

# Jackson County

## 4-H

### Gift Wrapping

### Project

Revised December 2021



## GIFT WRAPPING

County 4-H Project adopted January 1992

Revised December 2021

We gratefully acknowledge the resources of Bartholomew, St. Joseph, Cass, Fulton, Franklin Extension Services in the adaption of this manual.

It is the policy of the Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, or national origin.

Jackson County Extension Office

Courthouse

Brownstown, IN 47220

## **WHY GIFT WRAPPING AS A 4-H PROJECT?**

Everyone likes to receive a gift, and the way it is wrapped is almost as important as the choice of the gift itself. An attractive package shows your good taste and your thoughtfulness toward the friend being honored.

On the other hand, a sloppily wrapped package, or one too gaudy or too skimpy, shows poor taste, or lack of skill – and detracts from the attractiveness. This does not mean that a lot of money has to be spent on materials. Even if you use the simplest paper, the package should be neat, without untidy wrinkles or bulges, the ribbon suitable width and color for the paper chosen, and the trimming artistically arranged on the package.

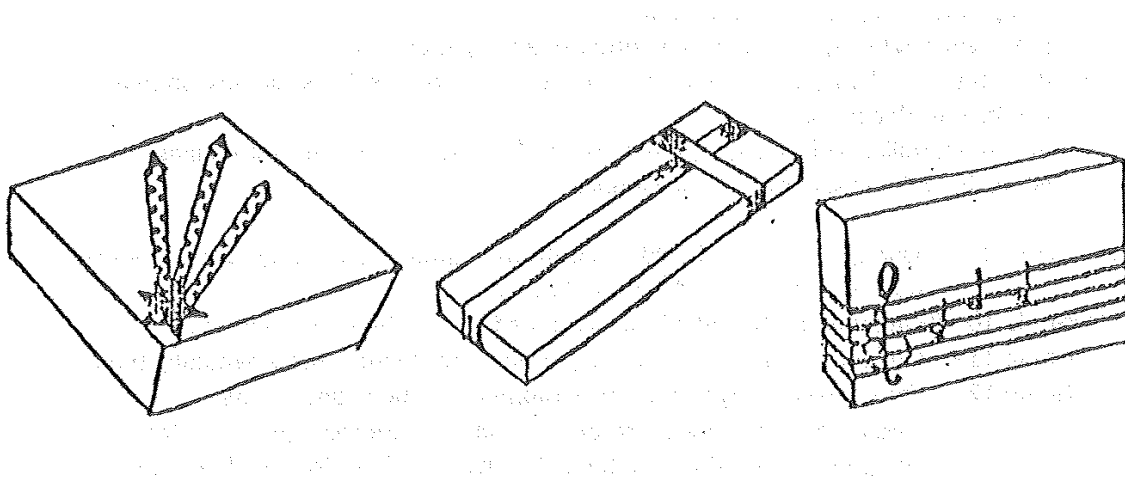
Learning to wrap gifts is like learning to drive a car; you must do it! There are some rules to guide you, but like driving, real skill comes with practice. As you try your hand, not only will you develop finger coordination needed, but you will also develop wrapping and trimming ideas that are completely your own. Of one thing we are sure – you will have fun wrapping gifts; and there will be the satisfaction that in each case you have produced a little work of art of your own.

### **FOR ALL DIVISIONS:**

- You are to wrap and decorate your exhibits at home and bring to the county fair for judging.
- Put a card on the bottom of the box(es) with your name on it.
- A general record sheet is required for each division.
- You may want to become the “official wrapper” for your family! If Mom or Dad has a gift to be wrapped, you could offer to do it for them. REMEMBER – Christmas, baby gifts, showers, birthdays, weddings, graduation, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, etc., are all gift giving possibilities. Perhaps you have a grandparent who could use your help.
- Be creative! Enjoy the art of gift wrapping! Be proud of your skill! Use it in the years ahead of you.

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- To select the proper box for the shape and type of gift
- To place gift in the box for a neat appearance
- To select the proper paper for the occasion, age and sex of the receiver
- To select the proper size paper according to the size and shape of the package
- To learn wrapping techniques for different shaped containers
- To learn to make a neat, tightly wrapped package with purchased or personally made materials
- To select the type of ribbon which is suitable for your package
- To select the type of trim best for a package
- To learn the basic bows and perhaps learn how to use a bow maker
- To learn the importance of the overall appearance of a package
- To learn the proper way of folding tissue for inner lining
- To discover ideas that you may use in place of bows and ribbons



## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN ASK YOURSELF**

Why am I giving this gift:

Birthday – Winter Holiday – Wedding – Graduation

Who am I giving it to?

Boy – Girl – Adult

What is the age of this person?

Adult – Teen – Child – Baby

How can I make the gift wrap mean something special to this person?

What is their favorite color?

Do they have a hobby or interest?

If it is for a child, could I design a package which would catch their imagination? Clowns – Teddy Bears – Etc.

Could I find wrapping material or trims which could also be useful to this person?

Diaper for a baby shower?

Scarf for a woman?

Tie for a man?

How much do I want to spend?

The wrapping materials shouldn't cost more than the gift!

What materials do I already have to use?

## **BEGIN WITH THE BASICS**

You will want to begin your gift wrapping project with a well supplied box of items that you will need. It is important to have all your wrapping items in one convenient place so that when you find something that you think might work on a package someday, you will know right where to put it! By keeping these things, you will always be ready to wrap your packages, no matter what the occasion!

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS OF ITEMS YOU MIGHT WANT TO START COLLECTION:

**PAPER:** Newspaper, shelf paper, contact paper, construction paper, tissue paper, plain gift wrap, commercial papers, plastic bags, wall paper, etc. (Did you know there were so many types of paper?)

**CONTAINERS:** Tubes, cartons, sacks, cans, boxes, etc. When you buy gifts (or even something for yourself), ask if the store provides boxes free of charge. You will want containers that are strong and clean. If you put the containers inside one another, you won't need as much storage space.

**TOOLS:** Scissors, glue, double-stick tape, transparent tape, labels, pinking shears, tape for mailing packages, etc.

**DECORATIVE ITEMS:** Ribbon, fabric scraps, lace, cord, pipe cleaners, old greeting cards, yarn, piping, silk flowers, lace paper doilies, etc.

Store your box of supplies in the same location after each use and avoid borrowing tools and supplies from it. In that way, you won't have to waste time looking for "lost items"!

## **PREPARING THE GIFT FOR WRAPPING**

Before a gift item is to be wrapped, it may require some advanced preparation. Remove the price tag. If the item is wrinkled, press it. If the gift needs dusting, polishing, decorating, trimming, do whatever is necessary to make it look attractive.

### **BOX SELECTION**

Any gift looks better in a box. The box protects it, keeps it fresh and attractive. It is much easier to wrap a boxed gift. Ask for boxes when buying gifts and save all clean, strong, attractive boxes. Stack them to save space. Buy them if necessary. Jewelry is much more appealing when displayed in a box made especially for it, padded with velvet or satin. Many boxes can be used more than once if kept clean and fresh looking.

