

CREATIVE LIVING IDEAS

The Best of Organization

25+
*Storage
Solutions*



Gomeset Life™



seam binding

glitter

tapes

clothespins

stamps

tapes

Barbara Trombly's
VINTAGE GLASS GLITTER
Shards
#901 Krystallos
85 grams/ 3 oz

Distress
crackle paint
- antique
Ranger

AMERZ
ERZ
RZ

Clever Crate STORAGE

*E*verywhere you turn at flea markets, there are vintage crates to be found. Next time you find one, do what Vanessa Spencer did and turn it on its side to use it as clever craft storage! The nooks and crannies make it perfect for storing all of your bits and pieces.

A Butter Dish TURNED JEWELRY BOX

*T*hink out of the box; or in Shoppe Manager
Vanessa Spencer's (artfulanthology.blogspot.com)
case, think out of the butter tray. This beautiful
butter tray can be used to house some of your
favorite jewelry. It's the perfect size to fit anywhere
in your bedroom.





Gorgeous SUPPLY STORAGE

A As crafters, we want our creative spaces to be functional as well as beautiful. The perfect solution is to find simple, yet attractive containers for all of our supplies. These green buckets are manufactured, but you can just as easily paint your own and decorate them with a rub-on. Thank you to Vanessa Spencer for this great storage idea.

Ombre-Inspired ORGANIZATION

M Make a big statement on your bookshelves by organizing your novels or magazines by color. To create that ombre look that is so popular, start with the darkest shade of a color and work toward the lightest.



A New Take on TO-DO LISTS

Many of us live and die by our to-do lists. I was inspired by an old coworker who used to write each item out on a Post-It and stick it to her desk. Whenever she finished a task, she would victoriously pull the note off her desk and throw it in the trash. After seeing this dress form around our office, I thought it'd be a fun place to pin my list. What a joy it is to see the dress form empty at the end of the day! (Dress form available at stampington.com/the-shoppe-at-somerset.)



LIBRARY
Books

CALL
Samantha

Pick UP
DRY-Cleaning

SCHEDULE
Dr. Appointment

A Functional PHOTO FRAME

*T*here's no reason for jewelry storage to be so drab. By trimming and adhering a photograph to fit inside a compartment drawer, you can easily create a one-of-a-kind place to hold all of your jewelry, just as Director of Photography Johanna Love (loveflow.us) has done here.





Organizing IN STYLE

K Keep your cutlery contained by storing it in a vintage drawer. Doing this frees up a precious drawer in your kitchen, and it looks fantastic!

Magnetic APPEAL

*T*he next time you crack a dish or plate, there's no need to toss it out. Simply glue the crack together, and once that is dry, turn it over and adhere small magnets to the underside. Doing this magnetizes the dish, making it the perfect place to store pins or paperclips!



*“Art is never finished,
only abandoned.”*
— Leonardo da Vinci



With Abandon

by L. Katherine Roberts

I often read about individuals leaving their creative passions only to return to them after a long absence, and each instance makes me wonder if creative abandonment or hibernation is really necessary. I must confess I haven't always made my artistic inclinations a priority. There were years I desperately tried to "sneak" creative work into my daily life, and not always successfully (which is extremely ironic, since I worked as an arts administrator). Admittedly, life circumstances may curtail creative activities; however, I think it is more often the dishonoring of creative capacities that is the true culprit. ✧





Such thoughts may lie behind the crafting of these pieces. They include a few simple tools to engage the creative mind — a mini-assortment of sketching supplies for one tin, a few items to inspire and record one's artistic imaginings for another. Together, they suggest that no creative thought or act need be abandoned, but embraced, instead, with a loving abandon that inspires others to do the same. ✧

Tools & Materials

- Adhesive: liquid; micro glue dots; adhesive foam squares
- Binder ring
- Black tea: (Lahaha Bachelors)
- Brown paper bag & book page
- Cardboard/Mat board
- Cardstock, coated canvas & plain printer paper
- Clear-top hinged tins: 5 1/2" x 3 7/10"
- Clear-top tiny tin: 1 1/4" x 3/4"
- Dried hydrangea petals
- Embellishments: blue iridescent crystals; buttons; calendar quote; fortune cookie slip; millinery netting; tea tag; vintage flowers; washi tape; wine labels; wired pearls
- Glass test tubes: 1/2" x 4"
- Hemp cord, seam binding ribbon & pearl cotton thread
- Hole punch
- Images: #103 & #172 (Dover Books - Leonardo da Vinci Treasury)
- Loose-leaf teabags: 5 1/2" x 3 1/4" (Rishi)
- Lutradur/Lightweight interfacing
- Mini-eyelet, punch & setter
- Paintbrush
- Rotary cutter/Lip-edged ruler/Cutting mat & paper cutter
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Sketching supplies: kneaded eraser, compressed charcoal sticks, graphite pencil, pencil sharpener, blending sticks, sketching paper & mini-pencil
- Stapler: Tiny Attacher: (Advantus - idea-ology)







The rhythm of life
is when you
experience your
own body, mind
and soul.



