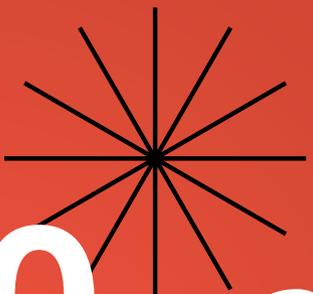






110 GREAT gift IDEAS

By Lee Ann Sandweiss
*photography by Michael Cavanagh
and Kevin Montague*



Designed by Lara Moore, this Bella Bella mirror features distinctive hand-cut paper patterns in rich, saturated colors, \$750.

“Three Times Four” by Bloomfield artist Nell Devitt features 12 sculptural, smoke-fired clay tiles, \$1,800.

Carson’s contemporary side chair is sculptural as well as comfortable and available in a variety of patterns and fabrics, \$765.

A plum resin base and burgundy and terra-cotta felt shade make this table lamp a stand-out accent piece in any room, \$358.

This dramatic Asian credenza has a distressed finish and functional internal shelving, \$995.

Sleek, imported wood candlesticks work well alone or in a grouping, \$27-\$32.

A sculpted wool runner creates an elegant backdrop for furnishings, \$600.

Textured chartreuse ceramic vases are beautiful empty or filled with stems, \$54-\$85.

A silk patterned throw pillow is the perfect accent piece to add a touch of unexpected luxury, \$32.

All available at Relish.

Unlike their counterparts in congested metropolitan areas, Bloomington shoppers need not jockey for a spot in a gridlocked parking lot this holiday season. The lyrics to “Silver Bells” more accurately depict the Bloomingtonian shopping experience—strolling past festive storefronts on the downtown Square with an armload of bright parcels. Our town’s independent businesses stock an impressive variety of merchandise for men, women, children, and the home that is guaranteed to satisfy the most discerning gift-giver. To perpetuate the holiday spirit year-round, most B-town merchants do their best to avoid competing with each other. In many instances, there is but one place in town to purchase a particular item. To jump start your holiday shopping, here’s our list of 110 great gift ideas. For “Where to Buy” information, turn to page 63.



Fort Wayne-based Vera Bradley makes stylish, quilted, cotton luggage, handbags, umbrellas, pet carriers, and accessories, with new colors and patterns presented in fall and spring collections, \$15-\$200.

All available at Different Drummer.

for HER

Willow sweaters are known for their striking detail—like fabulous oversized buttons—made from natural fibers, and flattering to all body types. Rebecca & Me, \$60-\$120.

Sterling bracelets engraved with botanical motifs are timeless and have heirloom potential. Argentum, \$55-\$125.

The Girl Talk kit has 20 **retro all-occasion greeting cards** to keep girlfriends in touch year-round. Books, Crooks & Spacemen, \$14.95.

The Patagonia Synchronilla **zippered fleece jacket** is hip, body-conscious, and deliciously soft. J.L. Waters, \$98.

Venetian glass paperweights, some available with Millefiori detail, are a gemlike presence on anyone's desk. à propos, \$35-\$90.

Collectible brilliantly colored glass earrings by Owen Glass are

equally suitable to wear with jeans or to the opera. Relish, \$24-\$38.

Bolivian-made Fair Trade **alpaca legwarmers** and other accessories are luxurious, yet affordable. Bloomingfoods, \$16-\$32.

An individual **makeup lesson with color analysis** will enhance the natural beauty of any woman. Carmen Delgado's Oasis Spa & Salon, \$95.

Serena Mann's enchanting **handcrafted sculptures**, flying figures made from papier-mâché and fabric, are available in different poses. Elements, \$42-\$59.

"Chicks Battle the Dudes" is a board game tug-of-war between the sexes. Each correct answer earns a pull

of the rope. The gendered team to reach the center of the board first wins. Game Preserve, \$24.95.

Geiger of Austria has been making **fine boiled wool jackets** with classic European styling for more than a century. Tivoli Fashions, \$318 and up.

Hot Diamonds, the newest thing in Europe, are **edgy, sleek diamond-and-sterling-silver** pieces—scorching, yet affordable, bling! Gold Casters, \$49-\$300.

Stretch beaded bracelets and belts are the current trendy accessories and, in this case, one size truly does fit all. Relish, \$14-\$24.

Imported **handcrafted wooden jewelry boxes** are refined and functional dresser-top furniture. à propos, \$30-\$415.

Jeans to make you look a size smaller: Tummy Tuck Jeans by Not Your Daughter's Jeans promise to flatten the pooch and lift the rear.

