instead, He turned temptation into teaching: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God."

As an example to us, He prayed to the Father in the manner: "Gives us this day our daily bread".

He fed five thousand disciples with only 5 barley loaves, then seizing the opportunity, declared to them on the following day, "I am the living bread come down from Heaven."

Embodied in the bread, He broke with His apostles in the memory of His sacrifice and His Father's gift to the world.

Bread-this highest and lowest food can serve as a meal for insects or a sparrow, as well as a Sabbath feast for priests and prophets.

Bread-this most common food was chosen by the Savior Himself as a remembrance of the most uncommon life.

Bread-a symbol of His birth and death; reminder of His temptations and teaching; a sacred memory of His sacrifice and sufferings.

My Christmas wish is that this small gift and these great thoughts will help you feel the spirit of Christ, and remember Him and all that He has done for us through this beautiful Christmas Season.



Attach to bread.

Peanut Butter Balls

1/2 cup peanut butter
3 T butter
1 cup sifted powdered sugar
8 oz. chocolate flavored candy coating

Stir peanut butter and butter together. Gradually add powdered sugar. Shape into 1 inch balls. Let stand till dry (about 20 mins).

Melt candy coating. Cool slightly. Dip balls one at a time into coating. Let excess coating drip off peanut butter balls. Let stand till coating is firm. Store tightly covered in refrigerator.

Fabric Pumpkin

Materials needed:

small piece of brown paper/cardstock
1 - 18 inch square of seasonal fabric
1 roll of toilet paper
raffia
silk fall leaves
button
glue gun



Center the roll of toilet paper on the square of fabric. Gather the fabric around the toilet paper and stick loose ends into the roll at the center of the toilet paper. Hot glue the paper in the center to make a stem. Tie a bow of raffia and hot glue the button at the center. Glue the button/ raffia to several silk leaves and attach the whole thing at the stem.

The Christmas Orange

Oranges always remind me of Christmas because of a story my mother told us when I was a boy.

Jake lived in an orphanage with nine other boys. In the winter time it seemed that any extra money went for coal to heat the old building. At Christmas, the building always seemed a little warmer, and the food a little more plentiful, but more than this – Christmas meant an orange. At Christmas each child received an orange. It was the only time of the year such a rare treat was provided, and it was coveted by each boy like no other thing that they ever possessed.

Each boy would save his orange for several days, admiring it, feeling it, loving it and contemplating the moment he would eat it. Some would even save theirs until New Year's Day or later, much like many of us relish saving our Christmas trees and decorations until New Year's, just to remind us of the joy of Christmas.

This particular Christmas Day, Jake had broken the orphanage rules by starting a fight. The orphanage mother took Jake's orange away as punishment for breaking the rules. Jake spent Christmas Day feeling empty and alone. Night time came and Jake could not sleep; silently he sobbed because this year he would not have his orange to savor with the other boys.

A soft hand placed on Jake's shoulders startled him, and an object was quickly shoved into his

"Countdown to Christmas" block calendar

Materials needed:

1 - 7 inch piece of 2x4 lumber
2 - 3 1/2 inch blocks of 4x4 lumber
white paint
Mod Podge
foam brush
assorted scrapbook papers in Christmas colors/patterns



*Note: the wood can be purchased at any home improvement store or lumber yard. Remember that lumber will not measure the dimensions it is sold at.

Paint all three pieces of wood white. Let dry.
Cut 12 square pieces of scrapbook paper measuring 3 1/8 inches on each side. Cut 2 pieces measuring 6 3/4 inches by 1 1/4 inches. Cut two pieces measuring 3 1/4 inches by 1 1/4 inches. Each 3 1/8 inch square piece of paper needs to have a number placed on it. You can print onto you paper with a printer before you cut the squares, you can use a permanent marker and write your own numbers, use stencils or apply scrapbooking rub-on numbers. Each number should measure about 2 1/4 inches high.
The first finished cube should be like a dice - with numbers 1 through 6 on the sides. The second finished cube will have a 0, 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8. This combination will allow you to count down to Christmas starting on December 1st.
After the numbers are on the square pieces of paper apply them to the sides of the painted wood cubes with Mod Podge. The best way is to apply a thin layer with a foam brush and place the paper in the desired position. Then apply another layer over the top of the paper and to the edges of the wood. The other pieces of paper are used to cover the sides of the 2x4 piece of wood. Before applying the long piece label it "Countdown to Christmas." Again, you can use any of the methods listed above. Follow the same process for applying the Mod Podge. Allow each piece to dry before setting the cubes on top of the thin 2x4 piece.



