

## Gift Giving Ideas

### DIY Christmas Wrapping Paper

Devoting your time to creative, homemade Christmas gifts makes store-bought wrapping paper and bows less than exciting. Instead of buying rolls of the same paper everyone will have, make your own unique and/or eco-friendly wrappings.

#### Basic Paper Options (Before Decorating, of course)

1. You can buy cheap rolls of plain brown paper at many craft or paper stores.
2. Many toy stores and even Ikea sell large rolls or pads of white paper to be used for children's crafts or an easel.
3. Paporganics and many other paper sellers offer 100% recycled paper, especially around the holidays. Opt for the plain options and decorate the paper yourself.
4. For smaller items, you can also recycle brown grocery bags for wrapping paper.
5. Don't discount using fabric to wrap gifts. The Japanese government encourages its citizens to wrap presents without throwaway paper, bows, or tape. Here is their [handy guide](#). This is also a guide for fabric lunch boxes!

6. With simple sewing experience, you can use fabric to create reusable gift bags. Your recipients can reuse the bags for the quickest wrapping ever, which also cuts down on paper consumption. Canadian Living shares a [quick tutorial](#) for these festive bags.



## Holiday Frame Trio

Those special holiday photos will shine all the more in this trio of colorful painted frames.

by DecoArt.com



### Materials:

#### DecoArt Products Required Americana Gloss Enamels

- DAG67 - Black --- NEW!!
- DAG230 - Festive Green --- NEW!!
- DAG234 - Calypso Blue --- NEW!!
- DAG235 - Citron Green --- NEW!!
- DAG276 - Razzle Berry --- NEW!!

### Supplies

- #8 shader brush
- #0 liner brush
- Water container
- Palette or plastic plate
- Paper towels
- Alcohol
- Cosmetic sponges
- 3" x 5" piece of paper
- Painter's tape
- Round sponge pouncer
- Rhinestones
- Craft glue
- 4" x 6" frames (2)

- 5" x 7" frame (1)  
Steps:

Remove glass from frame. Clean glass with alcohol and dry well with paper towel or soft cloth.

### Noel

1. Use tape to mask 1" strip on each side of 4" x 6" frame.
2. Use cosmetic sponge and Calypso Blue to pounce color inside strips. Remove tape immediately.
3. Place "noel" pattern under glass and secure with tape.
4. Use #8 shader brush and Razzle Berry to paint lettering.
5. Use pouncer and Citron Green to stamp dots on Calypso Blue strips.

### Joy

1. Use tape to mask off bands on 4" x 6" frame, referring to photo for placement.
2. Use cosmetic sponge to dab Razzle Berry on top section and Calypso Blue on bottom section.
3. Use pouncer and Festive Green to stamp dots on top section.
4. Use liner brush and Citron Green to paint "JOY".
5. Use brush handle end and Black to dot lettering.

## Sparkle

1. Center 3"x 5" piece of paper on 5" x 7" glass. Secure underneath with loop of tape.
2. Use cosmetic sponge to apply Citron Green on border.
3. Use liner brush and Razzle Berry to make starburst lines. Repeat randomly with Calypso Blue and Festive Green.
4. Use brush handle end to dot starbursts with contrasting colors. Dot border with Citron Green.
5. Position and adhere rhinestones in starburst centers.

## Helpful Hint

Let dry between steps and/or additional coats.

## Etched Holiday Candy Dish

By: Armour Products

This simple etched candy dish works as a great Christmas accent in any room. This beginner etching project makes a great holiday gift.



Materials:

- Sand Etch® Kit
- Sand Etch® Stencil #70-9205
- Sand Etch® Stencil #70-9206
- 8" Clear Square Place
- Several sheets of paper
- Glass Cleaner
- Masking Tape
- Paper Towels
- Scissors
- Running Water
- Cardboard Box

Steps:

1. With scissors cut out the tree stencil design from stencil #70-9205.
2. Position the design in the center of the reverse side of the plate. Be sure the stencil is flat against the glass.

3. Secure in place with masking tape.
4. Cover everything that will remain clear (not etched) with paper.
5. Begin to blast your project according to the detailed instructions found in the Sand Etch Kit. Hold the nozzle of the blaster approx 1 inch from the glass while blasting in a circular or zig zig motion. Hold the glass up to the light periodically to be sure all areas are etched.
6. Carefully remove stencil design, tape and paper to avoid scratching glass with any remaining abrasive.
7. Rinse project under running water to remove excess abrasive. Clean project with glass cleaner and dry with paper towels.
8. To complete the project, cut out snowflake design stencil #70-9206 and place in a random pattern around the tree repeating steps 2 thru 6.

