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Make Gift Baskets For Fun & Profit

By Lisa Maliga

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by: **Lisa Maliga**

Putting together lovely gift baskets is the way to give a memorable gift to anyone at any time of the year. Now you can assemble gift baskets, and at a very low price! Baskets come in a variety of shapes from traditional round to oval, square, heart-shaped, and circular. Some have a couple of handles, others are colored brightly, while still more baskets are as natural as the reeds that make them up. Of course not all baskets are made from reeds; you'll find those made from plastic, metal, tin, fabric, or combinations thereof.

Basic Baskets

Decide what item[s] will be going into that gift basket.

Group the items together. It is best if the largest items are in the center or at the back, so it creates a pyramid shape. If in doubt about sizing your gifts to your basket, just measure the tallest part and the circumference of your gift items.

Make sure your basket will be a bit larger than the items.

Decide what you will fill your basket with: plastic grass, tissue paper, raffia, crinkled or shredded paper or a towel.

Add your items carefully and securely.

You might be able to find a cellophane bag that is large enough to cover a gift basket and add that.

If using cello wrap, make sure you have a large enough piece. Using clear tape, apply to the bottom of the basket to help secure it. Sometimes it may be necessary to tape around the width of the basket. If so, please use invisible tape!

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Tightly gather the ends of the cello wrap and tie together tightly with a twist tie. Then add a bow, making sure it's securely attached.

Adding a gift card is always a nice idea. Your gift card should have a loop in which you add a short length of ribbon or elasticized band which you then attach to the perimeter of the ribbon or twist tie.

Make Your Own Shredded Paper

All you need is a nice quality paper shredder and some plain colored paper and you have your own basket lining at virtually no cost, and no effort!

Basket Themes

Creativity rules here when it comes to what you can add to a gift basket! Determine whom you will be giving this basket to, if this person is male or female, and what their interests are. Here are just a few ideas to get you started.

Baby ~ Stuffed toy, blanket, booties, cap, bib, baby powder, mobile, pacifier, books, blocks, toys, bath & body items, music CD, and baby shop gift certificate.

Bath & Body ~ Soap, loofah sponge, lotion, shampoo & conditioner, whipped shea butter, bath salts, sugar scrub, aromatherapy bath oils, bubble bath, washcloth, rubber ducky, spa gift certificate, relaxing music CD, and scented candles.

Birthday ~ Balloons, candles, stickers, bubbles, toys, games, teddy bears, dolls, jewelry, books, gift certificates, cookies, candies, and fruit.

Bon Voyage ~ Travel guides, maps, compass, travel diary, passport holder, atlas, travel size toiletries, and gift certificates.

Bridal ~ Scented candles, bath & body products, spa gift certificate, gourmet chocolate, flowers, lingerie, champagne, wine, crystal, other gift certificates.

Chocolate Lover ~ Chocolate bars, chocolate candy/bon-bons, chocolate cookies, hot chocolate mix, cocoa butter lip balm, cheesecake, chocolate scented bath & body products, chocolate candy, and gift certificates.

Coffee Lover ~ Sometimes you can combine this with the Tea Lover gift basket. Varieties of coffee, honey, creamer, sweetener, coffee mugs, coffee pot, Thermos, coffee-scented soap, coffee sugar scrub, coffee-scented candles, coffee shop gift certificates.

Corporate/Executive ~ Wine, spirits, gourmet foods, imported chocolate, personalized gifts bearing company logo, cheesecake, fully stocked picnic basket, and gift certificates.

Gourmet ~ Pancake mix, imported jams, cheesecake, candies, cookies, cheese, chocolate,

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condiments, teas, coffee, fruits, syrup, smoked salmon, truffles, olive oil, imported vinegars, pasta, biscotti and gift certificates.

Sports Lover ~ Sports Lovers baskets can include a variety of general sports, or specialize in one sport like golf, football, hockey, etc. Including tickets to a game, a stopwatch, popcorn, nuts, wine, beer, snacks, cheese, toys, t-shirts, baseball cap, autographed team/sport merchandise, and gift certificates.