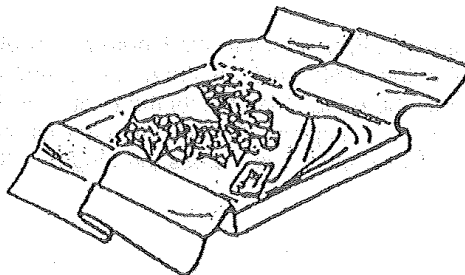
Boxes come in all shapes and sizes. Choose a box of the right size for the gift. If the box is too small, the contents will bulge and the wrapping may burst. If the box is too large, the contents may slide around inside and break or become wrinkled.

Choose a box strong enough for the contents. Heavy or bulky items require a sturdy container. Reinforce inside corners with Scotch tape or gummed paper tape if necessary.

### **BOXING THE GIFT**

After the box has been selected, white tissue or pastel tissue paper should be placed in the box before the gift. Fold the tissue paper in the center so that it will fit in the bottom of the box. The paper should cover the bottom of the box and completely cover the top of the gift.

In the case of odd-shaped items, small pieces of crumpled tissue paper can be placed at proper points so that the item will not break or rattle. Often a combination of both can be used to make the package neat inside as well as outside.



## SELECTING WRAPPING MATERIAL

Decide on the gift and occasion before selecting the wrapping paper. When selecting the wrapping paper, ask the following questions:

1. What paper is available?
2. Is there enough paper to wrap this gift?
3. Does the paper suit the occasion?
4. Does the paper take into account the age and sex of the receiver?
5. Is the design in proportion to the size of the box?

In addition to purchased wrapping paper, the following items might also be used for wrapping materials:

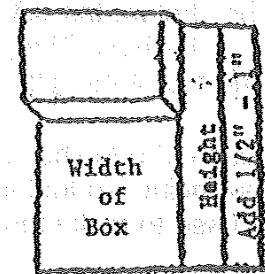
foil	wallpaper	fabric
newspaper	bath towels	scarves
Sunday comics	washcloths	socks
brown wrapping paper	dish cloths	baby blankets
shelf paper	burlap	cloth diapers

## DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF PAPER NEEDED TO WRAP A GIFT

To determine the amount of paper needed to wrap a box, use the following guidelines:

Length of paper – Measure around box and allow for enough extra paper so that it will overlap a little over half the width of the open end side.

Width of paper – Measure the width of the box, add the height of the box and add  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch.



You can also use a piece of string to measure the length and width. Knot one end of the string and, to determine the width, hold the string at one side of the box, and wrap it around the box. Grasp it where the string meets the knot. Stretch the string across the paper to add 1 inch for overlapping. To determine the length of paper you need, stretch the string down one side of the box, across the length of the box, and up the other side of the box.

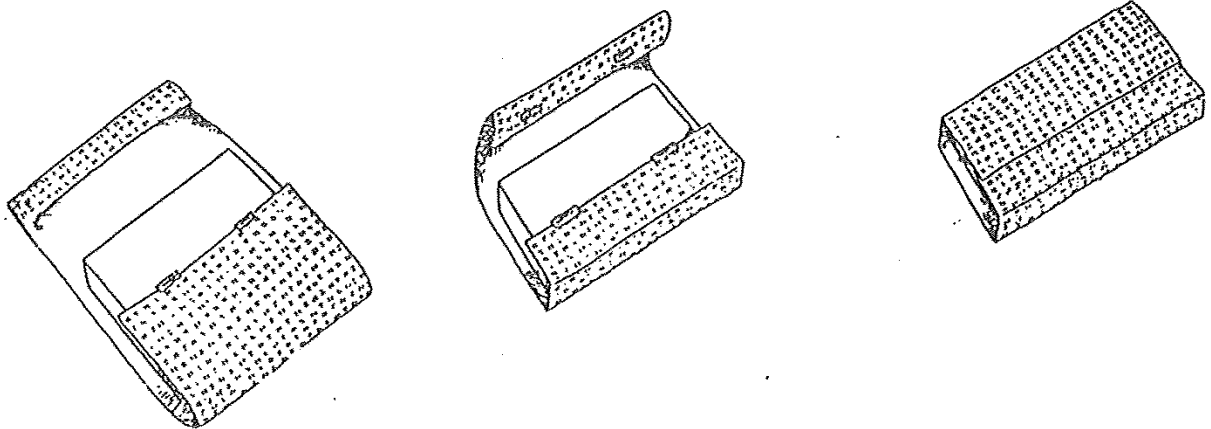
## TAPING TECHNIQUES

Nothing spoils the effect of a beautiful package more than a messy job of taping. You need to tape to get crisp lines and to hold the paper taut. Bulges and wrinkles never enhance.

Transparent tape that is adhesive on both sides, called double-stick tape, allows you to keep this homely tool hidden to the eye. It helps produce a neater, prettier package and thus is the first choice. The second choice is transparent tape, preferably non-reflecting, which is adhesive on one side only.

1. Begin by taping the center back seam. Turn under  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch hem at the top of the paper so that no raw edges show. Tape the lower edge to the box, or just hold it firmly in place.
2. Place double-stick tape on the inside of the top  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch hem.
3. Press the top paper into place.

If you are using single-sided transparent tape, press it on the inside of the top paper into place. The tape will not show. Use it the same way when you tape the final flap of the package ends.



## THE PROFESSIONAL WAY TO WRAP A BOX



1. Place the box, top down, on a length of wrapping paper. Cut just enough paper to cover all four sides of the box. Center the box on the paper. Bring one side over and tape it to the box.



2. Fold the remaining side over about 1 to 2 inches. Place a few pieces of double-stick tape on the folded edge or form circles of regular tape, sticky side out, and place these along the folded edge.



3. Wrap the paper around the box securely, pressing down on the taped edge.



4. To wrap the ends, start by folding the top down as shown. Tape the edge in place. Now miter the sides, creasing the corner edges.

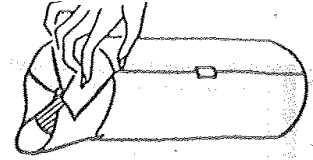


5. Fold the sides toward the center, creasing the paper along the edges of the box as you do so. Tape these sides together at the bottom. Fold the bottom flap over about 1 inch. Place a piece of double stick tape on the folded edge or use a circle of regular tape.



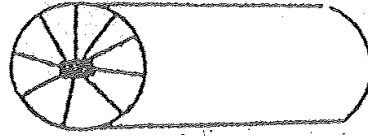
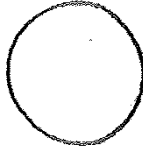
6. Bring the bottom flap up, pressing the taped edge down. Repeat this procedure for the opposite end of the box.

