



HOMEMADE GIFTS

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BASKETS

Baskets



Second hand stores usually have a large supply of baskets available very cheaply. You can wash them under hot water or dip in soapy water and let dry. If the basket you pick needs dressing up, you can spray paint it, tack on a Christmas ribbon, line the bottom with tissue paper, fabric, or colored shredded paper. When the basket is filled, you may wish to seal it in cellophane. Cellophane is sold on roles like wrapping paper and can be found in most larger arts and crafts stores (less than \$3). Open roll, pull off enough to reach several inches above the basket, place basket on cellophane, pull roll to top of basket, cut. Bunch and twist at top (you may wish to run a piece of scotch tape around twist to hold it). Tie a ribbon around the twist using a Christmas ornament for a bow. If the basket is very large, measure off another piece of the same size, lay it crosswise, pull all corners to the top of the basket and twist.

Shop the dollar stores for items to put in themed baskets. Some things to look for include safety goggles, work gloves, kitchen products, baby safety items, books, fancy pens/pencils, chocolate, craft items. Think of items appropriate to the recipient; new home, toolbox starter, new baby, chocolate lovers surprise, home spa weekend, etc.

Don't limit yourself to baskets - you can also use bags, boxes, buckets, tool boxes.

Gift Basket Themes



Movie Night At Home:

gift certificate from Blockbuster or a DVD, candy, microwave popcorn, hot cocoa mix, tea, coffee, soda, blanket.

The Coffee Lover:

Coffee mugs, coffee (beans or ground), coffee bean grinder, chocolate covered spoons, homemade desserts or pastries.

The Tea Drinker:

Variety of tea flavors, tea cups, cookies.

The Writer:

Stationary, pens, pencils, journal, notebook, stamps, envelopes, address labels, note cards, postcards, address book.

The Gardener:

Garden tools, garden gloves, seeds, sunblock, hat.

New Home:

Dish towels & dish cloths, basic tools (hammer, screwdriver [flat & Phillips), pliers, household oil, kitchen utensils (can opener, serving spoons, measuring cups & spoons, baking pans), handwritten copies of favorite recipes, sewing supplies, flashlight with batteries, candles.

Pet or Pet Lover:

Biscuits & treats, leash, collar, brush, sweater or costume, catnip.

Busy Mom:

Bath salts, oils, beads, soaps, loofah or sponge, candles, book, lotion, after-bath perfume, pumice stone, do-not-disturb sign.

Game Enthusiast:

Puzzles, cards, dominoes, game rule book.

Kitchen:

A mixture of different oils and vinegars, a set of candles for the table.

The Big Family:

Several different items to munch on, and a special gingerbread cookie for each family member with their name on it.

Household Basket:

A little bit of everything; bath items for the females, candles, potpourri, and fire starters (if they have a fireplace) for the house, munchies for the guys.

Fragrance Basket



This sweet smelling basket is unusual, pretty, easy to make, and inexpensive. This basket will create a subtle fragrance in the home or office.

Baskets can be purchased very cheaply at thrift stores; fillers, fragrance, and potpourri at the dollar store.

Items needed:

- basket 12" or small (not plastic)
8" diameter or more - 50 lights
4 - 8" - 25 lights
smaller than 4" - 10 lights
- small strand of 10-50 Christmas lights*
- tulle measuring twice the size of the basket
- liquid fragrance or potpourri
- filler such as ornaments, holly, garland, pine cones, shells, gourds, silk plants, leaves, flowers, etc.
- ribbon or bows

Instructions:

Saturate the tulle with the liquid fragrance. If you have a bottle of oil fragrance, just sit the tulle in it for a minute or two. If you have a spray bottle of fragrance, make sure to spray the tulle generously and evenly. Hang the tulle to dry for at least 24 hours to dry. If you choose to use potpourri, then it is not necessary to put fragrance into the tulle.

Place the lights in the basket. Make sure the lights are spread throughout the bottom of the basket and not clumped together in one spot. If you can push the plug from the light strand through the slats in the basket, then do so. If you can't, just hang the plug and cord outside the basket. Once the tulle is in the basket, it will hide the

cord from view.

Set the tulle in the basket on top of the lights. Place the filler on top of the tulle. If you are using potpourri instead of liquid fragrance, dump it into the basket. If the tulle hangs too far over the edges of the basket, trim it back. Be sure not to trim it back too far as you may need it to hide the cord from the lights. As the lights get warm, so will the interior of the basket. The warmth will cause the fragrance to rise from the basket and permeate a small room or office. It will not permeate large areas, so this project is ideal for an end table or an office. As with any lights, you should not leave them on for more than eight hours.

Tie small bows on the sides of the baskets or on the handle if there is one.

Variations:

Ocean Theme:

- white basket and blue twinkle lights
- shiny silver or white tulle
- glue seashells on the sides of the basket
- fill the basket with seashells
- use "ocean mist" type scent

Christmas Theme:

- green or red basket
- any color lights
- shiny gold tulle
- decorate the basket with small ornaments or bows
- fill the basket with small wrapped packages, pine cones, garland, holly, etc
- cinnamon, pine, or mulberry fragrance

Fall or Thanksgiving Theme:

- brown basket
- clear lights, or orange if you can find them
- orange or burgundy tulle
- glue silk leaves to the basket
- fill the basket with a variety of gourds and silk leaves
- pumpkin pie fragrance

Valentines' Day:

- white or red basket
- white or red lights (the opposite color of the basket)
- red, pink, or white tulle
- add lace to the basket and glue little red foam hearts to the basket
- fill the basket with rose petals rose fragrance