

10 Quick & Easy
Christmas
Gifts to Make



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Homemade Christmas Gifts

Christmas Jelly Soap

By: Caroline Dunn

Make a stocking stuffer that looks good enough to eat! Use gelatin and food coloring to create jiggly Christmas soaps that will look great in a bathroom or kitchen. This is an ideal gift for a neighbor, teacher or friend.



Materials:

- Packet unflavored gelatin
- Teaspoon of salt
- Red food coloring
- Soap fragrance of your choice
- 1/2 cup clear liquid soap
- 3/4 cup water
- Mixing bowl
- Storage container
- Cookie cutter (in the shape of a stocking)
- Rectangular mold (your choice)
- Stirring spoon
- Microwave
- Rubbing alcohol in a spritzer bottle
- Refrigerator

Instructions:

- 1.) Boil 3/4 cup water.
- 2.) Add 1 packet gelatin and boiling water to the mixing bowl. Stir until gelatin is dissolved completely.
- 3.) Add 1/2 cup liquid soap to the mixing bowl and stir.
- 4.) Add red food coloring and fragrance. Stir.
- 5.) Add 1 teaspoon salt and stir.
- 6.) Pour mixture into your rectangular mold.
- 7.) Spritz with rubbing alcohol.
- 8.) Let set/solidify in the refrigerator for 1-8 hours.
- 9.) When jelly soap has reached Jello consistency, remove from refrigerator.
- 10.) Using the stocking cookie cutter, cut out stocking shaped jelly soaps.
- 11.) Store jelly soaps in sealed storage containers.
- 12.) To use jelly soap, place the soap on your favorite soap dish, break off a small piece and hold under running water (like bar soap).

Etched Glassware

Looking for a quick gift you can complete in just minutes? Choose images that best capture a friend or family member's personality and use etching cream to leave a lasting impression. Use an inexpensive glass from a discount store to save some cash.



Materials:

- Vinyl
- Glass
- Etching cream

Instructions:

1.) Creating the "nautical" images on the computer.



2.) Adhere the cut vinyl to the glass.



1.) Dab on the etching cream.



2.) Wait for 5 minutes.

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Personalized Casserole Dish

Create a personalized dish that anyone can use. Buy a plain casserole dish and use etching cream to add a name, image or personal statement. This is the perfect homemade gift for a friend who loves to cook!



Materials:

- Glass casserole dish (any size)
- Contact paper
- Glass etching cream
- Gloves
- Sponge brush

Instructions:

1.) I used my Cricut to cut out the letters on a 6x12 inch piece of contact paper. You can also use a craft knife to cut out your letters. Make sure that you cut your letter in the side that says contact paper.



2.) This is what it looks like once the letters are cut out.



3.) I made it so you can read the name with the casserole is facing up, but if you want to do it so you can read the name from the bottom, then cut on the other side of the contact paper.

4.) Place your contact paper on the casserole dish, without taking off the backing.

5.) This is for you to kinda see where you want to place the paper. I would even maybe tape a piece of tape to make where you want the paper to begin. I didn't do that and mine it is a little off center.

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6.) Now start to take off the back of the contact paper.

7.) I took off a little bit and then pressed it onto the casserole dish. I slowly continued to take it off while pushing the paper down.



8.) Make sure to get all of the air bubbles out, especially around the edges of the letters. If you have letters that have holes, make sure to add those also.



9.) Using your glass etching cream and sponge brush, apply it onto the contact paper. Make sure to wear gloves. I bought mine from Hobby Lobby with the 40% off coupon but you can also get it from Walmart.com.



10.) You will want to put a generous amount on there. Start by going up and down and then from side to side.

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11.) Allow to sit on there for 5 minutes.

12.) Here's a tip, when it's done sitting you can put the excess cream back into the bottle and use it again

13.) Rinse the cream off with tap water and peel off contact paper.



12.) Wash with window cleaner and dry.

Simple Christmas Crafts

Snarky Christmas Canisters

Turn boring glass canisters from the dollar store into an unexpected Christmas gift. Add fun phrases and words to the outside of the can – the more outrageous the better! Snowflakes, paint and other embellishments make this a project to remember.



Materials:

- Glass canisters from the dollar store
- Martha Stewart craft paint in Habanero and Wedding Cake
- Martha Stewart Frost Etching Effect
- Martha Stewart adhesive stencils
- Brushes
- Fine bottle tip
- Masking tape

Instructions:

1.) First you will need to take your canisters apart to make them easier to handle. The metal ring should squeeze off of the back hinge to remove the lid.



2.) My initial plan was to squeeze paint into each canister and swirl it around to coat the inside. The problem is that the Martha Stewart paints are so dense that they are unswirl-able. The paint just sat there like a glorious blob of pigment. I problem-solved by using an old foam brush to coat the inside of the canister with paint.



