

Yummy **food** gifts

Wrap up an easy-to-make treat in a cute package, and you've got an impressive little present!



candy cane popcorn

MAKES 12 CUPS

- 2 ounces semisweet chocolate, melted
 - 2 ounces white chocolate, melted
 - 12 cups fresh air-popped popcorn
 - 4 full-size candy canes, crushed
- ▶ In a large bowl, drizzle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the melted chocolate over the popcorn.
 - ▶ Sprinkle with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the candy canes.
 - ▶ Mix together, then spread the popcorn on a platter or cookie sheet. Top with the remaining chocolate and candy canes. Let chocolate harden on the counter for 10 to 15 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of Kristin Rosenau, creator of the baking blog Pastry Affair

WRAP IT UP:

Using a white paint marker, color in a pinwheel pattern on a red cookie tin lid and let dry. Write the treat's name on a label; stick it to the front. With baker's twine, attach a gift tag to the handle.

CONTAINER: Red cookie tin, \$4.50, cookietins.com

LABEL: Red Dots bracket label, \$5 for a set of 8, paper-source.com

GIFT TAG: Party styling tag in candy apple red, \$5.50 for a set of 12, shopsweetlulu.com

kitchen chronicles

holiday party mix

MAKES ABOUT 14 CUPS

- 4 cups Corn Chex cereal
- 3 cups honey-glazed cashews
- 1½ cups each raisins and wasabi-coated green peas
- 1½ cups each diced candied pineapple and papaya
- 2 cups shelled, roasted, and salted pumpkin seeds (optional)

► In a bowl, combine all ingredients.

WRAP IT UP:

Fill a container with party mix, put the lid on it, and tie a bow from bottom to top. Stamp the treat's name on a label; stick it to the front. Using baker's twine, attach a gift tag to the ribbon.

CONTAINERS: Sweet Bliss Containers pint-size frozen dessert containers, \$16 for a set of 25, amazon.com

RIBBON: Herringbone ¾" ribbon in hot pink, \$1.50 per yard, mjtrim.com

STAMPS: Hero Arts Typewriter Letters stamp set, \$14.50 for full alphabet, and Hero Arts Cleardesign Block large letter, \$7, ucutathome.com

INK: Tsukineko Memento Luxe ink pad in rose bud, \$6, createforless.com

LABELS: Firecracker Red 2" x 2" labels, \$6.50 for a set of 100, paperpresentation.com

GIFT TAGS: Scallop 2" circle cards in raspberry, \$3.50 for a set of 25, paperpresentation.com



cinnamon ginger applesauce

MAKES 4 CUPS (ENOUGH TO FILL TWO 19-OUNCE GLASS JARS)

- 4 cups applesauce (for a more colorful look, use berry-flavored, which is pink)
- 4 tablespoons red-hot cinnamon candies
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger

- Heat applesauce in a saucepan until warm.
- Stir in candies until melted. Stir in ginger.
- Store in refrigerator until ready to wrap.

WRAP IT UP:

Fill a canning jar with the applesauce and seal. Attach a bamboo spoon with washi tape, wrapping tape around the jar so the ends meet underneath. Stamp a gift tag with an apple icon; write the treat's name on it. Attach it to the tape with glue spots.

CANNING JAR: Bale square 19-ounce glass jar, \$4, specialtybottle.com

SPOON: Raspberry Chevron wooden spoon, \$10.50 for a set of 20, paperpresentation.com

TAPE: Red Candy Striped washi tape, \$2.50 for 10 yards, justartifacts.net

STAMP: Apple stamp, \$9, judikins.com for stores

GIFT TAG: Crest Solar White 2½" circle card, \$4.50 for a set of 25, paperpresentation.com



chocolate peanut butter bark

MAKES 24–36 PIECES

- 12 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- ½ cup peanut butter chips
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ cup roasted peanuts

► Line a baking sheet with nonstick aluminum foil or parchment paper.

