

Simple  
homemade  
gifts



Ruby Roundabout



# gifts from the heart

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I know... we've created a number of clay crafts here, but my kids absolutely love getting their hands all mucky while they're busily creating little masterpieces. And it's fun! It doesn't require any fancy tools but still manages to present a wonderful finished product. There's no down side!

Clay pegs are wonderful gift tags on little gift bags as well. If you're gifting jewellery or, in a last minute dash you're forced to give a gift card, the clay peg adds a stylish finish to the gift.

The body products we've created are so simple but still luxurious and effortlessly let loved ones know they matter to you... they matter enough that you've taken time out of your day to prepare something especially for that person! That's a big statement of love that will surely be appreciated.

*Wherever possible, keep it simple and take the shortcuts available to you as you provide heartfelt, gorgeous homemade gifts.*

I love that these gifts are all simple enough for my kids to get involved and feel a real sense of accomplishment and pride at what they have created for the special people in their lives. It gives them the power of responsibility and a way to show their gratitude and appreciation to others.

But it doesn't all start and end with the kids. An adult could just as easily create these little gifts for friends and be well appreciated for the effort and thought.

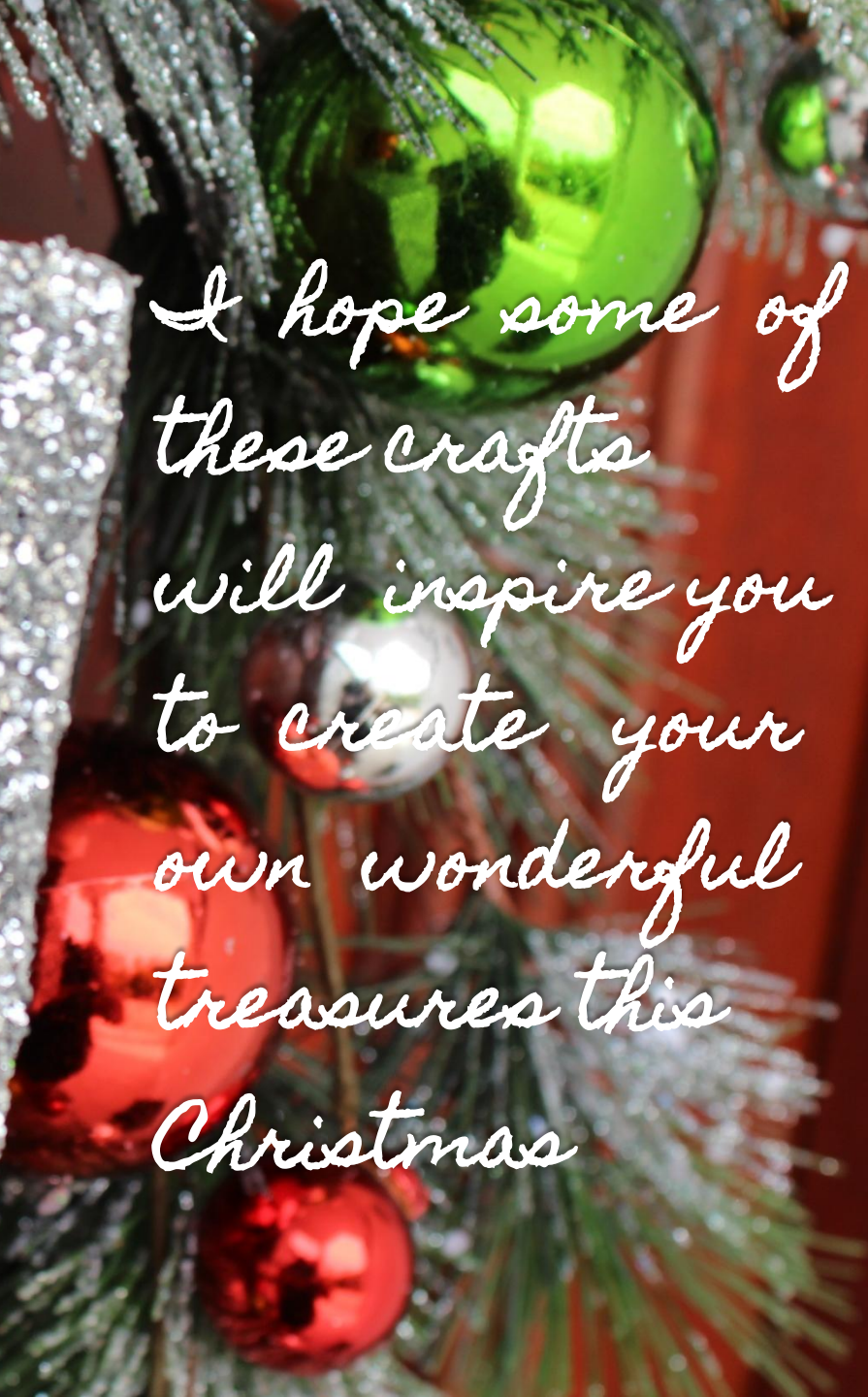
I love to use the body products myself and would be thrilled to be on the receiving end. They're that little touch of luxury with which, in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, you often forget to treat yourself.