3.) If you are worried about the paint touching any food you might store in the canister, don't! The paints are non-toxic and are even dishwasher-safe in case you need to wash the canisters later.

4.) This is what the habanero painted canister looked like after just one coat of paint!

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5.) I repeated the process with the Wedding Cake paint and the Frost Etching Effect on the remaining two canisters.



6.) I propped the painted canisters up on their latches to let the paint dry.



7.) Since I am impatient, I didn't even let the canisters dry before starting the next step. I

taped off a stripe on each of the canisters with masking tape.



8.) I painted a stripe on each canister in the contrasting color and removed the masking tape.



9.) Using the fine-tip bottle top, I wrote the labels on each of the canisters. The thick paint may have made painting the insides of the canisters more difficult; it made the writing SO easy. No drips, no running!



10.) I used the adhesive snowflake stencils to add some details to the lids of canister. Simply place the stencil, pounce the paint, and...TA DA!



11.) They are not quite as cute as the Jonathan Adler originals, but they don't look bad for dollar store canisters!



Coffee Cup Cozy

Christmas is the perfect time to enjoy a warm and toasty beverage. Give your favorite java lover a quick and easy handmade gift that will save them from burning their hands and fingers. Best of all, this sleeve can be used all year long!



Materials:

- Cardboard cup sleeve from your favorite coffee shop
- 1/8 yard or scrap of fabric
- 4" X 12" piece of Insul-Brite (buy 1/8 yard)
- Sewing machine and coordinating thread

Instructions:

1.) Using the cardboard cup sleeve as a template, trace, adding 1/4" all the way around for your seam allowance, and cut out two pieces of fabric and one layer of Insul-Brite. Layer them starting with Insul-Brite, then one

piece of fabric right-side up, and then the last piece of fabric on the top right-side down. Pin together.



2.) Sew the three pieces together using a quarter inch seam all the way around, leaving a 2" space on one side to turn the fabric.



3.) Make small clips in the seam around the corners and then turn right-side out.



4.) Tuck in the opening you used to turn and iron entire cozy flat. Sew the seam closed from the right side, close to the edge. Match up the two short sides, tuck under the seam on top, and stitch together to make a ring.



Root Deer

Embellish bottles of root beer for this simple but fun Christmas gift. You only need a few supplies to make a huge impression. Get the kids involved and create your own gang of reindeer.



Materials:

- Old fashioned root beer
- Brown pipe cleaners- 2/root deer
- Googly eyes
- Red pom-poms
- Ribbon
- Hot glue gun

Instructions:

1.) Twist 1 pipe cleaner around the top of the bottle.



2.) Cut a second pipe cleaner into small segments and add to the antlers.



3.) Hot glue on 2 eyes, a nose, and a bow- hair bows for the ladies and bow ties for the gents.

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Gift Ideas for Christmas

Snowflake Soaps

Give a seasonal gift that looks and smells great! Snowflake soaps can be wrapped in pretty tissue or cellophane and given to a teacher or neighbor. Best of all, this gift is extremely inexpensive to make.



Materials:

- Felt pre-cut snowflakes
- Clear Glycerin Melt and Pour Soap
- Peppermint Soap Scent

Instructions:

1.) I found the pre-cut snowflakes at the Dollar Store. They were a bit too big for my purposes, so I trimmed them down to a size that seemed appropriate for soaps.



2.) My original plan was to cut my own felt, but I found out rather quickly that I apparently don't own a sharp enough pair of scissors and the proper patience to do it. So the Dollar Store came to the rescue.



3.) Clear Glycerin Melt and Pour Soap can be found at any craft supply store. It is rather inexpensive and even more so if you are armed with a 40% off coupon, so this project ended up costing me under ten dollars including all supplies. I also purchased peppermint soap scent to make the soaps even more Christmassy.

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4.) Put some of the soap into a microwave-safe dish or measuring cup and microwave for 30 seconds at a time. Stir and microwave another 30 seconds. Repeat until most of the soap is melted.



5.) At this point, remove it from the microwave and stir until the final pieces have melted. This is important as you do not want to overheat the soap. The residual heat after removing it from the microwave will melt the rest of the soap. Add five or six drops of scent to the liquid soap and stir. Try not to go too overboard on the scent. You don't want to overpower things.



6.) Now dip the felt snowflakes in, one by one and lay them on wax paper or foil to dry.



7.) Here you can see the sheen of the soap on the felt. Just enough soap for a good hand washing and the felt inside makes a little disposable washcloth.



Refashioned Christmas Sweater

Turn a plain sweater into a Christmas treasure with a few simple add-ons. This project will help you save money on seasonal clothing and repurpose old items. Choose red felt, buttons and wool for your stylish Christmas sweater.



Materials:

- Old sweater
- Buttons
- Circular felt
- Hot glue
- Twine
- Wool
- Sewing machine

Instructions:

1.) Sew buttons down the front.



