



the
giant eBook of
christmas
ideas

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Advent & Calendar Ideas

ADVENT IDEAS

12 Boxes of Love

Last Christmas I bought a set of 12 boxes (pre-decorated all in the same pattern) and in each of them I placed something of importance. Only two of them contained actual presents. The others contained reminders, movie stub, letters...as well as an explanation letter of each novelty. It certainly added a level of creativity to our gift opening.

--submitted by *Danny loves Jessy*

12 Days of Christmas

I started a list of things to get my boyfriend for Christmas but it became very long and I wanted to do something really special. I thought of the 12 Days of Christmas song and how on the first day there is 1 gift and on the second day 2 gifts and so on. So I got him one big gift and then got really creative with numbers. For the big numbers for example I got him an 11-dollar gift certificate to blockbuster. Another example, for the "2nd Day" I got him a reversible jacket he wanted and called it "a 2 sided jacket"...and that was my two. After all the gifts and numbers were arranged I wrote down the song with the changes and left that part of the song on each present. He thought it was absolutely amazing and clever. So if you like creative ideas or want to stay away from boring gift giving then think about this - it was so fun!

--submitted by *Inlove77*

12 Days of Christmas Hunt

This past Christmas I started giving gifts 11 days prior to the holiday. Each morning I would email him a line of lyrics from romantic songs from one of his favorite R&B artists that described how I felt about him. Then in the evening I would give him a riddle about the gift he would receive that evening. He would have to guess, and then figure out the surprise location of the gift. Each day I did this. On the 12th day I made him a CD of all the songs I gave him lyrics to and gave it to him as the finale Christmas gift, which he loved. He loved how I made Christmas different for him this past year and continues to talk about it.

--submitted by *Tovakyn*

12 Days of Romantic Gifts

For our first Christmas together I wanted to do something special. So starting 12 days before Christmas I decided to get memorabilia that would remind my boyfriend of things we've done together. I got him things that I saved from our walks or things I remembered he said to me. I baked him star cookies and on the back of each one wrote a wish that I made on a star every night about him or us. I made him things, I used my imagination. Attached to each present was a letter explaining what it reminded me of and started off by saying ... "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me" He loved it so much that he looked forward to them everyday. Needless to say he was sad when the 12th day arrived. I think now he has a better understanding of just how much I care. This idea also works for any holiday or special occasion.

--submitted by *Anonymous*

12 Days of Stockings

Get 12 mini-stockings. Write 12 letters, each describing a special memory of your relationship. Roll each letter and tie it with a ribbon or string. Place one letter in each stocking. You may want to include other items such as candy or small gifts. Starting on the 12th day before Christmas, hide a stocking a day for your love to find.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

25 Days of Christmas Cards

I have bought 25 cards, serious and funny, for each day of December leading up to Christmas Day. He will get one card a day. He will be gone one week on vacation during December. On those days I will pack those cards in his suitcase, so he will have something to have while we are apart. I just know he will love it!

--submitted by April

Advent Box

My boyfriend and I met in mid-January, so this year is our first Christmas together. I wanted to do something really special to show him how much I love him. I was thinking about the advent calendar and decided that I would create my own version - an advent box. I bought him a gift to open each day of December including Christmas Eve. I wrapped each item individually, numbered them in accordance to the date he was to open each gift on and put them all into a larger wrapped box with a lid. I had it delivered to his work on December 1st and it was a huge hit!!! The best thing about this idea is that you can spend as little or as much as you want. You just need to use your creativity and imagination.

--submitted by Danielle

Holiday Countdown Calendar

This is a great idea that can be used for any holiday! Buy one of those calendars with a little window you open each day, and there's a chocolate behind the window. Then carefully open the top of the box, and pull out the tray holding the chocolates. In their place you can put folded up love quotes or reasons why you love them. You can even leave the chocolate in there too for an added treat! Give it to your love and tell them they can only open one window each day, following the numbers. It's a lot of fun, and it's cute!

--submitted by Kimberly

Letter A Day

Decide how many days of letters you are going to send and decorate and address that many envelopes. For each day, find a Christmas love poem or song, or write a love letter, etc. Write or type them out on Christmas stationary. (Tip: Make your own stationary using stickers or drawings around the edges!) Stuff one item per envelope and begin sending them one a day to your love. For an extra romantic touch, include a love coupon to be redeemed the day they receive their letter!

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

CALENDAR IDEAS

Our Calendar

I made a calendar for my boyfriend for Christmas. It was composed entirely of pictures of us. I work at a copy place, so I just took a bunch of pictures and enlarged them on a color copier--it only costs 89 cents a copy!! However, I only had 11 pictures, so for February (our anniversary month), I put together a collage of cards and such. I copied the months from a calendar and laminated them all together. The finishing touch was that I bound them, so it looked like a professional job. I knew he loved it because he hung it in his room right away.

--submitted by *Danielle Marie*

365 Days of Love Calendar

This Christmas I came up with a great idea for my boyfriend of 4 months. Money has been tight on my end and I wanted to give him something he would always remember. I made him a calendar called 365 days of love. I came up with the 365 reasons why I loved him, things I love about him or us, or things I loved that had special meaning to the two of us. Then I made up a calendar that is similar to those tear off desk calendars you can buy at most stores. On each day there was one of my "I love" statements. I also added special days for the two of us. To seal all the pages together I carefully lined them up and then used hot glue on the top. At first I was not sure how this would go over but it was a hit. As he read through some of the things I wrote he said he had even forgotten about some of them. It is a great idea as long as you have the time to put it all together.

--submitted by *Anonymous*

Calendar Of Love

Pick out 12 photos or draw 12 images (one for each month of the year). Then take them to Kinko's, or another similar place, and have them create a calendar for you. Once you get the calendar, buy a few packs of romance related stickers. On important dates, such as your anniversary, birthdays, holidays, etc. place stickers and write in what the occasion is. For a more personal touch, signify with small stickers, days of important sentimental value, such as your first kiss, when you met, etc. Then for fun, create a few days to be designated "your holiday." For example, Romantic Movie Marathon Day, 101 Kisses Day, International Love Day (say I love you only in different languages that day), etc. You may also want to make two calendars so you can keep one too!

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Gift "Giving" Ideas

Christmas Gift Hunt

For my wife, last year, I bought her a pair of diamond earrings, but I made her work for them. In her last present, was a CD, containing background music of *Mission Impossible*. I did a voice-over during the music and told her that her mission was to find her gift... I then hid clues, like a map from one clue to the next, throughout the house. One of them was a webpage she had to visit, which had a video on it, showing her the next place to look. It finally went to a DVD I created which had a video of me on it, dressed like Men In Black, showing her the final clue (which was to look in my pocket). She did and found her earrings. She loved the adventure.

--submitted by Anonymous

Gift to Remember

Last Christmas, my fiancée and I were both really low on cash and had already decided what we would give each other. So, on Christmas morning, after we opened our gifts, he handed me this beautifully wrapped box about three feet tall. In it was a smaller box which had an even smaller box inside it. Finally, there was a little jewelry box with a note inside. The note had a short rhyme on it about something either he or I liked, but never said what it was. I had to guess, and then find where that item would be in the house. There, I found another rhyme note. The notes took me all over the house, to the fireplace, to the patio, the TV, the fridge, etc. Finally, in the fridge, on a case of beer, was a small gift bag. When I opened it, there was a gorgeous sapphire ring inside. It turned out that his grandparents had given him some money for Christmas and he wanted to do something special for me. It sure was, I'll never forget that Christmas!

--submitted by Eleni

I'll Drink to That!!

For Christmas this year, my boyfriend was very secretive about what he was giving me, but he was also VERY excited. He showed it to all of our friends and they gushed about how sweet and wonderful a gift it was. On Christmas Eve, we exchanged gifts and he handed me a large, heavy box. I opened it and found it stuffed with packing peanuts. I started digging around and came across a Budweiser stein. I was very confused until he told me to keep digging. I dug further and found another beer stein with a tiny jewelry box inside of it. Inside was a gorgeous emerald and diamond ring. He'd put the beer steins in to weigh the box down so I wouldn't know I was getting jewelry!!! I love surprises! What a sweetheart!

--submitted by Princess

In His Kiss

For my honey's Christmas present, I had bought him things that I knew he wanted, and a few small little things, which were little inside jokes between the two of us. I wrapped them each individually and put them all in a tin box. I couldn't just have them floating around in the box like that, and Styrofoam packaging peanuts were just not going to cut it. So instead, I used chocolate kisses. And not just any chocolate kisses... for each kiss, I typed out one of the many reasons I love him and replaced the flags with these little pieces of paper. He hadn't even noticed the flags I had placed in it until I told him to open one. When he saw what I did, he immediately took me in his arms. He loved it, more than the gift I think :)

--submitted by Lexie

Most Delightful of Truffles

This is one of the most memorable gifts I ever received: when I was in high school, our class took a trip to Boston. I found and tasted a Viennese truffle. TRUE heaven! The little chocolate shop I bought it in shut down and for years, I was still hunting for the elusive truffle. Years later, on Christmas, (my very cheap) boyfriend gave me a box of Godiva chocolate truffles. He said he looked everywhere but couldn't find the Viennese truffle either. Nice gesture, but I couldn't believe after all the times I had picked up the check, movies, etc., he was only giving me a box of chocolates. Then he asked me to open them. When I resisted and said they would ruin my appetite, he insisted, saying he would like to try one, the nerve! Imagine my surprise when the center of the truffle he picked out, had a beautiful gold/sapphire ring inside. I cried!

