



WHY GIFTS? WHAT IS A GIFT?



gift, n. present, donation, favor, bounty; contribution, gratuity, tip; largess; talent, aptitude, ability.

During the year, of course, we all experience acknowledging the normal birthdays, weddings, births, etc. In gift-giving, I strive to personalize gifts with a name and/or greeting on ribbon (message is computerized on my sewing machine), as well as having the gift ribbon bear the name of the giver. Often incorporated into the gift wrapping are either paper tole (dimensionalized wrapping), music boxes with a tune specifically selected to enhance the mood of the paper selected, fragrance (either through sprayed fragrance or pot-pourri), and miniature lights (with batteries hidden either in the package itself or in the wrapping somehow), etc.

Frequently so much thought has gone into the wrapping of the gift that the recipient chooses to rewrap the package and continue to enjoy it, possibly under a tree during the holiday season. Of course, the intent is not to make the gift “unwrappable,” but rather to give a “gift of sensitivity, labor, and love” in the execution of how aesthetically and sensitively the gift is wrapped (presented). I comb over paper selections carefully, seeking to discover a paper which might in some way “speak to” an intended recipient. If I’ve been focused, attentive, and successful in my selection, reactions range from silence to moist eyes. Since the act of giving is pure only if unconditional, recipient reaction and response are intimately personal. Some have framed their gift wrappings. My motive has always been to reach beyond the normal gift...not necessarily the contents, but the total offering of contents, presentation, and sensitivity.

GENERAL:

Closures are always pleated. Avoid “raw” edges on paper. Use box pleat closure with pleat appropriate size to accommodate smaller selected ribbon width. You will have to calculate for the pleated measurement before your final cut of the gift-wrap paper size.

Ideally, tape should never show. Always use doublebacked tape for closures. On surfaces where tab closures would impede continuous line (an example would be where I would want an uninterrupted line on a flat surface), I would “pull” the paper sides downward to the bottom of the package so that no paper closures would be evident.

Music boxes, obtained at local craft outlets, are most often placed under ribbon bows.

Some musical examples:

Spiritual:	“Silent Night” and other carols; “Jesus Loves Me”
Winter scene:	“White Christmas”