► Melt chocolate in microwave on high for 1 minute. Stir and heat on high for another 15 to 30 seconds. Stir until smooth.

► In a separate bowl, melt the chips and butter in microwave on high for 1 minute until smooth.

► Pour melted chocolate onto the lined baking sheet and spread into a ¼-inch-thick rectangle. Drizzle the melted peanut butter mixture over the chocolate. Sprinkle with peanuts. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. Peel off the foil or parchment paper and break bark into pieces.

white chocolate peppermint bark

MAKES 24–36 PIECES

- 12 ounces white chocolate, chopped
- ½ cup peppermint candies, crushed

► Line a baking sheet with nonstick aluminum foil or parchment paper.

► Melt chocolate in microwave on high for 30 seconds. Stir and heat on high for another 30 seconds. Stir until smooth.

► Pour melted chocolate onto the lined baking sheet and spread into a ¼-inch-thick rectangle. Sprinkle with peppermint candies. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. Peel off the foil or parchment paper and break bark into pieces.



WRAP IT UP:

Line box with parchment paper and fill with bark. Wrap ribbon around the box. Write the treat's name on a gift tag and attach it to the ribbon.

CONTAINERS: Polka Dot Red medium gourmet window boxes, \$60 for a set of 24, nashvillewraps.com

RIBBON: Red/natural ¾" stripe tape, \$2 per yard, mjtrim.com

GIFT TAG: Cherry Wood gift tag, \$7 for a set of 10, containerstore.com



chocolate truffles

MAKES 12–16 TRUFFLES

- 8 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 8 teaspoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Coatings: chopped pistachios and almonds, confectioners' sugar, unsweetened cocoa powder, and edible Pearl Dust in gold, ruby red, and silver (wilton.com)

- ▶ Heat chocolate, cream, and butter in the microwave on high for 1 minute. Stir and heat on high for another 30 seconds to 1 minute. Stir until smooth. Stir in vanilla extract. Refrigerate until firm, 30 minutes to 1 hour.
- ▶ Scoop into balls and roll in coatings. Chill 30 minutes.

WRAP IT UP:

Line the slots of a plastic egg carton with mini cupcake liners. Put a truffle in each, then wrap ribbon around the carton. Using individual letter stamps, stamp the treat name onto a gift tag; attach with glue spots.

EGG CARTONS: Ovotherm Glass Clear twin 6-egg cartons, \$28.50 for a set of 25, eggcartons.com

CUPCAKE LINERS: Cupcake Creations mini red cupcake baking papers, \$4 for a set of 60, globalsugarart.com

RIBBON: For a similar look, try Red/white chevron stripe ⅝" woven wired ribbon, \$2.50 per roll, etsy.com/shop/luckyladypapercrafts.

GIFT TAG: Classic Crest Scallop 2" circle card in solar white, \$3.50 for a set of 25, paperpresentation.com

STAMP: 2000 Plus Custom stamp kit with wood handle (comes with about 600 characters), \$31.50, staples.com

hot cocoa and snowman marshmallows

MAKES 6 PAIRINGS

- 1 16-ounce tub of hot cocoa mix (we used Ghirardelli)
 - 1 16-ounce bag of regular-size marshmallows
 - 1 1½-pound bag of giant gumdrops, cut into halves
- Americolor Gourmet Writers food decorating pens (\$15.50 for a set of 10, sweetbakingsupply.com)

- ▶ Decorate marshmallows with the food pens, giving some of them hats with gumdrop halves.

WRAP IT UP:

Using a rolled piece of wax paper as a funnel, fill one tube with hot cocoa mix. Write directions on a label and stick it on the tube. Stack marshmallows in another tube. Tie a ribbon around the tubes.

CONTAINERS: 2" candy tubes, \$32 for a set of 25, visipak.com
 LABEL: 2" x 4" shipping labels, \$14.50 for a set of 250, avery.com
 RIBBON: For a similar look, try Red/white striped ½" grosgrain ribbon, \$2 per roll, etsy.com/shop/luckyladypapercrafts.

