

The ABC's Of Christmas Gift Giving



By The Members Of The Hillbilly Housewife Club – www.HillbillyHousewifeClub.com

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Introduction

It's getting close to Christmas and I know you're already looking for Christmas Gifts. Over the past few weeks, we've been talking a lot about homemade and frugal gift ideas in the HBHW Club. To really get our creative juices flowing, one of our members started a post in the forum called the ABCs of Christmas Gift Giving.

This report is a compilation of the best ideas from that forum posts. Just about every member of the HBHW Club contributed and we all had a great time sharing these gift ideas.

I hope you will enjoy these ideas as much as we have and I would also love to see you in the club. Join us today at www.HillbillyHousewifeClub.com

Let's dive right in and of course you are welcome to email me at susanne@hillbillyhousewife.com with any questions or comments.

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Afghan: Dig out some of that old yarn you have stashed away and make just a small lap afghan. It doesn't have to be a large fancy design, something simple for a little bit of warmth and that great feeling that this gift came from your heart and not your pocket.

Antique: Browse an antique store and you're bound to come up with some unusual items that would make a perfect gift for someone special. Old handkerchiefs are usually interesting and inexpensive, as well as other linens. Books and kitchen ware can be interesting, too.

Appreciation Album: Good idea for kids to give their teachers. These wonderful people have dedicated their lives to help teach our children. Showing your appreciation in the form of a letter with pictures from you and your child may be more meaningful than just another little whatchamacallit that they add to their growing pile of collections.

Album: Take some of those photos that have been hanging around and glue them on to some construction paper. This can be a simple project for kids. Take cereal boxes and cut them to make a top cover and bottom cover and cover with construction paper or Contac paper, etc.



Baking Lessons: Share your knowledge with a baking lesson or two for your favorite newlywed or other special person. If you know how to make real homemade bread, that's a very valuable talent that would be happily received by lots of folks!

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/category/recipes/bread/breads>

Babysitting: Give someone a couple of nights of babysitting with some babysitting coupons.

Baskets: Fill thrift store baskets with great little finds. Kitchen gagets, bathroom products, candies, nuts, breads, or cookies.

Beads: Make a necklace out of beads for your favorite person.

Baked Goods: For friends, family, neighbors, who don't have time to bake but have company during the holidays, a nice loaf of pumpkin muffins or plate of cookies is really a nice treat.

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/pumpkinmuffins.htm>

Birdhouse or Bird Feeder: A simple birdhouse or feeder can brighten up the view outside for just about everyone. If you know someone who doesn't get out of the house much anymore, the sight of pretty birds in the feeder

may be just what they need. <http://www.showkidsthefun.com/activity/how-to-make-a-bird-feeder.html>



Cooking Lessons: A great gift, especially for someone new to cooking, new bride, or a young person living on their own for the first time.

Cards: Make up a stack of personalized cards with envelopes.

Crochet: Make a small lap blanket, crochet pot holders, or even pretty crochet ornaments. <http://www.craftbits.com/crochet-patterns>



Dish Towels or Dish Cloths: Who doesn't need some fresh, new dish towels? You can find inexpensive ones at the dollar stores. Embellish them if you like for a personal touch for someone who will appreciate seeing some nice towels in their kitchen for a change!

Dips: Look for recipes that give you the dry ingredients and put them in a pretty dish and seal, add the recipe for the moist ingredients on a recipe card and attach.

Dog Walking: Offer to walk someone's dog either for a special occasion or on a regular basis.



Email: Save money on stamps, send everyone on your Holiday card list an email instead. A personal note is always welcomed.

I like to send email greeting cards like this one from www.AmericanGreetings.com



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Embroidery: You don't have to embroidery anything elaborate, just something simple on a pillow case, towels, or a pair of nice jeans that you picked up at the local thrift store.



Freezer Meals: A busy mom always appreciates a homemade meal that she didn't have to make! Also, consider making smaller portions and freezing individual meals for someone who is elderly.

