

# Ideas for Neighbor/Friend Christmas Gifts

Merry Christmas from your 2016 Board!

*Utah Valley Quilt Guild—November 2016*



## Christmas Kleenex Box

-shared by Lisa Dunn

- Tie a bow with coordinating ribbon.
- Add a bell or other decorative item.

-Tie on tag which reads:  
**"Bless you" this holiday season!**  
or  
**We TISSUE a merry Christmas!**



## Toilet Paper Snowman

-shared by Wanda Sump

Items needed:

toilet paper, sharpie pen, carrot sticker, googlie eyes, pipe cleaners, 2 red pompoms, blush or pink paint and a brush, glue gun

Poem on card:

**Merry Christmas!**

**Money is scarce and times are hard.  
So we're giving you this instead of a  
card.**

**Something to use, something to share.  
So bottoms up!**

**Please know that we care!**

**love,**



## Gift Wrap Supplies

-shared by Liz Teerlink

Go to the day after Christmas sales and stock up on cute gift wrap, bows or tape to give out the following year. Print a seasonal saying on card stock and make a label. Tie on the label to the gift wrap, along with the tape or bows.

This is a hit a at Christmas time because many people run out of paper at the last minute.

Hope this helps you Wrap up the Christmas Spirit.

or

The best of all the gifts around any Christmas tree are the "presents" of a happy family all "wrapped" up in each other. Merry Christmas to you!

## Twizzlers -shared by Jodie Banks

Quick and easy! Use paper and ribbon to add tag: **Twizz the Season to be jolly!**



Photo: [www.theDatingDivas.com](http://www.theDatingDivas.com)



Photo: [mix.byu.edu](http://mix.byu.edu) Amberly Asay



Photo: pinterest

Jolly ranchers given with the twizzlers.

TIP: Look online to find multiple ideas. I googled 'Twiz the Season' and saw several ideas for printable labels and packaging. -CH



## **Homemade Salsa** -shared by Helen Butler

### Helen's Hot Sauce

32 oz Stewed Tomatoes

1/4 tsp. cumin

1 tsp. oregano leaf

1 Tbsp. garlic powder

1 Tbsp. salt or garlic salt

1 Tbsp. dry red pepper

Add above ingredients to blender and mix until well-blended.

Hand out salsa alone or with a bag of tortilla chips.

1 very small onion (or 1/2 of a medium-size)

Dice onion. Add to blender and briefly mix.

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## **Dried Apples** -shared by RevaBeth Russell

I have been giving these to neighbors for the last 10 years. I get rave reviews and thanks for providing something healthy during the sugar onslaught of the holidays.



Peel and core Granny Smith apples using an apple peeler gadget. No need to soak or bathe them in anything. Just arrange them on the dehydrator trays, plug in the dehydrator and dry away.



You need about 3 apples per tray. Eight trays fully loaded takes 45 minutes to fill and 6 to 8 hours to dry. Makes 1 gallon ziplock baggie of dried, healthy apples.

I have tried putting the apples in a bath of Tang before putting on the tray. Nice and tasty but adds sugar and mess. Another variation is to sprinkle cinnamon sugar on the apples once they are on the tray. Also delicious but defeats the purpose of having healthy snacks around. I've kept many bags of apples in the cool basement and they are still delicious 1 year later.





Photo: thegunnysack.com

#### Ingredients:

8 oz wide mouth mason jar  
1/4 cup mini M&Ms  
12 wrapped caramels  
Small apple  
Lollipop stick and twine

Tutorial from thegunnysack.com

## Caramel Apple in a Jar (the Gunny Sack)

-shared by Laurel Christensen

Assemble ingredients in the jar and include the following instructions with your gift.

#### Instructions:

1. Remove the mini M&M's from the 8 oz wide mouth mason jar and place them in the lid.
2. Unwrap the caramels and place them in the jar.
3. Add water and microwave for 60 seconds at 50% power.
4. Stir and microwave for another 15-30 seconds at 50% power and stir until smooth. Be sure to watch very carefully.
5. Insert a lollipop stick into apple,
6. Dip apple in the melted caramel, using a knife to add caramel to the entire apple.
7. Dip and roll the caramel apple into the M&Ms.
8. Fill in any empty places by adding M&Ms with your fingers.
9. Gently press mini M&Ms into the caramel and set apple on a piece of parchment paper to cool.

## Caramel Apple Treat

-shared by Carol Ford

A caramel apple treat for about \$1. Purchase a small caramel apple dip and an apple at any grocery store. Put in a cellophane bag with a bow. You could add a kitchen paring knife to the outside.