Wherever possible, I try to take shortcuts as you will see in the following pages. My life is busy so, although I love homemade gifts, I also don't want to add any additional, unnecessary pressure to my already busy life. Don't be afraid to make it easy for yourself when you can see a way to do so.

I hope something you find in the following pages inspires you to create something beautiful for friends, family and even yourself!



I hope some of these crafts will inspire you to create your own wonderful treasures this Christmas





# Clay Hearts

This gift idea was inspired by the idea of showing appreciation to those you care most about. It's not often that we hear the traits our closest friends and family most admire in us. This gift allows you to tell those closest to you exactly why you love them. I am a huge fan of this gift. I'd love to receive it and I am excited to give it. It's the perfect gift for somebody who has everything!

## Clay Hearts

### Ingredients

Air Drying Clay  
Skewer

Small bowl of water

Paddle pop stick for smoothing

Printed Wordlist for ideas

### Method

1. Grab a ball of clay approximately 4cm round. Use your hands to roll the clay into a ball shape.
2. Begin to change it into a heart shape. First, pull down one side of the circle to form a teardrop. Then press your finger into the rounded top to form the heart shape.
3. Use a paddle pop stick dipped in water to smooth any rough surfaces.
4. Etch a word into the heart using the skewer.
5. Allow 3 days for hearts to dry.
6. Once dry, you can leave them in their raw state or you may choose to paint or glaze your hearts.



These tea lights look stunning and add the most beautiful touch to any table. They couldn't be simpler and my kids absolutely loved making them. At home they are stunning; as a gift, they're simple to package. If you live near the beach, it makes the perfect gift to send to relatives and friends. Collect the shells, perhaps taking a few photos of the family at the beach. Pop the instructions in with the package and the gift is complete.

# Summer Tea Lights

## Ingredients

Glasses

Water

Variety of seashells

Floating candles

## Method

1. Drop some shells into a glass. Begin with the smallest shells and top with the larger ones.
2. Pour some water into your glass until the water reaches approximately 1.5cm from the top.
3. Straighten the wick of your floating candle and gently place in the water.
4. Light your candle.

Seashell  
Summer  
Tea Lights



# Simple Wine Charms

Wine Charms are so easy to make. You can buy the rings in packs of 6 from your local craft store. From there, it's as easy as selecting the charms you'd like to add. I found these black and white tiles on the clearance table for scrapbookers. My kids all chose their own charms to make sets for family friends. The beauty of these gifts is that you can tailor the colour scheme to the preferences of the gift recipient. It's a truly customised gift.

## Simple Wine Charms

### Ingredients

Wine Rings  
Selection of Charms

### Method

1. Simply thread a charm onto each wine ring ensuring every charm is different.
2. Print our Wine Charm presentation card. Punch holes in the indicated spaces and thread each charm through for the perfect simple gift.

This is just a variation on the Clay Hearts but it's easier for little fingers that can't quite manage to manipulate the heavy clay. You can choose to etch words into the magnets or simply leave them as they are. Kids may like to paint them when they are dry or poke in some little decorative beads while they are drying.