--submitted by Sam

Packing Tape Fun

Last year, one of my Christmas gifts was wrapped in packing tape and tissue paper. He wrapped it in paper, taped the paper, added more paper, added more tape, etc. He wrapped up 3 gifts like this. It was irritating at the time because of all the tape (he got a lot of enjoyment out of it), but reaching the end was so great! Two of the gifts were lip gloss and the bigger one was a container of body butter. The reason he picked out these gifts for me was because of the nature of my job. I work with a lot of cleaning chemicals and I wash my hands so much that the skin is always dry. He had remembered this from when I told him weeks before. I loved it! It also gave us something to laugh at for months to come!

--submitted by Rachelle

Trail of Post-It Notes

If you and your love live close, then do this: Make out as many post-it notes as you want, and lead your love on a path to find whatever you want them to find. I use this usually on birthdays or Christmas. You can also do this when you want to do something romantic.

--submitted by Cassie Gray

Homemade Gift Ideas

A Quilted Year

William and I have been together for almost a year. In that time we have had many pictures taken of us together and us apart. I want to do something special for him that he can hold when he gets lonely or sick, so I am making a quilt that has pictures of us on it. I am also going to put some of the things that we have done on it like going to the coast and Christmas etc. I am so happy that it has been this long and I know that he is the one for me, so maybe in a few years we will be sharing the same quilt.

--submitted by Stephanie

Boxed Date

Last Christmas my boyfriend already knew what I was getting him, so I wanted to make him a surprise gift too. I didn't have a whole lot of money, so I got a fairly large box and decorated it. Then I filled it with all the things we would need for a date: A good movie, some popcorn, pasta and sauce for dinner, love coupons, etc. You can make it for any sort of date, and it makes it easy for your love to surprise you right back with a spur of the moment date. I gave it to him and he said it was one of the best presents he ever got.

--submitted by Kitty

Christmas I Love You

About a week before Christmas, my boyfriend of a few months said I love you. To be honest, his way of saying it wasn't too special. I knew that when I said it, I wanted him to remember it forever. So, I bought a teddy bear, a little shirt to fit it, and some iron on letters. I ironed the words "I Love U" onto the shirt and wrapped the bear in a box. When he opened his gift for Christmas, he looked at it, looked at me and I told him I loved him too. He was so surprised and happy that it brought tears to his eyes.

--submitted by Anonymous

Christmas Stocking to Remember

Last year I found out that my boyfriend had never had a Christmas stocking. So, I went to Michael's and bought a pattern for a stocking and created a snowman design and sewed it all by hand. I also bought candy and a massage for him to get since he had been stressed out the few weeks before Christmas. When he came over and saw a stocking with his name on it over the fireplace he nearly cried. He said it was the nicest thing that anyone had ever done for him.

--submitted by Emily

Christmas Tree Love Thoughts Garland

For our first Christmas as husband and wife, we didn't have very much money to spend on each other. We decided on a small amount we could spend on store bought gifts and then anything else we would have to make. Our Christmas tree was small and we only had a few decorations on it. I took colored paper and cut out ornament shapes. On each ornament I wrote things I loved and enjoyed and appreciated about my husband and then I strung them all together and hung them on our little tree for him to find on Christmas morning (I had over 100). He loved it and said it was the best gift that even money couldn't buy ~ the love in my heart.

--submitted by Susan

Cuddle Blanket

For Christmas one year, I got the idea to make my boyfriend a blanket that we could cuddle up in together. I got the softest yarn and crocheted the most comfy blanket ever. When he opened it, he didn't realize that I didn't buy it. He couldn't believe that I had spent so much time on something like that.

--submitted by Megan

Engraved Key to my Heart

On Christmas Day, I wanted to do something extra special for the love of my life. I went to Zellers and bought a key, just a plain key, with no cuts in it. I then took it to an engraving store, and got them to engrave on it, "KEY TO MY HEART." I wrapped up the key, along with a letter just telling him how much I love him. It also told him to hold this key forever, 'cause no matter where I am, part of me will always be with him, forever!

--submitted by Natasha

Fairy Tale Story

My boyfriend and I are always telling each other stories, just to pass the time. This year for Christmas I decided to write out the story of how we met in a fairy-tale format, complete with cute pictures of the Kim Anderson children to illustrate it. All my girlfriends loved the idea, and hopefully he likes it as much, too!

--submitted by Anonymous

Fortune Cookies

For Christmas this year I got my boyfriend many things, but I also wanted to make him something. So I ended up making him fortune cookies, I got a recipe and made romantic fortunes to put inside the cookies. Some fortunes were sayings of love and some were lyrics from our song. When the cookies were all done I put them in a purple box shaped just like a Chinese take-out box, which I found at Wal-Mart. I decorated the box with heart stickers and little tag that told how much I loved him. He loved it because it combined food, a handmade gift, our song, and mini-love letters. He kept all of it, except the cookies, he ate them all and loved them.

--submitted by Becca

Gifts of Love

I'm saving up for college next semester, and I don't have much money for gifts this Christmas. My boyfriend understands this, and we made an agreement on only spending five dollars on each other. This is a great idea because it leaves more to creativity, thought, and love. This Christmas he's coming back from college, and I plan on wrapping 10 small boxes individually. Inside each box, I'm going to include a cutout heart with a reason why I love him on it inside. My boyfriend likes to shake the boxes to see what's inside. So, I'm going to put a box in another box, fill it up with different things, and in the smaller box, fill it with cutout hearts, and a pillow with his school colors and mascot. I'm going to spray my perfume on it, so when he's away, he'll always have a piece of me with him. The little boxes are going to go inside the box too. I can't wait to see him this Christmas, and I want him to know how much he means to me.

--submitted by Desirae

Guys, Do the Unexpected!

Okay guys, first of all, you need to learn to sew! I went to a craft store and bought a pattern for a "Couch Cozy." It's a warm garment that looks like a long sleeping bag with sleeves, foot holes, and a zipper. I went to a craft store and bought the pattern, polar fleece material, thread and pins - total cost so far: \$28.00. My girlfriend is away right now, but will be home in 2 weeks. It will be our first Christmas together. We already agreed not to go overboard on gifts... this year. I cut out the material from the pattern and am sewing it together. I'll be done by the time she gets home.

I will wrap it and give it to her as a gift. As an added touch, I bought a sew-in tag that says: "Made With Love By _____ (where you write your name)." It didn't cost a lot and I know she will love it! Trust me, learn to sew! This is one gift she will never expect!!

--submitted by Ryan

Holiday Message in a Bottle

My boyfriend is a big sweetheart and I love making him things. They don't cost much (if any money spent) but mean a lot to him when he opens them. Well, for Christmas last year I decided to write him a letter telling him exactly how I felt about him. I wrote my letter on a blank piece of white computer paper (hand written of course). When I was done, I crumpled it up, then opened it flat, and repeated that several times until it had that "old fashioned" look to it. Then I found an empty champagne bottle with a cork top. I rolled up my letter small enough to fit through the bottle opening and tied a piece of string into a bow around the letter. I then took a longer string, connected it to the bow and also connected it through the cork. (To tie it through the cork, dig a hole just wide enough for the string to fit. I used a paper clip end to make the hole.). When he opened it on Christmas, he pulled on the cork, and since the string was connected to the letter, that was pulled out along with it. He loved it and thought it was so sweet that I'd made him something he can open up and read when he needs to. He keeps it next to his bed now along with other presents I've given him. It's just a cute little way to show him you care.

--submitted by Angie

Homemade Teddy Bear Exchange

My boyfriend and I have been dating for almost four years; three of them have been long distance, because I am away at school. Because of this I am also always broke. So, as part of his Christmas gift I found a kit at Wal-Mart to make your own teddy bear. I hand-made him a teddy bear and made a little velvet vest for him and sewed a little heart to his bum. He thought it was really cute! Then for Valentine's Day he decided to make me a matching one. It was adorable and so incredibly sweet! The funny part is that his is way better than mine!

--submitted by Dana

I Give You My Heart

I took this idea and added a little bit to it, given that I never wanted to get hurt again. My new boyfriend had been talking to me off and on where I worked and he changed everything in my life. My heart felt safe from the very first night we sat and talked for hours on the phone. I cut out 2 heart shapes out of red felt and made a small little pillow out of it. I added white lace with red hearts around it. I also added a heart shaped Christmas ornament with an angel on it to the front center of the pillow. I wrapped it up and gave it to him with a card saying: "This is to represent my heart. It is, as the ornament is, very fragile. Life before you always ended up with my heart hurting. You are a very special person to me. With this thought in mind; I give you my heart. It is in your hands, so please take care of it and realize you are the only keeper of it. It is yours if you want it." I wrapped it up in unicorn paper (he loves unicorns) and gave it to him. He tells me all the time he enjoys having my two hearts. He hasn't let go of it since. I am so happy for that. He is my world and I am his. In time, I expect us to be a family. I feel he is my one true love. I finally found it!!! It took only me 41 years to find this wonderful man.