## Fabric Chapstick Holder (by Make It & Love It)

-shared by Kim McCloskey

### Supplies:

Cotton Fabric (15" x 2-1/4")

Fusible Interfacing (15" x 2-1/4")

Key Fob hardware (1-1/4 inch)

Tag Idea: **Merry Kiss-mas and a Chappy New Year.**

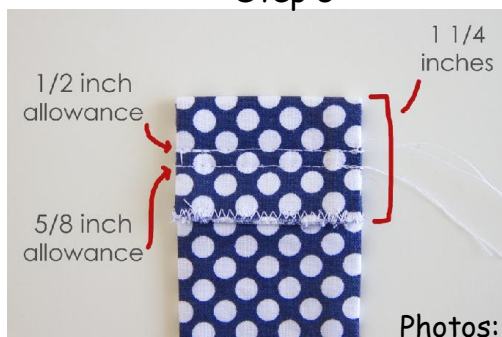


Photo: makeit-loveit.com

### Instructions:

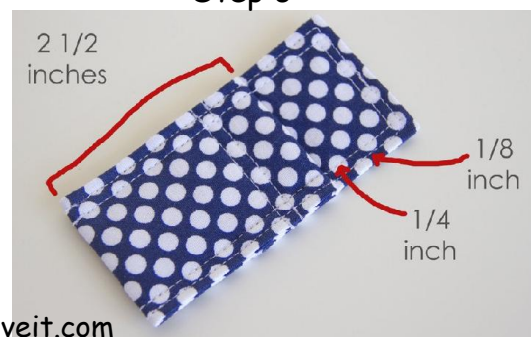
1. Cut your fabric and fusible adhesive to 15" x 2-1/4" strips.
2. Iron the interfacing onto the **WRONG** side of your fabric strip.
3. Fold your strip in half width-wise with **RIGHT** sides together, matching up the ends evenly. Sew along the two long sides using a 1/4" seam allowance. Don't sew along either of the two short ends.
4. Turn this tube of fabric right-side out through the open end. Iron flat. Then zig-zag the open end closed.
5. Fold the zig-zag end down 1-1/4". Sew in place with one seam 1/2" from the fold and another seam 5/8" from the fold.
6. Now, fold this folded/sewn end over 2-1/2" onto itself (raw zig-zag will be hidden on the inside) and iron it in place. Then sew a double seam around all the edges of the holder, except for the folded end. Seams at 1/8" and 1/4".
7. Attach your 1-1/4" key fob hardware to the top end of your fabric holder by squeezing it shut with pliers. (Cover the metal with a cloth to prevent scratches.)

Step 5



Photos: makeit-loveit.com

Step 6



Visit the Make It & Love It website for the full tutorial.

<http://www.makeit-loveit.com/2015/03/diy-fabric-chapstick-holder.html>

Kim also added some **easy homemade caramels** to her chapstick gift.

Recipe at: [simpleasthatblog.com/2015/10/microwave-caramels-2.html](http://simpleasthatblog.com/2015/10/microwave-caramels-2.html)

## Pretzel Snowman Jar

-shared by Maureen Tuttle

Fill mason jar with white chocolate covered pretzels. Hot glue 3 buttons on jar. Tie string or ribbon for scarf. Attach tag with baker's twine. Version in this picture is from [theweatheredpalate.com](http://theweatheredpalate.com) which has printables for the Merry Christmas tag.

[Polkadotchair.com](http://Polkadotchair.com) has a similar jar using red fleece for the scarf. Can also fill jar with other white items such as mini marshmallows or mint lifesavers.



Photo: [theweatheredpalate.com](http://theweatheredpalate.com)



## Christmas Potpourri

-shared by Caisa Hess

Ingredients:

Orange

Lemon

Lime

1 Tbsp whole cloves

3 short cinnamon sticks

Handful to 1 cup cranberries

Put all ingredients in ziploc bag. Tie with ribbon and instruction card.

### Christmas Potpourri

Cut orange, lemon, and lime in 4 pieces each. Put ingredients of bag in pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil; then simmer on low. Add water as needed. Can reuse for a short time if covered and kept in fridge between uses. (Don't forget to turn it off if you leave the house!)

**Merry Christmas!**



## Reversible Scented Fabric Trivet

-shared by Shirley Olsen

Create a scented and useful addition for the holiday table. Scented potpourri stitched inside a favorite quilt block will release a pleasant aroma while protecting your table top from a hot dish.

Materials:

Quilt block or fabric of your choice.

Backing fabric the size of your block.

Thermal Batting (not too thick): one piece the size of your block, a second 1/2" smaller on all sides.

Potpourri: Use fairly small pieces or break up larger pieces.