The Dover images I used on these pieces were initially chosen for decorative paper sacks I crafted, but other images would work. To make the art tin, I began by gluing Lutradur strips (2¼" x 3½") and wine labels to three test tubes. After placing charcoal within the tubes, they were tied together with ribbon and embellished with a crystal and pearls. An eraser was covered in a similar manner. Next, three blending sticks were wrapped with washi tape and topped with a wine label, while petals were placed in a tiny tin. Items were nestled among paper bag shreds within the tin, and it was sealed with washi tape. To accompany the tin, I decorated a graphite pencil with a strip of Lutradur, wine labels, ribbon, and a tag, and formed some sketching paper into a scroll. The scroll was trimmed with a background image strip, cardstock, thread, millinery blossom, and a fortune cookie slip message.

The notepad for the writing tin was crafted by cutting two pieces of cardboard/mat board (2¼" x 4½") for front and back covers, as well as white cardstock/paper for filler pages. The covers were decorated with patterned cardstock, and topped with Lutradur, a sketch image (2¼" x 1¾"), millinery flower, netting, and pearls. (I hole-punched the covers and filler paper after applying the cover cardstock.) The covers and filler paper were joined with a binder ring that was trimmed with ribbon and a tea tag. Other tin items included a tube that was filled with loose tea and decorated with a Lutradur strip (2¼" x 3½"), millinery leaf, wine label, and crystals, as well as a mini-pencil embellished with a calendar quote and a paper flower. This time, book shreds and netting were used to cushion the items inside the tin. A loose-leaf teabag for brewing tea was also added. Extra ribbon and a blossom tied up the tin. ❁❁

Working in her Golden Maiden Studio, L. Katherine Roberts draws much of her inspiration from her family's century-old farm, The Golden Oakes, as well as the creative lives of others. To learn more about her life and work, visit thegoldenmaiden.blogspot.com.





Charming HOME VIGNETTES

Use spaces in your home, such as bookcases and shelves, to display charming vignettes rather than a cluttered assortment of objects as Jessica Wolfe did here. Using these spaces in an imaginative way can help present loved and meaningful items as art pieces that reflect your passion for creativity.

Dress Up YOUR DESK

*I*f you have a lot of loose items scattered across your desk, try using teacups to organize your mess. Sure, you could hide those items in a drawer, but having them on your desk will make them easily accessible, and why hide them when you have feminine and delicate teacups to display?
(Styling provided by Johanna Love.)



Time for Tea Sachets

by Lisa Rode



I returned to New York City last summer after a visit to my parents' home outside the tiny town of Story, Wyoming. Inspired by the earthy sights and smells of that alpine setting at the base of the Big Horn Mountains, I rummaged through my craft supplies to retrieve woodland-themed scraps of faux bois paper, green velvet ribbon, and tiny pinecones. To that foundation I added vintage book pages, the kraft brown wrappers of my favorite chocolate bars made in Brooklyn, and a whole heap of tiny treasures left over from previous projects.

I cut and folded the papers into the shape of tea bags, and added embellishments and the iconic strings and tabs. I filled this set with fragrant lavender-chamomile pellets. I would have preferred, of course, to utilize a more woody fragrance to blend with the theme, but I am in the fourth year of my (mostly successful) mission to craft using nothing but supplies on hand! So lavender-chamomile it was.

I also used small Valrhona chocolate pearls as filler to turn these into edible treats. Tucked into glassine envelopes, they make cheery party favors, thank-you gifts, and stocking stuffers. ✨

Supplies

- Adhesives: double-sided tape; glue stick; PVA
- Embellishments
- Fiber scraps
- Paper scraps
- Sachet pellets/Dried lavender buds/Spices/Herbs
- Staples: colored
- Valrhona chocolate pearls



me (POWER



GRANTZ.
MONEY DAIRY

FOR QUART MILK

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city.
HAMLET.

