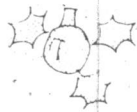
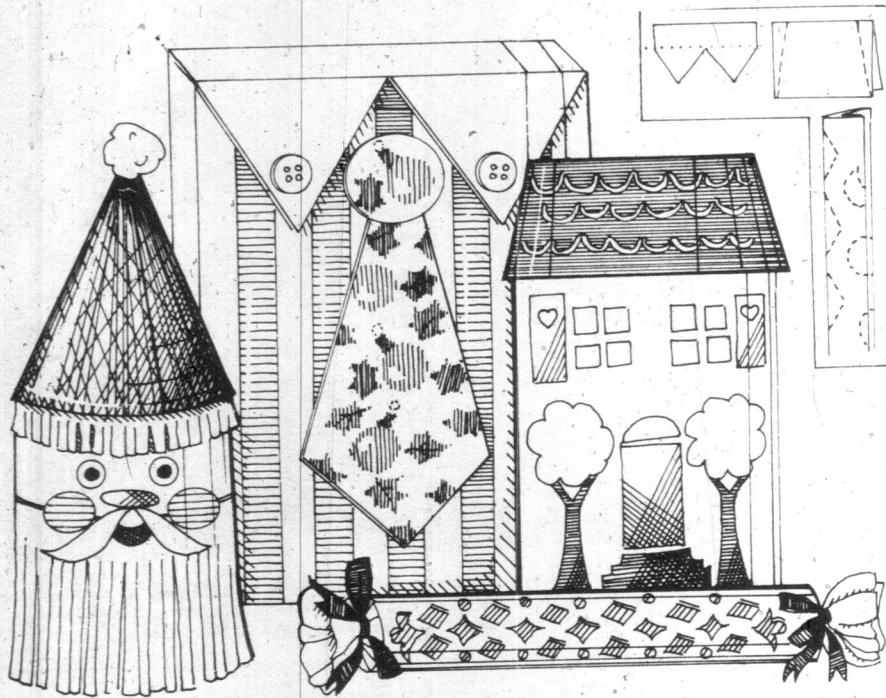


# Christmas Wrap-up



by Phyllis Fiarotta



## CHRISTMAS BOXES FROM THE PANTRY SHELF

Your pantry is filled with potential gift boxes. If you don't have time to shop for last-minute packaging, or if you just want to economize, try these boxes for size.

Cylinder Santa is made from an oatmeal box or a coffee can — don't use a jagged-edge can! Tape on a covering of pink paper. Hair and beard are fringed white paper. Add a red construction paper cone hat and glue features in place.

For men only, a super-size soap box can hold shirts or sweaters comfortably. Cut the top open end so that it forms a flap. Glue a light shade of wrapping paper to the box. Glue paper stripes down the front of the box (top open flap facing you). The collar is cut to the width and depth of the top flap with two triangular collar points (see insert). The straight of the collar is glued over the

flap while the points are glued to the striped front. Glue two buttons on the collar. Cut the tie from gift wrap.

The house package is made from a regular-size soap box. Glue on pink wrapping paper. The roof is cut from a folded sheet of red construction paper that measures 2 inches wider than the box. Cut the sides on a slight angle (see insert). Draw a shingle design with a felt marker. Tape or glue roof and paper cutouts of windows, trees, door etc. to the box.

Cylinders, made from paper towel tubing, can hold scarves, handkerchiefs or beads. Fold a large sheet of colored tissue paper in half, fold again in half several times along the length. Cut out shapes on the sides (see insert). Open the tissue and place on a second sheet of uncut tissue; wrap around the tube; tie ends with ribbons.

## TWO-IN-ONE GIFTS

When the Christmas packaging itself is also a present, it's a two-in-one gift for the lucky recipient. Here's how:

Pack jewelry with colored tissue paper or cellophane in a twist-top canning jar.

Package homemade cookies and candies in decorative apothecary jars.

Let muffin tin substitute for a Christmas stocking by filling each compartment with a small wrapped gift.