Sample

1. Place the two pieces of batting together with the smaller one centered over the larger one. Stitch together about 1-1/2" from the edge, leaving an opening of about 4" on one side. Insert potpourri, do not overstuff, and stitch opening closed. Even out the potpourri and slowly stitch an "X" on the batting pocket.
2. Place the quilt block right side up on top of the batting. Put backing on top of the block, right sides together. Stitch 1/4" from the edge, leaving a 3—4" opening for turning.
3. Trim off corners and turn right side out. Stitch the opening closed.
4. Quilt as desired.



Reverse of Sample



## Framed Christmas Quote

-shared by Lynnette Rose

Buy a Shadow Box from craft store. Cover background of box with Christmas scrapbook or wrapping paper. Fill box part way with some jingle bells. Stick vinyl quote and cutouts on glass. Tie with a bow.

{Google 'shadow box jingle bells' (images) to see more variations}

## Gum Ball Machine

-shared by Barb Murdock

4" clay pot  
4" clay saucer  
4" glass bowl (at All A Dollar Store)  
1-1/2" wooden doll head ball (flat on one side)  
gloss paint, E6000 clear glue, a bow and some candy or gum to put in the bowl.

Paint the pot, saucer (both sides) and wooden ball with your choice of paint, let dry. Glue the glass bowl onto the bottom of the pot (small end) and glue the ball onto the saucer bottom. The saucer will be the top or lid of the gum ball machine. Tie a bow on it if you want, and fill with goodies.



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## Casserole Carrier

-shared by Davidene Zimmerman

-idea given by Trina Matheson

### Materials:

Two coordinating fabrics  
3/4 yd. insulbrite  
{From each of these cut a  
21-1/2" square and a  
4" x 21-1/2" rectangle.}  
Two 3" rings  
Sew with 1/4" seam.

1. Place the two 21-1/2" fabric squares right sides together and the insulbrite with shiny side against the wrong side of the lining fabric. Sew around the square leaving a 4" hole to turn.

2. Turn right side out and press. Sew the turning hole closed. Quilt as desired.

3. To make handle, place the two rectangle fabrics right sides together and place on top of the insulbrite rectangle. Stitch along the long sides. Turn right sides out. Press. Quilt as desired.

4. Lay the square flat, main fabric facing up. Lay the handle (lining side up) diagonally across the square, making sure it is centered. Sew across short edges of handle with 1/4" seam. At both ends, flip handle in other direction and sew seam 3/8" away from the short edge, enclosing the raw edge.

5. Sew rings on remaining two corners by pulling each corner through a ring and tacking it to the front side.

6. To use, place the casserole dish on the lining side of the square, overlap the two rings and pull the handle up through the rings.







Photo: tasteofhome.com

## Sand Art Brownies

-shared by Allison Babcock

- 1/2 cup + 2 Tbsp flour
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup vanilla baking chips
- 1/2 cup walnuts

Mix ingredients in a wide mouth quart size jar, just like sand art that kids make. Great gift!

Plus, recipients can make the brownies at a later time when they are not as inundated with Christmas goodies.

Mix the flour and salt together. In a clean, wide mouth 1 quart jar, layer the ingredients in the order given—starting with the flour and salt mixture, and ending with the walnuts.

Attach a decorative tag to the outside of the jar with the remaining directions.

### Sand Art Brownies

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease 9x9 inch square baking pan. Pour the contents of the jar into a large bowl; mix well. Stir in 1 tsp vanilla, 2/3 cup vegetable oil, and 3 eggs. Beat until just combined. Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven for 25-30 minutes.

## Truffle Jar

-shared by Mary Killpack

For an even simpler gift—fill a cute jar with yummy treats, like assorted Lindor truffles which look like ornaments, and add a tag:

**Here's wishing you a Sweet Christmas!!**



## Holiday Mug Rug (The Crafty Quilter)

-shared by Machele Preston

Pictured is Machele's mug rug with her choice of fabrics, that she made by following this tutorial from the crafty quilter.

<http://thecraftyquilter.com/2012/11/holiday-mug-rug-tutorial/>

Machele included a mug, candy cane, and hot chocolate packet with the tag

**Take a break from the Holiday HUMBUG,  
enjoy your favorite beverage on a MUG RUG!**

Materials:

Assorted fabric scraps for mug rug and  
9-1/2" x 12" pieces of batting and backing

Make your own quilt block or follow the online tutorial to make this one. Machele added a background strip 2" x 9-1/2" to the top of her block, so it measured 8" x 9-1/2".

Layer quilt block on top of batting and backing and quilt as desired. Machele used traditional binding for her rug, while the crafty quilter tutorial shows

how to fold the backing to the front for binding by trimming the batting with scissors even with the quilt block. Cut the backing fabric to extend beyond each side double the width of binding desired. (If you want 3/8" binding, trim the backing fabric to extend 3/4" past the quilt block on all sides.) Fold binding over and stitch down. Tutorial has further instructions to give this type of binding a mitered look.