# Clay Magnets

## Ingredients

Air Drying Clay

Rolling Pin

Cookie Cutters

Small Round Magnets

Water (to keep clay moist)

## Method

1. Use the rolling pin to roll a small piece of clay until it is approximately 1cm thick.
2. Place a cookie cutter over the area you'd like to cut out and lightly indent the clay so you can insert the magnet. (Alternatively, you could glue the magnet onto the clay once it has completely dried)
3. Flip the clay over and place a magnet in the centre of the area before cutting out the shape completely.
4. Place the cut out onto a drying rack and leave it for 2 days to dry.

Clay  
Christmas  
Magnets



## Clay Christmas Ornaments

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Homemade ornaments add a special touch to any tree. My kids loved making their own clay ornaments this year. If you have a patterned rubber stamp, you can stamp a lovely pattern over each ornament. A lovely little watercolour wash over the top will make the pattern stand out.

# Clay Ornaments

## Ingredients

Air Drying Clay

Rolling Pin

Cookie Cutters

Skewer

String or Ribbon for hanging

## Method

1. Roll some clay flat leaving it a few millimetres thick.
2. Use a cookie cutter to cut out a shape.
3. Use a skewer to poke a hole through the top that will be used to hang the ornament.
4. Leave ornaments on a drying rack for 24 - 48 hours.
5. Feed through some string or a ribbon to hang the ornaments.



## Clay Pegs



I made these little clay pegs specifically to go on Christmas treat bags. I wanted to use them to seal my homemade soaps and other special treats I like to make for friends and family. They are ridiculously simple to make and they look absolutely gorgeous. I guarantee everybody will comment on their beautiful simplicity. This is one of those gorgeous simple crafts that the smallest of children can make. It's just perfect!

# Clay Pegs

## Ingredients

Air Drying Clay  
Small Cookie Cutters  
Wooden Pegs  
PVA Glue

## Method

1. Roll out some air drying clay to about a 3mm thickness.
2. Use a cookie cutter to press out some shapes.
3. Let the shapes air dry on a drying rack for 24 - 48 hours. IDEA: You could stamp or write numbers on the shapes to make a cute advent calendar or write the name or initial of a gift recipient to use the peg as a gift tag. Patterned rubber stamps would also be a wonderful idea to add texture to your clay shapes.
4. It's optional at this point to glaze your clay shapes. You may prefer them painted & glazed.
5. Attach shapes to each peg using a small dollop of PVA glue. Remove any excess.



I made these earrings a few years ago for colleagues to wear in the last few weeks of December. They were such a hit! I was able to make each pair to suit the colour preferences of each person so they were always going to love them! They're insanely simple to make too!

# Angel Earrings

## Ingredients

Angel Wings Charm  
20mm Shepherd Hooks  
Head Pins  
Round 5mm beads  
Teardrop beads  
Flower Spacer  
Pliers

## Method

1. Take the head pin and feed on the following beads in this order: teardrop bead, angel wings, round 5mm bead, flower spacer.
2. Use pliers to round the top of the head pin.
3. Feed on the shepherd hook.
4. Trim off any excess.
5. Tighten to ensure the shepherd hook stays firmly in place.



# Photo Frame Ornaments

I love the idea of creating a collection of photos of my family members to hang on my tree. You could create a timeline showing children as they grow each year or simply create a collection of nearest and dearest friends, family and even pets to appreciate.

# Photo Frame Ornaments

## Ingredients

*Small wooden photo frame*

*Spray Glue or PVA Craft Glue*

*Glitter*

*Ribbon*

*Hook*

*Spray Glazing*

## Method

1. Remove the glass from your frame. (If the glass is permanent, just stick some newspaper or baking paper over it to protect it from the glue and the glitter).
2. Screw a hook into the top of the frame so you can hang it on the tree.
3. Lay the frame on some newspaper and spray with glue.
4. Immediately sprinkle glitter over the entire frame.
5. Carefully lift the frame and shake excess glitter off.
6. Lay the frame to dry on a drying rack.
7. Cover the frame with glazing.
8. Replace the glass and insert a photograph. (I added some sequins because I used a deeper memory frame)
9. Attach some ribbon and your frame is ready to hang on the tree.



Sugar scrub feels divine on your skin. The best part for me is that smooth after effect and the intense moisture it injects into the skin. This sugar scrub has a Christmas smell with a strong hit of cinnamon and vanilla to remind you of that special time of year. It makes a fabulous gift for someone you love, an indulgent gift for yourself and, best of all, it is incredibly simple to make.

