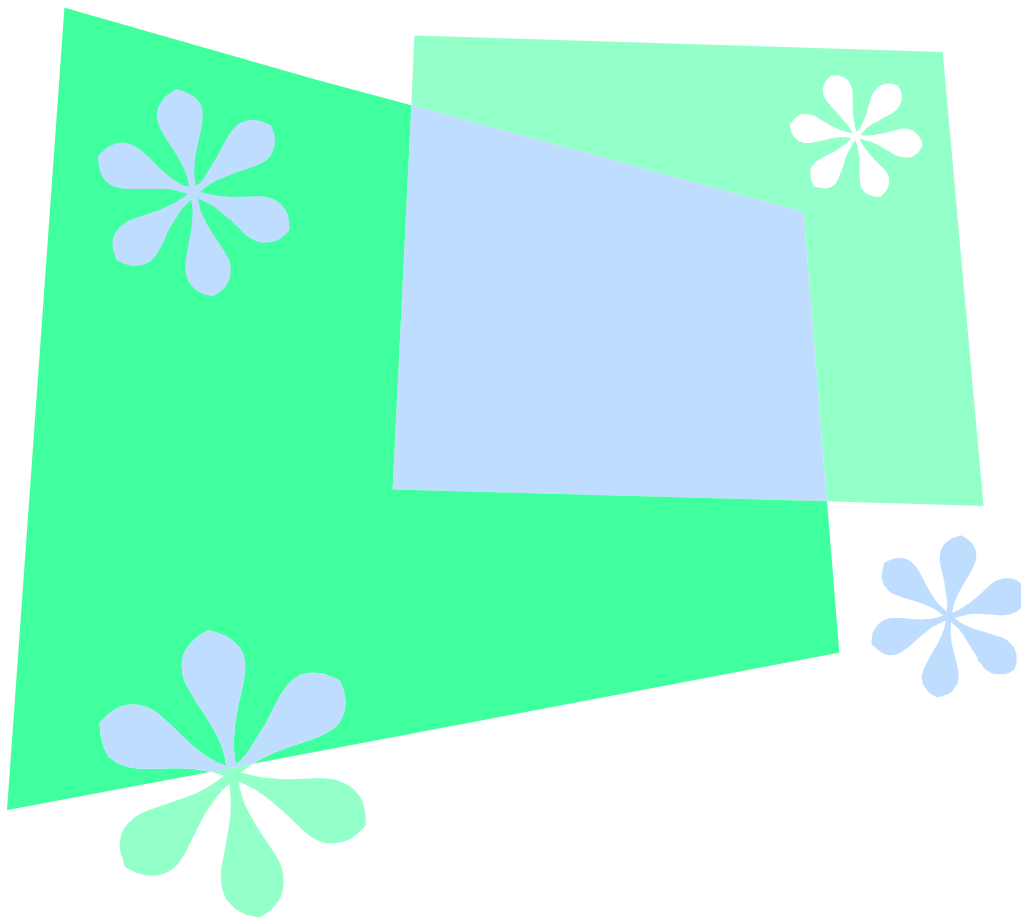


*Crafty Crayon Presents...*

# Fun Craft Projects



Compiled & designed by Tabula Rasa i-Publishing, Co. 2005

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### 1. A New Way to Use Old Snapshots

If you're like me, you have hundreds of photographs sitting in envelopes, pictures from birthday parties, weddings, family gatherings, anniversaries, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You have already put the best snapshots into albums and these are leftovers. You don't want to throw them away, but you also don't know what to do with them. Instead of letting your snapshots take up space and contribute to the clutter in your home, use them to make collages (at a cost of less than \$10 each) that you can give as Christmas gifts to family and friends. Here's how:

1. Assess your collection of pictures. Do you have several dozen of your spouse or significant other? Your parents? Your children? Grandparents? A friend? A beloved pet? Decide which person would like to receive these pictures and divide them into groups accordingly.
2. Buy a picture frame with glass (either 5x7 or 8x10) for each collage you are going to make. Department stores sometimes have sales on picture frames, and you can often purchase a suitable frame for \$5 or less.
3. Cut a sheet of paper (use cardstock, 24# paper or light cardboard) to match the size of the opening on the picture frame.
4. Cut out the background of the pictures, leaving just the people (or pets). Cut out enough pictures to cover the sheet of paper.
5. Arrange the cut-out pictures on the paper. Mix and match and experiment. Try placing the pictures at different angles.
6. After you have an idea of how you would like to arrange the pictures, glue them to the paper. (Check the label to make sure that you can use the glue with photographs.) Cover the entire sheet of paper with pictures.
7. When the glue is dry, insert the paper into the frame.

