



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS- AN ARTISTS' CHRISTMAS AUTHOR: KALA RITCHIE

QUICK IDEAS AND TIPS FOR DIY CHRISTMAS GIFTER

As an artist I find myself looking at all the gifts on sale, what is being bought and I can't stop myself from saying "Hey. I can totally make that!" I'm sure many other artists have also said this- perhaps all of them because we are so creative, we can make anything we put our mind to! However, I have figured out that even though hand-made gifts are loved and cherished, there are some tricks and tips that might want to be considered when gathering supplies and coming up with a final product that is bound to please any relative, friend or co-worker this year.

Gather all your options, and maximize your creative side

This involves a little research, some list making and of course some serious observation. One great example for me would be the scarves I now make (left). It started out as an obsession; I loved these infinity scarves so much I wanted them to be more personalised. After a trip to the fabric store, looking how some were made and reuniting with my sewing machine I produced some lovely hand-made scarves that not only I love, friends and family love to! And at only 5-15\$ each I can give them a thoughtful and lovely gift.



Personalize and Refine

What I love about hand-made gifts is how inexpensive they can be for something so thoughtful. A lot of work goes into my hand-made gifts, so the small price I pay is made up through the man hours I pour into them. I love the rustic, cottage chic looks I can get from these gifts, which is another reason why I make them. It's important to love what you're making, if you love what you make people will love it too- and it might just soar off your table at trade booths too!

Be Creative

You can get many ideas for your gifts by looking in magazines, on websites and other DIY blogs. These have helped me a bunch because when I have a creative block I look at what others are doing, get inspired and my imagination soars! A great site for inspiration is Etsy, not only can you purchase hand-made goods but also share ideas on how to make things, attend meetings online and offline and watch tutorials. I have joined many groups on Etsy, asking questions aren't cheating, it's broadening your skills as an artist and an artisan!

I hope with these tips and hints, you can turn your Christmas gifts into a crafty fun holiday that everyone will love!

Some great DIY Christmas Gift Ideas:

- Ceramic Mugs with Personalised Painting
- Scarves (Cloth or Knitted)
- Mittens (for the knitters!)
- Paintings
- Graphic Drawings
- Personalised Holiday Cards
- Photographs
- Headbands
- Jewelry like Necklaces, Rings and Earrings
- Rustic, Lace Ornaments with Pearls