GIFT WRAPPING MADE EASY

1. ESSENTIAL: Remove all pricing indications. Check for stickers, cross – or white-out prices on tags. Check all over the item.

2. OPTIONAL but handy: If there is a box, use it. Wrap the item in tissue and place it in a box. Boxes are so much easier to wrap than soft things, like clothes, or odd shaped items - ornamental owls, for instance. If there is no box, wrap the item in heaps of layers of tissue and/or bubblewrap.

3. On your counter or wrapping table roll out the paper patterned side down. Be sure you have enough paper to fit around the entire gift. Measure if necessary, leaving a little bit extra then you'll think you need. Don't cut the paper off the roll yet.

4. Are you a crooked cutter? Grab a ruler and rule a line down the paper where you plan to cut. Now cut exactly on that line. Put the gift wrap roll away.

5. Place your item or box top end down, right in the centre of your piece of wrapping paper.

6. Bring the paper on the longest side of your item around and over to the middle of the item. Run some double sided tape down the outer edge of the paper and fold about 1 centimetre in on itself. Secure the paper to the box/tissue/bubblewrap with the tape.

7. Repeat step 6 with the opposite side of the item. The 'seam' where the joined paper is should be in the centre of the item.

8. Assuming you are using a rectangular box, you will now need to close the ends. Face one end towards you and push the sides in onto your box. Fold the right and left edges to form semi-triangular flaps. Tape the top flap to the box. Fold in the raw edge of the bottom flap and tape this to the other one with double-sided tape.

9. Repeat on the other side of the parcel. Pinch the edges and corners to make it look all crisp and professional.

10. Guess what? Its wrapped. Now you can add ribbon, gift seals and a card if you wish. Good luck!

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