## WRAPPING A CYLINDER



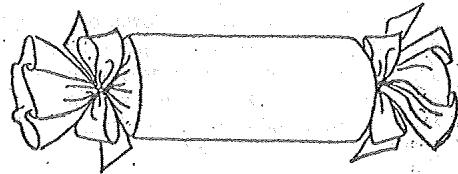
### SMOOTH ENDS

1. Trace the ends of the cylinder and cut out two circles of the wrapping paper.
2. Wrap the cylinder with wrapping paper allowing an overlap on both sides.
3. Fold the overlap at the ends (cutting is sometimes necessary) and paste down.
4. Paste circles over folds.



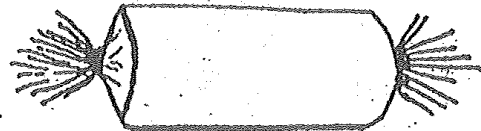
### GATHERED ENDS

1. Wrap the gift in wrapping paper, allowing enough for the ends to be gathered and tied. Tape securely in middle of paper.
2. Gather the paper at the ends and tie securely.

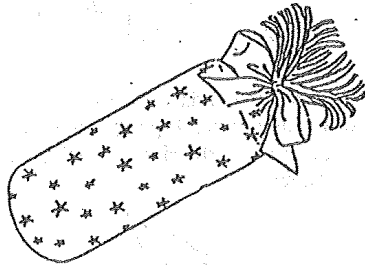


### FRINGED ENDS

1. Follow steps for Gathered Ends.
2. Cut ends in strips to make fringe.



A combination of smooth and fringed ends may be used.



## PERSONALIZING A PACKAGE

A cylinder shaped package may be personalized by using the wrapped cylinder as a base and making it into an object appropriate for the receiver. The package might be made into a truck, a fire engine, a clown, a drum, or many other things. Use your own imagination!

Turn a cylinder into a clown by using a Styrofoam ball for the head, and making arms and feet from construction paper. Make a collar from ribbon and add a hat to complete.

## IRREGULAR BOXES:

Heart shaped, triangular, or octagonal boxes are best covered by cutting and pasting top, bottom, and sides to fit. This requires time and patience, but boxes so papered are often kept for a year or two and used as utility boxes around the home. If the original box is beautiful, as are many candy or jewelry boxes, no wrapping is necessary. Protect it from soiling by covering with cellophane, or it may be placed inside a larger box and wrapped in the customary manner.

## DECORATING THE PACKAGE

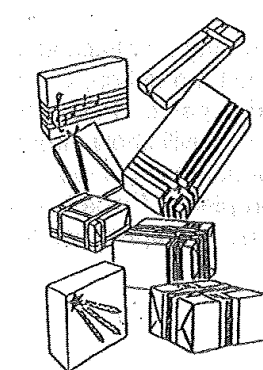
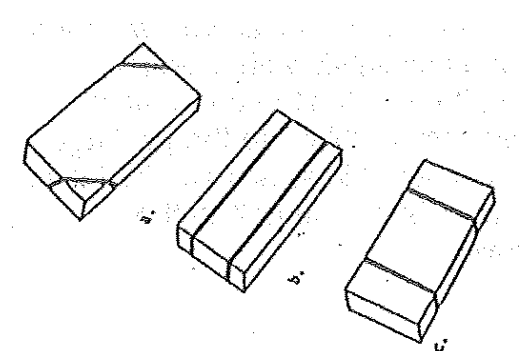
After the gift has been wrapped, think about the types of bows and decorations that can be used on the gift. Each package should have its own personality.

The decoration of the gift is complete when wrapping paper, ribbon, bows, and/or decorations are combined effectively to create a pleasing overall appearance.

## USING RIBBON

Ribbon is usually wrapped and attached to the package. Listed below are guidelines for using ribbon.

1. The ribbon selected should compliment the wrapping paper. Color may either contrast or match.
2. Choose ribbon in a width that is in proportion to the size of the box. The larger the box, the wider the ribbon that may be used. Strips of narrow ribbon may be used instead of one strip of wide ribbon.
3. Ribbon can be placed (a) at the corners, (b) along the length, or (c) the width of the box. It can also be repeated several times.
4. Simplicity is often the key to attractive packages. Too much design or trim, or too many colors can be distracting.
5. Many times a plain package may be dressed up by making a pattern using just the ribbon or other decorative materials for the design (see examples below right).
6. The ribbon must be secure. A loose ribbon can ruin a pretty package.



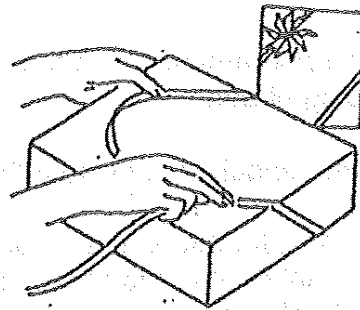
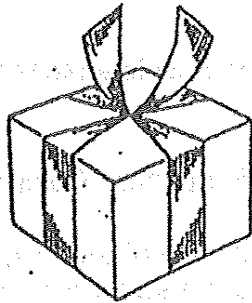
## TYING THE RIBBON ON THE PACKAGE

In applying the ribbon, line and balance should be considered. The ribbon should be applied to conform to the size and shape of the box. (Centered on a square, toward the top of a long, thin box, etc.) Ribbon should be smooth, straight and evenly spaced. Methods commonly used to attach ribbon are the center wrap and the corner wrap.

### CENTER WRAP

1. Lay one end of ribbon on top of the box in the center, leaving a 4-5 inch end free.
2. Holding at the center top with one hand, with the other hand, wrap ribbon around ends of the box, cross at right angles, and wrap around sides of the box.
3. Bring to the center top and tie securely. Cut ribbon with 4-5 inches remaining for attaching bow.

Center Wrap



Corner Wrap

### CORNER WRAP

1. Starting at upper left corner, draw ribbon slantwise to top of box, under upper right corner, up and over lower right corner, under left corner and back to starting point.
2. Join ends securely on the face of the box where the bow will be placed.

Ribbon may be attached to the top of the box only. Lay it on exactly as you want it to look. Lift the ribbon, one piece at a time, and touch the box lightly with a brush dipped in paste. Place the ribbon on the paste and let it dry. Don't use too much paste or it will show through the ribbon. You may also fasten ribbon to the package with double faced tape or hinged Scotch tape. A Scotch tape hinge is made by folding a short piece of tape in half, with the smooth side inside. Stick one half to the package, the upper half to ribbon or paper. Press down.