--submitted by casper_1740

I Love You Blanket

Find out his favorite colors and make him a blanket preferably fleece and on one side using felt letters write something like, "cover you in kisses" or "I Love you" or "Wrapping you in my love" etc. I'm giving it to my boyfriend for Christmas. I hope it goes well!

--submitted by Anonymous

Jingle Bell Serenade

My boyfriend and I had just started dating. I was very excited to have someone to shop for on Christmas. A few days before Christmas he informed me that he hadn't had any money to get me a gift, but he made me something and wanted to bring it over to me on Christmas morning. I thought it was very unique and thoughtful of him to make me a present. So, on Christmas morning he called me and said he was right around the corner from my house. I heard the loudest noise coming from outside. I looked out of my window and saw my guy standing on the back of a trailer that was hitched to a truck with a microphone in his hand. He called for me to come outside. The trailer was very nicely decorated with wrapping paper, a comfy couch and a fake Christmas tree. He, along with a few other friends, started to serenade me and my family (who were outside video taping the whole thing) to quite a few Christmas carols. Then he dedicated a very special song to me and brought me up on the trailer. He then bent down on one knee and sang to me for the remainder of the song. It was the cutest thing in the world and the most appreciated gift I have ever received and probably ever will receive. He said the idea didn't cost him a thing, but a few working hours to get everything perfect for me...and on top of that he skipped Christmas morning with his parents to come and serenade me. That was the sweetest thing by far!!

--submitted by Anonymous

Journal Box

Last year for Christmas, I went out and bought my boyfriend a shirt and some other things, but I also wanted to make something special. I got an empty Nestle Quik container (the yellow ones) and cleaned it out. Then, I went through tons of magazines to find pictures and phrases that described our relationship. I covered the lid and container with these. Then, for the entire month of December I wrote little notes everyday about what I love about him, things we had done that day that made me happy, or other little things. I added some love poems and love quotes, each on a separate piece of folded paper. He loved it! It's still sitting on his desk!

--submitted by Amber

Journal of Love

I like to write poetry and he loves to get it. This year we celebrated Christmas on our anniversary (cause I was going out of town) I wrote a whole little book of poems and after each one made a journal entry of what inspired me to write it. He keeps it by his bed and reads at least one almost every night.

--submitted by Anonymous

Keeping Warm at Night

This idea is great for those cold winter nights! Iron-on T-shirts are easy and very fun and cheap. You need a t-shirt or sweatshirt, a computer, an iron and transfer paper. (Try Staples or crafts stores for the paper.) Then simply find a favorite picture online or scan an image of yourself... or write something naughty! Print the picture onto the transfer paper, and iron the picture onto a shirt. This gift is great because it is so versatile!

--submitted by Nikki

Little Packets of Love

I did this for Christmas, but you can really do this anytime, and the good thing about it is that a guy or girl can do it. It's hard to find sweet things to do for your boyfriend that don't have to do with flowers or teddy bears. I wanted my boyfriend to know I love him, but in a creative way. So, I bought little mini bags of M&M's and on little pieces of paper I typed up reasons why I love him. For example, I love you because... when we kiss there are still sparks. Then I punched holes in the corner of the papers and I tied one to each M&M bag with a piece of ribbon. To top it all off I put them all in a cute bag and gave it to him for an early Christmas present. He loved it, and it was a nice treat to read a new reason why I loved him with every candy he ate.

--submitted by *Brittney*

Love of a Lifetime Membership Kit

For Christmas one year, I was low on cash and decided to make my boyfriend a gift. I got a small box and glittered it all up saying, "Love of a Lifetime Membership Kit". Inside the box, I made little coupon cards (use index cards). Each color index card had their own category such as love cards, wild cards, mental health cards, and treat cards. On the back of these cards were (for example, "Good for one night of..."). Then I put a bag of Hershey kisses with a note that said, "each redeemable for the real thing." I also included a pocket calendar that said, "booking you for the rest of our life" and a small cut-out heart that said "I love you..." (name of your sweetie) with the expiration date of "forever". It was a really fun gift to make!

--submitted by *Shevon*

Love Letter Bouquet

Buy a few silk flowers. Six should do well. On a piece of paper (preferably green), write a love letter that is double spaced. When you are done, cut out each line so you have the letter in strips. Place a piece of tape at the edge of a strip and wrap it around the stem spiraling down. Tape the other edge down. Repeat this with all of your strips. You may have to remove leaves, or cut letter pieces shorter. When you are done, get a gift box the size of the flowers, and tissue paper to wrap the flowers in. Place flowers in box. You might want to add a few wrapped chocolates as well.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Love Song

On our first Christmas together, my honey and I decided that since we didn't have much money to spend, to make each other homemade gifts. I made him a collage with a poem and some pictures from when we first started dating. He wrote me a song!! He typed it out on nice stationary and framed it along with a picture of us. When I opened it I began reading it and then he pulled his guitar out and started singing me the song. I just melted. He also sang the song on our wedding day. It was so romantic

--submitted by *Anonymous*

Love Song Collage

I'm usually pretty broke, but I still wanted to give my girlfriend something really special for Christmas. We have two special songs, not just one. I took the lyrics from those two songs and I collaged them on top of two pictures using Photo Shop. One black and white picture was of us kissing and another was a black and white photo of a rose. I put those pictures into a frame that opened up to show the two photos. She loved it.

--submitted by *Colin*

Make Your Own Loveopoly

My fiancé and I were playing board games with my roommates one weekend and he kept going on and on about how Monopoly was his favorite. I was looking for a Christmas present for him and found "Make-Your-Own-Opoly" where I could get all the pieces to make a version of Monopoly especially for us. It's cute and fairly inexpensive (about \$30 with shipping and handling) to show your creative side and make him smile!

--submitted by Lizzie

Personalized Crossword Puzzles

A few years ago I started making my own crossword puzzles for my boyfriend. They're never the perfectly laid-out ones like you see in the newspaper, but all the answers have to do with our relationship, and that's what makes them beautiful. I start with one word and then just attach other words until it looks like a game of scrabble. Give each one a number and a simple clue, and it takes him hours to finish because we talk about memories the entire time. He now looks forward to them every year on his birthday, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and our anniversary.

--submitted by Niki

Personalized Needlepoint for Him

My husband is currently in the navy, stationed in South Carolina. Our 20 month old son and I are in Maine until the first of the year when we can move down to be with him. During this time, I've been making him small gifts for Christmas. The one that I think he'll enjoy the most is a needlepoint of a teddy bear in a sailor suit holding a pie, a blanket, and an apple by his foot. On his cap, I plan on putting his name rather than "U. S." to make it personalized. I'm then going to sew the finished product onto a red or blue background (to make it stand out) and frame it. It's a nice, meaningful memento to let him know that I love him, even when he's 1200 miles away. It also shows that I support his decision of joining the navy. It takes a lot of time and patience, but I know he'll love it!

--submitted by Shawna

Seashells of Love

For Christmas one year, I gave my boyfriend a glass jar full of seashells. He loves to be by the ocean, so I thought it would be the perfect gift. I wrote every reason I could think of as to why I love him and put them on seashells. I put about 50 of them in a jar and decorated the jar with some ribbon and other things. He loved the gift very much, and now he knows all the reasons why I love him.

--submitted by Jessica

Sing a Song of Love

For Christmas this year, I purchased soundtracks to several love songs. I got together with the sound man at my church and he helped me make a tape of myself singing these songs. I decorated the tape case with heart stickers and labeled it, "For My Love - I'm Forever Yours". Hopefully it will be a Christmas present he will forever cherish.

--submitted by Tracy

Snowflakes Messages

My boyfriend was having a few bad days in a row, so I decided to cheer him up. I spent a couple hours cutting out big and small snowflakes out of computer paper. On each one I wrote something nice about him or a fond memory that we have shared before we started to date or since we have been dating. I took light blue thread and tied string to each snowflake and hung them up on his ceiling with scotch tape with the snowflakes at different levels. He was so happy that I had taken such a long time

to cut out the shapes and write something on each. Can you say you wouldn't be thrilled if your boyfriend had taken the time to do that for you?

--submitted by *Crystal*

Stocking of Goodness

My boyfriend and I have been dating for the past 10 months. We both love really sentimental gifts and for every anniversary or birthday he always asks me for something homemade. Now that it's Christmas, my idea is to make a stocking of goodness!! I'm going to buy a regular stocking from the dollar store, embroider our initials on it and fill it with lots of things he'll love. Candies, letters, and things that represent our inside jokes will all be present. Not only will it be a timeless memory, he'll love all of the small gifts and letters that will be included!