Collages are not only a good way to use your old snapshots, but the recipients also will cherish them for years to come as a special and thoughtful gift.



## 2. Wedding Favor Creator Unique Wedding Favor Ideas

Wedding favors have always been a nice, personal gesture to include in your wedding preparations. Unfortunately, there are too many "cookie-cutter" type favors out there, which portray the couple's lack of interest in providing something unique.

Here is a Wedding Favor Creator for you to use for your upcoming wedding or one that you're planning for your best friend. You can mix and match to your heart's content and according to the budget you have.

- ❖ Small containers to use for candies, chocolates, small floating candles, decorative soaps, etc. (many of them can be purchased at your local dollar store)
- ❖ tiny wicker baskets or straw hats
- ❖ egg cups
- ❖ candle holders
- ❖ flat shells (scallops)
- ❖ small filigree metal boxes
- ❖ decorated wooden boxes
- ❖ coffee mugs
- ❖ wine glasses
- ❖ small decorative dish
- ❖ tiny flower pots
- ❖ little tin watering cans
- ❖ small jars
- ❖ ceramic spoon rest

Fillings to add to your favor containers

- ❖ heart-shaped candies or chocolates
- ❖ Hershey's kisses and hugs
- ❖ small floating candles
- ❖ gourmet or flavored coffee - enough for one pot
- ❖ little decorative soaps
- ❖ wild flower seed packets or small quantity of seeds with
- ❖ planting instructions, wrapped in colored cellophane
- ❖ flower bulbs
- ❖ bath oil beads
- ❖ bath salts
- ❖ small bag of mixed spice (cinnamon/nutmeg) and your
- ❖ favorite apple pie recipe
- ❖ packets of specialty tea
- ❖ hot chocolate and cinnamon mix - enough for one mug

Sample sayings and poems to write or print onto a small note card along with your names and wedding date (punch a hole in the card and attach a ribbon to tie to your favors)



*"Please plant these to celebrate our growing love."* (for bulbs, seeds)

*"All things grow with love."* (for bulbs, seeds)

*"Our flame of love will always be bright."* (for candles)

*"Hugs and Kisses from the new Mr. And Mrs!"* (for Hershey's kisses and/or hugs)

*"Heart-felt wishes from the new Mr. And Mrs."* (for anything heart-shaped)

*"Love lives in happy hearts."* (anything heart-shaped)

*"The best gifts are tied with heartstrings."* (anything heart-shaped)

*"May there always be spice in your life!"* (for apple pie recipe and spice; for hot chocolate/cinnamon mix)

*"We're suited to a 'T!'"* (for specialty teas)

*"Nothing can wash away the love we feel!"* (bath oil, bath salts, soaps)

*"Thanks for sharing this special day with us."*

*"Thank you for sharing in the celebration of our love."* (or union, etc.)

*"Thanks for joining us on our wedding day."*

*"Thanks for sharing in our special day."*

#### Other Unique Ideas

- ❖ Personalized coasters made from CDs.
- ❖ Personalized CD mix of your favorite music - print out a liner for the CD case with your names, wedding date and a nice background or a photo of the happy bride and groom-to-be!
- ❖ Fortune cookies with printed fortunes that you create on your computer - or add your names and wedding date.
- ❖ Small picture frames that can double as place cards.
- ❖ Heart-shaped cookie cutters with your favorite sugar cookie recipe.
- ❖ Homemade bell-shaped or heart-shaped cookies decorated with your names and wedding date in hard icing.

#### Finishing Details

- ❖ Wrap each filled favor in colored netting or tulle to match your wedding colors or line white or glitter netting with colored tissue paper before wrapping your favors.
- ❖ Wrap the favor bag with ribbon or lace and add your note card (hole-punched). Tie into bow and add a sprig of dried or silk flowers and it's ready for your special day!



### 3. Terra Cotta Birdbath



The Terra Cotta Birdbath is a simple and inexpensive crafting project that adds a definite flare to your yards or patios. This project is a must for bird lovers, but everyone will love the look and addition that this adorable project brings to their home. The Terra Cotta Birdbath offers your feathered friends a retreat and allows you the pleasure of relaxing while you view the birds that will flock to your home to play in the water! The cost of this project is minimal compared to what you could spend at a gardening store on a similar item. Few materials needed and it takes only minutes to complete.

What you'll need to complete the Terra Cotta Birdbath:

1. Two large terra cotta pots. These pots can be purchased at any of your local home and garden stores. 12 to 14 inch or larger size pots work the best, but depending on your personal taste you may want to go smaller or larger.
2. One large terra cotta saucer. Choose a saucer large enough to set in the top of one of the terra cotta containers. You could also use a terra cotta "bowl" shaped pot in place of the saucer, which can also be purchased anywhere you find gardening supplies.