## BOWS

The secret to a beautifully wrapped package lies in the making of the bow. By following a few fundamental rules as to color, proportion, methods of looping, gathering, tying ribbon – and by practice – anyone can make bows successfully. Keep the following rules in mind:

1. Make the bow separately and attach it to the package.
2. Make loops in proper proportion to the width of the ribbon. The narrower the ribbon, the shorter each individual loop should be, and the more loops, the puffier the bow.
3. Be lavish with ribbon and make plenty of loops. In general, keep loops the same size. Special effects with long and short loops are also possible.
4. When pinching ribbon together to form loops, make tiny pleats or gathers.
5. When using ribbon with a right and wrong side, keep the right side out at all times by turning the ribbon as necessary before making a loop.
6. Do not handle the ribbon more than is absolutely necessary.
7. Wind bows tightly in the center with fine wire, thread or narrow ribbon. For fluffy upright loops and with laminated ribbons, wire gives best results.
8. Fluff out the loops with your fingers and arrange in a symmetrical and attractive manner.
9. Be creative and practice. Bow making is a skill anyone can master.

There are only a few basic bows, but variations of these bows will give endless choices for dressing up gifts for all occasions. Learn these techniques and soon you will be creating your own unique bows.

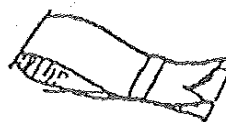
### SIMPLE BOW

1. Loop both ends of a short piece of ribbon and attach.
2. Wrap a very short piece around the center and tape or glue the reverse side of the ribbon at the back.



### BUCKLE

1. Make only one loop and notch the other end.
2. Attach a slim “buckle” of the same or contrasting ribbon.



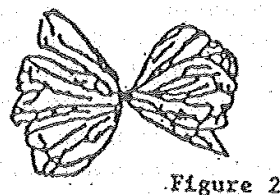
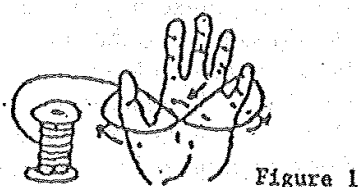
### FLAT BOW

1. Cut a piece of paper about the size you desire the bow to be.
2. Begin by stapling ribbon to paper.
3. Loop and staple again close to first one. This can be repeated again and again, varying the size of the loop to create effect desired.



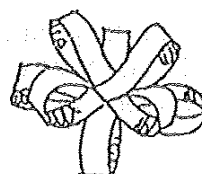
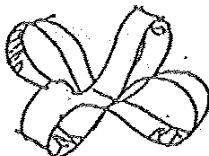
### BEGINNERS BOW

1. Using very thin ribbed ribbon, begin by making figure eight with ribbon between thumb and small finger (figure 1).
2. Continue until bow is desired thickness.
3. Tie bow securely where ribbon meets (figure 2).
4. Puff up ribbon and curl by running one side of scissors along length of ribbon. The ribbon can be cut and slit to make even fuller bows.



### KNOTLESS BOW (self-sticking ribbon)

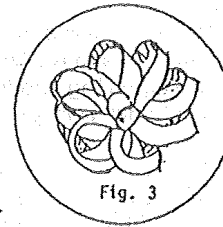
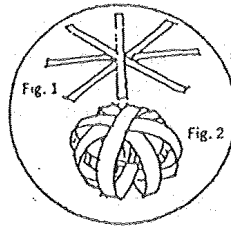
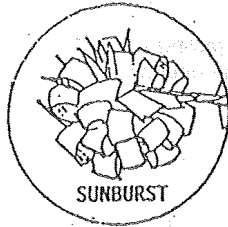
1. For a 5 inch bow, cut 12 strips of self-sticking ribbon 11 inches long. Moisten both ends of one piece and press to the center.
2. Moisten one bow and attach it to a second. Set this pair aside. Repeat for the other pieces until there are 6 pairs.
3. Moisten the pairs, one by one, and attach them diagonally. Press a small loop in the center.



## VARIATIONS OF THE KNOTLESS BOW

### SUNBURST

1. Make a knotless bow.
2. Snip two slashes (from opposite directions) into the outer edge of each loop.

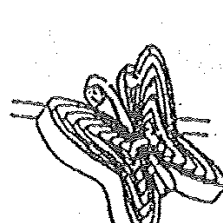
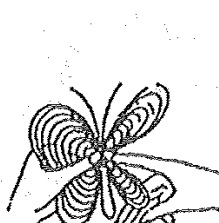
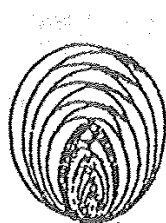
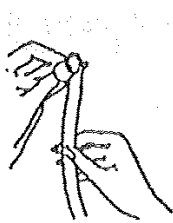


### SWIRL BOW

1. Crisscross 4 pieces of 11 inch ribbon at center and attach (figure 1).
2. Join ends of each piece of ribbon to form a ball shape (figure 2) .
3. Moisten the inside center of the crisscross. Twist top a quarter turn and press.

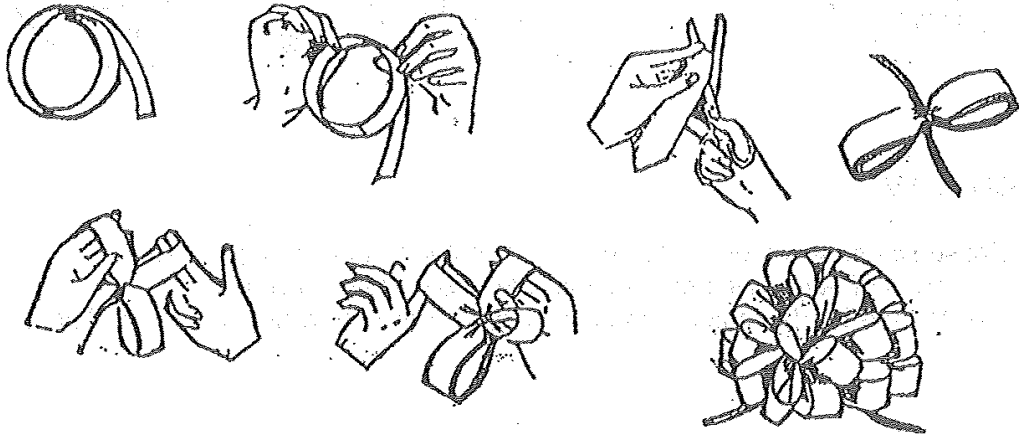
### CIRCLE BOW (self-sticking ribbon)

1. Moisten end of ribbon and form a small circle.
2. Continue going around enlarging circles and attaching at beginning point until desired size is reached.
3. Circle bows can be combined to make such things as butterflies. Use your imagination.



### POM-POM BOW

1. Make a circle using 2 times the number of inches finished bow is to measure. Tape or paste the end securely.
2. Make 6 or more layers around the circle (the larger the bow, the more layers needed). Cut and secure the cut end.
3. Flatten the circle and, using forefinger to hold layers firmly against scissors, cut wedge-shaped pieces at both sides of each fold, leaving narrow  $\frac{1}{8}$ " center.
4. Open circle. Place notched edges together and tie snugly with a narrow piece of ribbon.
5. With fingers inside the loops on one side, slip the inner loop out, pulling firmly toward you and twisting slightly. Slip the next inner loop out in the opposite direction, pulling and twisting as before.
6. Repeat until all loops are pulled free and pom-pom is full.



