

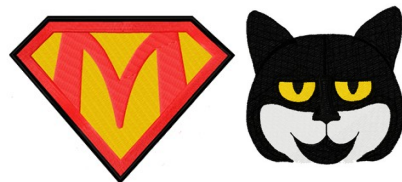
# For the Guys

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I like to include at least some handmade gifts and stocking stuffers for everyone on my list. The guys can be a challenge, but over the years I've found that the key to success in making things for them is personalization.

For example, super handy Mike loves his personal "Super Mike" logo; similarly, "Bitzer" is always thrilled with items bearing his geocaching avatar – the face of his cat. I digitized both of these so I can embroider them on various gift items and stocking stuffers.



First up: **homemade fleece mitts** were a big hit. I made them half in jest, but the guys found them to be the perfect thing to keep fingers toasty warm when shovelling snow in our cold winters. After I made these ones, my sister made mitts for the guys on her list, and she reports that they all love them too.



I make these **custom underpants** for eight (!) of the men on my list, and they all claim that these are the most comfortable underwear they own. They especially like the ones bearing their own logos, like these Bitzer and Super Mike pairs.





Given my love of making **Christmas ornaments**, it won't surprise you to know that I also made these embroidered ornaments for the guys. Super Mike makes sure to place his ornament on the tree so that it's visible from the chair where he usually sits.

A traditional family badge or crest is another option for personalization. This embroidered **Scots clan badge** ornament has become a favourite.



One year I made **personalized game pawns** as stocking stuffers for everyone on my list. They're a huge hit for family game night.

Using the same logos, I ordered **custom printed mugs** for my guys: Super Mike took his personalized mug to work, and Bitzer reaches for his when having his morning coffee.



From the same company, I ordered **personalized pens** with a version of the logos. I've made mugs and pens for many

others of my peeps as well, and they've been really well received.

I purchased my mugs from an on-line company, but if you have a cutting machine like a



Cricut or a Scan N Cut, you can likely make similar items yourself.



Notebooks make handy stocking stuffers, and I generally put one in everyone's sock each year. I start with 3x5" notebooks from a dollar store for which I create custom covers. I print the new cover designs on 110 lb card stock and cut them to size. Then I wind the coil out of the top of the notebook, and using the old cover as a template, I punch holes in the new cover with a 1/8" hole punch. Then I line up the new cover with the notebook pages and rewind the coil back into place. Easy-peasy, and a fun stocking stuffer that almost everyone is happy to receive.

Another great option for personalization is a golf shirt or a tee. The custom logo can be adapted to fit on the lapel of a golf shirt, as I did for this teeny Bitzer face applique.

Similarly, T-shirts offer a wonderful canvas for personalization, whether you choose to embroider them, as I did with these pocket tees featuring a family crest, or prefer to



use a personalized iron-on transfer created on your ink-jet printer. You can even decorate a tee with a motif cut from iron-on vinyl using a Cricut or Scan-n-Cut.





If your guy wears caps, you can embroider a patch that can then be stitched to the front of the hat with a conventional sewing machine. Use his personal logo or another that's meaningful to him. Bitzer was pleased with his super catcher hat; my brother requested the "Freak in the Room" hat, and DH got one featuring the badge from a favourite TV show.

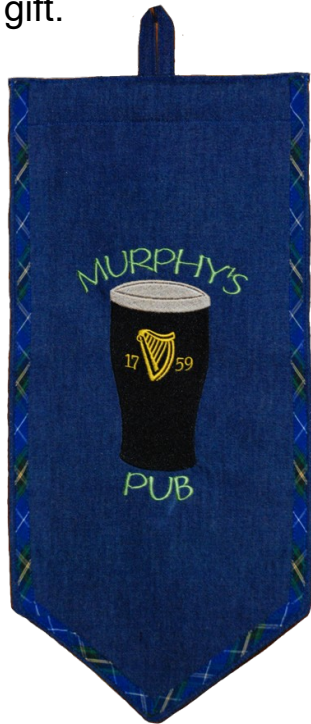


(In case it's unfamiliar to you, the show is *Blue Heelers*, an Australian drama from the 1980s about a small-town police department in fictional Mount Thomas.)

The possibilities for customizing a **Christmas stocking** are nearly infinite. John was well pleased with his science officer sock (I used Trek font for his name); Arch's red fleece stocking features his family crest; Liam's girlfriend ordered this personalized Riders sock for her favourite fan; baby Lily's folks are diehard Harry Potter enthusiasts, so this personalized Hogwarts-themed stocking was the perfect baby gift; and Juanita loved her Banana-themed stocking featuring her own logo.



A **banner** – either a large one for the wall or a smaller one to hang on a door – can make a lovely personal gift.



#1 My friend Murphy wanted something for the wall of his man-cave: he's a Guinness fan whose favourite colour is blue.



#2 The tan clan badge banner graces the door of a home office.



#3 The dark blue banner functions as a ceremonial bookmark to commemorate a year of service.



#4 The quotations on this light blue banner come from the founder of the Baha'i faith; this one was a particular request from a dear friend.

When it comes to making gifts, most people find the guys most challenging. I make a large percentage of my gifts each year, and I have consistently found that almost all of the guys really appreciate customized items with a personal twist.