To get started:

1. Decide first where you want to place the birdbath. I find that it works best when placed in an area with soil—such as a flower bed, so you can firmly place the base of the birdbath.
2. Dig an area large enough to place the terra cotta pot, upside down, in the hole with the bottom of the pot facing up. This will serve as the "base" of the birdbath. Secure the base of the birdbath by placing soil around the pot and pressing firmly. It works best to place the pot at least 2-3 inches into the soil, and to build some soil up around the base (approximately 1-2 inches) to ensure it will stay put.
3. Place the second terra cotta pot on top of your base. You shouldn't have to worry about how to secure this pot; the weight of the saucer and the water in the saucer is enough to hold the pot on the base.
4. Once you have placed the pot on top of the secured base, place the saucer into the top of the second pot. Fill with water, and your Terra Cotta Birdbath is complete. Yes, it's as

simple as that! Now you can sit back, relax, and wait for the birds to arrive!



Additional tips for this craft:

- ❖ Be creative! Decorate your terra cotta pots with acrylic crating paint before you begin the birdbath project.



- ❖ When purchasing your terra cotta pots you may want to splurge just a little and pick up pots that have etching and decorations already on them. Keep in mind you're not limited to using just plain terra cotta containers. Your local gardening store carries a large variety of containers in a wide range of shapes, colors, and sizes, so use your imagination!
- ❖ Make a "mini" version of this craft (just use smaller size terra cotta pots) and create a Terra Cotta Bird Feeder to compliment your birdbath. All you have to do is use bird seed in the saucer instead of water!



#### 4. Sunny Day Window Shelf



This crafting project will instantly transform any window in your home! The completed shelf has many uses, and it's a given you will constantly find more uses for your own Sunny Day Window Shelf. I especially enjoy using my shelf as a beautiful and original way of displaying my plant collection.

##### Materials:

- ❖ A used coffee or side table of any size. For this, project I found a coffee table at a yard sale for \$4.00! (The table used in this project measures 54"x11"x6".)
- ❖ Paint in your choice of color. I used "latex semi-gloss wall and trim" paint left over from when I painted the bathroom and saved money!
- ❖ 2 to 4 wall brackets. The size and the number of the brackets will depend on the size and weight of the window shelf you will be mounting. You can purchase wall brackets at any of you local hardware stores or discount retailers.
- ❖ Sheet rock anchors. You may or may not need to use sheet rock anchors depending on the weight of your shelf combined with the weight of the item(s) you plan to display. To be on the safe side I would recommend using anchors in any instance just to prevent disasters! The anchors can also be purchased at a local hardware or discount store.

##### Tools you will need:

- ❖ Hand saw (or, if you have access, a circular saw or table saw will cut down on time and labor.)
- ❖ Sand Paper
- ❖ Level
- ❖ Hammer
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Screw driver

##### Let's start!

1. Using your saw, cut the legs off of the table. Be sure to take the necessary safety precautions during the sawing portion of the project (ie: protective eyewear, etc. And, Watch Your Fingers!)
2. Continue by dividing the table down the middle, using the level to ensure you are sectioning

it into equal halves. Draw a guide of where you will be sawing with a pencil after you have sectioned off the table.



3. Saw the table into halves.
4. Depending on what wood the table is made of, the finish on the table, and any designs the table may have (such as etching or bordering) you will need to sand the piece of you table you will be using for your window shelf.

5. Once you have sanded and cleaned any dust from the piece of the table-which is now your shelf- you're ready to paint. Get creative with this part of the project! Try using special painting techniques (such as sponging), stencil designs on to the shelf, decoupage, or add other personal touches. The sky's the limit!



6. (Note: Once your shelf has dried you may want to add a clear protective coating. This is optional.)

#### Mounting instructions:

1. Once you have chosen the window where you want to mount your Sunny Day Window Shelf measure the thickness of the shelf. (If the thickness of the shelf, meaning the thickness of the tabletop, is 1 inch, you will want to place the brackets 1 inch from where the windowsill meets the wall. This will ensure that the shelf, once placed, is flush with the windowsill.
2. Using your level and your tape measure section off the area where each bracket will be placed, an equal distance from one another. Keep in mind the shelf doesn't have to be the length the entire window.
3. Mount the brackets into the wall using the sheet rock anchors, following the instructions on the package.
4. Place you window shelf on the brackets and Voila! You now are the proud owner -- and creator -- of a Sunny Day Window Shelf.



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