### CURLED BOW #1

1. Curl one or more lengths of ribbon as shown.
2. Finish the bow by gathering curled length into loops and tying at center with a separate piece of ribbon.

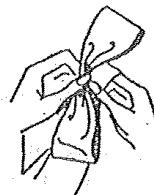
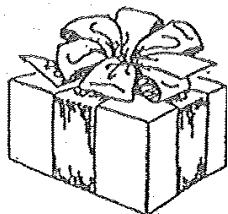


### CURLED BOW #2

1. Tie several short lengths of ribbon at the center and attach to a package.
2. Holding firmly at the center, curl each individual strand of ribbon.

## GLAMOUR BOW

1. A large glamour bow requires  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yards of 2-inch wide ribbon. Three and one half inches from one end, pinch gathers in the ribbon and hold it between the thumb and fingers of the left hand.
2. Seven inches from this point, pinch gathers again and bring up to the first gathers to form a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch loop.
3. If the ribbon has a right and wrong side, keep the right side out by turning the ribbon under the thumb and fingers as loops are made. With the right hand, continue making loops in the same way until you have twelve loops (six up and six down) and an extra end of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. Wind wire or thread around the gathers to hold them in place.
4. When making this bow, adjust the length of the loops according to the width of the ribbon. A ribbon 3 inches wide requires  $2\frac{1}{4}$  yards to make a bow of 10 loops. A ribbon  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide requires  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yards to make a bow of twenty eight loops. The narrower the ribbon, the more loops necessary to make an attractive bow.



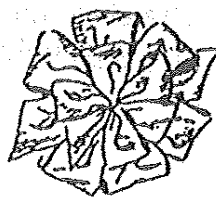
## VARIATIONS OF THE GLAMOUR BOW

### TWIN BOW

1. A glamour bow made from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch ribbon can be nested on the center of a larger one made from 2 or 3 inch ribbon.
2. Use contrasting colors or kinds of ribbon.

### CARRIAGE BOW

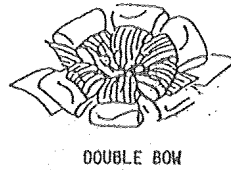
1. Use 3 inch ribbon and make a glamour bow which has only six loops and two ends.
2. Tie in center with narrow ribbon and arrange loops to form a circle. Make a second bow (using same or contrasting color) having only four loops and lay it on the top of the first bow (center on center).
3. Tie both bows together and attach to package.



CARRIAGE BOW

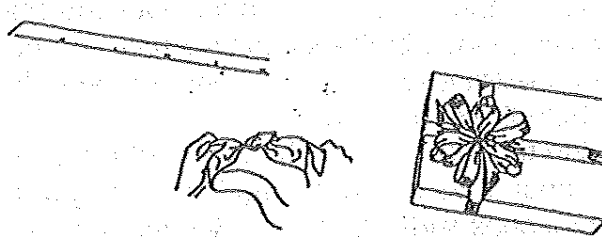
## DOUBLE BOW

Make a bow as in carriage bow, but use a different kind of ribbon for the smaller, center bow. For instance, use tinsel on satin, gold on green, silver center bow on big blue bow, a striped bow on a plain-colored larger one, etc.



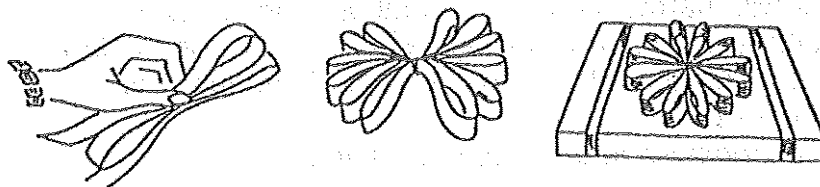
## KNOTTED BOW

1. Use ribbon 1 ½ to 2 inches wide and about 2 yards long. Make a mark every 10 inches.
2. Tie a soft, loose knot at every other mark. Pinch gathers on the mark between knots and make loops as for original glamour bow. (Knot should come at the center of the loop.)
3. This is especially attractive in gauzy tinsel ribbon or soft satin.
4. When made from baby ribbon with knots about 5 or 6 inches apart with twenty to thirty loops in all, you have a beautiful rosette.



## LOOP BOW

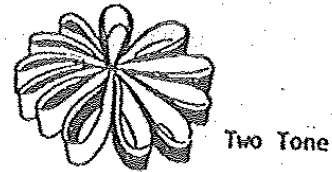
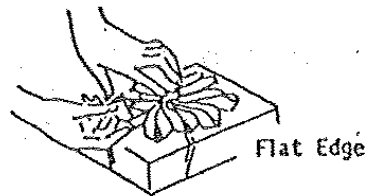
1. This bow resembles a wheel. It requires two yards of ½ inch ribbon – preferably firm or stiff. Ribbon must be alike on both sides.
2. Make a 3 or 4 inch loop about 5 or 6 inches from one end. Do not pinch together. Loop ribbon back and forth, making each loop directly under the one above, continuing until fourteen to sixteen loops have been made.
3. Wind fine wire around the center, taking care not to crush edges.
4. Lay on the package and spread loops apart at the center to form a perfect circle. Tape in place.
5. The circle effect may also be obtained by making two bows of fewer loops each and joining them back to back on the package to form the circle.



## VARIATIONS OF THE LOOP BOW

### FLAT EDGE BOW

Turn the loop inside out by pushing the bottom edge of the loop into the center, bringing up and back to original position.

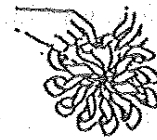


### TWO TONE BOW

If the ribbon has a right and wrong side, place two different colors of the same width ribbon with wrong sides together and make a flat edge bow.

### TWISTED EDGE

Push the loop toward the center. Push the top edge down and under so that it turns inside out, to give the twisted effect.

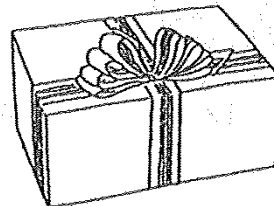
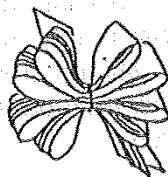
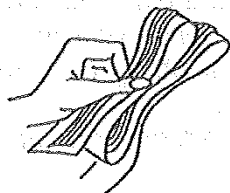


### LONG AND SHORT

1. Follow directions given for making the loop bow, but instead of winding the wire around the center, wind it nearer the top, so that the upper set of loops will be shorter.
2. The long and short version can be used as is, or the shorter loops may be bent down over the longer ones. It is especially pretty when made in two-tone colors.

## GRADUATED LOOP BOW

1. To make a graduated loop bow, start with a short loop on top and make each succeeding loop a little longer.
2. For an interesting effect, this bow may be made with narrow ribbon on top of a different color or kind of wider ribbon.



