

COUNTRY LIVING

2008

HOLIDAYS

sweet treats holiday CUPCAKES

&

CANDY to make and give!



create these
cupcakes
in minutes
see page 204



FLIP THE MAGAZINE
to see the December issue

MAKE IT! WRAP IT! GIFT IT!

quick-and-easy paper crafts

COUNTRY LIVING HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER 2008



20A

7A HANDMADE HOLIDAYS

With the new crafting kit from *Country Living* and Stampin' Up!, the holiday decorating possibilities are endless.

16A CHRISTMAS SWEETS

These simple candy recipes make delicious peppermint treats.

20A FESTIVE FLOURISHES

Dress up baked goods with these quick-and-easy embellishments.

22A SPECIAL DELIVERY

Personalize holiday gift wrapping with fun-to-create adornments.

ON THE COVER

Photograph by Karl Juengel/
Studio D. Produced by Simone Thor
Lim. Food styling by Cheryl
Slocum. Prop styling by Paul Lowe.

HOLIDAY CRAFTING FUN Oversize gift tags and colorful paper ornaments number among the many inspired craft projects it's possible to create with Stampin' Up!'s new *Country Living* Holiday Collection Stampin' Kit.

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Handmade Holidays

WITH THIS INSPIRED CRAFTING KIT FROM STAMPIN' UP! AND *COUNTRY LIVING*, THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATIVE DECORATING, ENTERTAINING, AND GIFTING ARE BOUNDLESS.



**GREAT
IDEA!**

For more holiday
garland ideas, go to
[countryliving.com/
garlands](http://countryliving.com/garlands).



Endless Ornaments

Play with materials to create unique ornaments. The die-cut shapes in Stampin' Up!'s chipboard and Designer Series paper simplify the process, but you can also improvise, cutting your own shapes from included card stock and paper.



This time of year more than any other, we think about giving: giving thanks, giving gifts, giving parties, and giving time to loved ones. In that spirit, *Country Living* partnered with Stampin' Up! again this year to give you, our readers, a crafting kit to help with all your holiday preparations. You can use the *Country Living* Holiday Collection Stampin' Kit to create decorations for your home, adorn a tablescape for a party, or even give the kit itself as a present. "What's wonderful about this kit is that it's simple enough for the first-time crafter to follow, but it's also appropriate for the more advanced," says Shelli Gardner, co-founder and CEO of Stampin' Up!. Of course, making your own decorations and gifts is also economical. But beyond the practical reasons for picking up a stamp or sprinkling glitter onto paper, sitting down and crafting is just plain fun, as well as a great way to spend time with family and friends. "Life is so fast-paced these days that we don't just get together and socialize the way we used to, when women bonded while they quilted," explains Shelli. "I like to think of crafting as the quilting bee of our century."

Party Favors

Mini takeout boxes save you from yet another round of gift wrapping. The box is simply embellished using a rubber stamp and ink from the kit, then topped with a sprig of fresh greenery. Inside tuck a stack of fresh-baked cookies wrapped in cellophane, or a jar of homemade jam for guests to enjoy later. You could even make a gift of the ornaments you create using the kit.

TAKEOUT BOX IN POOL, \$4/FIVE; PAPER-SOURCE.COM.

Photography by **JOSEPH DE LEO**
 Produced by **ROBIN LONG MAYER**
 & **TISHA S. LEUNG**
 Written by **ELIZABETH ROHRIG**



PHOTOGRAPH BY (SILOS) PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D. SEE SHOPPING GUIDE FOR DETAILS



ENTERTAINING


CENTERPIECE Elegant white branches are a snap to arrange in a creamware pitcher, and they artfully showcase the colorful handmade ornaments hanging from them.

PLACECARDS Let guests find their seats for dinner with fun placecards featuring their own smiling faces rather than their names.

NAPKIN RINGS No need to spend on new napkins when you can add a festive touch to the white ones you already own with napkin rings. Individualize each place setting with a different patterned paper on each ring.

COLOR SCHEME Keep the other colors on the table neutral so as not to compete with your handcrafted decor. Cream, silver, and a touch of blue in the transferware plates work to great effect here.