--submitted by *Freckle*

The Perfect Gift

My boyfriend called to wish me a Merry Christmas and I said the same. Two hours later, during the turkey dinner of a lifetime, he showed up at my door with a bow on his head and holding my present. He walked in my house, gave me a kiss and then gave me the present. Inside was just a simple piece of paper reading, "If I could have the perfect Christmas Gift, I'd have you over anything"

--submitted by *Anonymous*

Timeless Treasure

Draw a picture that symbolizes your relationship. It doesn't matter if you think you can't draw. Whatever comes from the heart is all that matters. Just make sure it's big enough to frame. Once you're done, take the drawing to have it framed, matted and prepared to hang. When it's done, write a dedication on the back of the framed picture to your sweetheart.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Wishes

Using an old Croce song for inspiration, I bought a clay jar with a cork stopper that had "Wishes" written on the side. Then I wrapped it and gave it to him as a Christmas gift. When he opened it, I asked him to look inside and tell me what he saw. He looked and told me nothing was inside. I then told him, in a sing song voice, a verse from the Jim Croce song; "Because if I had a box just for wishes and dreams that had never come true ... the box would be empty except for the memory of how they were answered by you."

--submitted by *Kisses*

You... For A Day!

When the top thing on your sweetheart's gift list is you, this idea is perfect! On a blank index card, make a love coupon good for, "One perfect, romantic day with me! Starting... NOW!" Have the card laminated and place it inside a small gift box with tissue paper covering it. ONLY give this gift when you are able to fulfill the coupon immediately. Once they open it, immediately take them out to an activity you had planned, such as ice-skating, visiting a Christmas fair, a movie, etc. Take them out to see local Christmas light displays. Have fun and see how many displays you can see throughout your city. Then grab some hot chocolate or coffee and blankets and head to a secluded, scenic night spot to cuddle and talk.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Your Light in the Dark

I really wanted to make something unique and sweet for my girlfriend since this was going to be our first Christmas together. I wanted to do something just to let her know how special she is to me and to remind her that I'll always be there for her. I know that she doesn't have a nightlight, so I decide to make her this little Japanese lantern. At the base of the lantern it said, "I'd be your light on dark and lonely nights." When I gave it to her she was surprised, she didn't even believe that I made it. She loves the idea. And now every night she turns it on before she goes to bed.

--submitted by MNL_1426

Long Distance Ideas

About Me Journal

Let your partner know more about you by creating an, "In The Life Of..." journal. In the journal, write down childhood memories, dreams and other memories that are important to you. Make sure to include pictures of yourself and your favorite places to visit. For a personal touch, add in any saved message histories or e-mails you've sent to each other. You could also include a blank journal for your partner to send you a similar journal back!

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Christmas in a Box

My husband is in the military and was deployed to Iraq. At Christmas time, we found out that he wouldn't be able to come home for mid-tour. This was the first Christmas that we wouldn't be together since we've been married. I knew Christmas was going to be a hard time for him because he is very close to his family. So I got a miniature Christmas tree. (It was the same Christmas tree he had bought for me when I was in the hospital with the birth of our son.). I had each of his family members write a special message on these little Christmas colored index cards. I bought these little star shaped ornaments that had a clip on them from Wal-Mart that hung on the tree and clipped each folded note to it. I sent the tree and the ornaments in a care package and attached a letter that explained to him that since he couldn't come home for Christmas, we were sending Christmas to him. And that he was not to open any of the messages until Christmas day. On the care package itself, I wrote on the outside of the box, "Christmas in a Box." He really enjoyed it and it brought his spirits up during a difficult time.

--submitted by *Theresa*

Christmas in Iraq

My fiancé deploys for Iraq next week and since there isn't enough time to send out his Christmas present, I'm sending him over with a box of presents. For each day in December, he has a different individually wrapped present to open. The gifts range from Hotwheels cars and candy canes to homemade fleece blankets and decorated pillowcases and even cute ornaments. Included in each present is a short note of explanation or just a sweet sentiment. This way, he'll have small pieces of home and even a few random trinkets to carry around in his pockets.

--submitted by *Jenn*

Flowers from Far Away

My husband and I had just been married for 6 months. In November he was deployed overseas for 4-6 months. He missed Christmas with his 2 year old daughter and me...it was our first Christmas, very emotional and sad for the both of us. The day after Christmas, a man came to my door, holding flowers. I didn't know they were for me until I had read the card, and it was sent to me from my husband all the way from where he was deployed. Somehow he had it all set up through someone he knew, to make this special gift happen for me. I swear that was the absolute best Christmas gift I had gotten! Just to know my husband was alright, and thinking of me.

--submitted by *Kathy*

Hugs and Kisses to Go

My boyfriend was leaving the day winter break started for Arizona and was going to be gone through Christmas. So I decided to make a little something for him to take with him, not as his present, but just as something to remind him of me while he's gone. I took a plastic bowl, and wrote with a permanent marker on the bottom, "I love you so much!" and filled the bowl with a few Hershey's Hugs, and a BUNCH of Kisses. Then I wrapped it like a fruit basket would be wrapped and tied it with a red

bow (his favorite color). On the bow, I attached a little card that said, "Paul, here are some hugs and kisses from me to you, so that anytime you want one, you can have one! Have a fun and safe time. Merry Christmas, can't wait for you to get home! Love, Jenna." He loved it! It's a great way to just let your boy/girlfriend know you're thinking about them, and love them!

--submitted by Jenna Lee

Keeping In Time

The love of my life lives on another continent, over 3000 miles away. We are constantly trying to find ways to deal with the time difference. For Christmas I gave him a pocket watch that is set with my time zone. When you open it there is a photo of us from our first visit together on a boat going to see the Statue of Liberty. He loved the idea, and he knows his watch is set to his "Teresa's time." It certainly makes him feel closer.

--submitted by Teresa

LDR Battleship

I actually got this idea one from a friend of mine. For Christmas one year, I got my girlfriend the game of Battleship. She was shocked at first, but she took one Battleship board back home with her, and I took the other one to school with me. When we had time we would sit online, or on the phone, and play Battleship together. It was a great way to still feel like we were close even though we were apart. We still play from time to time to remember when we couldn't be together.

--submitted by Anonymous

Little Love Book

My boyfriend and I met online and then eventually met in person one year later (to which we are still going strong). For Christmas, I made him a little book using a spiral notebook with non-acid black paper. Using gold and silver jelly pens I wrote a reason I love him on each page. Then I proceeded to decorate each page with a decorative border or silly little drawings. Decorating the front was the most fun, I stuck on little jewels. It can be some tedious work, but if you're patient, it will be one of their most cherished gifts.

--submitted by Sarina Rapini

Love Stationary

This is a great gift if you both mail letters to each other. Find pictures of the both of you together, or just you by yourself, and make stationary out of them. You can find tons of templates online. Don't limit yourself to just homemade paper! Experiment with postcards, envelopes, letterheads, etc.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Missing You at Christmas

My boyfriend was away for Christmas and I wanted to let him know how much I missed him. The phone calls weren't enough, so I downloaded a whole bunch of songs that said I missed him. I created a CD and mailed it to him. Every time I would call I could hear the songs in the background, so it brought many smiles to both our faces 'till he returned.

--submitted by Fabianne

Missing You Movie

During Christmas, my beautiful girl Brooke and I plan to spend the holidays with our families. Well, we both had talked about presents and stuff and I had planned to surprise her with my presence on the day after, but it just isn't going to work out. So I'm going to make her a video and tell her how much I miss her and how special she is to me.

--submitted by Brad

Paper Snowflakes

He was gone for a long time doing volunteer work overseas in a warm climate, and when winter rolled around I knew there wouldn't be any snow there. So, I sent him a box filled with hundreds of paper snowflakes, like the ones you made in grade school.

--submitted by Anonymous

Perpetual Love Letter

Write a five page, or more, love letter. Buy as many \$5.00 - \$10.00 store gift cards as letter pages you're going to write. Each day, mail a page of the letter and a gift card.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Saving the Best for Last

I am in a LDR, and at the beginning of December I had sent him a box of numbered letters, one letter for each day of the month. In the box, there wasn't one for the 31st, so I wrote a note and told him he must wait for the envelope on the 31st. In this envelope I will send an airline ticket and a bear that's wearing a shirt that says, "Someone in Wisconsin loves you!" He is going to be SO SURPRISED!

--submitted by Lora

Songs from the Heart

My boyfriend is always telling me how much he loves my voice. He also asks me often to sing for him. I'm away at school and can't see him always but last Christmas I came up with a great gift idea. My dad found a music program and bought a microphone from the computer store and had it set up to where I could record myself singing. I recorded about twelve tracks of myself singing songs like, "Leaving on a Jet Plane" and "Love me Tender." My voice didn't sound the greatest on all of the songs but he loved it just the same and now when he misses hearing my voice he can just pop the C.D. in and listen to me serenade him.