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logue, solo.
ue, opera



Zaaka

virgin chocolate

salted apple

virgin

pine tea

chocolate

Zaaka

in chocolate

salted chocolate

Technique

Carefully remove the small staple from an unused tea bag and discard the string and tea. Draw an arrow from the bottom to the top along the right side of the front of the bag. Fully open the bag and place this pattern on top of your paper so the arrow is positioned along the right side of the section of the paper you want to be the front of your tea bag. With a pencil, lightly trace around the pattern and cut out. Using the folds in the real tea bag as guides, carefully fold the cut paper into the tea bag shape.

Unfold the paper and apply three strips of double-sided tape vertically on the wrong side of what will be the back of your tea bag. Remove the protective backing from the tape and sprinkle a small amount of sachet pellets, lavender, or spices onto the exposed tape. Repeat as necessary to fully cover the tape with the good-smelling material. Tap to remove excess and carefully re-fold the tea bag into shape. Staple the top closed.

Cut an 8-inch length of string and fold in half. Push the folded end under the staple, and pull the length of the string through the "U" of the fold as you would to add a string to a hang tag. For the little tab at the end of the string, cut a 1/2" x 1" piece of the same or coordinating paper and fold in half. Coat the entire wrong-side of the tab with a light layer of glue stick, and place the end of the string inside. Apply pressure for a few seconds to set the glue. If so desired, snip quarter-circles from the top edges of the tab using a small hole punch.

Build assemblages of ribbons, bells, charms, flowers, and/or die-cuts, gluing each layer into place with the glue stick and/or the PVA as needed. Add a small embellishment to the tab such as a single brad, die-cut flower, or the recipient's initials.

Tips

- After folding the tops of each bag, I trim away the "inside" layers to remove the bulk so the diagonal folds lie smooth.
- In the instances where I use regular staples, which aren't as cute as the mini ones, I hide the back of the staple with a small, crisp rectangle of paper and a dab of PVA glue.

Lisa is a software product manager and an avid crafter in New York City. You can contact her via [PolecatJackPaper.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/PolecatJackPaper) or by email at lisa.rode@hotmail.com.





Wrapped & STACKED MAGAZINE DECOR

Some magazines and books are too beautiful to keep hidden away on a shelf. To put them on display, wrap them with a beautiful piece of ribbon or even torn fabric, and top with a few natural elements.



Tub Tea

C

Whole
German
Chamomile
Flowers

Organic
Peppermint
Leaf

Tub Tea SAMPLER

by Johanna Love

Who doesn't like a nice soak in the bath? That's why

I was so excited to see that The Shoppe at Somerset now carries these large tea bags. In less than 10 minutes, you can serve up a handmade sampler of aromatic options that look and smell like they are straight out of *Willow and Sage*. The hand-painted crate seen here is great for keeping your bath soaks organized. Together, they make a quick and easy gift, or you can pamper yourself with a well-deserved soak. ↻





Organic
Peppermint
Leaves

Whole German
Chamomile
Flowers

Supplies

- Alphabet stamps
- Chalkboard/Acrylic paint
- Foam brush
- Grubby tags: small
- Herbs of choice: chamomile; rosemary; lavender
- Hole punch
- Inkpad
- Salt of choice: Himalayan; Epsom; Dead Sea
- Wooden crate

Technique

Use a foam brush to paint a wooden crate with chalkboard paint. Once dry, stamp a message with alphabet stamps on the front. Stamp an initial representing each salt or herb onto a grubby tag.

Fill each tea bag with salt and herbs of your choice. Fold over the top of each tea bag and punch two holes at the top. String the corresponding tags through the holes and tie the tea bags closed. Arrange the tea bags in the crate as desired. *~*~*



Tip

- Be careful not to overfill the tea bags. It doesn't take a lot to create an aromatic bath, and due to the delicate nature of the tea bags, seams may separate if contents are too heavy.



All products featured in this project are available at theshoppeatsomerset.com.
This project first appeared in the Autumn 2015 issue of *Willow and Sage*.

Johanna Love lives in Laguna Niguel with her husband and their three sons, and is the director of photography at Stampington & Company. Follow her on Instagram (@lovejohanna) to see more of her hippie bling jewelry creations, natural-living tips, landscape discoveries, and family antics.