Pass the pumpkin pie, please! It's In The Bag, \$79-\$95.

Keep fingers toasty in vintage-style **beaded wool gloves**. Relish, \$36.

Kathy Ireland Jewelry by House of Taylor (spokesperson Liz Taylor knows from gorgeous baubles!) offers luscious **pendants, earrings, rings, and necklaces in diamonds, pearls, and colored stones**. Argentum, \$800-\$3,000.

A teeny, high-quality camera—3.75 x 2.39 x .78 inch and just over 4 ounces, small enough to slip into an evening bag—the Casio EX Z60 Slim Silver 6MP Digital Camera has a 3x Optical Zoom. Dubbed the "eBay Best Shot," it takes photos just the right size for online selling. Roberts Camera, \$199.97.

Baltic amber jewelry comes in a wide range of colors (from butterscotch to sea green) and styles. à propos, \$25-\$425.

High Spirits **Native American flutes** are made in authentic, traditional styles. They come in birch, cedar, and walnut with turquoise inlay; instructions and CD included. Athena, \$69-\$175.

Flattering to women of all ages, a ribbed **wool capelet with portrait collar**, is perfect for draft dodging in the MAC lobby during intermission. Tivoli Fashions, \$180.

A cool, colorful scooter with groovy graphics, the 2007 Honda Metropolitan (CHF 50) comes in ruby, sapphire, pink hibiscus, and purple kanjito. Bloomington Power Sports, \$1,899.

Display-worthy **art glass perfume bottles** hold special fragrances with style. à propos, \$59-\$235.

Rising Tide **wool felt coin purses** combine ethnic charm and practicality. Relish, \$14.

BLU Boy creates **handmade confections** that are works of art as well as melt-in-your-mouth delicious. Goods for Cooks or custom order from BLU Boy, \$6.99-\$18.99.

for HIM

Raffi's 100-percent pure 12-gauge **cashmere sweaters** are available in v-neck, crew-neck, and zippered styles and a wide range of solids, stripes, and argyles. Sullivan's, \$195-\$325.

Frost River **waxed cotton luggage** repels water yet "breathes"—something synthetic materials can't do. The duffel is what Ernest Hemingway might have used

to stow his gear. J.L. Waters, \$125-\$300.

Col. Icabod Conk and Concord **shaving accessories** bring old school tradition to a routine grooming task. The Briar and the Burley, \$20-\$250.

Made in Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 1903, Stormy Kromer **wool hats that keep you extra warm** fit just right and come in many styles and colors—all with signature earflaps. J.L. Waters, \$30.

Stressless leather recliners are Scandinavian-crafted, upholstered in a wide range of colors and styles, and endorsed by the American Chiropractic Association. Scandinavian Imports, \$2,300.

Western Mountaineering **lightweight, sturdy sleeping bags** weigh less than 2 lbs., feature weather-resistant shell fabrics and contain the highest quality goose down. J.L. Waters, \$200-\$500.

A camera with show-stopping 8.0 megapixel resolution, the Canon Powershot A630 is also packed with a full range of high-performance features. Roberts Camera, \$299.

Lacoste's long-sleeved **striped rugby shirt** is a modern spin on a casual classic. Sullivan's, \$115.

Weber Genesis Gold C grill is a stainless steel workhorse that expends even heat, operates on natural or LP gas, and can sizzle a mouth-watering steak in the dead of winter as well as during the lazy days of summer, \$649.

Forget Charles Foster Kane's "Rosebud"—the Flexible Flyer Classic Steel Runner Sled is the classic, \$89.00.

Woodstock Chimes are handcrafted from fine wood, bamboo, and metals, \$19.95-\$65.

Mr. Beer Home Brewery is a complete microbrewery in a box, \$39.95. Refill packs, \$11.99. (The Small Fry Mr. Rootbeer kit produces a non-alcoholic equivalent, \$19.99)

All available at
Bloomington Hardware.

The Original Mouse Rug adds pizzazz on your desktop, thanks to its distinctive West African bogolanfini (mud-dyed cloth) design. IU Art Museum, \$21.99.

Marmot Terraplane is a **high-volume, full-feature, internal frame backpack** that sets the bar in its category; experienced users choose it for overnight excursions and extended trips. J.L. Waters, \$368.95.

Kenneth Cole designs **ties that suit every sensibility and occasion**, from campus to the club. Sullivan's, \$45.

Adolpho's **Italian-made cashmere topcoat** in black or charcoal gray will make your man live his fantasy: magnate, matinee idol, or prime minister? J.R. Stallsmith, \$895.