## DIY Christmas Gift Bows

1. A roll of ribbon is cheaper than buying packs of holiday bows. Make loops in the ribbon and secure with a bit of florist wire or another piece of ribbon for a ribbon bow. Curl ribbon ends by dragging the ribbon over the edge of scissors rapidly (be careful).
2. For extra-special presents, use quilled paper shapes instead of making a bow. Arrange tightly rolled quilled circles (thin strips of paper rolled and glued as the linked article explains) into the shape of a snowflake. You could also make the quilled paper into an ornament and simply hang from the present, so that it acts as another gift for the recipient.
3. Miss American Pie on Craftster hows us how to recycle magazine pages into traditional-looking gift bows with a wonderful photo tutorial.



4. You can wrap a present without wasting glue or tape, but cleanly tucking in the paper. Fake Plastic Fish shows you how with step-by-step photos. Secure your tucked paper by wrapping a length of ribbon around the gift in both directions and tying a bow to finish.
5. Bella Dia demonstrates how to create [yarn pom poms](#). These would be adorable in red or green as a cluster on a package.



6. Creature Comforts shows us how to make adorable [Pom Pom Bows](#) from plastic bags (specifically Target bags in this tutorial).



## Fused Glass Holiday Bracelet

By: Jeanne Baruth for Diamond Tech

Create a holiday bracelet with real sparkle by fusing dichroic and sheet glass. Each bead is unique, making beautiful bracelets for yourself or a gift.



### Materials:

- Fuseworks™ Kiln
- Fuseworks™ Kiln paper
- Fuseworks™ Gun Metal Link Bracelet
- Fuseworks™ Clear Dichroic Glass
- Fuseworks™ Black Sheet Glass
- Fuseworks™ Hot Mitts
- E6000 or other glass glue
- Glass cutter
- Ruler
- Marker
- Paper towels
- Glass cleaner

### Directions:

#### Step 1:

Measure and mark the following glass sheets: Black Sheet Glass – eleven 3/8" X

3/8" Clear Dichroic – eleven 3/8" X 3/8"

#### Step 2

Using a glass cutter, cut glass to designated sizes as indicated above. Clean glass using paper towel moistened with water.

Completely dry the surface of the glass with a lint free cloth.

#### Step 3

Next, cut three 2" X 2" piece of kiln paper. Remove the lid from the Fuseworks™ Kiln. Place one sheet of kiln paper on the kiln base.

#### Step 4

Layer the glass on the kiln paper. Start with the base, 3/8" X 3/8" Black glass. Evenly space glass squares on the kiln paper, no more than 4 pieces per firing. Cover the Black glass with 3/8" X 3/8" Clear Dichroic glass.

**HOT TIP:** Try using a different base glass such as white, black or clear.

#### Step 5

Carefully set the base with glass inside the microwave. Cover base and glass with kiln lid.

#### Step 6

Fuse using the chart below. **HOT TIP:** All microwave and kiln combinations will have different firing patterns. Be sure to take careful notes and log all fusing times for future use.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Dichroic Glass may darken or lose its color if over fired. To prevent this from occurring, carefully follow the fusing schedule listed below. After second firing, you can open the microwave, using Hot Mitts carefully lift the lid of the

kiln enough to inspect the fusing process. By doing so, you will release some of the heat from the chamber, resulting in a reduction of the temperature inside the kiln. If glass is not fused to your liking, return the lid to the base and continue to fuse in 15 second intervals until desired look.

**Step 7**

Once glass has completely fused, remove kiln from microwave using the Hot Mitts and place on a heat resistant surface. Cool the kiln on a heat resistant surface for at least 30 minutes with the lid on. Removing the lid or peeking under the lid during the cooling will result in your piece cracking. Glass remains hot for a long time and should be handled with great caution.

**Step 8**

Repeat steps 4-7 until you have created 11

fused glass cabochons.

**Step 9**

When cooled, adhere Dichroic cabochons to the disks of the Fuseworks™ Bracelet & allow to dry.

Additional adornments such as charms & ribbons can be added to create a personalized bracelet sure to put sparkle into your holidays.

**FUSING SCHEDULE**

<b>Watts</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Thickness of Glass</b>
800	3 to 4	1/4" (2 - 3/8" pcs.)
1100	70% Power 2 min; 100% 1 minute	1/4" (2 - 3/8" pcs.)
1200	70% Power 2 min; 100% 1 minute	1/4" (2 - 3/8" pcs.)