--submitted by Anonymous

Stocking of Love

Give your love a little piece of your Christmas at their home! Get a solid colored stocking and fabric paint. Paint something sentimental on the stocking like, "Our First Christmas," etc. Fill the stocking with small, but sentimental gifts like a love letter, pictures of you, poetry book, watch, jewelry, etc.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Surrounded

For Christmas last year, I wanted a gift for my boyfriend that he could always have with him. I write frequently and thought of how often my thoughts are of how he surrounds me with the love and attention I am always grateful for. I then came up with the idea of writing him a poem of how it feels to have someone so close to you. I titled the poem, "Surround" and framed it. I then had a specially designed silver ring made for him, and had the center engraved with the word, "Surround." I gave him his gift as a package and saw him tear up for the first time. I have never seen him without it and often times see him run his finger across the words. He says he feels for it whenever he's not with me, and it reassures him that I'm there even when I can't be.

--submitted by Cris

Gifts Just for Him

#1 Trophy

For my boyfriend for Christmas one year, I had a trophy made for him. It said, "#1 Boyfriend" on the bottom plaque, and it was designed with things that remind me of him, and him of me. This idea is cheap and you can do it at any trophy store. Trust me it will be a Christmas he will never forget! I know my boyfriend loved it!

--submitted by Meags

Christmas Surprise

I'm a little strapped for cash right now, but I really want to get my boyfriend something special for Christmas. I found this super cute stocking with little snowmen playing football on it (it's so hard to find a unique but un-girly stocking) and I'm filling it up with his favorite candy, notes, and poems. Also, when we exchange presents I'm going to gift wrap a blindfold and make sure it's the first gift he opens. I'm going to blindfold him and take him to the spot at the lake where we first made love, making sure to pack plenty of warm weather gear, and serve him dinner. I will finish off with his favorite dessert, and my peanut butter pie. I'm so excited! I've never been able to surprise him (in 3 years!) and I know he'll love it.

--submitted by Anonymous

Football Memories

For Christmas, I've bought my boyfriend a few gifts, but I still want to do something else special. So, what I've decided to do is make a memory book page having to do with football since he has played football ever since he was little. I called up his mom and asked her if she had any pictures of him playing football. She said that she will find some and give them to me. So, what I am going to do is go to a craft store and find little cut outs of football themes and football stickers and make a memory scrap book page about football and then buy a cheap frame from the craft store to put it in. Then, I think I am going to make him go on a scavenger hunt to find the gifts. I hope he will like it!

--submitted by Anonymous

For the Love of Basketball and Me!

My boyfriend is a real dedicated basketball player, and is always practicing. We have this inside joke, where I always ask him where Spaulding is (the brand of a basketball) because he is always with the basketball. So, one Christmas I bought a Spaulding basketball and crossed out the name Spaulding and wrote my name in big black permanent marker. As I gave him the basketball, I told him that now he can be with Spaulding and me at the same time!

--submitted by Kristen

Gift Idea for a New Love

My guy and I had been dating only 3 months when Christmas came around so I didn't want to spend an outrageous amount of money on him, although I did want him to know how much he means to me. I work at a bank so I found an old money bag and cut a handle hole out of the top. Then I got red and green paint pens and wrote quotes and little notes to him all over it. I filled it up with two DVDs that he wanted, a shirt, and his favorite candy. I know it really meant a lot to him. It took me forever to make but it was worth it.

--submitted by Kim

Going Overboard

Here's a good idea for birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries etc.: Choose something your mate can't get enough of, and go way overboard! My husband is a microwave popcorn-o-holic. For Christmas, I bought him cases and cases of microwave popcorn, stacked on top of each other, and wrapped up as one gift! He loved it!

--submitted by Heather

Keep Warm Basket

My boyfriend is one of those guys that is hard to shop for. He's used to getting what he needs and wants himself. When I asked him what he wanted for Christmas this year, he simply said...socks, so I created a "Keep Warm" basket for him. First, I found a basket that looked kind of like a fishing basket, so it wouldn't be too girly. Then, I filled it with stuff to keep him warm, like a really soft blanket, a pair of pajama pants, 2 coffee cups (I bought plain white \$2 mugs for each of us and used permanent markers to write our names, love sayings and notes on each), a couple packages of gourmet coffee, a vanilla candle, a teddy bear, and of course, a pack of socks. I neatly arranged everything in the basket before sticking it under the tree. On Christmas Eve, I had so much fun watching his face as he opened it. He absolutely loved it, and was so surprised. That night, he wore the pajama pants and socks, and on Christmas morning, we got up and had coffee together wrapped up in the blanket. It was so much fun to put together, and the best part about it was that I got to use some of it to spend time with him.

--submitted by Alyssa

Medieval Traditions

I call him my knight a lot. On Christmas I baked him a gingerbread cake and stenciled a heart on it with confectioner's sugar. In feudal times Ladies made gingerbread cakes for their knights.

--submitted by Anonymous

Relaxation in a Box

My boyfriend got transferred by his company to another city at the beginning of December for 5 months. He's working very long days and never gets a break. My gifts always have cute little themes, but this year I was struggling to come up with an inspiration. We hadn't been dating that long, so I needed something that showed I respect all his hard work, that I care about him, and that I put thought into it by selecting things I know he'd like, but that wasn't too sappy or ridiculously cheesy. I settled on "relaxation in a box." I bought a beautiful red velvet box and filled it with all kinds of things he could use to have a relaxing night at home. I bought a bottle of his favorite pinot noir (he's quite the wine connoisseur), a gorgeous cashmere blanket (a man of style and class), a few scented candles (he loves candles), his favorite movie on DVD, along with some delicious sweets from our favorite candy store.

--submitted by Muffin

Sexy Holiday Ideas

Christmas Eve Romance

This is an idea for either the guy or the gal to use. A great way to spend Christmas Eve together! Get a sexy Santa or Mrs. Santa lingerie suit/outfit. Get naughty presents like edible undies, edible finger-paints etc. Wrap them up and sit down on the couch or biggest chair in a very seductive pose. Lay the presents around you then call your partner out to you and have fun opening and using the gifts.

--submitted by Anonymous

Edible Loving

One holiday, my husband and I picked out all our presents together, so we both knew what we were going to get. Out of money, and still wanting to surprise him, I thought of a gift that was perfect for him. I got an old baby food container and filled it half with honey and half with sugar. I then put a label on it that read, edible exfoliate. Then I ran a bath with candles, flowers and the works. He loved it! The honey and sugar mix is a great skin exfoliate, and it's edible so it works in the bedroom too. Just have some lotion on hand to use afterwards. If the taste is a little strong, add a dab of vanilla extract.

--submitted by Top Secret

Mistletoe Fun

Go to a local craft store and buy some mistletoe and attach it to a headband with some wire so that it hangs over your head. When you see him, make eye contact and smile. When he comes over, look up; he will look up, and then lean over and gently kiss him. When he looks back at you, smile and say something like, "Hey, I'm just following the rules."

--submitted by Melissa

Naughty & Nice

We only get to see each other on the weekends. During the year we buy each other little things here and there, so when Christmas comes, we have family to buy for which leaves us no money to get each other anything. So, we started having a romantic night, cooking dinner together, dancing to our favorite songs, and enjoying a "Fantasy Idea." We would pretend to be a teacher/student, librarian/student ... etc you get the idea. The night turns from nice to naughty. Use your imagination and have fun, just be safe!

--submitted by Pumpkinz

Our Secret Masterpiece

On a cold and snowy night my husband and I had a late night craft session. We laid out a shower liner and then our painting canvas in front of the fire place and got body paint that matched our paint on the walls. We then rolled around together making love on the canvas. When we were done we ended up creating a masterpiece that now hangs above our fireplace.

--submitted by Esmeralda

Secret Santa

One day, during the Christmas season, I asked my boyfriend to come over to help me with something. When I got off the phone, I left a long trail of ribbon going from the door to my room, with a note, "To: My Love... From: Your Secret Santa" placed where he would see it. When he followed the trail up and opened the door, he found me sitting there, in lingerie and a Santa Hat. Needless to say, he loved it. This will work for birthdays and what not. I guarantee they'll flip over it!

--submitted by Anonymous

Sensual Night for Two Setting

The following idea is a setting for whatever you wish to use it for. You may want to create a winter picnic for two, or plan a sensual evening. First, you'll need quite a few white sheets that can be damaged. You can buy these pretty inexpensively at any discount store. Just make sure to wash them first so they are soft. You'll also need white Christmas lights, tea light candles and red rose petals from a florist. Before your evening of romance, lay out the white sheets across your bed and the entire floor so that it doesn't show. Then string lights in as many places as possible in the room, including on the floor. Sprinkle the rose petals over the bed and on the sheets on the floor. Be careful with these as they can stain. Then place the tea lights throughout the room. Right before you show your surprise, light the tea lights. You now have a winter wonderland setting to use however you wish!

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Sexy Advent Calendar

For Christmas, I got a plain Santa sack and decorated it. Inside I had 24 envelopes wrapped in ribbon and decorated in stars. In each of these envelopes were either naughty or nice surprises, such as sexual vouchers, teddies, mini Bailey's or body chocolates, strong mints (for certain areas!), homemade boxers, or little things from Ann Summers. I also put notes in each envelope. On one day I even had a clue to a surprise he'd get later. My boyfriend thought it was great and couldn't wait to open each day and tell all his mates what he got. He kept the notes I wrote in his wallet, and any sex vouchers we haven't used yet he keeps there too, ready to use on me at any time!