Buy him a package of **spa pampering for men**—a minimum of four hours of services that include a facial, a massage, a haircut, and a manicure. Les Champs Elysées, \$160-\$210.

In muted plaids, Pendleton **Zephyr cloth shirts of lightweight, 100% pure, virgin wool** are as comfortable as they are durable. Sullivan's, \$108.

Harley Davidson's 2007 Ultra Classic Electra Glide is **the ultimate touring motorcycle**, with 6-speed transmission, air-cooled Twin Cam 96 engine, 80-watt 4-speaker audio system, cruise control, and much more. Harley-Davidson/Buell of Bloomington, \$20,195 and up.

Pantherella's **fine English cashmere socks** are irresistible, either in neutral solid colors or in argyle designs. J.R. Stallsmith, \$45.

Star Wars Starship Battles Starter Set contains everything needed to **play head-to-head Star Wars space battles**. Add Starship Battles Booster Packs to expand your options and decide the fate of the galaxy. Game Preserve, \$40 starter; \$20 booster.



Ahhhh! Woolrich's oh-so comfortable Redwood **moccasin slippers with a suede upper and fleece lining** are so nice to come home to. J.L. Waters, \$39.95.

Bailey Hat Company of Hollywood tips its hat to the golden age of the silver screen with **traditional fedoras, pork pies, and caps** in fine wool felt, leather, and tweed. J.R. Stallsmith, \$50-\$120.

The Nature Conservancy's Guide to Indiana Preserves, published by Indiana University Press, provides maps and directions to 54 of the state's nature preserves—with 268 color photographs. IU Press, \$27.95.

for KIDS

True-to-life **scaled-down dinosaurs, farm animals, marine creatures, and other figures** are perfectly suited to little hands and foster imaginative play. Learning Treasures, \$2-\$30.

Funkie Baby **reversible “soak proof” bibs** are available in a wide array of whimsical cotton prints—Retro Rocket, Funky Monkey, Cowboy Kids, and more. Rebecca & Me, \$19.

PlayFoam is a **lightweight, colorful sculpting material** that never dries out—squish/smush/squash and save it to play another day. WonderLab, \$9.95.

The **classic steel runner sled** from Flexible Flyer was invented by Samuel Leeds Allen of Philadelphia more than 100 years ago and has remained unchanged in design and construction over the decades. Bloomington Hardware, \$89.00. [See photo; page 59]

Blokus, an **abstract strategy board game for ages 5+**, has won several awards including the Mensa select award. Game Preserve, \$29.95.

Riley Child—Rhymes with Hoosier Pictures, illustrated by

Will Vawter, is a charming facsimile edition of an 1895 volume by James Whitcomb Riley that includes such treasures as “Little Orphan Annie” and “The Raggedy Man.” Monroe County History Center, \$20.

A **special edition of Lincoln Logs**, the collectors’ edition includes 151

pieces plus instructions for endless configurations, and it comes with a keepsake wooden storage case. Learning Treasures, \$104.95.

Bloomington South and Bloomington North scrapbooks are covered with silk grosgrain fabric in the schools’ colors and hold 20 acid-free layout pages. Bloomin’ Scrapbooks & Stamps, \$34.99.

The colorful, floor-standing **theater for hand or finger puppets** by Alex features curtains and a chalkboard base to write a message or announce the show. Learning Treasures, \$63.95.

The Old Mummy is an **educational card game** that helps kids learn about the lives and beliefs of ancient Egyptians. IU Art Museum, \$15.95.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz commemorative pop-up book is a 3-D rendering of L. Frank Baum’s classic tale. Books, Crooks & Spacemen, \$21.

Mondo Salon & Spa’s Kid Kare Menu consists of **spa services for the younger set**—from infant massage to a pre-teen spa day gift package. Mondo, \$35-\$100.

Kouvalias designs are straightforward, with smooth surfaces and rounded edges for extra safety. These **brightly colored toys from Greece** are passed on from generation to generation. Learning Treasures, \$39.95-\$54.

Child carriers now available in America from the century-old German company Deuter are indispensable for taking your wee one along on a hike in Brown County or a stroll through the Farmers Market. J.L. Waters, \$150-\$300.

The **Guinness World Records 2007** hardback edition includes over 3,000 new entries and boasts giant foldouts. Categories like Extreme Bodies and the all-time Hall of Fame record holders will entice youngsters to read. Books, Crooks & Spacemen, \$23.

Zutano, a Vermont-based maker of children’s fashions, eschews pink and blue in favor of **colorful, hip clothing for infants and toddlers**. Rebecca & Me, \$5.50-\$48.