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## Rooster Pincushion

-shared by Carol Hunt

Homemade pincushions make great gifts for any sewing friends. This primitive rooster has a wool body, yellow wool strips for his tail and a button eye. The bottom of the body is gathered with thread around a wooden craft spool.

## Mexican Bean Soup Mix in Jar

-shared by Lil Anderson

2/3 cup dried pinto beans  
2/3 cup dried black beans  
2/3 cup dried red kidney beans  
1/2 cup uncooked rice (own bag)  
1 cup small cut pasta (own bag)  
6 cubes chicken bullion  
Flavor Packet (own bag)

Flavor packet (mix together following)

2 Tbsp dried onion flakes  
2 Tbsp dried parsley  
1 Tbsp chili powder  
2 tsp ground cumin  
1 tsp dried oregano

Layer ingredients in clean quart jar in order given, starting with pinto beans. (Recipe available online.)

### Cooking Directions for Mexican Bean Soup:

Rinse beans. Put into a 4-5 quart heavy pot with 4 cups water. Bring to a boil, cover and remove from heat. Let sit 1 hour. Drain beans and return to pot. Add 8 cups water and contents of flavor packet. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer one hour or until beans are firm-tender. Stir in rice and bring to a simmer. Cover and simmer 15 minutes. Uncover. Stir in pasta and add 1/2 cup water. Simmer 10 minutes or until pasta is tender.

## 20 Minute Table Runner

-shared by AnnaRae McAllister

Main Fabric: 1/3 yard

Backing Fabric: 1/2 yard

1. With selvage edges together, make a straightening cut on both sides of the main fabric. Repeat for backing fabric.
2. Right sides together, sew down the long sides forming a tube.
3. Turn right side out. The backing fabric will come up and around forming a border. Make sure the 'border' is even on both sides before pressing.
4. Trim off selvage edges on each end. Fold each end in half with the backing side together. Stitch 1/4" seam across raw edges. Repeat on the other end.
5. Pull the right sides out revealing pointed triangle ends.
6. Tack triangular end closed with a button at center seam close to where border fabric meets the main fabric.

AnnaRae added the tag:

**Hope your Christmas season "runnerth" over with joy and peace!!**







## Toilet Paper Snowman 2

-shared by Liz Laney

Stack 2 rolls toilet paper and cover with clear plastic. Use paper and ribbon to turn into a snowman. Can add small ornaments or other decorative items to 'scarf'.

Poem on card:

**This year for our Christmas Caper  
We are giving toilet paper  
Put it in your year's supply-  
And you'll be sitting "high and dry"**

*Merry Christmas from Our House to Yours.*

## More Quick and Easy Gifts

-shared by Debra Davenport

Add tags with sayings on simple gift items.

**Spatula:** We hope this helps SPREAD a little holiday cheer.

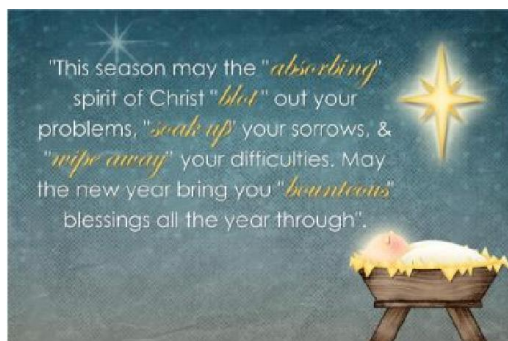
**Muffin Mix:** You're getting "muffin" for Christmas!

**Paper Towels:** This season may the 'absorbing' spirit of Christ 'blot' out your problems, 'soak up' your sorrows, & 'wipe away' your difficulties. May the new year bring you 'bounteous' blessings all the year through.

**7-Up:** 7-Uplifting Scriptures for the Christmas Season (Use the scriptures listed on the list below right or choose your own.)

The following website has a compiled list of 99 similar style ideas.

[www.sixsistersstuff.com/2012/11/99-fun-christmas-gifts-for-neighbors.html](http://www.sixsistersstuff.com/2012/11/99-fun-christmas-gifts-for-neighbors.html)



### 7-Uplifting Scriptures for the Christmas Season!

Luke 2:1-16

John 15:9

Matt. 5:16

3 Nephi 10:6

John 3:16

3 Nephi 15:9

John 14:27



Go online for printable tag above:

[craftsredesigned.blogspot.com/2011/12/easy-christmas-idea.html](http://craftsredesigned.blogspot.com/2011/12/easy-christmas-idea.html)