--submitted by *Anonymous*

The Gift of You

Surprise your lover with a gift of you. This often looks and works better on women, but men you can try it too. Go to a local crafts and/or sewing store, and get some soft, colored (red looks really good), 2 inch or 3 inch wide ribbons. Get the ribbon at least 6 ft long or more, you can get some bows, or other things. Then wrap only the most sensual parts of your body in ribbons and bows fashioning a sort of lingerie or sexy outfit from the ribbons. Be creative but make sure you can get out of it. Try putting the bow in the center of your body with a note. The note could say open me or Merry Christmas. You could meet your lover at the door, in your bedroom or you could wear it under a coat or outfit (that is why I said cloth ribbon it is more comfortable). They will have a lot of fun unwrapping this gift!

--submitted by *John*

Holiday Proposal Ideas

Best Memories Progressive Proposal

Create a timeline of your most memorable moments and where they took place. For example, you first met them at a park, your first kiss was at the beach, etc. On a day you know that your partner will be free, blindfold them and take them to each place in the order of your timeline. If you met at a park, you'd take them to a park and say, "Here is where I met the most important person in my life." Then, blindfold them again and continue to where you first kissed and say, "Here is where I first tasted the sweetness of your lips." Kiss them again and then blindfold them. Proceed to all the destinations. At the last location, say, "You don't know this place yet, but it will soon have the most sentimental value." Pull out the ring and continue saying, "This is the place where we got engaged. Will you marry me?"

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

*Best Memories Journal Proposal

An alternative to the above idea, if you can't take them to each place, is to take a photo of each of them. Get a hard back journal and, on each page, paste a photo of the event in the order that it happened. Below each picture, write what the special moment is. For the last photo, take a picture of wherever you are going to give them the book and underneath it write something like, "This is the most special memory of all. This is where we got engaged, will you marry me?" Be behind them with your ring.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Candlelight & Kisses Proposal

It was Christmas morning and the alarm went off about 6 am. I got up and started my daily routine, when I noticed that there was a candle lit in the living room. When I walked around the corner there were Hershey kisses on the floor in a line going into the other room. There was a note that said, "Follow the kisses." As I walked into the room, the kisses led to another note and candle. It read, "Now that I've kissed the ground you walk on, will you marry me?" As I looked up my boyfriend came into the candlelight and told me that he loved me with all his heart and he wanted to complete his life by making me a part of it forever. Of course I said yes and we've lived happily ever after since. :) I heard from so many girls after that about how lucky I was and how sweet the proposal was.

--submitted by *Christina*

Christmas Dinner Engagement

Take your sweetheart out for a romantic Christmas dinner for two. Arrange with the manager of the restaurant beforehand the following details: Have your meal occur as normal. As the final dish, have a waiter come out with a covered plate saying, "This is a special treat on the house for a beautiful lady." (If you're the female proposing, have them say something more fitting.) Don't have the waiter remove the cover of the plate. On the plate, have the engagement ring and a note saying, "Will you marry me?" If you present the ring in a box, have the box open.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Christmas Eve Proposal

I met my girlfriend about 6 weeks before I left for boot camp, and was not really sure how it would all work out. When I got to boot camp I wrote her letters every day, and she did the same for me. I got to see her at graduation, and then again at Thanksgiving. I planned to ask her to marry me when I went home for Christmas leave. I picked her up Christmas Eve, and took her to a place called Old Town, which was decorated beautifully, with trees, lights, luminaries, and Christmas caroling. We did the caroling for a while, and then decided to go for a walk. We went to look at

the tree and it was nice to just hold each other while looking up at the tree. It was really cold and she had my gloves on so I told her to let me have just one of them (the left one is the one I picked) so when she put her hand in her pocket I put my hand in it also, and took her hand out. She looked up at me and I told her how much I loved her. She started to look down as I put the ring on her finger. After I got it on she asked, "What's this?" With the biggest smile I whispered, "What do you think it is?" she started crying like crazy. I asked her if she was going to make me get down on one knee to get an answer. She said, "Yes" and with tears in her eyes I took the ring off and at the top of my lungs asked for everyone's attention. Her eyes lit up. She got all embarrassed and in front of everyone there, I got down on one knee and asked her to marry me. She said, "Yes," and it was perfect!

--submitted by Jon

Christmas Tree Hunt Proposal

When my husband proposed he did it in such a cute and original way that I will never forget it. A few days before Christmas he brought me over to his house. On his Christmas tree he had these ornaments that had boxes (gifts) that actually opened. Well in his family there is a tradition that someone has to find the pickle ornament on the tree. So he had me find the pickle which had a clue on it. That clue led me to one of the ornaments which had another clue in it. After about four clues the last clue led me to this ornament of Santa Claus. When I opened the gift box, there was an engagement ring. Then he took the ring out of the box got down on one knee and proposed to me. It was so romantic. I will never forget that day as long as I live!

--submitted by Jenna

Christmas Tree Proposal

This has yet to be done, but here's the plan: On Christmas Day, I am going to have five presents under my girlfriend's tree for her. She will of course believe that I am at my father's celebrating Christmas, but I will be hiding in the kitchen. The first present will be a ticket stub to our first movie which just happened to be our first date and where our first kiss was. The second will be a picture of her 5-month-old niece and me. That one will be representing the time when we casually began talking about kids and a life together. The next will be a picture of the two of us at my sister's wedding a few months later. We had an amazing time and couldn't stop saying, "I love you" to each other that day. The next one will be a Valentine's Day stuffed toy gorilla reminding her of the amazing Valentine's Day the two of us had a few months after my sister's wedding. The last present will have a note in it reading: "You have given me more joy than even I thought possible, and at the end of this string I hope to give back just a fraction of that joy to you..." There will be a string attached to the bottom of the box leading around the tree 3 or 4 times and up to the top. Around the back of the star at the top of the tree will be an engagement ring. Just before she gets to the ring, I am going to come out from the kitchen and make my speech and get down on one knee and ask her to marry me.

--submitted by Sean

Christmas Wish

It was Christmas Eve of 1998. My boyfriend and I had just gotten home from dinner at his parent's house. I was having a really bad day. As I got up from the couch to go take a shower, he pulled on my hand and wrapped me up in a hug. He said to me, "I can't offer you anything and I don't have a lot of money. The only thing that I have to offer you is the endless love that fills my heart. You have been so understanding and I love you deeply. I don't have a ring; all I can offer you now is this warm and loving hug. Will you be my wife?" Needless to say I said, "Yes."

--submitted by Anonymous

Easy as A, B, C Proposal

After hurricane Katrina, I met my boyfriend in a restaurant about 300 miles from his home. We had an amazing few months together, we just connected in a way that I never even knew was possible. About two weeks before Christmas my boyfriend asked me for a list of three things that he could choose from to buy me. My list consisted of: a MP3 player, a bottle of perfume, and finally an organizer. He proceeded to tell me that he would get me one of the three gifts and my Christmas shopping went as usual. In our families, it is tradition to open gifts on Christmas Eve, instead of Christmas Day. I gave him his gifts and then it was my turn. He pulled out three Christmas bags marked A, B, and C. He gave me the bag marked "A," I opened it with excitement and I found the perfume. Next, he gave me the bag marked "B," I opened this one and found the MP3 player. The MP3 player's packaging had been opened and I looked at it puzzled, he told me to put it on and listen to the song that he had downloaded to it. It was the most romantic song ever. After my eyes were good and wet, he gave me my final gift... by now I was expecting the organizer, with all of the other gifts being on the list. Before I opened this bag that was marked "C," he told me that he didn't like organizers, but here was my last gift. I gently pulled the tissue paper out of the bag and inside I found a little white box. I put it on the table and said, "Well, it's not an organizer." I pulled the smaller box out, expecting it to be earrings or a necklace, but there inside was the most beautiful ring. By then I was crying, he was already on one knee asking me, "Will you marry me?" It was definitely a wonderful Christmas!

--submitted by Amber

Funny Mixed Up Proposal

My fiancée and I met a couple of years ago at a party, and then shortly after, he traveled quite frequently. We kept in touch over the Internet. He came back at Christmas time on the 14th of December (his birthday), so I prepared him a little surprise. We went out to dinner in a very romantic place. After the dinner, the waitresses came by with a cake and when they were done singing Happy Birthday to him, one of them said, "And because it is your engagement night we will sing Love Me Tender." I looked at them and told them it wasn't our engagement night. Well, my fiancée got mad because he had planned to propose to me before they started singing (he had set this up with them). It was so funny and I don't think we will ever forget that night! We promised that each year, if we could, we would go back there to remember that night.

--submitted by Dorine

Lights On! Proposal

In the Christmas decorations section of your favorite store you should find flashlights that allow you to project different images and messages onto your garage door. Get one of these and make your own cut out to go over it that says, "Will you marry me?" On the night of your proposal, tell your sweetheart that you're going outside to fix one of the lights, or add some new ones, etc. Get everything ready and test that it's positioned properly. Turn it off. Then go ask your sweetheart to come and see what you did. When they get there, turn on the light and have your ring ready!