Handmade wood and paper **Magic Lamps project moving shadows** against walls and ceiling. The mechanism is propelled by the heat from one 40-watt bulb. Elements, \$69.

Animal-shaped backpacks from Peru and Bangladesh are cute, durable, and sure to delight preschoolers. Mathers Museum, \$20-\$25.

Build skills with the Erector Set, the all-metal staple of children’s development toys since 1913. Dozens of innovative kits allow children (and adults) to create classics like the Ferris wheel and new designs like motorcycles and roadsters. Learning Treasures, \$30-\$130.

Noodle & Boo’s hypoallergenic and pediatrician-tested **skin care products for children** are popular with Hollywood’s new celebrity moms. Different Drummer, \$6.50-\$20.



Plush critters from Douglas Co. include fun accessory items like Sassy Pet Saks, snazzy handbags that hold unique pets, \$10-\$150.

KidKraft’s kid-sized kitchen is made of wood and comes in retro-looking pastels with matching accessories, \$40-\$199.

“Ducky” by Melissa and Doug, a fuzzy-wuzzy giant sure to become a child’s favorite, \$80.

Intelligent Toys’ Skyrail Suspension System allows the construction of spectacular structures that imitate famous suspension bridges, \$80.

Clown Fish by Wild Republic is huge (almost a yard long!) and huggable, \$38.50.

Pockets of Learning's soft-toy sets offer toddlers skill-building experiences such as tying, matching, buttoning, and counting. Themes include Mother Goose, Old McDonald's farm, school bus, and castle (complete with dragon), \$20-\$35.

A 30" Pinocchio puppet by Folkmanis has workable hands and mouth as well as a retractable nose. He's detailed enough to be mistaken for a "real boy," \$44.

All available at Banana Junction.

Reproduction stoneware for cooking, made from local clay, has been hand-produced by Clay City Pottery for over 120 years. The pieces are durable, oven-safe, lead-free and come in a variety of charming designs and glazes. Monroe County History Center, \$8.75-\$26.95.

Maple Lane makes **wooden sectional shadow boxes** with magnetic closures that can stand on their own easel or be wall-mounted. Perfect for displaying family photos and keepsakes. Bloomin' Scrapbooks & Stamps, \$12.99-\$19.99.

Breville, the Rolls-Royce of **espresso and cappuccino makers**, provides professional-grade functionality, award-winning design and an amazing cuppajoe. Goods for Cooks, \$275-\$450.

Manufactured in France, the Lampe Berger **air-purifying system** destroys airborne bacteria while elegantly concealed in porcelain, ceramic, or glass lamps. Different Drummer, \$32-\$180.

The Good Home Co. makes **biodegradable home care and laundry products**, including their

popular Lavender Sheet Spray. Rebecca & Me, \$20.

A **monthly floral offering**—an arrangement of cut flowers or a blooming plant—is the most thoughtful way to say, "Thinking of you," 12 times a year. Flowers & Interiors, \$30 a month and up.

Fine wood photo albums are available in koa, eucalyptus, walnut, birdseye, and quilted maples, and other exotic choices. Elements, \$45-\$180.

Designed by a professional musician and instrument builder,

Woodstock Chimes are made from fine wood, bamboo, and metals.

Handcrafted chime styles run the gamut from classic to Gregorian to Feng Shui. Bloomington Hardware, \$19.95-\$65. [See photo; page 59]

Zionsville Candle Company soy candles are hand-poured and Hoosier-made. The scents of these candles are said to transport you to a favorite place, be it Hawaii or the domestic paradise of "Coffee in Your Pajamas." Different Drummer, \$3.50-\$20.

Compete for laughs with **The New Yorker Cartoon Caption Game**, a riff on the magazine's weekly Caption Contest. Game Preserve, \$29.95.

For a personalized gift, order **custom, themed gift baskets** "that may or may not be about the wine," according to basket maven Marci Widen. tutto bene Wine Cafe & More, \$40-\$100.

Hoosier-made cutting boards by Whetstone Woodenware are made from kiln-dried hard maple. The Indiana-shaped cutting board is a favorite. Goods for Cooks, \$10-\$150.

A **custom home makeover** can give a living space an exciting new look and solve myriad decorating dilemmas. Chameleon, \$350 and up.

Enameled metal or ceramic switch plates are striking and affordable accent pieces for any home. Elements, \$20-\$45.

From France, **Le Creuset cookware** is coveted by chefs world-round and available in a wide range of styles and colors. Goods for Cooks, \$30-\$250.

Hand-woven, **cozy, distinctive throw blankets** come in a variety of colors, textures, and fibers from a local, world-class manufacturer. Textillery, \$35-\$130.