# Sugar Scrub

## Ingredients

1 cup tightly packed brown sugar

1/3 cup coconut oil

1 tbsp almond oil

3 tsp Ground Cinnamon

20 drops Vanilla Essence or 1 tsp Vanilla Paste

## Method

1. Pour the sugar in a mixing bowl.
2. Mix the vanilla and the cinnamon through the sugar until well combined.
3. Add the oils to the mixture ensuring they are well mixed through.
4. Pour the mixture into a glass jar that can be tightly sealed.
5. Add a little remaining oil to the top of the mixture to enjoy it stays moist.
6. Keep refrigerated.

Sugar  
Scrub



*Bath  
Salt*

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Really... it doesn't get any easier than Bath Salt, but the result is simply gorgeous. I tend to find myself forever grabbing the bottles for a quick sniff and a big hit of incredible fragrance. For this recipe, I chose to use Mandarin and Lavender pure essential oils because they are incredibly gentle on the skin and suitable for practically everybody. They are kind to sensitive skin and are relaxing and rejuvenating.

# Bath Salt

## Ingredients

500 ml Epsom Salt

20 drops mandarin essential oil

10 drops lavender essential oil

## Method

1. In a mixing bowl, add the mandarin and lavender essential oils to the Epsom salt.
2. Mix thoroughly.
3. Now you're ready to pour your bath salt into storage jars. It's that easy!



## Bath Bombs

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Bath Bombs are just one of those decadent little treats that make you look forward to a long soak in a nice hot bath. I created this recipe using coconut oil because of its amazing health benefits. The essential oils are delightful and your skin will thank you for this treat. You'll feel smooth and moisturised after using these little beauties. The natural ingredients don't leave any nasty rings around the bathtub either. It's all positive!

# Bath Bombs

## Ingredients

*Favourite Essential Oils*

*(e.g. lime, rose geranium, lavender, mandarin)*

*Food Colouring*

*3 tsp Coconut Oil*

*½ cup Citric Acid*

*1.5 cups Bicarb of Soda*

## Method

1. Combine the citric acid and Bicarb of Soda in a bowl. Mix well.
2. In a separate small bowl, mix 3 tsp of coconut oil and add a few drops of colouring. If you want light colours, only add 5 drops of colouring. Add 6 drops of your favourite essential oil. Mix well.
3. Quickly pour the liquid mixture into the dry mixture. Be quick to combine the ingredients with a spoon. You don't want it to start fizzing.
4. Once it's well combined, feel it with your fingers. It should be the consistency of wet sand. When you squeeze it together it should stay well packed.
5. Press it firmly into your chosen mold. Wait 24 hours to release from the mold.
6. (Here we have used Ikea ice cube trays and some little baking trays we had already. The jar is also from Ikea)



*Homemade  
Soap*

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I like making my own soap but if you're a true beginner, stick with the melt & pour bases as the very first step. Cold Process Soap Making is trickier than melt & pour. Melt & pour is just that... melt the soap, add some essential oils, colours, tea leaves, dried herbs or dried petals and then pour it into a mold to dry. When choosing your essential oil blend, take the lids off each bottle, hold them together and wave them under your nose. This will give you a good indication of which blends work and which scents are the strongest.

# Homemade Soap

## Ingredients

*½ kg Melt & Pour Soap Base –  
you can use either transparent or opaque.*

## Optional

*20 drops of essential oils (we used Lavender, Rose Geranium, Rosewood & Lime)  
Colours – e.g. oxides, clays, micas (In this photo, I used spirulina powder for  
the green colour, and a pink mica for the pink colour)*

## Method

1. Melt the soap base slowly over a double boiler.
2. While the soap is melting, measure your essential oils. Make sure you do use quality essential oils for your skin. You want approximately 20 drops in total for your 500g base.
3. Once the soap has melted, take it off the heat and add your essential oils, colourings and any dried teas. (I used rose tea for this soap).
4. Choose a rubber mold to pour your soap into. Flexible plastic containers are also a good choice.
5. Leave soap 24-48 hours before popping out of the molds.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas  
from Ruby Roundabout  
Trinity Kya Irish H  
Ella Cassidy

