

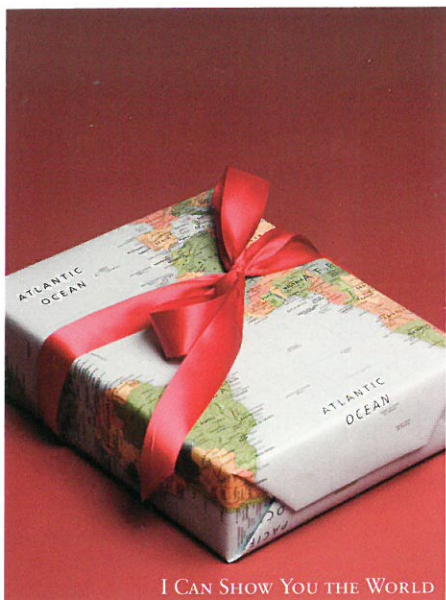
BY ANMAREE OSMOND  
AND JENNIE SPRING RASK

# creative gift wrapping

AS A CHILD, AT CHRISTMAS TIME, one thing I loved almost as much as opening gifts was wrapping them. I would beg my family members to let me do their wrapping. I would sit for hours watching Christmas cartoons such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and wrap to my heart's content.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN KIERNAN





I CAN SHOW YOU THE WORLD



ALL TIED UP!



CHILD'S PLAY

I'm not sure what happened, but in recent years my gift recipients can typically plan on receiving their presents in the plastic bag from whatever store at which the item was purchased.

Last Christmas however, as I looked around at all the beautifully wrapped presents from my family members, I had a heart-growing moment — similar to that of the Grinch — and I decided that next year things would be different.

Giving gifts should be about bringing joy to others, and unwrapping a beautifully wrapped package is a lot more fun than reaching into a plastic bag. I have vowed that this year I will set aside a whole evening just for wrapping. I've decided that, in order to compensate for my years of non-wrapping, I will take things a step further and get as creative as possible, but I need help.

I've enlisted the help of my polar opposite when it comes to wrapping gifts. Jennie Spring Rask, owner of Just Jennie Bath & Body Designs, is a gift-wrapping pro who cringes at the thought of ever giving someone an unwrapped gift. In fact, she even cringes at the thought of simply using standard wrapping paper and stick-on bows. She takes gift wrapping to a whole new level and considers the packaging to be almost as important as what is inside. As she puts it, "I have always thought that when you give a gift, the package should reflect beauty or fun. Not only should your gift be the center of attention, but the packaging itself should be a functional keepsake."

Here are some creative gift-wrapping ideas from Rask, not just for the holiday season, but also for any occasion.

#### CHILD'S PLAY

Let your little artist create a masterpiece for loved ones to cherish forever. With craft paint and solid-colored wrapping paper or craft paper, let your child get artistic. What grandparent wouldn't love a gift wrapped in this beautiful artwork? Top it off with a colorful bow. (See photo on left for example.)





#### SHOW ME THE MONEY

Show off your gift certificates, gift cards or cash in handmade holders. Purchase decorative paper in pretty hues and prints from any craft or scrapbook store. Cut two squares of the same size. Put the two squares together back-to-back, making sure the decorative sides are showing. Punch several small holes along the edges of both squares on all but one side. String ribbon through the holes to tie the two pieces together, leaving the top open to create a pocket for your gift. (See photo above for example.)

#### ALL TIED UP!

Ribbon is usually tied around wrapped packages to add beauty, but ribbon can often stand on its own, with no wrapping paper needed. Use ribbon to bunch up items such as candles, pencils and candy sticks. Overlap a small piece of decorative ribbon and a large piece of tulle and tie

into a bow around your gift. (See photo on page 36 for example.)

#### I CAN SHOW YOU THE WORLD

When giving a gift to an avid traveler, why not wrap it in a map? When wrapping your gift, fold your corners and use double-sided tape for a cleaner look. Top it with a satin bow. (See photo on page 36 for example.)

#### TAG, YOU'RE IT!

Give your gift tags some pizzazz by making them yourself with some items purchased from an office supply store. With colored markers, write your greetings on metal-rim strung ID tags, which can be purchased at office supply stores, and attach them to your gifts. Or use gang tags — also available at office supply stores — and an office labeler to create a fun look. (See photo on page 35 for example.) ■

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