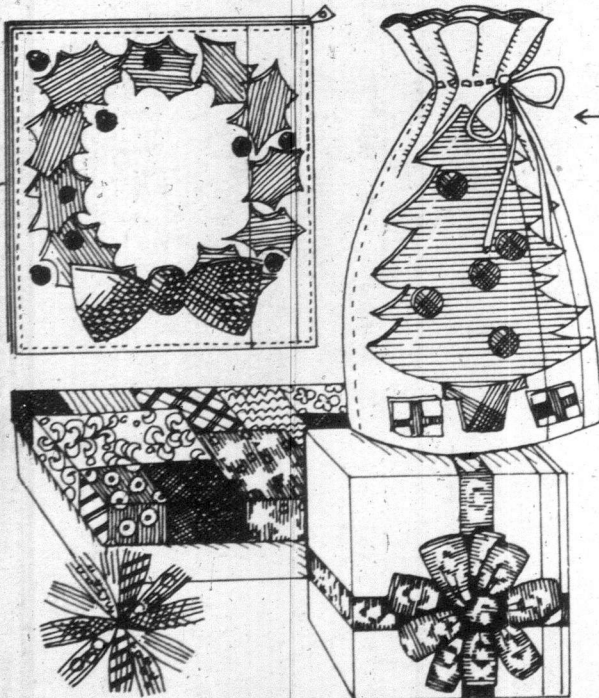
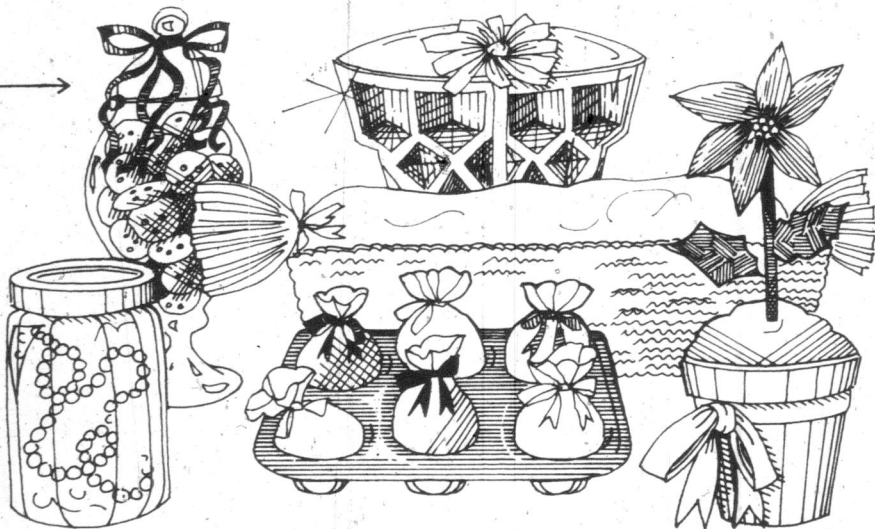
Use decorative baskets instead of boxes. Available in

many sizes and shapes, they can hold a wide variety of gifts.

Pack a present in a large gelatin mold. Cut a cardboard lid slightly larger than the mold's base; cover with foil. Tie cover to mold with ribbon.

Fill a clay flower pot with jewelry or a scarf packed around a plastic poinsettia. Brown tissue and a bow add the finishing touches.

Don't forget Dad! Tool or fishing tackle boxes or fancy cigar tins are a few packaging ideas for the man of the house.



## SCRAP FABRIC WRAPPINGS

Break with gift wrap traditions and think fabric instead of paper and ribbons. Scrap fabric or felt can be turned into eye-catching wrappings that make gifts extra appealing.

Make a zip envelope of felt or fabric to hold a gift. It can be used as a stocking bag or a suitcase organizer after the holidays. Two squares or rectangles of felt are first sewed to a zipper. (Check fabric counters for inexpensive felt squares.) Sew the remaining three sides together 1/4 inch in. When using fabric, sew the sides together, right sides facing, then turn inside out. Cut free form holly leaves and berry shapes from felt and glue them to the bag in a circle. Add a red felt bow cutout.

Tie pouches are fabric or felt bags sewed as above. Instead of

a zipper, use a yarn tie, woven through the top of the bag, 3 inches down from the top opening. Decorate with a felt Christmas tree and ornaments and felt gift boxes.

Patchwork boxes make good use of all those small scraps of fabric a woman who sews can collect. Glue slightly overlapping squares of fabric over

## MORE PACKAGING TRICKS

Instead of gift tags, punch a hole in one corner of a snapshot and tie to the bow. Write personal messages on the back of the photo.

Wrap a child's gift in the color comic pages that appear in your local newspaper. Complement with bright bows.

Decorate a child's gift box by tying on a small five-and-dime toy with ribbons. For Mom's gift, tie on kitchen tools, such as

the cover of the box.

Calico bows are a touch of yesteryear that are simple to make. A fringed bow is made with several 1 1/2-inch strips of fringed fabric, tied at their centers with yarn. A plush bow is made with long lengths of fabric strips sewed together.

Don't forget to wrap small boxes entirely in fabric.

measuring spoons or a wooden spoon.

Wrap small gifts in aluminum foil.

Fill plastic bags with candy for stocking stuffing. First, decorate them with indelible felt markers. Tie the top of the filled bag with ribbon.

Use colored tapes in place of ribbons.

Tie a dollar bill into the bow of a child's gift box.