

HOMEMADE



When you get the whole family involved, your usual holiday newsletter ritual becomes an inspired way to celebrate the season together.



PROPPING BY LORIELLANDER

THE NEW FAMILY NEWSLETTER

BY KELLY ROBERSON PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELLEN SILVERMAN PRODUCED BY SARAH HICKS MALONE

This season, put a fun spin on your standard holiday missive. Our fresh and festive greeting ideas are a perfect excuse to spend quality time with your loved ones.

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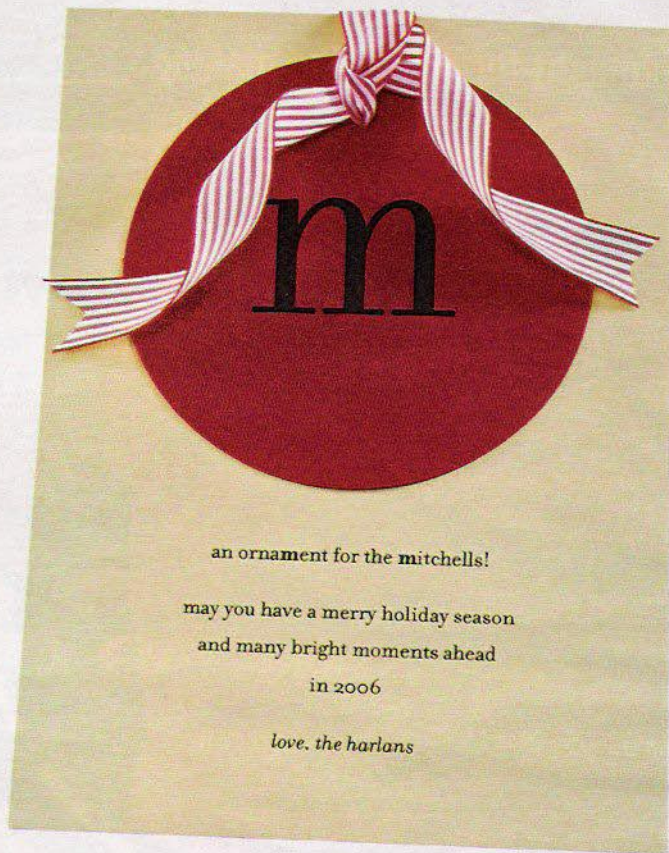
PANEL DISCUSSION This playful accordion-style card (*above*) unfolds to reveal a friendly face and greeting on each panel. Plan your design by aligning three same-size cards, unfolded, in a row. To create four panels, tuck the left and right cards into the fold of the center card; do not glue together. Determine photo and word placement on the cards. Based on your layout, use a computer to print a message or words on the cards. Realign the printed cards and glue the panels together. Photocopy photos on white card stock, cut out, and glue to each panel. Wrap ribbon around the folded card to create a little gift that's full of surprises.

ONE PICTURE, A THOUSAND WORDS

Showcase a special event in your family's year (*left*), such as four-legged additions to your clan or a trip to a favorite city. Use a decorative-edge crafts punch to create a window in the front of a blank card. Glue a photo, cut to fit, inside the card so it is visible through the window. On the front of the card below the photo window, write or print a brief anecdote or note the event or destination.

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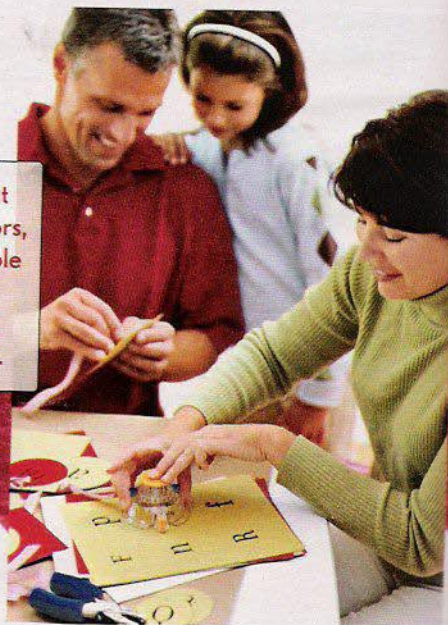


MERRY MONOGRAM Create a personalized ornament and greeting for family and friends. Use a computer to print a large initial of the recipient's last name; trim with a circle cutter. Print a message on a one-panel card. Position the ornament on the card, use a paper punch to make a small hole through both paper layers near the top; tie together with ribbon.

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TRY THIS

Rather than try to cut perfect circles with scissors, use a circle cutter, available at crafts stores. This tool quickly and easily makes professional-looking cuts.



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TOP 10 HITS Computer users on your mailing list will enjoy this creative greeting: a CD of 10 or so photographs that highlight your family's year (*right*). Transfer photos, in chronological order, onto a CD. Scan a wrapping paper design to use as a festive background for the CD label. Using a kit for custom disc labels, print brief photo descriptions or titles on the label. Attach label to the CD. Complete the package with a card tucked inside the envelope.



COMMUNICATION SKILLS Resolve to stay in touch with friends and send a New Year's note card that holds a family business card (*left*). Use a computer to print family members' names and contact information on sheets of perforated business cards, available at office supply stores, or have a print shop design a card for you. Enclose the business card in a ready-made card printed with your personal greeting. Keep extra business cards on hand for new neighbors or to slip in children's backpacks. >> on 95



NEWSLETTER NUTS AND BOLTS

- For these projects, you'll need one or more of the following: circle cutter, crafts knife, glue stick or double-sided tape, scissors, and CD labels, as well as computer, printer, and scanner or photocopier.
- Assembly is easy when you use pre-cut CD labels and already cut and folded cards.
- Use standard-size envelopes that fit your greeting; nonstandard sizes require additional postage.



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EMERGING ARTISTS Dress up your newsletter by tucking it inside a card embellished with children's artwork (below). Photocopy or scan your child's work and draw it into a computer and print it onto cardstock, position it on the front of a blank card, trim corners with a corner rounder, and adhere to card with a glue stick or double-sided tape. Fold the newsletter, printed on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper, in quarters. Enclose in card and bind with a rubber band around the folds. @