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/ebooks/freezercooking.htm>

Fudge: Everyone loves fudge.

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/creamcheesefudge.htm>

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/oldfashionedfudge.htm>

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/pbfudge.htm>

Family Tree: Make a family tree for that special family member that is interested in the history of your the family.

<http://www.legacyproject.org/grandparentsday/familyfunpack/familytree.html>



Game Binder: Buy inexpensive 3-ring binders. Print out, copy, and gather instructions for various old-time games, printed mazes, puzzles, paper dolls, etc. You can print find these games, etc. on various internet web sites that are all free. Be sure to consider the cost of the color print cartridges. You'll probably want to include plastic sleeves to go in your binder to store smaller game items, like the cut out paper dolls for instance.

http://www.thekidzpage.com/colouring_menus/activities/index.htm

<http://www.ss42.com/paperdolls.html>

Garden: Fill a clay pot with an assortment of seeds, some little garden tools, garden gloves, and a small bag of potting soil for a special gardener in your life.

Gourd Bird Feeders: There are several ways to create these pretty little birdhouses. Do a bit of research and share this project with a child.

<http://www.amishgourds.com/site/1278922/page/448763>

Gift of Time: Spend some special time with an elderly person in your family or circle. Let them know you will take them shopping, doctors appointments or just to the park to enjoy some time outside together.

Groceries: Put together baskets or boxes full of food stuff that folks wouldn't normally buy because of the cost. Items such as chocolate syrup, cookie and cake mixes, olives, etc.

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Garage Cleaning: Help that special someone to clean out there garage. It is always easier to get a large task like this done with a friend and some good music.



Honey: You can infuse honey with different flavors and put into pretty containers. I saw these at the apple orchard store. How about cinnamon clove honey, vanilla honey, lemon honey, or orange honey.

Heirloom: Do you have a family heirloom that you wish to pass down to the next generation? Why not make this year a special memory for someone in your family by giving them an heirloom.

Hats: You can usually find inexpensive hats in a variety of styles at dollar stores or even gas stations. Whether you choose hats that are funny or hats that are classy, lots of folks will enjoy your thoughtful gift.

Hair Accessories: Little girls on your gift list will love any kind of hair accessories. Remember scrunchies? You can make them quick and easy so your special girl will have her own one-of-a-kind. <http://cally-cruze.blogspot.com/2009/08/scrunchie-tutorial.html>

Haystacks: Who doesn't love chocolate? Just melt some chocolate chips and mix in some crunched up pretzels. Yum!

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Hot Chocolate: Make up a batch of hot chocolate mix and put in a pretty container that you find at your local thrift shop.

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/creamyhotcocoamix.htm>

Hot Pads: Easy to sew. Take a piece of material and some thick quilt batting. Sprinkle a bit of your favorite dried spice in the middle and sew up. The scent will be enhanced when you set a hot plate on them.

History: Write up a history of yourself and your family, for that special someone who is into the history of your family.



Invent New Traditions: Go caroling, have a cookie exchange, have a spa day, pull out the old photo albums and reminisce. Anything that you enjoy can become a tradition.

Ice Candles- Use up some of those bits of crayon, or candles along with some recycled containers and make ice candles to line your driveway with. It is a simple, inexpensive project that everyone will enjoy.



Jam & Jellies: If you make jam, this is great. But, you can also find inexpensive jams and jellies at many farmers markets or country stores.

Jar of Dry Mixes: Put in a decorative jar with the recipe attached with a pretty ribbon around it and you have a gift.

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/beansandricemix.htm>

Jokes: Ask everyone to share a funny story or a joke that the whole family can enjoy, and write it down or record it. Then, year after year, add to your Joke Book. This is a great way to reminisce and spend not only time with your loved ones but a few chuckles, as well.



Knitting: If you know how to knit, you might make some simple items to give. If you don't know how to knit, there are many resources available to learn. Teach a youngster to knit and this gift becomes doubly valuable.

Kites: For some of us that live in the southern areas of the country you can get the kids or make the kids a kite and spend the afternoon at the park helping them to fly their kits.

