

12 Days of Christmas 2006 Final Touches for individually wrapped gifts

I charge \$300, plus sales tax, for each 12 Days order. Do not charge less. This is a labor-intensive project and not worth your time otherwise. You may collect ½ at the ordering time, or all at the time of delivery. Either way, it's an understood firm order.

Wrap each of the 12 gifts in gold foil. Use foil of different embossed patterns. Include some plain and taffeta design. I have not found an inexpensive source for gold foil, other than Value Craft, where I asked the manager for a 20% discount, as I also buy a lot of white boxes of various sizes, small-width ribbon and other items there in season. Party City has had a 50% off sale on gold foil in summers past.

Buy wide ribbon, tulle, and organza from Rebecca if possible. Costco is the other good source for wide ribbon. Watch Michael's for sale on holiday pics, star wire, and card stock. Use multi-use Scotch tape for wrapping. It's their only transparent tape this year.

Print verses on white card stock, cut with a paper cutter, hole-punch, then tie on top of package with gold curl ribbon or star wire.

Put a large self-sticking, brightly-colored dot on top of each page. Mark dot #1, #2, #3, etc. in gift-giving order. Husbands appreciate locating the day's gift quickly without pawing through the packages, ruining your beautiful bows. Remind the Mr. to remove dot before hiding each day's package.

Large delivery baskets are beautiful, but impractical. Husbands much prefer gifts to be delivered in a Mary Kay shipping box. A box is easier to hide in garage cabinets, under an office desk, or in the trunk of a garaged car.

I pamper my men clients. Each gets a wrapped gift on delivery day as a thank you. Experience has taught me that their first gift choice is NOT a Mary Kay gift basket or product presented in any other manner. The favorite gift by far is candy. I order the "12 Days of Christmas" or similar 2 lb. slab of chocolate on-line from Hershey's Gift Shoppe. Cost is about \$21. Worth every penny! I have each holiday slab personalized with my customer's first name. "God Bless you, Joe!" "Blessed Christmas, Joe!" etc.

Deliver and collect the amount due anytime soon after the first day of December.

Thank you Arlene Shuster