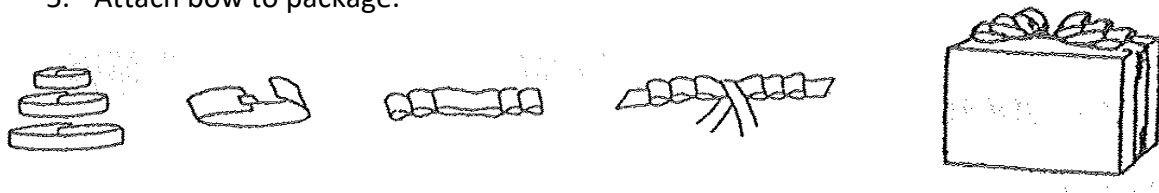
### LAYER BOW

1. For this bow, ribbon must be alike on both sides.
2. Hold ribbon by its edges and fold loops back and forth on top of one another, making each one shorter than the one beneath.
3. Tie securely, pinching the loops tightly at the center, and attach to the package.
4. One and one quarter yards of ribbon will make a nice bow which has three loops on each side.
5. For a more decorative effect, make longer loops and turn them inside out as shown.



### TAILORED BOW

1. To make a bow using different ribbon having a right or wrong side, or to make one layer from a different color ribbon, the ribbon may be cut into graduated lengths and folded as shown.
2. Turn both ends of each length under and fasten with tape or glue.
3. Lay the longest piece on the bottom and arrange the other pieces in layers.
4. Tie or tape all together and cover the center with a small piece of ribbon, keeping the seam underneath.
5. Attach bow to package.



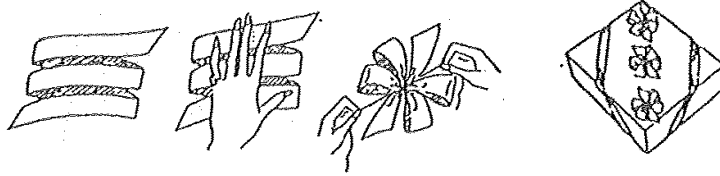
### WREATH BOW



1. This tailored bow requires 2 ½ yards of ribbon 4 or 5 inches wide. Cut the ribbon into the following lengths: 16 inches, 20 inches, and 24 inches. The 30 inch piece remaining is used for ends.
2. Fold ends of each piece to the center, overlap, and hold in place with two or three stitches.
3. Arrange loops in layers and pinch all centers together. Tie securely with narrow ribbon or wire. Tie the 30 inch piece around the center, knotting it in back, and allow ends to fall as streamers.
4. This bow may be made with only one or two loops, if preferred.

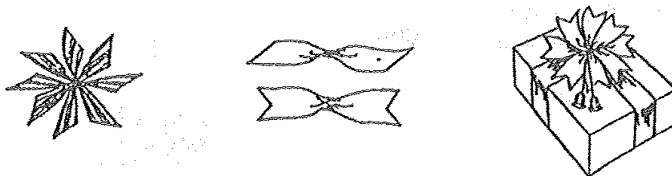
## HAIR BOW

1. Place ribbon in S or double-S shape, keeping right side up.
2. Cover with the open hand and gather ribbons together between the first and second fingers.
3. Tie in the center and attach to package.
4. Slip a bobby pin under to loop on the back of bow and it will be ready to be worn in the hair also.
5. This is a pretty bow for any feminine gift and is especially suitable for children's packages.

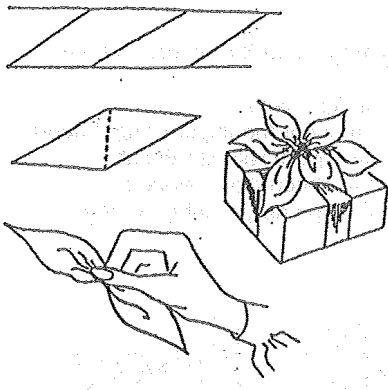


## PINWHEEL BOW

1. From 1 inch ribbon, cut four pieces, each 5 ½ inches long.
2. Wind thread around the center of each piece and tie tightly.
3. Arrange the four pieces in wheel form and tie together. Cut ends diagonally, in fishtail shape or with pinking shears.
4. Ribbon may also be cut into short lengths and grouped five to six pieces together. Ends may be fringed or notched.
5. Odds and ends of various colors and kinds of ribbon may be combined to make effective use of leftovers.



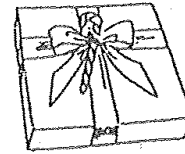
## POINSETTIA BOW



1. For a medium-sized poinsettia bow, use ribbon between 2 and 3 inches wide. Use a red satin ribbon with a very crisp finish.
2. If the ribbon is 2 inches wide, measure off with pins along the selvage at 2 inch spaces the whole length of the ribbon. If 3 inch wide ribbon is used, place the pins 2 inches apart.
3. Cut across ribbon in diagonal lines to form petals.
4. Pinch gathers along the straight grain of the ribbon as indicated by dotted lines.
5. Hold gathers in place by twisting tightly with thread. Arrange three petals to form a six-pointed flower.
6. Fill in the center with a knot of yellow baby ribbon or with a yellow flower center.

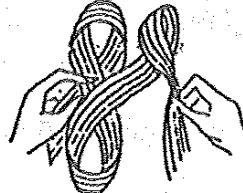
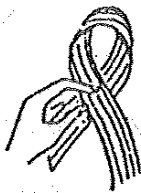
### PUSSY CAT BOW

1. To make this bow, cross ends over as shown.
2. Wind the center with thread or wire.
3. If desired, center may be covered with narrow baby ribbon, or an object may be added to make the package more attractive or to give the receiver of the gift a clue as to the contents of the package.



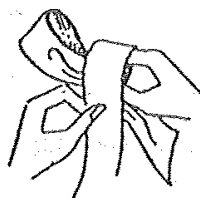
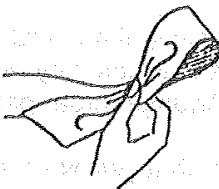
### FIGURE-8 BOW

1. Work ribbon back and forth in loops in the form of a figure-8. Firm ribbon works best. It may be easier to make the bow in reverse position.
2. Turn the bow upside down and make the figure-8 small to start with, making each one successively larger.



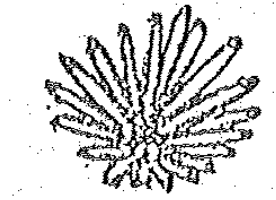
### PIN ON BOW

1. Use 24 inches of ribbon and make a loop 3 inches long about 3 or 4 inches from one end.
2. Pinch gathers and hold between thumb and finger on right hand.
3. Pick up longer end near this point and bring it around under the finger of right hand and up over fingernail; then down under the center and push with left thumb through space between right hand fingernail and the ribbon that covers it.
4. Catch the loop thus formed with the right thumb and finger as you let go of the first loop.
5. Pull both loops to tighten knot.