2.) Sew button holes to match with the buttons. I used my hand buttonhole foot.



3.) Then I made the rolled twine embellishments. To do this I cut a piece of circular felt and hot glued the twine in a spiral.



4.) Then I sewed the spiral to the sweater and sewed the twine to the sweater and around the neck to the other side of the collar.

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5.) I went down to the bottom and added another spiral the same way I did the first.

6.) I then added four more spirals the same way as I did the first two to the neckline of the sweater.



7.) I then took a piece of red wool a little more than an inch wide and used a.....

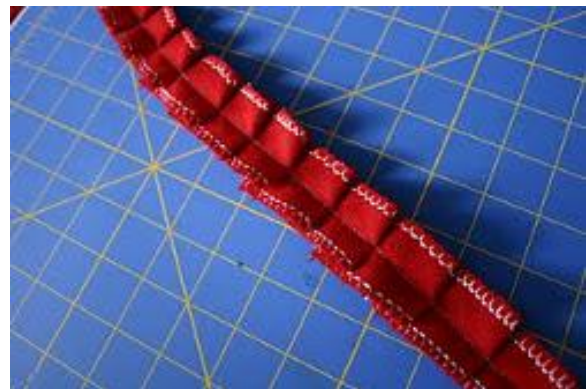


8.)blanket stitch to finish the raw edge. If your machine has a setting like #39 on my

machine then you too can do a blanket stitch.



9.) I then pleated it and sewed it down the middle.



10.) Then sewed it to the neckline.



Winter Fairy Land Snow Domes

Upcycle empty jars and create your own snow globes. This is a fantastic Christmas decoration and you can even make a few and give them as gifts. Choose a variety of themes for your snow globes – try a woodland landscape or add figurines for a creative touch.



2.) Spoon some faux snow into the glass jar. Add craft glitter to create sparkle and dimensional effect. Replace the jam jar cover and screw the lid tightly. Your homemade snow dome is now ready to be enjoyed and displayed in your favorite Christmas corner.

Materials:

- Jam or jelly jars of various shapes and sizes
- Styrofoam balls (big enough to fit jam jar lid)
- Faux/fake snow
- Spanish moss
- Hot glue gun and glue stick
- Craft glitter
- Woodland/fairy elements--toadstool mushrooms, plastic reindeer, gnome, pixie, fairy doll
- Ribbon

Instructions:

1.) Using hot glue, attach a piece of Styrofoam ball to the surface of the insides of the jar cover. Cover Styrofoam ball with Spanish moss. Glue tiny figurine or item to the middle of the Styrofoam ball. Let dry.

I Love To Create Teen Retro Christmas Photo Frame

People receive a lot of card during the holiday season, so it's important to create something that really stand out. Use a variety of paper craft tools and embellishments to create a card that's simple enough for young crafters. The design is hip and completely unique.



Materials:

- One wooden frame with heart shaped opening
- Wired tinsel
- Image from vintage greeting card
- Text from vintage greeting card
- Green cardstock
- Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue
- Aleene's Liquid Fusion
- Crafty Chica Little Paints White
- Tulip Fashion Glitter White Pearl
- Archival ink jet black
- Adirondack ink red pepper
- EK Success clear snowflake stamp
- Inkadinkado flourish stamp
- Dimensional foam stickers
- EK Success metallic writer pen in silver
- Martha Stewart lace edge punch

- Scissors
- Paper cutter
- Tracing pen or pencil
- Paint brush

Instructions:

- 1.) Paint frame white. Sprinkle a fine layer of glitter over paint. Shake off excess. Allow to dry.
- 2.) Randomly stamp snowflake over frame (try not to overlap) using archival ink in jet black.
- 3.) Randomly stamp flourish over frame (try not to overlap) using Adirondack ink in red pepper.
- 4.) Select image you like for bottom right corner of frame and cut it out. Use writer pen in silver to accent parts of image.
- 5.) Spread a thin layer of glue on parts of image you'd like to coat with clear glitter. Sprinkle glitter on image and shake off excess. Allow to dry.
- 6.) Cut out words you want to use. Using cardstock make a frame for the words. Use the scallop edge punch to decorate the edges of your frame. Adhere words to paper frame using two dimensional foam stickers.
- 7.) Run a thick bead of Liquid Fusion along edge of frame. Place tinsel on edge, cut off excess. You can put some small glue bottles on the tinsel to secure it while it dries.
- 8.) Adhere Santa to bottom right of frame using dimensional foam dots with a layer of Liquid Fusion under them.
- 9.) Adhere text to top left of frame using dimensional foam dots with a layer of Liquid Fusion under them. Allow glue to dry overnight on images, text and tinsel.
- 10.) Select and size a picture to fit the frame. Keep the cardboard insert to trace and cut

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Included in this eBook:

- Simple gift ideas
- Fun winter projects
- Creative craft ideas