Red-Hot BOOK STORAGE

Turn a non-working fireplace into the centerpiece of your living room. Fill the opening with something eye-catching, such as old books, and prepare for all the compliments you'll be receiving.

Thank you to Jessica Wolfe for this idea!



Say It With Supplies

*Artwork by Melissa Lippert
Story by Christen Hammons*





Those of you who picked up a copy

of the Winter 2016 Issue of *Somerset Life* were sure to see three amazing artist kits thoughtfully curated by Melissa Lippert. Each one had a different theme and was packaged to pure perfection.

Part of the reason Melissa enjoys assembling kits is because of her large stash of supplies just waiting to be used. She holds tight to the saying, “One person’s trash is another person’s treasure.” When her treasure trove is combined with her love of giving gifts, the result is a collection of kits filled to the brim with trims, papers, baubles, and anything else an artist might love and savor.

I was delighted to be on the receiving end of one of Melissa’s kits. This was one packed inside a small tin book, wrapped up with beautiful calico fabric and a feather to top it all off. Inside was a selection of beautiful neutral supplies. Torn fabric, a tiny pinecone, rusted jingle bells, and vintage text all came together to create a delightful artist kit. It’s almost too pretty to use! ✦



Beautiful BEAD STORAGE

L Director of Photography Johanna Love collects beads not just because she loves to make jewelry, but also because she is captivated by the rich colors and glinted facets. What a shame to store these beauties in bead boxes on the shelf! She finds it better to display them to enjoy and also get her creative juices flowing for the next jewelry-making adventure.

A Clever CRAFT CADDY

A simple wooden utensil holder becomes a fabulous craft caddy with just a few coats of paint and a rub-on or two. Tina Schiefer (rustymonkeystudio.blogspot.com) shows how easy it is to keep all of your supplies for a project in one place.



Simple Jewelry **STORAGE**



One of the hottest new craft supplies is metal sheeting, which can be found at your local hardware store in a number of designs. Here, Vanessa Spencer cut it with tin snips to fit an old picture frame. She applied a coat of paint to both the frame and metal sheeting, and secured the sheeting to the frame's backside. Now it's the perfect place to store her earring collection!



you are beautiful



Stuff Dreams Are Made Of: ELIZABETHAN JEWELRY ART KITS

by Laura Guenther

In the fall of 2014, I began working with Cynthia Deis, the talented owner of the popular store Ornamentea in Raleigh, North Carolina. Plans were in the works for me to teach in her store the immersion technique of torch-fired enamel for jewelry applications. Immersion enameling is a relatively new way to torch-fire enamel, popularized and pioneered by Barbara Lewis of St. Petersburg, Florida. I am thrilled to be the first certified instructor of the technique after visiting Barbara at her studio in 2012. Cynthia asked that I head up a boot camp for the process, which would be held over several days. This would give her clientele an opportunity to learn more than a one-day workshop could offer. I was excited! ✨





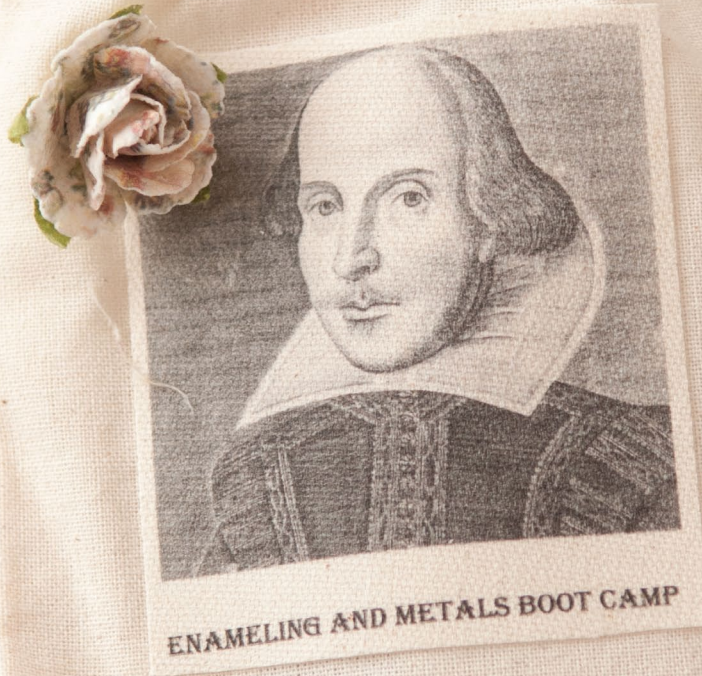
I knew immediately that I would create special kits for the artists attending the workshop. I wanted each person to feel pampered and excited about learning a new technique. The theme came from research for text beads I was making. When I looked up the origins of the phrases for description listings, I was amazed at how many originated from Shakespeare. Although I remember studying Shakespeare in junior high school, I'm sure I wasn't interested in it then. From there, I began learning about Queen Elizabeth I and the more I found out about the life and times of the era, the more fascinated I became. The customs, clothing styles, and language were all intriguing. Elizabethan Sumptuary Laws dictated what Elizabethans of different classes were allowed to wear. The clothes alone would inspire you. They were elaborate, spectacular, and stuffed! Even the men wore brightly colored costumes with velvet capes and hats with plums. Many could stand-alone and were decorated with rosettes, ruffs, and puffs! Queen Elizabeth encouraged dramatic performances in dance, poetry, and theater, and they flourished during her reign. There was plenty to be inspired by, and I wanted to incorporate the theme into the projects and kits.