### **NARROW RIBBON GLAMOUR BOW**

This bow is made in the same manner as the original Glamour Bow, but the ribbon selected should be less than 1 inch wide, and loops should be short and numerous (20-30). In this particular instance, be sure to wind center tightly with wire so loops will stand upright.



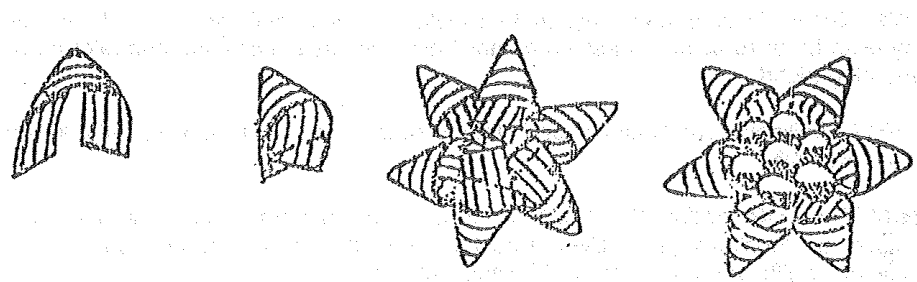
### **RUFFLE BOW**

Ruffle one edge of a 27 inch length of ribbon 2 or 3 inches wide and shape ruffle into a rose. This can be used instead of a bow.



### **STAR TRIM**

Use 1 ½ inch wide ribbon. Cut 4 inch pieces and fold in funnel shape by lapping ends to form petals. Arrange petals to form a star and stitch ends together. This is novel on packages and also make a pretty place card at a party table. It may be filled with candy or ornaments.



## HOW AND WHERE TO PLACE BOWS ON THE PACKAGE

Always place the bow on the package with an eye for balance and proportion. On square or round packages, the bow will look best if centered, while on other shapes it will look best if placed off center.

Bows may be tied, wired, pinned, taped, or pasted to the package. The bow may be tied directly over a knot or by sliding the ends of wire or thread, with which the loops have been wound, under the ribbon on the package and twisting or tying.

You can pin wide ribbon bows to the package by pushing pins slant-wise at different angles through underneath loops near the center.

Tape by slipping small pieces of tape through a few of the bottom loops near the center of the bow. Use narrow strips of tape and allow the ends to extend far enough to hold the bow securely to the box.

Flat bows may be pasted on by applying paste to the box and applying slight pressure to the bow until set.

## ADD DECORATIVE TRIMMINGS

**Many beautiful and unusual packages may be created by combining bows with other trimmings and by the use of novel arrangements.**

**TOYS** – Small plastic or metal toys make excellent trims for children's gifts. Some toys may even be used as miniatures on an adult gift, such as a small hoe and rake for a gardening friend.

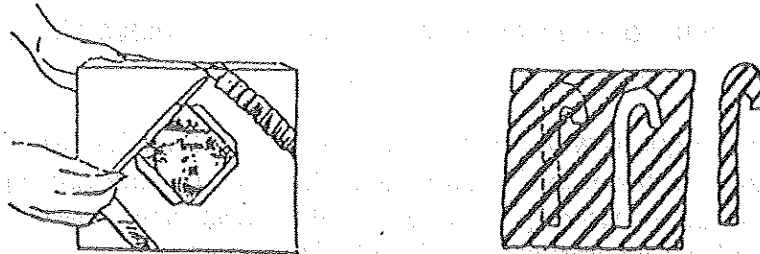
**CANDY** – Lollipops, candy canes, and other wrapped candies are a delightful addition on a child's gift.

**WINTER HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**– Small winter holiday decorations make festive additions to holiday gifts. Silver or gold colored bells may be used on special anniversary gifts and are pretty on winter holiday gifts also.

**STICKERS** – Stars, hearts and any other appropriate stickers may be attached to packages as decorations or may be used as seals.

**GLITTER OR SNOW** – Outline a simple design with glue and sprinkle it with glitter or let it “snow” on an evergreen tree in the same manner.

**CUTOUTS** – There are many ways to use pictures cut from magazines or old greeting cards. One suggestion is to cut a slit in the wrapping paper like a “plus” sign. Insert the picture under the paper and secure with glue or rubber cement. Roll back the points of paper on a pencil to make an attractive frame for the picture.

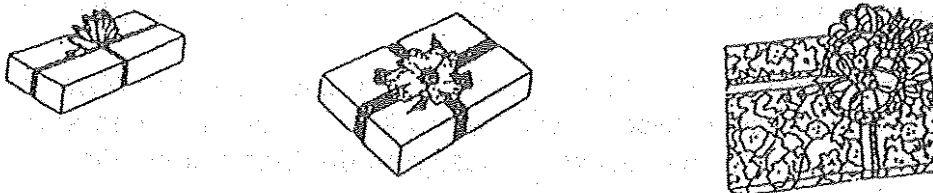


**CANDY CANE** – Lay stripes of red tape diagonally across a piece of white cardboard. Draw a candy cane on another piece of paper to use as a pattern. Using the candy cane pattern as a guide, trace the outline of the cane and cut it out carefully.

**FLOWERS** – Silk or dried flowers made a package look dainty and feminine. Flowers can often be salvaged from an old hat, corsage, or table arrangement. Swish flowers in soapy water to remove dust. Many times a good steaming will refresh them.

**GREENERY AND PINE CONES** – Evergreen, holly, mistletoe, or any other type of greenery make nice additions to winter holiday gifts. Be sure to use fresh material in good condition. Pine cones need not be fresh, but should be clean and in good condition. Pine cones may be cut horizontally through the center to make small “flowers.” These are especially attractive when coated with a clear finish or painted.

**PAPER LACE DOILIES** – These inexpensive decorations can be used in many ways. A doily, cut in half, may be pleated to make a fan and may be used in place of a bow. A doily makes a pretty ruffle for the background of such things as a sachet bag or flowers. Small doilies, cut in half, may be arranged in a scalloped pattern or in any number of creative ways on the gift.



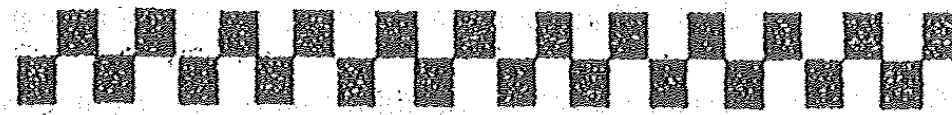
## MAKING YOUR OWN WRAPPING PAPER

*Give your gifts a personal touch with gift paper YOU have created. With only a small expenditure of time, energy and money, you can print reams of your own unique gift wrap paper. Use shelf paper, brown wrapping paper, paper toweling, etc. to print your own designs using one of the methods described in this manual, or use any other idea you come up with.*

### ROLLER PAINTING

Rollers may be used to decorate shelf paper. To achieve startling effects, follow these directions:

1. Allow an adequate work area. A 3 to 6 foot table or sawhorse with boards is ideal. Lay papers on the floor for protection against spatters and spills.
2. Pour a variety of water based paints into bowls or saucers.
3. Unroll shelf paper and cut into 3 to 6 foot lengths.
4. One roller is all you need to create bold stripes. Alternate the widths of the stripes by using the edge of the roller to make a very narrow stripe, or create a checkerboard motif by rolling a roller for a few inches and then lifting it from the paper. The color block will be uneven, but will give the paper a unique look.



