

*Spirits of Christmas*

# Take as much time wrapping as you did buying

Exchanging gifts with family and friends is one of the most delightful Christmas traditions.

And, packages wrapped with a little extra attention are just one more way to make the receiver feel special.

Wrapping gifts with flair can be easy. All it takes is some creative know-how and a personal touch.

Kendall Wigoda, director of corporate communications for Carlton Cards, offered some simple tips.

Gift bags are a great way to wrap awkward-

sized gifts.

For a creative touch, use some tissue. It not only hides the gift, but can be arranged so that pieces peek decoratively out of the top of the bag.

Self-sealing gift bags made for CDs, cassettes and videotapes are real time savers.

Just slip in the gift and seal.

For an easy accent, accordion pleat a small rectangle of gold, green or red foil wrap and tie in the centre with a glitzy ribbon.

For gifts such as sleighs, wagons, or CD holders, use a jumbo-sized

plastic gift bag with drawstrings.

Large gifts can also be wrapped in foil door covers.

Use a large honeycomb bell decoration as an accent.

Simply open halfway and secure the edges to the package.

Wrapping gifts in unexpected ways adds to Christmas morning fun.

For example, roll golf balls in a cylinder of tissue. Then, tie curling ribbon on both ends and between each ball. Don't forget to curl the ribbon.

A decorated coffee can makes a great disguise. First, roll the can in several layers of printed tissue. Then, fold the bottom flat and glue it to the end of the can.

Finally, gather the top loosely and tie with several colours of metallic curling ribbon.

Beverage cans are perfect for wrapping candles, nutcrackers, long handled kitchen utensils, or other narrow gifts.

Create your own ribbon by braiding coordinating colours together. Once it has been fastened to the package, tie on cin-

nam sticks, sprigs of holly — or even cookie cutters in the shapes of Christmas symbols.

Homemade gifts of food have a special place in Christmas giving.

To attractively package cookies or candies, place in decorative, lined bakery bags.

Don't forget to top it off with a festive bow or

package decoration.

When wrapping jams and jellies, place in a basket lined with shredded red, gold and green metallic tissue. Place the basket in the centre of some coloured cellophane. Pull the sheets up around the basket and secure with your choice of metallic curling ribbon.

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