

Holiday Keepsakes from Reimagined Christmas Packaging



Introduction: This holiday season, celebrate your creativity by turning old and repurposed Christmas packaging into meaningful keepsakes. Gather items like holiday cards, gift boxes, and wrapping paper, and transform them into festive treasures you'll cherish for years to come.

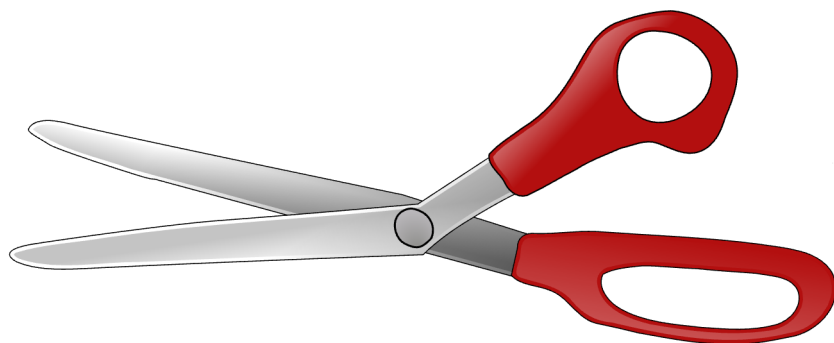
Required Materials

- * Scissors
- * Adhesive (choose from)
 - * Extra Strength Glue Stick
 - * All Purpose Glue
 - * Low Temp Glue Gun
 - * Tape
 - * 50/50 Glue Water Mixture
- * Ruler

Repurposed Materials

- * Holiday cards
- * Gift bags
- * Gift tags
- * Gift wrap
- * Tissue paper
- * Packaging strings
- * Packaging ribbons
- * Cardboard
- * Wood scraps
- * Junk mail
- * Flexible magnetic sheeting
- * Acetate sheet

Artistic process: “A collage is an artwork created by pasting cut and/or torn papers, as well as other objects, to a background surface to form a design.”



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Activity #1 Holiday Card Ornaments

1. **Gather Materials:** Collect holiday cards, decorative scraps, gift tags, and junk mail printed on sturdy cardstock.
2. **Choose Your Design:** Decide which pieces look best together to present your desired theme.
3. **Cut Out Elements:** Carefully trim the images and designs you want to use from the reimagined Christmas packaging.
4. **Arrange for Hanging:** Position the gift tag so it can serve as the hanger for your ornament.
5. **Assemble:** Glue all the pieces securely in place.
6. **Optional Enhancements:**
 - ✳ Trace the ornament shape on a colorful backing sheet for extra flair.
 - ✳ Include any handwritten message from a card if it's from a friend or loved one.
 - ✳ Create a theme by selecting images that match a line from one of your favorite Christmas songs.



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Activity #2 Deck the Mantel and More

1. Gather Materials: Collect holiday cards, gift bags, tissue paper, decorative scraps, gift tags, and junk mail printed on sturdy cardstock. You'll also need a base. Choose from a piece of cardboard cut like a frame, an old frame, or scrap wood sheets.

2. Choose Your Background Design: Decide how you want to fill the background. Options include creating a collage using layers of tissue paper, wrapping paper, and decorative elements from holiday cards or gift bag designs.

3. Create the Background: Glue the background to produce your desired design. If collaging tissue or wrapping paper:

- ✱ Cut or tear papers to 1–2-inch pieces.
- ✱ Dip each piece into a 50/50 glue-and-water mixture.
- ✱ Squeegee off excess glue by gently pulling the paper between your index and middle fingers.
- ✱ Apply the paper face-up and cover the entire surface. This can be done by hand or by spreading the glue mixture with a clean paintbrush.
- ✱ Build 2–4 layers for depth.
- ✱ Allow the paper to dry completely before applying additional surface decorations.



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Activity #2 Mantel Decorations and More (Continued)

4. **Cut Out Foreground Elements:** Trim images or designs from cards, gift bags, gift tags, and/or junk mail for the top layer.
5. **Assemble:** Glue all pieces securely onto the background surface.
6. **Enjoy your creation!** Display your creation on its own or with garland on a mantelpiece or bookcase.
7. **Optional Enhancements**
 - ✳ Hang it on the tree as a large ornament.
 - ✳ Attach a magnet (from an old notepad) to display on a refrigerator.
 - ✳ Add a transparency sheet to the background and glue snowflake cutouts for a floating effect.
 - ✳ Include any handwritten message from a card if it's from a friend or loved one or write a line from one of your favorite Christmas songs that matches your design.