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Memories of Us Proposal

Write down your most memorable moments with your sweetie and choose the five to six most meaningful ones. Get a gift and write a sentiment that best reflects each one, (one gift and sentiment per moment). Arrange for a different person to deliver the presents to your sweetheart every few hours throughout the day. Deliver the last gift yourself (the engagement ring with a note asking them to marry you), and say something like, "The gifts before marked the memories we've already made. This next gift marks the promise of our memories in the future." Then give them the gift.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Mistletoe Kisses Proposal

Hang mistletoe on the top of every doorway in your place. When your partner comes home, grab them and take them under each doorway to kiss them. When you are under the last one; kiss them for a few minutes. Afterwards, tell them that you want to be able to kiss them like that forever and take out your ring to ask them to marry you.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Perfectly Poetic Proposal

Plan for a romantic night at home in front of a fire; complete with a picnic of wine, cheese, crackers, etc. Bring out a poetry book or a few papers with poems written on them. Tell your partner you found these poems the other day and they perfectly described your relationship. Begin to read two poems to them, asking them what they think of each one. For the third poem, tell them you really wanted them to read it to see what they thought. Hand them a poem you've written or found that asks for their hand in marriage. When they get to the end part which says, "Will you marry me?" be ready with your ring!

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Phone Proposal Puzzle

My boyfriend and I had been dating for 6 months when he proposed. It was 2 days before Christmas. When I walked into my office, there was an envelope that said, "Do Not Open until 8 a.m. Christmas Morning." So, on Christmas morning I opened it; it told me to call a number I had never seen before. Of course, I was muttering under my breath wondering what was going on, but I called. The person that answered was actually one of my co-workers. They asked me a question which I answered and then gave me another number to call. This went on for three questions total. The questions were:

- 1) What was the name of the character Matt Damon plays in "Good Will Hunting?"
- 2) What is another name for a sheep?
- 3) What is the name of Jesus' mother?

When you answer the questions they came out to "Will You Marry." The last person had told me to open my door when I got off the phone. When I did, my boyfriend was there holding up a sign that said "me." I read the question out loud, "Will You Marry Me?" and my boyfriend answered, "Yes." We've been married for 3 years now.

--submitted by *Anonymous*

Propose a Toast

Imagine a cold winter day with light fluttering snow flakes falling everywhere. Well that's where my boyfriend and I were the night he proposed to me. He took me to the park for a candlelit picnic dinner and had roses and everything. When he poured the champagne in my glass, instead of proposing a toast he slipped the wedding ring in my drink and proposed! It was the most romantic thing ever!

--submitted by *Courtney*

Santa Baby Proposal

My boyfriend, who is now my husband, had a very romantic Christmas Eve planned one year. He had this sweet idea to go to the nearest group home for kids and volunteer to be Santa Claus. I thought this was so sweet that before he came home that night I dressed up in a Mrs. Claus outfit that I bought from a lingerie store down the block. I was sitting on the couch we had in his apartment next to the Christmas tree. I had turned all the lights off and lit 24 candles all around the living room just like his family used to do. I knew it would make him extra happy when he came home. I left one candle unlit, so he could light it before we made love. When he came home I was waiting in the dim candlelight. I got up from the couch and walked gracefully over to him and kissed him. Then I took his hand and guided him over to the very last unlit candle. After he lit it he gave me the biggest and most loving surprise I had ever received. He got down on one knee and asked, "Will you marry

me?" Then he pulled out a red velvet box and inside held a diamond and garnet ring in white gold. I said yes and hugged him and gave him a long passionate kiss and then we made love all night in the dim candlelight we lit together.

--submitted by Mrs. Lafeen

Santa's Best Present

My fiancé and I had been together for almost two years. He had recently joined the Marines and had left for training. It was around Christmas time and I was up in Connecticut visiting my family and friends. I was disappointed that my boyfriend at the time would not be home in time for the holidays. One night, my whole family and some friends went out to an outdoor ice-skating rink that I used to go to all the time as a child. After awhile, a man dressed up as Santa led me over to an open canopy that was lit up by Christmas lights, Poinsettia plants and snow covering the ground. He turned out to be my boyfriend and we danced to our song while it snowed. (It was man-made snow because the weather did not cooperate.) At the end of the song, rosebuds started falling down along with the snow and while I was distracted; he took off the glove on my left hand and slipped a ring on. After a second of amazement, he got down on one knee and asked me to be his wife. The top of the canopy was laced with mistletoe so we couldn't leave without a Christmas kiss.

--submitted by Love Struck

Sensual Proposal

For a sensually romantic proposal, during your next lovemaking session, lay your partner down on a bed of red rose petals surrounded by candlelight. Ahead of time, get one red rose and place the ring on the stem. Tell your partner to close their eyes. Take the rose and trace their body with it. Pay special attention to sensitive areas such as the face and neck. After a few minutes, tell them, "Your love is as perfect as a red rose; each petal alive with newness and romance." Tell your partner to open their eyes and hand them the rose, making sure they notice the ring on the stem. When they see it, ask them to marry you.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Treasure Hunt Proposal

Create a treasure hunt of clues. For each clue, leave a message that says something about how you feel about your love. Include how your love has grown and how you can't imagine life without them. For the last clue, hide in your Christmas tree, a small gift-wrapped package with the ring inside, and a note that says, "Will you marry me?"

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

Tree & Ornament Ideas

LOVE TREES

101 Reasons of Love Tree

Get a miniature or medium size fake tree and a set of lights for it, as well as different colored paper and curling ribbon. String the lights around the tree. Draw 101 medium star shapes. Inside each star write a reason why you love your partner. Cut out each star and place a hole on the top of it. Tie ribbon through the hole of each one and hang them on your tree.

--Source: *Lovingyou.com Winter Romance Guide*

A Tree for Two

A fantasy come true that I shared with my husband was to go to the mountains on December 1st, in North Georgia, on our first Christmas and pick out a great big tree to decorate together. Each day we hung an ornament with a romantic love note inside for each other until Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning we opened each ornament "love note" and shared them with each other, and then we made love underneath our Christmas tree.

--submitted by *Anonymous*

Tool Time Christmas

My guy loves tools. Home Depot is his favorite place to be. He wasn't going to get a tree for Christmas this year, and I wouldn't have it. So I purchased an 18" live pine tree and decorated it with lights and hardware i.e. nuts, bolts, electrical "stuff" and the garland was the pull chain for light fixtures. He LOVES it! He says he plugs the tree in when he gets home at night. Not bad for a guy who wasn't going to get a tree in the first place. So if your guy is crazy about tools and hardware like mine, this idea worked well for me. Happy Holidays.

--submitted by *So Happy*

Tree of Hearts

I used leftover small candy canes to make hearts (lay them with like ends touching to form the heart shape on a cookie sheet and bake for a few minutes until the ends melt together.) Then tie them with ribbon, like ornaments on a tree. On the inside of each heart dangling from the ribbon is a favor he can turn in, like a coupon.

--submitted by *Brandy*

ORNAMENT IDEAS

Christmas Ornament Exchange

My fiancé and I celebrate our anniversary on Dec. 9 every year. On this day, we exchange a Christmas ornament to one another and write the date on the bottom. It's a great way to get into the holiday spirit and we really take seriously picking out the right ornament for one another. It always gives us a meaningful Christmas tree and makes it a lot of fun decorating it and remembering the Christmas's we've shared together.

--submitted by Sara

Love Ornaments

What you do is get clear round ornaments, open the top and slip pieces of paper inside with reasons you are in love with your partner. Or, write about great memories!

--submitted by StylishJess

Romantic Ornament

Last Thanksgiving was the first time my girlfriend and I spent any substantial time together as she lives so far away. When she came I gave her a dozen roses. She loved them, and then when she left, I hung the roses up to dry out. Before Christmas I found an ornament that I could take apart. I pulled the flower petals off and put them in the ornament and sent it to her. She thought it was the most thoughtful gift ever since they were the first flowers I gave her.

--submitted by Anonymous

Special Announcement Ornament

I had just found out I was pregnant. It was the 1st week in December and I wanted to surprise my husband. His cousin makes ornaments. So, I had her create me three of them saying... Richard, I'm Pregnant!!!

--submitted by Carrie

Traditions & Holiday Spirit

TRADITIONS

Christmas Memory Box

During a year my fiancée and I leave lots of little love notes to each other, collect tokens of our dates, take pictures, save trip mementoes and menus, and so on. So, every year I take a box about the size of a boot box, and decorate it. (We like to travel so I decorate the boxes with little maps, etc.). I also take an X-acto knife to open a slot in the box large enough to slide little envelopes and things through. We keep the box in the bookcase all year and fill it with all of our goodies and notes. By Christmas it's completely stuffed and heavy. Also by that time we can't even remember everything in there. On Christmas Eve we open the box and spend hours looking through everything we put in there all year long. No matter how many surprises and gifts there are under the tree, this box will be the most special one to be opened as well as a wonderfully romantic tradition for every Christmas together.

