

GIFT GIVING IDEAS

As we know all too well, the holiday season can be a stressful one. Guests visiting from out of town, fancy meals to prepare, a house to clean, and of course (for us quilters!) gifts to make! Over the years we've picked up some great hints and tips for easing holiday stress. One of these tips is that not every gift you give needs to be handmade. Seriously, you ask?! We've compiled a list of great items to give to your quilting friends (or yourself), so that the gift is special, even if it isn't handmade. Our items aren't in a specific order, but we feel these products are wonderful gifts that any quilter would like to have.

1. *Rotary cutting mat:* Most of us have cutting mats at home, but are they in tip-top shape? Cutting mats come in so many different sizes, styles, and colors these days, it's fun to have a couple to use for different projects and needs.
2. *Subscription:* Magazine subscriptions are always an appreciated gift. For the friend who has everything, check into subscriptions for some of the newer art-quilt, embellishment, and inspiration magazines.
3. *Quilted Tote Bag:* Tote bags can be fun and functional, and are very hip these days. If you have time, choose from the many available tote bag patterns, and create a bag for your friend in her favorite color. If you don't have time, check with your local quilt store. Chances are, they have quilted tote bags ready for purchase—how quick and easy!
4. *Quilter's FabriCalc:* The FabriCalc is a wonderful new tool from Calculated Industries. This amazing calculator figures backing, binding, borders, yardage for a quilt, and more. About the only thing it can't do is sew. This item is useful in any sewing room, and comes at an affordable price.
5. *Elan Scissors:* The 4" embroidery scissors from Elan are essential to any sewing room. These small scissors are ideal for precision cutting, and offer a big handle for comfort while cutting. We love these scissors!
6. *Fabric Postcards:* Ok, we admit, this one might require you to make something. If you do have the time, why not make your special friend a group of fabric postcards? These are so fun and easy to make, and you can usually use items you already have on hand. Bundle six postcards with a pretty piece of ribbon or raffia, and you have an instant gift!
7. *Gift Certificate:* A gift that never goes to waste, give a gift certificate to your friend's favorite local quilt store. You could even offer to go shopping with her (as if you needed an excuse!)
8. *Autographed Possibilities® books:* Did you know that you can request a personally autographed Possibilities book from us at any time? We can even mail the book directly to your recipient. Other authors may be able to do this as well, just check the author's website to submit a request.
9. *Dinner Delivery:* Do you know a friend who has trouble carving out time for quilting? Offer to bring her (and her family) dinner, then instruct her to head into her quilting room/area for the rest of the night! Provide her family with a yummy dessert, so that they don't mind the disappearance.
10. *Class for Two:* Give a gift to your friend and yourself, by purchasing a class for the two of you to take together! You'll both have fun learning a new technique, and it will be enjoyable to spend time together.

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