



for the busy crafter

By Liz Logan

MAKE IT BETTER READER: **STACY SIMPSON**, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH, SCOTT SIMPSON BUILDERS, NORTHBROOK

Stacy is quite the crafter: She mosaics, scrapbooks, makes jewelry and crochets (she made the wrap in this photo!). She co-founded the **Party Dress Project** with **Beth Hirshman** of Northbrook and their respective daughters, who had the idea to trade dresses. The idea grew into an annual boutique where lightly worn dresses are sold for \$25 each, with proceeds benefiting a charity that works with youth.



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1. HANDMADE, WITH HEART A fair-trade jewelry piece from Acacia Creations is not only eclectic, colorful and unique, but also helps bead makers in Kenya and Uganda make a living. And since the beads are made from magazines, your gift helps keep paper out of landfills. Stacy says: "Because it's handmade, it's personal, and it gives back." **\$11-\$29, at Chalet in Wilmette, Country Classics in Glenview, Peg Ann Kompany in Lake Bluff, and Stella in Evanston.**

2. IMAGE SAVER Busy moms and dads, whether crafters or not, can scan important documents, photos and keepsakes on-the-go with the Flip-Pal mobile scanner. The device easily fits in a purse and saves high-resolution images in true color to a memory card. Stacy says: "I was skeptical at first, but I think this would be extremely helpful—especially because I could scan a photo in a scrapbook or a frame without having to remove it." **\$150, flip-pal.com**

3. NOTABLE NOTES The luxe, romantic stationery and accessories from Anna Griffin would make any woman (or girl) feel like Marie Antoinette, especially the Isabelle and Darcey collections. Stacy says: "They're beautiful, and very feminine. The blank notecards would be perfect for a crafter to personalize with a button or a stamp." **\$15 for 20 blank cards and envelopes, annagriffin.com and at All She Wrote, 825 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, 773-529-0100**

4. BUTTON IT UP For the serious crafter who craves the coolest tools, the Epiphany Crafts Button Studio lets you create custom acrylic buttons or epoxy shapes with one simple punch. Stacy says: "This would be a great gift for people who are into collage or card-making." **\$25 plus \$5 for a pack of buttons or epoxy shapes, epiphanycrafts.com**

5. RACK IT UP The multi-tier Grab N' Go Rack Systems from Creative Options make it easy for crafters to organize all their materials and tote them from place to place. Stacy, who travels to several scrapbooking events each year, says: "These racks are great for the traveling crafter, or just to have at home." **\$25-\$50 (depending on the size), at Archiver's in Niles; Jo-Ann in Arlington Heights, Niles, Lake Zurich and Vernon Hills; and Michaels in Glenview, Niles and Skokie.**

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