

"I need low-cost gift ideas, fast!"

Q Money is tight, and I don't want to go into debt buying Christmas presents this year. Any ideas for wonderful gifts that don't cost a fortune?

—Paula, Goleta, CA



Expert advice from...
lifestyle guru
Katie Brown



Once you hit on an idea, give it to several people on your list. Here are a few of my favorites:

- **Bundle your own personal stationery.** Buy bond paper and envelopes in bulk and customize 25 sheets with stamps or computer software. Tie together with a ribbon and a pen.
- **Give a mini garden.** Fill small silver tins with seed packets. Attach small tools and gardening gloves.
- **Buy several martini shakers and glasses at discount stores.** Wrap one shaker with two glasses and a fun drink mix.

364!

The number of gifts you'd receive if you got everything in the classic song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."