



GIANT stocking for mantel decoration is easy to cut from felt or velvet, sew and trim with buttons, sequins, metal. Pastels blend best.



APRON decor for Christmas adds a touch of cheer in the busy kitchen. Fabric patterns glistening with color are secured with buttons.

Let Homemade Decorations Express Christmas Gaiety

Anyone can be an interior decorator in December. The beauty you see in bright ornaments and shimmering tinsel is just a reflection of the twinkle in your own eyes during these wonderful days. So get everyone to work, and stay within your budget by making up in ideas and enthusiasm what you lack in special skills and money.

A family project that everyone will enjoy is the making of three-dimensional Christmas decorations. Just buy a package of multicolored craft paper from the dime store. The rest of the materials you'll need are household items—scissors, paste, pencils and a ball of string for hanging the finished creations.

Here's How
Sketch simple patterns—a star of Bethlehem, for example. Give the star dimensions by simply running a penknife lightly down the paper, starting at each star point and continuing to the center. Then bend the paper backward along each scored line. Make several stars, in various sizes and colors, and use them to adorn the tree, wall or doorway.

Christmas angels can be fashioned by making cones of colored paper. Turn the cone upside down, and you have the angel's body, with the narrow end serving as her neck. Cut out a circle of craft paper, and draw or paste colored dots on it to represent eyes, nose and a mouth.

Attach the angel's face to the body by pasting a long, narrow strip of craft paper to the back and squeezing it through the opening in the cone. Finally, draw a pair of wings and paste them to each side of her body. These make "heavenly" place cards for Christmas party tables.

To make entire rows of Christmas-tree motifs for festooning the fireplace, accordion-fold a long strip of green paper, trace the outline of half a tree to the paper, and cut. You'll think of many more motifs yourself once you get going—paper flowers, snowflakes, snowmen and Santa Claus are

Whether you love to go shopping or hate it, a knowledge of shopping short-cuts is indispensable at Christmastime. Especially so if the bulk of your holiday buying must be sandwiched into one or two trips to town, and you don't have a minute or a step to squander.

To make the whole job as painless as possible, the two most important rules—which everyone knows (but few observe)—are these:

A. Have a list and know pretty much what you're looking for before you leave the house.

B. Do your Yuletide shopping as early in the season as possible.

These rules, however, are not, by any means, the whole answer. Here are a dozen additional pointers that will save you much hustle and bustle:

1. Do your browsing at home, instead of in crowded stores. Newspapers, magazines, and catalogs provide a treasure-chest of gift ideas. Newspaper ads, in particular, make a special display of just a few of many that will come to mind.

2. Dress-up Decorations
You'll find inexpensive materials to dress up your decorations at your local department or variety store—sequins, twisted gold thread, and several types of cover-your-own buttons.

With pinkish shears, cut out a huge Christmas stocking from scraps of felt or some other fabric. Adorn the entire stocking with rows of sequins and buttons covered with scraps of bright contrasting fabric. Hang the stocking on the mantle or use as a wall decoration in the children's play room.

(For information on how to obtain an inexpensive set of professionally designed Christmas paper—sculpture patterns, write to Paper Sculpture, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.)

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Short Cuts to Happy Christmas Shopping Days

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the most attractive gift items, and often save you time by telling you just what department carries them.

2. Have a definite plan. Map your shopping trip ahead of time so you won't have to retrace your steps. You can do this by having all the gifts you expect to find in one store listed together.

3. Eliminate your sitter problem, if you have one, by making a deal with a neighbor who also has small children. Offer to mind her children one day while she shops, while she does the same for you later.

4. Avoid the busiest shopping hours. There are less-crowded days during each week, even in Christmas season, and less-crowded

hours each day; you should learn to take advantage of them. Generally, mid-morning and mid-afternoon are letup hours, with lunchtime and evenings the busiest.



Be certain that you don't compete with commuters. Make your trip to town before or after rush hours. And, if you're willing to try it, you may find it wise to brave a snow or rainstorm, a time when stores are much less crowded.

5. Shop by mail or phone whenever this is possible. There are probably more items on your list than you can order sight unseen. Theater tickets, subscriptions are the obvious ones; but you can shop the same way for such items as candy, cheese or fruit, or a familiar brand of cosmetics.

6. Make use of your charge accounts, and your favorite salespersons. Charge accounts, most valuable of all at Christmas, enable you to order by mail, insure convenient exchanges and save you time. And if you trust the taste of a particular salesperson, you can rely upon her to select such gifts as lingerie and gloves and send them to you for approval.

7. Take advantage of department store gift-mailing services. Most stores offer attractive wrappings, and, for a slight extra charge, will do a special wrapping and mailing job. If you take this tip, be sure to write your enclosure card at home, where you'll have the time to phrase it correctly. Then give it to the clerk at time of purchase.

8. Don't fear duplication. There is no reason why several persons of the same age or interests on your list won't like the same gift, and buying this way saves time.

9. If you can't make a quick decision on any particular gift, write down its sales number or description. If you decide later on to take it, you can then order it by

phone and have an extra tip.

10. Save the sales slips on everything you purchase, so that you can return it if needed. If you want to exchange something, or perhaps order additional ones like it.

11. Save your energy by having your "carry-homes" list. Packages you have to take home are purchased near the end of the trip, especially those that are dead-tired.

12. If you're clever at shopping or a hobby, explore the possibilities of making some gifts your own. In saving you money, such presents have a special appeal to the recipient.

Here's Why WEISFIELD'S

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