--submitted by Kristen Weiser

Memory Book Cookbook

My boyfriend and I both love spending the night planning out a big meal. We hold hands while we go to the grocery store, pick out everything we need and then go back to his house to prepare and cook it together. This is our first Christmas together and I got him a "scrapbook" type photo album. On the first page I put a torn out recipe from a magazine that we enjoyed one night, and a pictures of us in the kitchen all messy and in the middle of a meal. It became a scrapbook of our relationship, to add more recipes and memories to as we continue cooking through the years together.

--submitted by Ashley

Yearly Predictions for Couples

We actually started this two years ago as our Christmas tradition, but it would be great for Valentine's Day as well. Towards the holiday, each one of you writes a letter to the other telling them the things that you are looking forward to in the coming year and put it in a cute bottle (with Christmas we use glass ornaments). These are kept sealed for a year. Then next year, on the holiday, you read the letter - it's sweet and romantic and fun to see what things were predicted for the two of you and to see how much did actually happen. It's a great way to reminisce about the year! For the first year you write one letter for the coming year, and one letter for you to read this year that can be about anything - we wrote about what that first year was like together and what our favorite memories were.

--submitted by Nikki

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Christmas Spirit Returned

After having experienced a terrible couple of years, the thought of Christmas was the last thing I wanted to think about. I use to love the holidays, but the past experiences have put a bad feeling in my heart. I didn't decorate my house or anything that I would normally do, due to my mood. I had told my soul mate for months that I couldn't care less about the holidays, including giving or receiving gifts. We had planned to meet for a couple days shortly after Christmas in a town neither of us lived in. Imagine my surprise when he opened the hotel room door and there was a fully decorated Christmas tree, complete with presents under it! He showed me that no matter what goes on in your life, the spirit lives in all of us; you just need to take the time to enjoy it. We did! The spirit is back, and my Christmas will never be the same after that incredibly thoughtful act of kindness! And we still laugh and talk about what the housekeeping staff must have thought when they first went in to clean the room!

--submitted by Jammie Girl

Finding the Christmas Spirit

Last year my girlfriend had a terrible Christmas where she sat around the tree with her girlfriends and complained about how terrible Christmas was. So her Christmas spirit is low. Since it is so low I am planning on trying to boost it. It's our first Christmas together and I'm hoping I can make it something she will never forget. Of course she has not told me what she wants so I am going to have to do something romantic. Since we will have to be with our families on the morning of Christmas, I was thinking either Christmas Eve or Christmas night. With the snow on the ground (providing there is some) you could make a snowwoman of her, and she could make a snowman of you. Explain why you picked what, for the features you add to them. For example, my girlfriend has a great smile so I would make a big deal out of that on the snowwoman. Work in a snowball fight and rolling around in the snow. Afterwards, find some way to get warmer, like hot chocolate and snuggling under a warm blanket together...

--submitted by Anonymous

Holiday Spirit Surprise

My boyfriend and I have been dating for 8 months, and we are very much in love. This Christmas is his first one out of college and in his own apartment. While he was back in his home town for Thanksgiving Holidays, I called up his old roommate to see if he still had a key to his place. After I had acquired the key, I went to Wal-mart and packed up on lots of cute Christmas decorations such as stockings, garland, peppermint canes, lights, a miniature Christmas tree complete with skirt, garland, ornaments, and a tiny angel on top, candles, and the beginning of a snowman collection. I also bought a tree skirt for when he gets a Christmas tree. Then, I went into his apartment the night before he came home and completely decorated it for Christmas. I laid the tree skirt where he wanted to set up his first Christmas tree. When he got home the next day, he was completely surprised that I had filled his apartment with Christmas spirit and also very grateful because with finals coming up he wouldn't have had much time to do it. Soon, we will get to pick out a tree and decorate it together. It was a great pre-gift for our first Christmas together.

--submitted by Brittney

Holiday Romance

A Christmas Night

This is something I've always wanted to do, and something I plan to do very soon. Around Christmas time, when it's nice and cool outside, take your love out for a picnic, not showing her where you both are going... drive her to someplace secluded with many trees with white lights... When you get there, make sure the lights aren't on. Light a candle, take out a blanket, and both of you sit down, along with a nice light picnic you packed. When the time seems right, close her eyes, and then turn on the lights. If all goes right, she'll be stunned by all the lights (make sure they look good!), and you can both sit there talking. Eventually, things will get real cold, and that's when you take out that other blanket or two you packed, and you both just sit there cuddling, and who knows...

--submitted by Patrick

A Day in the Snow

Wake up in the morning, and get dressed to go snowboarding together. There is nothing more fun than to drive somewhere in the mountains and snowboard all day. Make some snow angels, build a snowman, or have a snowball fight. And then at the end of the day take a hot bath together, and drink some hot chocolate!

--submitted by Renate

A Romantic Christmas Night

On Christmas, if you don't have any children, rent a room at a romantic inn that has a Jacuzzi bath in the room. Bring your gifts. Have an intimate dinner in the room while a Jacuzzi bubble bath filled with red rose petals waits for you to finish. Take a bath together, feeding each other strawberries and sipping champagne. After you exchange gifts, show your appreciation by making love to each other on the large bed scattered with rose petals.

--submitted by Kiki

Eggnog by the Fire

During the winter or Christmas time, on a cold night have a very nice and romantic indoor picnic set up with lots of candles in front of the fireplace or Christmas tree. Previously, make up some small snacks such as cookies or brownies and have some hot apple cider. Get out the nice plates and silverware and two wine glasses. The best part of all, drink Eggnog out of wine glasses! Then sit and talk for hours!

--submitted by Brian

Go Sledding!

In the winter, no matter what your age, wake up early one morning. Make them hot chocolate and then get dressed in your "snow clothes". Go sledding at the local sledding "hot spot" and act like kids again. I promise, unless they're a party-pooper, they'll LOVE it.

--submitted by Trent

Hershey's Park in Winter

My fiancé and I always take a yearly trip to Hershey's Park in the winter to see the park in lights. We walk around the park and each get a hot chocolate and sit by the huge illuminated tree they call the "Kissmas Tree." This is where he popped the question to me! It was so wonderful, the lights all around and the season is just so romantic. He caught me by complete surprise and I loved it! Now we can celebrate that moment each year.

--submitted by Abbey

Indoor Picnic under the Stars

One day I was shopping at Target and saw a very nice wicker picnic basket and I bought it thinking one day I'll plan a picnic. Well, as time passed I got tired of looking at it and not using it so I decided I was going to do something about it. It was winter; therefore, I couldn't exactly have an outdoor picnic so I thought I'd get creative and create a picnic environment in my home. My sister-in-law had a lot of small artificial trees, which I used to surround the picnic area. I had a large midnight blue blanket and lots of white Christmas lights, which I used to create a star filled sky, on my ceiling, over the picnic area. I even bought a CD that had sounds such as crickets, etc. In the middle of the trees I placed a picnic blanket and the picnic basket full of goodies (finger foods, fruit, wine, etc.). When my boyfriend arrived he was amazed at how the room looked and very much appreciated the time and thought behind the entire idea. We took our shoes off, ate, and enjoyed a great night under the stars. That night was unforgettable for both of us!

--submitted by PB

Lights and Cocoa

One day near Christmas, I sent my significant other a package at work that had a scarf and a pair of gloves (\$15) and a note that said to dress warm tonight and what time I would pick her up. I took her to a local park where we strolled around looking at the lights. After our stroll, we ended up back at the car where I pulled out a blanket, a thermos full of hot chocolate, and a bag of marshmallows. We sat around and talked until we ran out of hot chocolate. We had a wonderful time!

--submitted by Anonymous

On A Cold Winter's Night

When it's cold outside, my husband and I like to stay in. We throw a couple of steaks on the grill and drink a bottle of wine. After dinner, we crank up the fire and draw a nice hot bath for two. When completely relaxed we dry each other off and he carries me into the bedroom where the rest becomes history!

--submitted by Anonymous

Our Own Private Christmas

My boyfriend and I live in two different parts of the state, and we spend our weekends together. This Christmas, we will be with our own families for the most part, so we will have our own celebration a little early. We booked a Jacuzzi room, and will decorate it in Christmas fashion. The Jacuzzi will be illuminated by candles and poinsettias (instead of roses). I bought a couple of 12-inch Christmas trees with decorations at the dollar store, and will use them as centerpieces. I bought mistletoe for the doorway and a red/green candle arrangement surrounded by more poinsettias on the bureau will host our gifts to each other. The table will have a formal table setting with dinner for two with take-out from our favorite restaurant. The evening will be rounded off with Christmas and romantic music.

--submitted by Odessa

Winter Wonderland Romance

My idea of a true winter wonderland would be going to the mountains with my honey around Christmas with all the lights and spending an evening in front of a cozy fire, snuggled up just talking, sharing moments, laughing, bonding... we would go look at Christmas lights and play in the snow. Bringing out the inner child in you and your partner brings you closer together in a few strange ways.

--submitted by Ashley