



Christmas

LIVING



Deck the halls...

Clever wraps to give your gifts that festive feel

MAKE OUR BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Add sparkle and shine with candles and fairy lights

Trim the tree with decorations to suit every taste, space and decor



TARA'S TOP WRAPPING TIPS

- My all-time favourite gift wrap is good quality, old-fashioned brown paper. It can be jazzed up in so many ways and used all year round.
- A common mistake is to use too much paper. Trim it first to suit the size of the gift and you will have nice, neat folds.
- Long-bladed, sharp scissors give the best cuts.
- A tape dispenser helps when your hands are full.
- Odd-shaped items are always easier to wrap if you pre-package them in a box.
- Bottles and jars are easier to wrap if you use soft paper, such as tissue.
- Personalise gifts by decorating them with jewellery, toy trinkets, even scarves. ▶

Festive wraps

Put some flair into your gift wrapping this year. Tara Dennis, from the Nine Network's *Renovation Rescue*, shows you how to make your presents as much of a pleasure to look at as they are to open.



NOODLE BOX (above)

For presents that are difficult to wrap in paper, you can try a cardboard noodle box. Simply assemble the box and line with tissue paper. Add your gift, then finish with a gold ribbon tied in a bow on top. Glue a pretty tag to the side of the box.



GUMNUTS AND LEAVES (above right)

Place a sheet of white tissue paper on a table and a sheet of green tissue paper on top. Cut papers to suit size of gift, then wrap present with both papers. Cut a band of green paper and wrap around the present, securing with tape underneath. To make decoration, bend fresh gum leaves to create loops, secure to gift using a hot glue gun. Tie ribbon around gift and attach gumnuts using a hot glue gun. Cut card to size to make tag. Pictured above with "Gumnuts" is "For Him" (instructions overleaf).

RED GOLD AND WHITE (right)

Wrap the present in gold paper. Wrap a length of plain red ribbon around gift, securing underneath with tape. Place a length of narrower red and white checked ribbon over the wider red ribbon and secure underneath with tape. Attach white buttons to the checked ribbon using a hot glue gun. Tie another length of red ribbon crossways around gift and secure on top in a bow. Tie on the Santa star decoration.



AQUAMARINE THEME (above)

Place a sheet of aquamarine tissue paper on a table and lay a sheet of white tissue paper over the top. Wrap present with both papers. Cut two ribbon-like lengths of aqua paper and tape in position around the package. Do the same with two lengths of white ribbon. To make the gift tag, cut a piece of aqua card and fold in half. Cut a rectangle of silver card, glue on silver stars, then glue silver card to aqua card. Glue tag to gift. Alternatively, tie an aqua ribbon around a simple silver package and finish with a generous bow. Trim ribbon ends.

FOR HER (above in pink)

Wrap present in pink paper. Wind two lengths of ribbon crossways around gift as shown, securing underneath with tape. Cut a gift card to size and pin a pretty brooch to the card to add a personal touch. Secure the card to the gift.

FOR HIM (left and below)

A contrasting chocolate-coloured card cut to size for a gift tag adds the finishing touch to this stylish gift wrap for a man.



STEP 1 Place gift on paper, fold ends over to overlap in middle, secure with tape. Press excess paper in at sides to form two triangles, press creases flat.

STEP 2 Fold the tip of the folded triangles in towards the gift, then make a second fold and secure the ends of the package with tape.

STEP 3 Cut a length of contrasting paper to the length of the circumference of the present and tape in position around gift as shown.

STEP 4 Cut three equal lengths of contrasting leather ties, thread a buckle onto the ties, then wrap ties around gift as shown and secure underneath with tape. ▶

LOLLY CONE

Fill colourful paper cones with all kinds of sweets and goodies as a special festive treat for the children. We used scrapbooking paper to make ours.



STEP 1 Glue two sheets of scrapbooking paper together, wrong sides facing. Roll paper to form a cone shape.

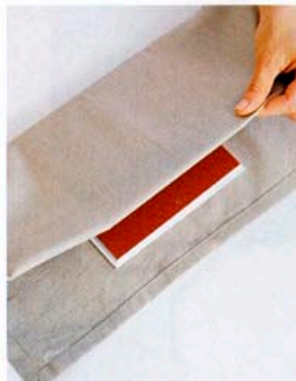
STEP 2 Staple paper to secure. Punch a hole on opposite sides of the cone, thread ribbon through to form a handle and secure by tying a knot at each end of the ribbon.



NAPKIN WRAP

A napkin makes an unusual wrapping which only adds to your gift. You could also use a pretty tea towel, especially for a gift for the kitchen.

For stockists, see page 280.



STEP 1 Wrap your gift in a new fabric napkin, in a colour or pattern of your choice.



STEP 2 Use dressmaking pins to hold napkin in place while you finish the wrapping.



STEP 5 Tie ribbon in a contrasting or complementary colour around the gift as shown to secure the napkin, then remove the pins.

STEP 4 Cut two pieces of contrasting card for the tag. Stick the smaller card to the larger one. Use a craft stamp and ink pad to add a message.