Koziol housewares are kid-friendly, utilitarian cartoons. The line includes whimsical tape holders, pet bowls, salt & pepper shakers, and modular candlesticks, \$10-\$20.

Sarut Group toasters from France have a retro look and come in colorful, funky designs, \$65.95.

Alessi home gadgets—from the Diabolix "devil" bottle opener to the iconic Michael Graves tea kettle—merge wit and fashion, \$12-\$135.

The Waring Pro Juicerator, with 850 watts of power and a pulp ejector, whips up healthy libations even from hard vegetables, \$150.

All available at Inner Chef.

for HOME



The "Celeste" curved, sectional sofa creates an intimate conversation area, \$3,696.

A honey-colored chenille throw with knotted fringe adds a warm touch to any room, \$82.

A transitional rug of 80 percent wool and 20 percent cotton has lush pile, an earth-tone palette, and a geometric design, \$440.

This sleek and airy tiered glass coffee table complements a wide range of decorating schemes. \$350.

Nell Devitt's wood-fired tile wall sculpture, "Big Red X," makes a strong, tactile statement, \$2,000.

A fused-glass bowl with wrought-iron stand is perfect for holding objects or to display by itself, \$69.



where TO BUY

Angles Café and Gift Shop

IU Art Museum
1133 E. 7th St.
855-5455

à propos Gifts & Jewelry

113 N. College Ave.
334-1330

Argentum

6th St. & College Ave.
336-3100

Athena

108 E. Kirkwood Ave.
339-0734

Banana Junction Toys

101 W. Kirkwood Ave.,
Ste. 108
355-1770

Bloomingfoods Market & Deli

3220 E. 3rd St. and 419 E.
Kirkwood Ave.
336-5400

Bloomin' Scrapbooks & Stamps

223 S. Pete Ellis Dr.
333-2008

Bloomington Hardware

College Mall Rd.
339-7575

Bloomington Power Sports

1006 S. Walnut St.
339-0199

BLU Boy

813 N. Walnut St.
334-8460

Books, Crooks, & Spacemen

3255 W. 3rd St.
Whitehall Plaza
330-8610

The Briar and the Burley

101 W. Kirkwood Ave.
332-3300

Carmen Delgado's Oasis Spa & Salon

2613 E. 3rd St.
339-3193

Chameleon Interiors and Furnishings

205 N. Morton St.
330-0933

Different Drummer

2664 E. 2nd St.
337-1776

Elements

2901 E. Covenanter Dr.
331-9089

Flowers & Interiors, Inc.

1000 N. Walnut St.
333-6433

The Game Preserve

101 W. Kirkwood Ave.,
Ste. 117
332-6602

Gold Casters

430 S. Washington St.
332-1071

Goods for Cooks

117 N. College Ave.
339-2200

Harley-Davidson/Buell of Bloomington

522 W. Gourley Pike
333-8300

Inner Chef

105 N. College Ave.
323-8671

It's In The Bag

2905 E. Covenanter Dr.
333-1440

IU Press

601 N. Morton St.
855-8817
800-842-6796 (toll free)

J.L. Waters & Co.

109 N. College Ave.
334-1845

J.R. Stallsmith

101 W. Kirkwood Ave.
332-1953

Learning Treasures

223 S. Pete Ellis Dr.
332-6777

Les Champs Elysées

601 N. College Ave.
333-5030

Mathers Museum Gift Shop

416 N. Indiana Ave.
855-6873

Mondo Salon & Spa

222 N. Walnut St.
334-1990

Monroe County History Center

202 E. 6th St.
332-2517

Rebecca & Me

2909 E. Covenanter Dr.
334-7878

Relish

204 N. Morton St.
333-2773

Roberts Camera

316 E. Kirkwood Ave.
323-0888

Scandinavian Imports

2620 E. 10th St.
333-7226

Sullivan's

115 N. Washington St.
339-3444

Textillery Weavers

2361 Rappel Dr.
334-1555

Tivoli Fashions

101 W. Kirkwood Ave.,
Ste.106
339-6239

tutto bène Wine Cafe & More

213 S. Rogers
330-1060

WonderLab Gift Store

308 W. 4th St.
337-1337

Asymmetrical glass vases with fine green striping are whimsical and graceful, \$28.

A table lamp with silk shade and amber resin base emits a soft glow, \$285.

Throw pillows in a variety of patterns and shapes add a distinctive touch to sofa or bed, \$32-\$60.

Frosted polka-dot martini glasses put guests in a festive mood, \$14.

All available at Relish