Koozies: You can pick up plain koozies at the craft stores and decorate them to suit a person's personality. <http://www.blankkoozies.com/>



Lessons: Give the gift of a lesson to someone that would like to learn a craft, hobby or skill that you possess.

Lawn Care Certificates: This will be greatly appreciated when spring rolls around!

Lunch: Give the gift of fixing lunch or taking a loved one out for lunch and an afternoon together.



Mom's Day Off: Do you know a busy Mom? Give her the day off. Volunteer to do what needs to be done for an afternoon, evening, or a whole day.



Note Cards: A box of note cards or stationary is a thoughtful gift that let's someone special know you want to keep in touch. Add a book of stamps if you can afford to.



Ornaments: Homemade ornaments are always a special touch. Personalize them to make them unique and even more special.

<http://www.showkidsthefun.com/activity-theme/christmas.php>

Oreo Candy: Dip Oreo cookies in melted chocolate and make up a box of them for a co-worker or school teacher.

Organizing: Print up an "organizing gift certificate" for a busy mother or other who you know would appreciate some help with their cupboards, closets or basement.

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Photographs: Offer to be the photographer at an event that someone is having. It can be something as simple as a special birthday party.

Plants: Take some cuttings from your plants and re-pot them in a pretty pot.

Pet-Sitting: If someone on your gift list has a pet and is away from home for any period of time, a pet-sitting gift certificate for the holidays, or any time, would surely be appreciated.

Picnic Basket: Make up a romantic picnic basket for a couple on your gift list, or even your own someone special to share with you.

Painting: This can be something artistic if you can paint or it can be an offer to paint a room for someone who has been trying to get a painting project done.

Plays or Musicals: Check out the local theater, even the high school drama club, and take advantage of what they have to offer.

Purses: Take a pair of old jeans or some scrap material and make up a purse. <http://www.craftbits.com/project/blue-jeans-denim-bootie-bag-purse>

Pillow: Make a big floor pillow or a small travel pillow for your favorite person. Here is a link for a meditation pillow.
http://blog.craftzine.com/archive/2009/07/meditation_pillow.html

Paper Dolls: Make your favorite little girl some paper dolls and spend an afternoon playing with her.

<http://www.thebleudoor.com/1954decemberbetsymccall.htm>

<http://www.ss42.com/paperdolls.html>

Pincushion: Make a cute pincushion for your favorite sewer or crafter.

<http://www.craftbits.com/project/retro-cup-pin-cushion>



Quilts: Whether homemade or purchased inexpensively, quilts are always a lovely gift. Kids quilts are small so they are quick and easy to make.



Repairs: If you're handy, offer to do repairs for someone. This can be as simple as changing light bulbs for someone who can't reach the ceiling fixtures easily to as complicated as repairing a ripped screen door.

Running Errands: This is especially welcome by elderly folks and busy parents. You can even make this a weekly gift for someone really special, like a trip to the grocery store perhaps.

Re-Gift: This is also known as shopping your closet first. Did you get too many bottles of wine or candles for gifts? Just be careful not to give it back to the person that gave it to you.

Refinish: Have you seen a table at a garage sale or thrift store that would be useful to someone that you know? If you're handy, take it home refinish with some sanding and new paint and give it to that special someone.



Scan Your Pictures: Gather up all the old family pics and put them on a CD. When you gather for the holidays play your CD for everyone to share in the memories then send them home with their own copy.

Sewing: You can make a variety of homemade items for the folks on your gift list. Check out the library for all sorts of patterns.

<http://www.craftbits.com/sewing-crafts>

Socks: Pick up a package of cheap socks at the local discount store and add your own personal touch to them. Embroidery a flower, sew on a cute little patch that you can pick up in any sewing section. Paint with fabric paint a cute design or add a bow with some ribbon or lace.



Train ride: All over the country there are different types of train rides available often very inexpensively. Search the web or visit your local chamber of commerce to find a train ride near you.

