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Shadow boxes

Minhee Cho, owner of stationery store Paper+Cup, New York City

To follow Cho's shining example: Wrap gifts in tissue paper, paste holiday-themed silhouettes on top (she found these in a clip-art book), and cover the boxes in a glossy layer of cellophane. Adding TO and FROM speech bubbles next to the reindeers eliminates the need for a gift tag.

A splash of color

Adrienne Wong, printmaker and graphic designer, New York City

Got a box of crayons? Then you can replicate Wong's abstract print. The designer channeled her inner grade-schooler by sandwiching colorful wax shavings between layers of tissue paper (three on the top and three on the bottom) and ironing them until the wax melted. After wrapping, Wong adorned the gift with an asymmetrically placed satin ribbon and a cluster of tissue dahlias.



Music to the eyes

Karen Bartolomei, owner of Grapevine invitations and author of Paperie for Inspired Living, New York City

"This 'Jingle Bells' sheet music cost \$15 at an antiques store, but it yielded an endless supply of wrapping paper," says Bartolomei, who enlarged the music on a copier, then printed it onto thick paper. A satin bow and jumble of—what else?—jingle bells provide the finishing touches.

Mix tape

Joy D. Cho, graphic designer, San Diego

Kraft paper gets a kick from brightly hued masking tape, which Cho layered in alternating horizontal and vertical strips. The crowning glory: paper straws that the designer frayed at the ends, then tied together with bakery twine to resemble a snowflake.