### STRING PULLING

Instructions for this ancient method of decorating paper are as follows:

1. Use shelf paper or ordinary brown wrapping paper, cut into one or two yard lengths. (Shorter lengths are easier to work with.)
2. Assemble ordinary postal string, or heavier twine if thicker outlines are desired. Cut string no more than an arm's length.
3. Dip the string in poster paint, squeeze out the excess, and lay in swirls and loops on the paper. Leave part of the string hanging over the paper.
4. Fold a square of newspaper over the coiled string and hold it in place, exerting a gentle pressure.
5. With the other hand, quickly pull the string, which extends from between the newspaper and the shelf paper, toward you with one continuous motion.
6. Remove the newspaper and allow the design to dry thoroughly. Do not use more than two colors.

## **FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND UTENSIL PRINT PAPER**

Fruit, vegetable and utensil print paper can feature a wild collection of items that may be found in most supermarkets any time of the year. To make these papers, use some new variations of the well-known potato printing technique.

1. For potato printing, cut the vegetable in half and make a few notches with a paring knife. If the potato is not particularly shapely, trim the edges into any desired outline.
2. Dip the potato in paint and press it to the paper.
3. For a striking effect, alternate rows of vegetable print with bands made from a roller.
4. After mastering the potato print, graduate to other fruits and vegetables. Try a cabbage cut in wedges or make wagon wheels from lemon slices. Use half an apple to make the print, and add seeds and stem with paint or marking pen. Also try designs made with kitchen utensils such as wire whisks, cookie cutters, or gelatin molds.

## **KITCHEN PAPER TOWELING AND LIQUID DYE**

Kitchen paper toweling and liquid dye make simple but sensational shadow designs. The end result will resemble an expensive batik or tie-dye paper. And best of all, you can turn out yards of superb-looking paper in a few hours.

### **TO MAKE A LARGE AMOUNT OF WRAPPING PAPER:**

1. Re-roll about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a regular size roll of plain-colored paper toweling on the cardboard core from the inside of the roll. Do not roll too tightly.
2. Fill a small basin with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dye and same amount of water. Repeat the process with another color.
3. Immerse one end in one color, allowing it to remain in solution for about 1 minute. For lighter shades, double the amount of water.
4. Wearing plastic gloves, remove the toweling from the dye and squeeze out all excess water.
5. Repeat the process with another color at the other end of the toweling.
6. Unroll paper carefully and loop it over a clothesline for drying.

### **FOR SHORTER LENGTHS OF DIP-DYED PAPER:**

1. Fold six or eight squares of paper toweling into a very compact square.
2. To produce a feathery effect, immerse each corner in a different color of dye for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute.
3. Or fold paper toweling into triangles and dip the corners of the triangles.

## STENCILING

Purchase or make a stencil pattern and create imaginative designs for a personalized gift.

1. Using stencil paint and brush, paint over stencil on plain paper.
2. If stenciling in more than one color, allow paint to dry before changing colors.

## STAMPING



Stamping is another technique that may be used to create unique wrapping paper for that special gift. Use purchased stamps or make your own.

### MATERIALS NEEDED TO MAKE YOUR OWN STAMPS

- Brown wrapping paper
- Colored ink stamp pads or small bowls of poster paint
- Scraps of wood
- Sharp scissors
- White glue
- 1/8 inch thick latex foam (such as Dr. Scholl's Adhesive Foam, available at most drug stores).
- Pencil erasers for printing dots
- Mat knife
- Ruler

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut foam pieces into shapes (boys, girls, tree, hearts, houses, etc.) and glue them to small blocks of wood to make stamps. Make sure that edges of each figure are cut cleanly. Use mat knife to trim small areas, if necessary. For easier handling, blocks should be slightly larger than figure to be stamped.
2. For a repeated design, use a ruler to draw a lightly penciled guideline on brown paper. Press a stamp firmly and evenly on the stamp pad or bowl of paint, and print a row of figures along the penciled line, re-inking the stamp as necessary. Draw more lines and print other figures along the row, alternating patterns, if desired. Print larger figures first, then fill in with pencil-eraser dots and with other small shapes. Work from top of sheet down to avoid smudging preceding rows. A marking pen may be used to draw extra lines, if desired.
3. Stamping may also be done in a random manner on the paper.

## SPATTER AND SPRAY PAINTING

Do you wonder what to do with paint left over from previous projects? Use it to turn plain paper into a delightful wrapping for a special gift.

1. Lay paper lace doilies on the paper and spray paint over them to produce a delicate design, or try painting over leaves for another effect.
2. There are several ways to spatter paint. Try placing screen wire over plain paper and running a toothbrush dipped in paint over the surface. Painting over a comb also gives interesting results. Spatter painting may be messy, so be sure your work surface is protected.

## OTHER IDEAS

If you are the kind of person who really likes to get your hands into a project, making gift wrapping paper provides you with an excellent opportunity. Here are a few fun ideas for your consideration:

1. Dip the palm of your hand in poster paint and make handprints all over shelf paper or brown wrapping paper.
2. When you have mastered this, try making bear tracks across the paper: dip just the palm of your hand in the poster paint and make the palm print on the paper. Then dip your fingers in the paint and print them just above the palm print.
3. Try making footprints on snow-white shelf paper. This design is created by a clenched fist print, four fingers, and a thumbprint. Splash them at random over the paper or arrange them so they appear to march over or around the gift box.

**These designs should give you a few clues of your own. Put them into action by working on your own personalized gift wrapping paper. With a little practice, the work will seem like play!**



### 4-H Gift Wrapping Record Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Year 20\_\_\_\_

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_ Year in Club Work \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Date Project Started \_\_\_\_\_ Date Project Completed \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed this record and believe it to be correct:

Signature of Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the theme you used for your gift wrapping exhibit this year?

---

---

---

---

2. Where did you get your idea for how to wrap your box?

---

---

---

---

3. Where did you get your supplies?

---

---

---

---

4. How much money did you spend on your project?

---

---

---

5. How much time did it take you to complete your gift wrapping project?

---

---

---

6. What was one new skill you learned about wrapping packages this year?

---

---

---

7. List other gifts you wrapped this year.

---

---

---

8. The thing I like most about taking 4-H gift wrapping is .....

---

---

---

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H member's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H Leader's signature