



Holiday Planning for Homemade Gifts Guide

Use this quick-print guide to brainstorm handmade gift ideas and do some scheduling for getting it all done. Remember, this exercise is meant to dispel stress, not create it! Don't worry if you go off your schedule or take awhile to decide what kind of gifts you'd like to make. This is your holiday season, so do it your way.

#1 - Make a List of Recipients

If you're planning by yourself, or you have a separate list from your family, simply jot down a list of names of people you'd like to make gifts for this year.

If you're doing this with your family, try writing down names and putting them in a hat for a fun, anonymous drawing. This will keep a lot of variety in your handmade gifts every year. If you do a drawing, keep a record here. Also, write these names down in your planner/calendar so you don't risk losing the list!

#2A - Brainstorm Handmade Gift Ideas

Use the suggestions in our article to gather ideas for homemade gifts. Use the back of the sheet so you can have a large space for this because you'll probably make a mess with all the ideas that get written down and then rejected or altered.

#2B - Categorize Ideas by Type

For example:

- Baked goods
- Ornaments and crafts
- Sewn items
- Knitted, crocheted, spun or woven items
- Wellness items like tinctures, salves and soaps
- Kitchen products like canned foods and homemade extracts
- Assembled items like toys and home furnishings
- Any category I've missed here!

CATEGORY:

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#3 Make Assignments

With your list in hand, start jotting down gift ideas for each person on your handmade gift list. Choose two to three different ideas per person to give yourself some variety.

Remember, these initial notes are just that - initial. These are brainstorming sessions that you're recording on paper. You're not married to any of these ideas yet.

Let them ferment in your brain for a while. Come back and amend the list after you've thought about these handmade gift ideas.

NAME

GIFT IDEA

#4 Add More Names/Semi-Handmade Ideas

Handmade gifts can be a very relative concept. Does a bag of home-grown oranges count as "handmade"? What about potted herbs? Items purchased in bulk that need only a few embellishments to be "gifty" - do those count? Of course they do!

You and I both know that you've been mentally adding names to your handmade gift list even while you're reading this article. There are people we want to bless with a thoughtful gift this year that may not make it onto our "Handmade Gift List".

No worries! Make a special category (or use the one on the download) for these 2nd tier handmade gift people. Who might appear on this list?

- Teachers
- Co-workers
- Neighbors
- Extended family
- Members of your congregation

These are all people who are important to you and your family. However, you have neither the time nor the budget to hand-make something for each one of these wonderful folks.

NAME	GIFT IDEA

#5 Schedule your Handmade Gifts

This next step involves getting out your yearly calendar and penciling in crafting plans for your homemade gifts. Nothing need to be set in stone - you can be flexible with enough lead time. You and I both know, though, that all these lofty goals of handmade gifts will never materialize without a schedule. Be easy on yourself if life happens between now and the holiday season but make a plan and stick to it as best you can.

This where having categories of handmade gifts will come in handy. Look at the categories you've made in all your brainstorming. Baked goods should be made the month of the event, probably within the week of the holiday. However, homemade vanilla extract needs to tincture for several months before it's really tasty.

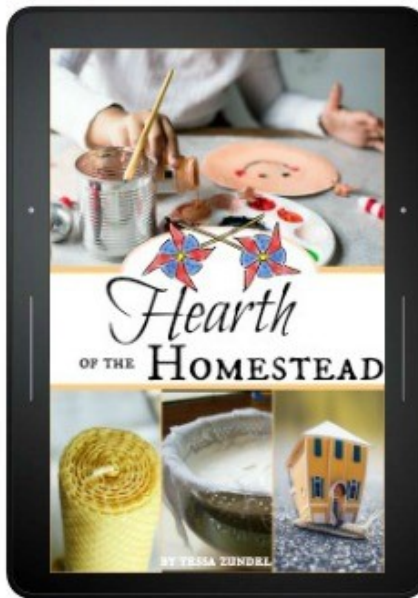
SEASON	WHAT TO START OR MAKE
SPRING	
SUMMER	
AUTUMN	
WINTER	

Remember to use the article for a homestead buffet of handmade gifts to choose from!

For information on homesteading topics, [sign up for our newsletter](#) and receive our e-booklet *Health Wise Food Storage*. You'll also gain access to our member library, which has FREE resources, including more e-booklets. The library is added to frequently throughout the year.



Included in your library is the *Hearth of the Homestead* e-booklet (inspired by the "Family Times on the Homestead" chapter in our book, *The Do It Yourself Homestead*). You might find some more handmade gift inspiration in this book! Remember, spending time together is one of the best gifts you can give each other.



About *Hearth of the Homestead*: Let's put the HOME in HOMEstead! This isn't just another boring project book for kids. *Hearth of the Homestead* is meant to be educational as well as fun. The book takes you through lessons in healthy foods (kefir – including kefir desserts!), upcycled projects for the crafty among us, candle making with all ages and a water-wise project involving a rain chain. Appropriate for parents, kids, grandmas, cousins and even the homeschoolers

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out there (look for those Science Snippets for a well-rounded educational experience), we hope you'll enjoy this resource from our home to yours.

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