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Time: They always say the "gift of time" is the most valuable gift you can give. Spend some time with someone who may be lonely, a shut-in that you know, or an elderly person in a nursing home. Quiet time together may be just what someone needs from you.

Thank You Notes: Write a thank you note to your kids' teachers, the mailman, the lawn care guy, the babysitter, or anyone else who helps you make it through your day. Add a small gift card to a local coffee shop if you want or attach the note to a little box of cookies.

Tea: Put an assortment of your favorite tea in a pretty tea cup or other container for someone that you know could use a little bit of comfort.

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/spicedtea.htm>

<http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/gingerteamix.htm>



University Exhibits: Check out your local university or college and see if they have an art gallery or planetarium that you can take someone special to see.



Vouchers: Write or print up some clever little vouchers for all sorts of things.



Washcloths: We all know how we let our washcloths get way beyond repair and still we won't throw them away! Purchase inexpensive plain washcloths at the local dollar store and embroider or sew a simple embellishment on the corners for someone special.



Xerox: Copy your children's artwork you have on the refrigerator right now and frame it. This is a great gift for grandparents. Take larger artwork and

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shrink it down on the copier, and group these smaller copies in one frame. Sometimes our grandparents have downsized and don't have as much room to display big drawings, but a smaller grouping might be just right.

Xtra cash: Make a piggy bank out of old containers and start your kids or grandkids on the right track to saving money. Show them how every day whatever change they have laying around goes in the piggy bank. Start by cleaning out your own pocket or purse of loose change and drop it in there!

Xtra time: What can you do with your extra time? Something as simple as taking the kids out to see the holiday lights can make memories for a lifetime.



Yarn Art: This is a great gift for a younger child to make with a parent or grandparent. Take a piece of wood, sand it smooth, and either paint it or stain it. Hammer some small nails into the wood just far enough to hold. Do this in a random pattern. Have the child tie pieces of yarn to a nail and then string the yarn around from nail to nail to make an interesting pattern.

Yard Decor: Create interesting yard or garden decorations out of old silverware, china, or anything of interest.



Zucchini: Were you blessed this year with a bumper crop of zucchini? Bake up some bread and stick it in the freezer. Then, wrap up a couple loafs and gift your friends and neighbors with the bounty from your garden.

Zoo Membership: Purchase a annual zoo membership for someone special. They will enjoy it all year long. The cost is usually pretty minimal.

Zest: This is the gift you give every day by encouraging others to find creative ways to enjoy each other without spending a lot of money. Try having a homemade pizza night for your family and friends instead of going out to get pizza. Rent a movie, pop some popcorn and spend time together to make memories without the expense of a big event. Share your talents with others by having a cookie baking session, a sewing session, a gardening session, or whatever it is that you enjoy doing. Spread your "zest" around so others will pick up the idea and run with it.

Here Are Just A Few Of The Exclusive Resources that You'll Find Inside The Club

✓ **A Step-by-Step Action Plan on a Money Saving Or Homemaking Topics.** - April's Report is all about Getting Out Of Debt For Good. This will be delivered in a meaty pdf report that you can download, print, scribble all over, throw in your purse, and read on the go - or study it while you're snuggled up in front of the fire with your cat.

✓ Tried and true frugal recipes from me and other club members. If you like what you've seen on my main website -- you're going to LOVE this!

✓ **Be inspired by women with the same goals and value that you hold dear.**

✓ Additional strategies to simplify your busy day, cook delicious meals and frugal tips you may not have heard about. This will grow into a HUGE resource as I will be adding articles each and every month.

✓ **Help to stay positive and motivated throughout your busy day.**

✓ Plus I'll have a few extra surprise bonuses for you down the road. (Audios, videos, interviews, guest experts... just you watch!)

And to make the Club even better, I decided at the last minute to include just one more bonus for you ...

As an extra bonus, I set up **forums** in the Hillbilly Housewife Club Members' Area. **The forums are what truly make this an exceptional community.**

And, you can get it all and much much more at
www.HillbillyHousewifeClub.com