

Christmas gifts you make yourself

A couple of Christmas's ago, my lovely girlfriend sat down and pooled her creative resources. She came up with one of my favorite gifts to date. I'm not sure whether she invented it or just happened to find it in some

Craig Anton

crazy arts and crafts magazine, but it doesn't matter, it's a great practical gift and I'm sure it would look wonderful in your home.

The gift is a bulletin cork-board, or a cork-bulletin board. Make that

a bulletin board with cork on it. Don't get me wrong though, this is no ordinary cork board. Oh no, this board has style.

Here's how you make one: Measure a square piece of quarter-inch plywood, preferably 2' by 3', or whatever dimension you want. Buy or borrow a bottle of Elmers Carpenter Glue, but don't eat any. Now comes the fun part. Collect a few hundred wine corks, you know, the corks that come out of bottles. Just go to a local Lincoln or surrounding city restaurant and ask them to save all the corks that come out of the wine bottles. Make sure they serve

wine with corked bottles, twist off caps just won't do.

The rest is quite self-explanatory. Arrange the corks in your own fashion. Maybe use Christmas as a theme. Arrange the corks in the shape of a Christmas tree or a Menorah or maybe a big piece of coal. After you've found your desired shape; making sure that the corks fill up most of the plywood, permanently affix the corks to the plywood with the carpenter glue. Keep in mind here that an adult should be present and that your work space should be properly ventilated and supplied with a cool glass of lemo-

nade or iced tea. Remember, narcotics and Elmer's glue don't mix!

Now find some grommets to put on the back of the plywood, hang it up and you've got yourself a crafty little cork board. And look at all the money you've saved.

Here's another gift to make for your friends or for yourself. Spend a day thrift shopping in the local starvation armies. Find an old wooden shutter that usually borders the outside of a home window. Sand or paint the shutter to your own specifications. Now type, print or write your most commonly-made phone numbers down on strips of paper

that will lay onto each individual shutter blade. After you've filled one side, flip the blades over and put more numbers on the other side.

Now comes the grommet part again, just put one or two on the back side allowing plenty of space for the blades to flip up or down. Now hang it on a wall near the phone, or right beside your new cork board.

Isn't gift-making fun and easy? Now go into any department store and look for these gifts. They won't be there. If they are you can sure that the price tag reads \$49.99, plus tax.




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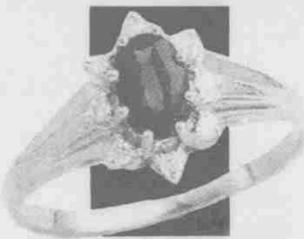
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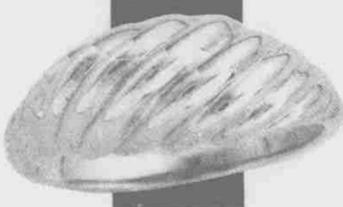
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