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# Fun Craft Trends For 2018

### Metallics are big!

Incorporate warm colors such as copper, rust and soft gold with wood tones, quartz, creams, brilliant whites and rich brown or brown-red tones. For inspiration look to the coats of wild cats such as jaguars or leopards. A touch of gold glitter can make your items really pop.

### Home Decor

Brighten any room with colorful stamped prints that look like real plants or flowers. Add matching coasters, coffee trays, vases, planters, etc. With spring and summer on the way, many are looking for Cherry Blossom designs, Wisteria, Magnolias, roses, lilacs, peaches, lemons, watermelon, apples, etc.

### Paracord

Great for outdoor activities, hiking, summer play at the beach and more. Paracord can be used for everything from bracelets and key chains to macramé water bottle holders to attach to belts or backpacks. Also lends well for colorful macramé plant holders for outside planters or pots.

### Furniture

Especially refinished or made from reclaimed wood. Beautiful wood headboards are often given away free at garage sales or for a couple of dollars at a used furniture store. Add pretty stamping or stenciling, after drying, coat with clear wood lacquer. Match with a small bookcase, dresser or table for a complete set. Refinishing furniture to sell (or keep for yourself?) Follow these simple rules:

1. Sand it
2. Wipe clean with tack cloth
3. Prime it (or your paint might not adhere and will peel up later)
4. Paint or stain it
5. Seal with a good varnish after the paint has dried and cured for several days.

### Shoes and Sandals

Personalizing shoes is a fun new trend. Simple canvas or loafer type shoes lend well to tie dye, colorful paint, school or team colors. Add yarn or ribbon tassels, or embellished with ribbons, small flowers and such (think tiny corsages.) For dressier occasions think glitter and rhinestones. Not sure of the sizes? Try Make it-Take it crafts for on the spot. Possible wedding or baby shower link.

### Colanders

Paint used colanders (look for inexpensive colanders at garage sales and stores like Goodwill, metal works best) with colorful outdoor paint. Line with planting moss, add dirt and a variety of pansies, ivy, primroses or ferns or herbs. Don't worry of the colander shapes do not match. Add strong rope, Paracord or chain to hang them. Display in a variety of colors and hang at different heights to create a pretty and colorful look.

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## **Spring Time & Mother's Day Baskets!**

A new take on the traditional decorative or gift basket items:

1. **Artistic** - For a glamorous look, try mixing bright colors and patterns together. A pretty basket filled with items decorated with vivid Art Deco colors and designs. Coordinating scents: Dramatic, bold and fresh. Clean linen, crisp cucumber, pine, Patchouli, musk or ocean breezes. Also consider mixing unusual fragrances for a bold new experience such as: lemongrass and Mandarin orange, chocolate and cherry, peppermint and lavender, lime and eucalyptus, blackberry and cinnamon.
2. **Contemporary** - Match popular room colors for the main item, such as soft pastels or natural colors and then complement with dark colors in the same color family. Works best using 3-4 colors that are harmonious together. Accent with raffia and gold or sparkly accents. Coordinating scents: sandalwood, sage, mints, frangipani, coconut, outdoor fresh-type scents. Consider accenting the fragrances with French Vanilla.
3. **Victorian** - Ruffles and lace with colors of creams, whites and soft tans, Accent with dark purple, deep green, chocolate brown, maroon, mauve or dark rose. Accent with soft pinks, peaches and light greens. Add pretty Victorian design paper napkins or wrapping paper behind your items to create a soft romantic look. Accent with Baby's Breath and dried roses. Coordinating scents: soft floral, lilac, wild rose, lavender, jasmine, gardenia or wisteria.
4. **New Age** - Think simple, less clutter and whimsical, such as a basket of bright yellow items and add emoji faces on them, or use a dramatic basket in black, jade or ruby red with hot pink, red or lime green accents. Coordinating scents: fruity and floral or sweet blends are popular, such as honeysuckle & apple, caramel & apricot, lilac & raspberry, peach & hyacinth, plumeria & pear.
5. **Goth Baskets** - Popular with teenagers and young adults. Think dark, mysterious, rebellious and intensely individual. Dramatic black lace, black satin and very dark red roses. Add gold accents in the shapes of stars, claws, or crescent moons. Antique-type items such as obviously old and interesting metal cups, books (especially vintage) on mythology. For younger members - Harry Potter-type books. Items might include: black lipstick, black nail polish and black lace gloves and a variety of exotic teas Coordinating scents: Incense, cloves, campfire, leather, patchouli, tobacco, frankincense, night blooming jasmine, amber or sandalwood.
6. **Breakup Baskets** - These baskets are actually quite popular. Items might include a journal (in black with gold or silver lettering on the front, burnable - no plastic.) with directions to write all your feelings, hurts and anger down and then burn it in a cleansing fire (have some fun with this. You may want to even include some sage and other herbs typically used to cleanse a room of negative energies). Black or dark purple coffee mugs, black or very dark red roses. Lots of chocolate! Crunchy biscotti, comfort treats and a small stuffed animal or Teddy Bear. Coordinating scents: French Vanilla, coffee, blackberry and lemongrass, raspberry, cinnamon bun, peach blossom.
7. **For Men** - Thinks usable. Most men dislike gifts that will just sit on the counter or be in the way. Baskets should be filled with items that would readily be used such as BBQ sauces, Summer Sausage, salsa, chips, nuts, popcorn (popped and flavored), jerky, pepperoni, munchies! Consider a flavor theme to your baskets - Teriyaki, Hot chili, salsa, etc. Instead of fluffy face towels, think bar towels or towels to use for washing the car. If putting together a travel basket - remember the Ibuprofen, Tylenol, sunscreen (non-greasy) and UNFLAVORED ChapStick (just think about all the things the guys ask to borrow. They always forget their ChapStick!) For a bath basket, think of soaps in very subtle scents. While women love getting baskets with lots of little soaps to try out, most men prefer one or two large bars that are more comfortable in their hands. Soap on a rope is still a winner, as are soaps to help remove dirt, oil or grease after working on the car or yard. Keep to natural fragrances that don't become overpowering or would draw attention. (Think about keeping the fragrances so light that only someone CLOSE to him would smell it.) Outdoor or herbal scents such as sandalwood, light musk, amber, leather, lemongrass, rum, bourbon, campfire, vanilla, cedar or pine. Natural or soft, desert colors. Avoid brightly colored or heavily dyed soaps (you know he is going to leave it on the white bathtub ledge. You don't want to leave a messy stain.)

### **Knitting**

Popular trends include knitted blankets or scarves made with jumbo yarn. Also popular, knitted or crocheted newsboy hats for children and adults.

### **The Marbled Look**

Marbling is hot this year! Try Mason jars painted with swirling spring colors. Include easy plants like spider plants or ivy (both can grow in water or dirt and you can easily propagate to grow more at home.). Add a twine bow (avoid ribbon as it will get wet and look messy). Match with coffee trays, candle holders and planters or vases.

### **Calling all Stampers!**

There is a big trend in decorated day planners. Not only to be useful, but many people like to keep their planners as a personal diary or history of family activities and events. Be sure to have lots of places for people to put a picture (or emoji stickers) of "How I Feel Today." There seems to be a real trend of wanting to catalog your feelings virtually every minute.

### **Jewelry**

Looking for earrings that make a statement! Oversized, dangling or dazzling. Watch the weight and keep the earrings light. No one wants saggy ears! Also simple stud-type that are decorative. Many people work in environments where they can't have anything dangling, but still want a pretty earring accent.

### **Wreaths**

Not just for the holidays! Think year round with wreaths made in the shape of a farm house, rooster, cat, dog or summer fruits (such as peaches or watermelons) for indoor or outdoor display. Adorn with dried or living flowers, ribbons and leaves.

### **Space**

Just look to the movies and television to see how popular space is. Items that involve space, planets, aliens, outer world adventures and such are very popular, from greeting cards to fleece blankets.

### **Dogs and Cats**

Pets are taking a higher and more important role in the family. Celebrate family pets with personalized items, decorative collars, costumes, clothing, plush pet beds with pillowcases to cover the beds (which are easily machine washed), pretty leashes, harnesses, treats, toys and more. Also, furniture decorated with pictures of pets - such as small dressers with drawers for pet items.

## **Don't wait!**

Now that you have lots of new craft ideas, don't wait to sign up for your favorite spring and summer shows. Events are taking applications now for upcoming bazaars, fairs and festivals.

## **Don't miss out!**

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