



Conveying the most important messages between the DIY, fashion and independent arts communities and yours

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Love It Or Not, Valentine's Day is Coming!

by Teresa "Velvet Klaw" Salazar

Whether you are a fan of Valentine's Day, or prefer to poke some fun with a cynical Anti-Valentine's greeting, February is a great time for creative crafting! Here are some clever craft tutorials we found that are sure to bring some a smile to your face! There's a little something for everyone!



Zombies aren't just for Halloween! This is a great tutorial for a pop-up card! www.cutoutandkeep.net/projects/i-love-your-guts-3d-zombie-card/

Are you handy with embroidery? Here's a cute little pattern that you might add to a card or maybe a little heart shaped pillow. www.stitchschool.blogspot.com/2010/02/free-valentines-pattern.html

If you love things in the romantic style, these frilly heart shaped recycled gift boxes are sure to please. www.leesiebella.typepad.com/leesiebella/2010/02/vintage-style-candy-boxes.html There's even a tutorial on how to make the box itself, incase you don't have an empty candy box! www.instructables.com/id/Make-a-heart-shaped-gift-box-for-Valentines-Day/step6/Using-Guidelines/



How about something for the home? This heart wreath would be a welcoming addition to anyone's front door.

www.ilovetocraft.com/sewing/valentine-heart-wreath.shtml

Trying to cut back on calories? These glittery cupcake ornaments are low-cal and could be made into a paperweight by simply adding a rock inside the foil liner. They are just too sweet!

<http://www.bakeitpretty.com/>



Does your Valentine like to cook? Why not make this quickie dishtowel apron? www.lipstickandlaundry.blogspot.com/2010/01/valentine-apron-tutorial.html

Here's something fun to do with playing cards! Make a book that tells your special someone why you like them! www.craftster.org/forum/index.php?topic=227507.0



Gotta love this little Valentine the Voodoo Pincushion! What a great way to let your feelings out while crafting!

<http://www.indiespotting.com/diy-projects/make-valentine-the-voodoo-pincushion>

We hope these projects will get your creative juices flowing, no matter what you think about February 14th. A day that's filled with craft is always great!

CRAFTY HELP:

ASK DR. MUERTA FOR CRAFTY HELP & ADVICE!

Dear Dr. Muerta: Do you have any suggestions for freshening up the décor without spending too much? I have a small budget but I can't go too crazy fixing up my house.



to do, which is something I enjoy personally, is to paint and decorate old furniture. Take something you already have, or score something retro at the thrift store that has seen better days. Use some paint and pretty papers to color and decoupage, and then seal to protect your work. New throws, houseplants, curtains, pillows, and area rugs are also ways to update a room without buying new furniture.

Please email your questions for Dr Muerta about life, death, art or anything else to: ask_dr.muerta@sandiegonthparkcraftmafia.com

Dear Martha-on-a-budget: An easy and fairly inexpensive way to freshen up or change the look of any room is new paint! A couple gallons of paint won't put you back too much, if you're willing to take the time to prep and do the work. If you're not up for a whole room, pick one wall and go for it. Use masking tape to create borders for picture frames, or interesting designs with the old paint peeking through. New wall art can also be an inexpensive way to change things up. You can whip up yourself a handmade collage using old greeting cards, pretty pictures from magazines, leaves and dried flowers, and put behind and inexpensive poster frame. Another fun thing



Hand painted recycled furniture and pillows found at: <http://priscillamaeetal.blogspot.com>

CRAFTY HOW-TO:

HOW TO: VALENTINE'S DAY SOAP SET!

We're going to make a quick and easy gift for Valentine's day! Also, great for party favors, or shower gifts. The supplies can be purchased at stores like Michael's or JoAnn (use those 50% off coupons for the soap!) and you can reuse the molds over and over if you treat them well. You can use your imagination by adding different kinds of toys, colors and fragrances to make your soap unique!

Materials:

Melt-and-pour glycerin soaps (clear and white), Pyrex measuring cups, Spoon, Heart Soap Molds, Rubber Ducky, Soap Colorant, Soap Fragrance, Microwave, Gift Bag, Plastic wrap

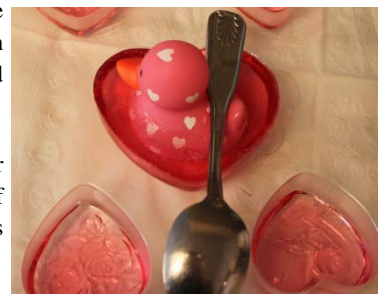


Follow the package directions to melt the soap. I cut a few cubes, put them into my pyrex measuring cup and stick it in the microwave for 30 second intervals until it is mostly melted. Keep an eye on it to make sure it doesn't boil over. When the soap is mostly melted take it out of the microwave and stir until all of the chunks melt.