Cynthia loved the idea and provided beautiful brass stampings, luxurious ribbons, pretty fibers, and all the findings needed to create the projects. Included with the kit's metal components were lovely flowers, crowns, and leaves. Back at my home studio, I enameled these pieces and planned the basic project ideas. I used Shakespearean quotes and Elizabethan-Era photos to create the decals for each kit, which would add beautiful detailed layers to the jewelry. Each artist would be able to choose their decals, personalizing their work. Cynthia took my enameled pieces and basic ideas to create innovative necklace layouts, adding gorgeous leather cording and fiber tassels. She also selected our camp name from Shakespeare's "The Tempest." ❖



Tools & Materials

- Canvas bag w/ string
- Canvas birds
- Crinkle paper: white
- Crown chipboard shape
- Envelopes: glassine
- Fibers
- Fruit crate: cardboard, small
- Glass test tube w/ cork top
- Inkjet photo paper: canvas
- Jars w/ lids: plastic, small
- Jewelry crown stamping: brass
- Magnetic tin w/ lid: aluminum
- Matchbox
- Ribbon
- Washi tape
- Ziploc bags: mini





With the project samples complete, it was time for packaging. I had the little crates on hand and came across the test tubes at a local store. I knew these would be perfect to hold the copper pieces we would enamel. The Shakespeare text and photo decals went into glassine envelopes that I labeled and sealed with washi tape. Inside the test tubes were the materials needed to create the “ruff” connectors used in camp projects. Ruffs were dramatic, stiff collars and cuffs worn during the time period by both men and women. I created these components out of sheet metal after studying the shapes of the collars. The students would use metal techniques to forge and shape the ruff components, and then learn how to enamel them.

The advanced technique supplies — cats’ whiskers, liquid enamel, and enamel chips — were packaged in small containers and wrapped with washi tape. The large brass stampings called for a special box of their own, so I decorated a matchstick box with tape, a sweet canvas bird, and velvet ribbon. The kit would not be complete without a Shakespeare image; it was added to a canvas bag along with the camp title. Canvas photos were also created for the test tubes. I finished off the package with a pink and sparkled chipboard crown, and added the remaining pieces to the Shakespeare bag. The result was a beautifully packaged kit with patterns, images, and colors that inspired the artists, just as I imagined them to do.

Although the projects and kits were inspired by 16th century England, they were fresh, new, and had the look of today when finished. No fussy ball gowns needed to be worn. Each artist had ample supplies in the kit to learn the process and create several luminous pieces of jewelry that were unique. ❦

Laura Guenther is a mixed-media artist living in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her work is romantic, complicated, and layered. Sign up for her Raleigh workshops and boot camp by visiting ornamantea.com. Visit her Etsy shop at blueantiquities.etsy.com, and her blog at blueantiquities.blogspot.com. Visit Ornamentea, a jewelry and bead store near downtown Raleigh offering fine craft ingredients, classes, and inspiration.



An Eggcellent SUPPLY CADDY

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We all know how boring office organization can be, so it's great to add a creative touch wherever you can. This porcelain egg caddy is the perfect place to stash all your clips and pens, and a few of your favorite tapes.





Being an artist means seeing beauty and potential in all things — especially tattered, old, vintage items — and wanting to bring back their glorious lives.