SET THE SCENE

GIFT TAGS Wrap each gift in white paper and embellish with red ribbon, topping it off with a keepsake gift tag.

GLASS MARKERS Use pieces from the kit to create markers for drinks, and personalize them with each guest's name.

ORNAMENTS The drop ornaments on the faux trees were made from Stampin' Up!'s Pretties Kit, sold separately.



Keep THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC MOVING
BY SETTING OUT PRE-POURED DRINKS FOR GUESTS
TO GRAB ON THEIR WAY IN THE DOOR.



Versatile

Many of the pieces in the kit can be used for multiple projects: an ornament, a gift tag, a garland, or something else—it is entirely up to you. To get the most from the kit, use both the positive and the negative shapes that are die-cut on the chipboard.



KEEP THE CRAFTING PARTY GOING by purchasing additional rubber stamps, which will add to your kit's versatility. ● You can also buy more ink pads in 48 colors, embellishment kits, and a lot more decorative papers. ● Look for Stampin' Mist and Stampin' Scrub to clean and condition your rubber stamps. ● See more crafting projects at countryliving.com/crafts.

There are even more crafts to be created with the elements included in the *Country Living* Holiday Collection Stampin' Kit—there's no limit when you put your imagination to play.

RIGHT, FROM TOP: Everyone has a hard time keeping tabs on his or her drink at a party, which is why these tiny tags made with die-cut chipboard and paper are essential. Apply numbered stickers to the tags, or better yet, blank stickers on which guests can write their names. ● With a snowflake rubber stamp from the kit and plain white linens, you can create your own holiday cocktail napkins. Use acrylic paint, which won't run in the wash, on the rubber stamp. Then tie a thin ribbon around the base of a brad (included in the kit) before attaching it to the napkin. ● Add oversize gift tags and unusual ribbons and trims to gifts to set them apart. Assign each family member a different-colored tag to divvy up presents with ease.



Here you have it: the *Country Living* Holiday Collection Stampin' Kit. All of these pieces come packaged in a reusable plastic envelope called a Craft Keeper. You can order the kit at countryliving.com/kit for \$55, or through a Stampin' Up! demonstrator for \$50. The demonstrator can invite you to a workshop planned in your neighborhood to learn new techniques—or you can host one in your home with friends. Visit stampinup.com to contact a demonstrator.

Stamps

To get the best transfer from your stamps, use Stampin' Spots to apply the ink, then press straight down onto paper or any porous surface. Clean stamps when done.

Paper and Ribbon

Die-cut chipboard and patterned paper ensure professional results. All you need to do is pop out the shapes and adhere the paper to the chipboard. The kit also comes with plenty of ribbon, including metallic silver cord (above) and taffeta.

 **WIN THIS!**

Enter to win one of the 50 kits at countryliving.com/sweeps.



Flourishes

Decorative brads (left) hold projects together, glitter (middle) sparkles, and double-sided adhesives (right) make layering paper easy.

Ink Pads

Classic Stampin' Spots contain fast-drying ink. Use the empty Spot with the bottle of white craft ink (below right) for coloring plain chipboard.

To order your own Country Living Holiday Collection Stampin' Kit, visit countryliving.com or call (800) STAMP-UP.



Adhesive

Tombow glue (above left) features two applicators—a penlike tip and a broader one for larger surface areas. It also doubles as both a temporary and permanent adhesive: Let the glue dry before positioning and it's removable; use it wet for a lasting hold.



THE KIT

- 4 sheets die-cut chipboard
- 8 sheets die-cut double-sided Designer Series paper
- 4 sheets double-sided Designer Series paper (non-die-cut)
- 2 sheets Whisper White card stock
- 2 Stampin' Spots in Riding Hood Red and Old Olive
- 1 Craft Ink Refill in Whisper White
- 1 Craft Stampin' Spot (empty cartridge)
- 10 yards $\frac{2}{3}$ " Whisper White taffeta ribbon
- 25 yards metallic silver cord
- Stampin' Dimensionals
- Dazzling Diamonds glitter
- Tombow multipurpose adhesive
- 6-piece Holiday Collection Stamp Set
- 10 large and 10 small rhinestone brads
- Instructions for 3 projects