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e-newsletter

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Save Those Holiday Cards!



No matter how much I love Thanksgiving, with the snow starting to fall here, I can't help but start thinking about Christmas! Soon you may be receiving holiday cards in your mailbox. There are many fun ways to recycle those cards, so don't toss them out after the holidays! Last year I posted step by step tutorials for making 3D ornaments and gift tags out of your cards in the DIY section of JunkMailGems.com. This year I'd like to show you something else that I like to do to not only recycle my cards, but also gift wrap and gift bags!

For those of you who like to scrapbook, you know how expensive it can be to get all of the embellishments available at scrapbooking stores. However, you can make a scrapbook that is just as beautiful, less expensive, and more eco friendly by using the materials you receive every year

from your friends and family!

Below are a couple photos of sample photo pages that I made using various recycled Christmas cards & wrap. For the one on the left, I cut out the images from the front of a card and used them as embellishments. Simply glue some scrap cardboard to the back to add some dimension to your work.

The example on the right was done using a scrap of gift wrap as the background. The ribbon on the corners was made using the ribbon handles from a gift bag, and the red "tag" frame was made out of the back of a greeting card!

If you are worried about the paper not being archival, you can always affix your photos with archival safe glue to a piece of archival paper before attaching it. That way your photo is not touching anything that is not archival safe. I don't worry too much about that, since I keep all of my photos well backed up digitally in several places.

Another nice touch that I like to add is that I write in very small letters on the corner of the page (or along the edge of the embellishment) who sent the card that is used on that page. It's a fun

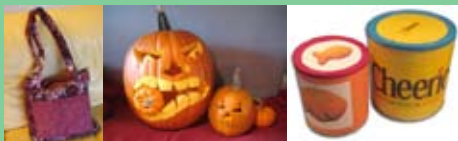
way to add extra memories to your page, and make the card you received and the person who sent it live on for years to come!

So, as your mailbox starts to fill up with cards this season, hang on to them! You can turn them into many wonderful items!



Blog Update!

Don't forget to visit our blog while you're doing your holiday shopping! I've posted some great tutorials on turning your Halloween pumpkin into pie, recycling baby formula cans, and even turning old fabric into a cool new tote bag, which can make a great gift as well!



Special Offer!

\$5 off your order of \$20 or more! *

If you've been looking for a reason to get your holiday shopping started early, here it is! Get a one-of-a-kind gift for your one-of-a-kind, eco-friendly friend and save money in the process!

Unfortunately the Paypal payment system does not offer discount codes yet. So, **to use this offer, you must email me (gretchen@Junkmailgems.com) your order & shipping address, and I will send you a Paypal invoice with the discounted price reflected, which will have a link for you to pay online.**

*Applies to minimum \$20 order not including shipping. Offer expires 12/12/08. Does not apply to wholesale orders. For e-newsletter subscribers only.