The Cool Vintage Caddy

Artwork by Tricia K. Johnson

Story by Danielle Mohler

For artist Tricia K. Johnson, her artistic journey

began early in life at the tender age of 6. Born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota, she was often found making outfits and crafting home furnishings for her dolls out of basically anything she could find. Trips to the library were frequented with her mother, and she would leave with armfuls of child's crafting books with ranging projects from egg-carton earrings and papier-mâché piñatas to anything made out of Popsicle sticks. Tricia was continuously hunting for things she could create with her hands. ✦





“The artist in me resonates through my life from the way I decorate our home, in a true vintage antique type of style, to how I spend my free time, often heading to any creative opportunity available,” says Tricia. Being an artist means seeing beauty and potential in all things — especially tattered, old, vintage items — and wanting to bring back their glorious lives. Tricia enjoys spending time at vintage markets and searching for items no one else seems to even notice. Continuously seeking out artistic endeavors, she believes it’s a compulsion that will never truly end.

Tricia’s art kit revolves around a vintage ice tray that doubles as a nostalgic reminder of the simple, good ole’ days when there were no ice machines, only ice cube trays. To dispense the ice from the metal tray, you just pull the big, silver handle; don’t even dare thinking about touching a wet tongue to it! This specific tray was discovered by Tricia’s father, who doesn’t always understand her kind of crafting but supports her anyway he can. “I thought its vintage appeal would fit perfectly in my crafting room and serve as a great way to store, save, and organize all those teeny, tiny pieces I continuously use,” she says. “The Cool Vintage Caddy” contains itsy bitsy supplies all grouped ❖





together by coordinating colors — random ribbons, tiny thread spools, baubles, and buttons. Displaying such small items in this open ice cube tray helps to keep everything in eyesight, making sure not to be forgotten or hidden away in a drawer or box.

There is no surprise that the theme for this art kit is “Taking Tiny Steps to Tidy Up.” It represents Tricia’s personality well; she tries to be organized with all her different niches of creativity, and taking tiny, fashionable steps in accomplishing this goal is important to her. Given the chance, she would much rather reuse a vintage item that has character than buy a brand new item like everyone else has. Her artistic sense is truly unique, incredibly rewarding, and expresses her individuality. *arts*

Tricia K. Johnson is an artist who lives in beautiful Island Lake, Minnesota, with her husband. To learn more about her work, visit her Etsy shop at pispespeculars.etsy.com.



Swoon-Worthy **BATH CADDY**

A Add a little romance to your bath time routine by creating a caddy similar to the one shown here, by Vanessa Spencer. Add fragrant flowers, such as lavender, some handmade soap, and a bottle of your favorite beverage.



Hôtel Ville de Strasbourg
11, faubourg de Colmar
MULHOUSE
TÉLÉPHONE 18.21
propriétaire: Ch. BALER



A Caffeinated GREETING

*C*offee beans are a charming and thoughtful gift that friends and family alike will be grateful to receive. Packaging them in a glass jar is a great way to preserve the aroma of the beans, as well as display them for all to see. Best of all, when the coffee is gone, these little jars can be repurposed and used over and over again.


Supplies to recreate this project can found at stampington.com.

Cup of Tea STORAGE

*C*hipped and damaged teacups are given new life when used to organize your craft supplies. Vanessa Spencer simply attached teacups and their matching saucers using a stronghold adhesive. Once dry, she tucked away twine and glitter in the various compartments.



Stress-Free GIFT-WRAP STATION



One of the keys to getting through the holiday season virtually stress-free is organization. To keep up with all of your gift-wrap needs, set up a little station that houses all you might need to wrap a present. Grab a caddy and include tags, tape, labels, bags and more.

Supplies to recreate this project can found at stampington.com.





Pretty & Practical ORGANIZATION

*F*or quick crafting, the key is making sure you are organized. Keeping supplies for a specific project in a designated drawer or bin will save you time and keep your creativity flowing.

Top-Drawer STORAGE

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Who says organizing can't be pretty? Gone are the days of tucking items away in plastic tubs and boxes. Now it's all about functionality and beauty! Gather your craft supplies and stash them in vintage drawers. Everything will be on hand for you to use, and it will look gorgeous!



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lace



Gift Wrap STORAGE

Turn a printers tray into a stylish gift wrap station by painting it and adding patterned paper to each compartment. Add everything you'll need to wrap a gift to perfection. If you know a friend who loves wrapping her gifts in a unique way, consider creating one for her as a gift. Thank you to Niki Meiners (nikimeiners.wordpress.com) for sharing this idea.