Attach to a candle.

Hope Your Christmas
Holidays Are Just “Souper”



Fill soup mug with soup mixes,
spoon, and wrap with cellophane
and tie with ribbon.

A Cup of Christmas Cheer

No one can measure up to you
But we're doing our best to try,
We appreciate all the kindness you show
A kind of caring you just can't buy.

This Christmas gift is sent your way
To wish a full measure of holiday cheer,
May your cup overflow with joy and peace,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's an early Christmas
greeting

For your family to share
Let it brighten up your season
And spread gladness thru the
air.

You can start a new tradition
Every night till Christmas day
To burn the Christmas candle
While the family doth play.

You can bake, draw, or read
stories
Sing songs or just play games
And by the season finish
Only memories remain.

It is hoped that you'll enjoy
A special season full of fun.
And that love will burn more
brightly
When your holiday is gone.

Merry Christmas

**When it's freezing outside
And the cold breezes blow
You want to stay warm
And comfy, I know.**

**So here's my suggestion
To make wintertime brighter
Put up your feet
And enjoy some hot cider!!!**



Attach to cider.



Fill a measuring cup with candy.

**When the rushing of Christmas gets you down
And you've had all the fun you can stand
Don't get discouraged and don't give up
Just let this present give you a hand...**

**Take a break from the kids and shopping
Let the phone ring...don't answer the door
Lay back and relax in a hot bubble bath
And you'll soon feel ready for more!!**

**Some friends come
And some friends go
But true friends stay
For life you know,
So in my heart
You'll always be
Your friendship's worth
A MINT to me!!**



Attach to mint candy.



Wrap any bubble bath and attach poem.

**Hope you have a "WHOPPER"
of a Christmas!**



Whoppers decorated as a Santa or Reindeer.

May Your Holiday Be Merry and "Sprite"



Attach to a 2 liter of Sprite.

I'D HAVE TO BE NUTS TO MISS THE CHANCE TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Wrap a package of nuts and attach poem.

Cheesen's Greetings To A Really "GRATE" Neighbor!



Give a block of cheese of your choice and a cheese grater.

WE'RE POPPING IN TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Attach to caramel popcorn or a box of microwavable popcorn.

This STOCKING'S Full Of Christmas Cheer And Wishes For A Great New Year!

Make a Christmas stocking out of paper or buy a Christmas sock and fill it with treats.

We know how hectic the Holidays can be
With all the Christmas rush and the fuss,
So relax a bit—Open this MITT
And have some Spaghetti on us!!



Over mitt filled with
spaghetti and sauce.

**Eat My Treats
And Cut My Stitches
Then Use Me When You
Hold HOT Dishes**



Hot pads stitched together
into a cone and fill with
candy.

We Whisk You A Merry Kissmas!



Wire whisk with Hershey Kisses
wrap in cellophane. Add a favorite
recipe for fun.

IT'S ALWAYS "NUTS" AROUND OUR HOUSE
BUT ESPECIALLY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON -
THERE'S SO MUCH DECORATING AND SHOPPING TO DO
AND THE WEATHER IS USUALLY FREEZIN'

ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES WE APPEAR HALF-CRACKED
WE'RE SO GLAD TO HAVE FRIENDS LIKE YOU -
SO MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR "NUTTY" FRIENDS
AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR, TOO!



Attach to a package of nuts.

No one can hold a CANDLE to you
As neighbors we think you are dear
You have brightened each day for us it
is true
And warmed our hearts through out



Attach to a candle.

May the "Absorbing" Spirit of Christmas
"Blot" Out Your Troubles,
"Soak" Up Your Sorrows,
And "Wipe" Away Your Difficulties.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Attach to a Christmas Towel.

HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS!



Wrap a container of Jolly Rancher
candy and attach poem.