Tea Lover ~ Sometimes you can combine this with the Coffee Lover gift basket. Varieties of tea bags, tea cups/mugs, honey, teapot, tea infuser, blocks of tea, tea cakes, wafers, cookies, tea-scented soap, tea-scented candles and gift certificates.

Wine & Cheese ~ Fine wine, wine glasses, champagne, napkins, cheese, cheeseballs, cheese spread, crackers, biscuits, wine soap, and gift certificates.

Other Theme Ideas ~ Movie Lover, Congratulations, Easter, Pet Lover, Retirement, Anniversary, 21st Birthday, Sweet 16, Game Lover, Music Lover, Gardener, Book Lover, etc.

Buying Your Gift Basket & Accessories

Finding an excellent bargain for the basket itself is quite easy. You can locate them at your local dollar store, Goodwill, Salvation Army, thrift shops, flea markets, swap meets, garage sales, craft stores, discount stores and online.

Also, don't be afraid to be creative when selecting a basket. You can easily find other sizes/shapes that will perfectly match your theme. A Christmas sleigh for Christmas presents is an obvious choice. But how about a bucket, mailbox, birdhouse, birdcage, or large mug to name just a few alternative basket ideas?

Cellophane, organza bags, tissue paper, ribbon/bows and plastic grass/shredded paper, can be located at discount stores, drug stores, craft stores, packing suppliers, and online.

Once you've made your first gift basket you might be hooked to this creative way to give gifts and will make many more! Gift basket assembling is a profitable business that can be started right in your own home. Make certain you have enough storage space for all your baskets and supplies! Investigate wholesale options for the products you will be adding to gift baskets. And make sure you do your research about starting a small home-based business.

Lisa Maliga, owner of Everything Shea Aromatic Creations

offers a

fragrant selection of designer shea butter glycerin soaps, exclusive Whipped Shea Butter, & unique SoapCakes personalized for any happy occasion. Visit

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Birthday Gift Basket Advice

By George Meszaros

Are you nervous about what to get your loved one on his/her birthday? Gift baskets are popular birthday gifts are popular for many reasons. Gift baskets offer variety; there are many sizes for all tastes and budgets. Selecting the appropriate birthday gift basket requires some work, but it is fun.

The more you know about the person, the more you can customize the basket for his birthday. Remember, what he likes and dislikes when ordering the gift basket. Birthday gift baskets offer an abundance of opportunities for a great surprise gift.

Birthday gift baskets are available in many themes such as:

· Unique Birthday Gift Basket · Happy Birthday Gift Basket · 50th Birthday Gift Basket · Kid Birthday Gift Basket · Birthday Gift Basket for Her (Spa gift Basket) · First Birthday Gift Basket (or Baby Gift Basket)

In addition to a birthday, gift baskets are ideal for all occasions. They can serve both personal and corporate needs. Gourmet gift baskets are created using finest products, often imported delicacies such as smoked salmon, cheeses, or chocolate.

Birthday gift baskets are available in many amazing designs and create a feeling of personal touch. Birthday gift basket should contain only excellent quality products including gourmet food, chocolate and spa products.

Birthday gift baskets created by professionals should be beautifully wrapped and the most sophisticated ones contain personal messages. A few select companies may offer personalized birthday baskets that offer a personal touch. Gift baskets are available in different shapes and sizes. Therefore, there is a wide price range for birthday gift baskets. You should be able to find a nice basket for almost any budget. Although you can choose to make a gift basket yourself, it is unlikely that you will save money at the end. Professional gift basket companies can buy in bulk, and they can have a huge selection of products.

What kind of gift should you get someone who has it all? Let's face it; every year buying that birthday gift becomes more—and—more difficult. Finding the "perfect" gift for your mom, dad, sibling, husband, and even the kids in your family can be frustrating. Save yourself the headache, and search online for businesses that provide birthday gift baskets. Purchasing online is safe and convenient. Most importantly, the prices are the most competitive on the Internet. Get your next birthday gift basket online today.

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