Add soap color and fragrance according to the directions on the packaging. I usually use a few drops. Stir it all in and pour into your molds. For this project I used clear red soap for the tops of the hearts, and for the ducky soap.

The ducky will float in the soap, so I weighed it down with a spoon, careful not to let any part of the spoon get stuck in the melted soap. I used only a bit of the clear soap in each heart mold, so that the designs in the clear soap will show up against the opaque white soap.

After the soap hardens, about an hour or so, follow the same steps used for the clear soap for the white soap. Put a few chunks into a pyrex measuring cup, microwave, stir until melted then add color and fragrance. I filled the rest of each heart soap with the opaque soap, using white in two, then adding a bit of red to make the second two pink.



After the soap hardens, another hour or so, gently turn over and pop out of the mold onto a clean surface such as a paper plate or plastic wrap.

Wrap each soap carefully in plastic wrap to protect it and keep it pretty and clean, making sure the excess is in underneath to make a nice display. Put the soaps in gifts bags with a bit of crinkle paper, or any other way you want! You've just created a personal, vegan and pretty little gift!



MADAME CRAFTINA'S
HOROSCOPE

IT'S TIME FOR SWEET CRAFTY LOVE!

For Valentine's Day this year, craft your lover a fun heart-shaped card and don't forget to include candy!!! Madame Craftina has candy suggestions for your valentine according to their astrological sign!

Aquarius (born Jan 23-Feb 18) Aquarians appreciate uniqueness so different and strange candy would impress them. Get them something they've never tried before like chocolate covered insects, freeze-dried ice cream or lavender infused truffles.

Pisces (born Feb 19-Mar 20) Pisces love all natural things including nature's own candy: fruit! Chocolate covered cherries, blueberries, raisins and banana chips will be the perfect sweet valentine treat!

Aries (born Mar 21-April 19) Dark chocolate is a favorite for Aries. They love bold and

strong flavors so the darker and more bitter the chocolate, the better! Or give them chocolate covered espresso beans.

Taurus (born April 20-May 20) Tauruses require extra attention. Make chocolate fondue for dessert or feed them chocolate dipped strawberries and they would love to be your valentine!

Gemini (born May 21-June 20) The twins like to be surprised leaving monotony out of the question. Get your Gemini lover an assorted box of chocolates so every little bite is different than the next!

Cancer (born June 21-July 22) Your artistic and romantic side will impress a Cancer. They would love homemade heart shaped cookies or a cookie bouquet.

Leo (born July 23-Aug 22) Leos love being praised. Give them M&M's in their favorite color scheme or printed with their initials and they will surely melt in your mouth!

Virgo (born Aug 23-Sept 22) Bring your Virgo valentine organic candies and chocolates. They appreciate all healthy things and will take notice of your thoughtfulness.

Libra: (born Sept 23-Oct 22) Libras are pleased by anything, for them it's the thought that counts. You could easily bring your own favorite candy and they'd be happy to share it with you.

Scorpio (born Oct 23-Nov 22) Your Scorpio valentine appreciates anything having to do with water. Using this as inspiration, they might like dried watermelon (so sweet and yummy) or red Swedish fish!

MA MANGIA

BE GOOD TO YOUR HEART THIS VALENTINE'S DAY!

February is the month when we tend to focus on the heart and love, so why not do something good for *your* heart? A healthy diet doesn't mean that you have to deprive yourself of sweet treats. The American Heart Association has some great recipes on their website! Here's one we thought you might enjoy making for your Valentine - or just for you to enjoy!

Devil's Food Cupcakes with Almond-Mocha Topping on Raspberry Sauce**Cupcakes**

1 18.25-ounce box devil's food cake mix
1 2.5-ounce jar baby food pureed prunes
1 cup strong coffee, or 1 cup water plus 2 teaspoons instant coffee granules
3 large egg whites
2 tablespoons canola or corn oil

Sauce

2 12-ounce packages frozen unsweetened raspberries, thawed
1/2 cup sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping

2 teaspoons instant coffee granules
2 teaspoons water
8 ounces frozen fat-free whipped topping, thawed in refrigerator
2/3 cup sliced almonds, dry-roasted

Directions

Preheat the oven to 325°F, or as directed on the package. Lightly spray two 12-cup muffin pans with cooking spray.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cupcake ingredients. Follow the package directions for beating the batter and baking and cooling the cupcakes.

Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, stir together the raspberries, sugar, and cornstarch until the cornstarch is dissolved. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes, or until thickened, stirring frequently. Remove from the heat. Let cool completely, about 20 minutes. Stir in the vanilla.

In a medium bowl, stir together the coffee granules and water until the coffee is dissolved. Fold in the whipped topping until well blended. Cover and refrigerate until needed.

For each serving, spread 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons raspberry sauce on a dessert plate, top with a cupcake, spoon 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons whipped topping mixture over the cupcake, and sprinkle with about 1 1/2 teaspoons almonds.

Calories Per Serving - 173

Total Fat - 4g

Dietary Exchanges - 2 carbohydrate, 1 fat

Recipe Source - <http://www.heart.org/>





WHO IS KEEPING SAN DIEGO CRAFTY?

Teresa Salazar of *Velvet Klaw*
www.velvetklaw.com

Svea Komori-Ang of *Belle Pepper Couture*
www.bellepeppercouture.com

Meagan Rae Longtin of *Meagan Rae Designs*
www.meaganraedesigns.com

Kim Klem of *Artista Muerta*
www.artistamuerta.com

THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 2007 AND IS DEDICATED TO CRAFTING, FASHIONING, STYLING AND CREATING THEIR SAN DIEGO.

www.SanDiegoNorthParkCraftMafia.com
info@sandiegonthparkcraftmafia.com
 858-272-4276
 P.O.Box 711773
 San Diego, CA 92171

**Crafty Black Book:
 Upcoming Events for February**



**THE ENTIRE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2011
 MUSEUM MONTH BRINGS HALF OFF ADMISSION**

During the entire month of February, individuals can pick up a free Museum Month Pass at Macy's stores to receive half-off admission at 40 San Diego County museums all month long. Guests with a pass may bring up to three people with them to any participating museum to receive half-off too. Museum Month was created in 1989 to promote awareness of the region's museums, historical sites, educational institutions and cultural offerings.

www.sandiegomuseumcouncil.org/museum_month/

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
 FRIDAY NIGHT LIBERTY- FIRST FRIDAY EVERY MONTH**

Friday Night Liberty is a monthly first-Friday evening of FREE open artist studios, galleries and events throughout NTC Promenade Arts & Cultural District. Free parking & Admission. The Freedom to explore, wander and enjoy our growing cultural campus. **Starts at 5 p.m.** www.ntcpromenade.org/what.php

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
 3RD ANNUAL VALENTINE'S GIFT BAZAAR**

Shop for your hunny or your bunny at our very own handmade gift bazaar. We will have the ever popular make & take anti-valentines. Free Tosti-Locos and drink specials during the event. More info @ www.sdnpcm.com

El Take It Easy, 3926 30th Street from 6pm-10pm

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
 5TH ANNUAL DODGE BRAWL TOURNAMENT**

The tournament is a fundraiser for the Mission Valley YMCA. Team entry fee is a tax deductible donation. Drink specials, Music, Food, Costume contest, & amazing Prizes!! Round Robin and each team is guaranteed at least 4 games! Must be 21 or older. Contact Glenda Deveaux with questions at 619-666-2107 or gde-veaux@ymca.org In Cahoots 5373 Mission Center Rd, SD 92108 (619) 291-

8635, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

www.yelp.com/events/san-diego-dodge-brawl-tournament

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
 CRAFTY CONSPIRACY AT VELVET KLAU STUDIO**

Our monthly craft get together! Come hang out, craft, craft swap, just get away for a bit at our Crafty Conspiracy. Please RSVP for this event. Contact us by emailing us at: craftnight@sandiegonthparkcraftmafia.com

Velvet Klaw Studio, Studio #203, 7p.m.-9 p.m.

www.sandiegonthparkcraftmafia.com/events.html

SPRING LINE UP VENDOR APPLICATION WILL BE POSTED ON FEB 1ST!!
 Apply early for an "early bird" discount! The North Park Festival of the Arts will be held on May 15th. More information on our website: www.sdnpcm.com