

Give a Homemade Gift: Make a HOUSE-planter

“Just as the plant stretches out to the sunlight—from which it receives life and growth—so we turn our hearts to the Manifestation of God, Bahá’u’lláh, when we pray . . .” —Bahá’í Writings

Making presents for my family and friends always lights me up! Shopping at our local flea market is a lot of fun, but homemade gifts are even better. They’re more personal, meaningful, and creative. I can convey feelings that may be harder to express with store-bought stuff. I can also use colors, designs, and pictures that match the tastes and interests of any bug I know.

Our family loves to celebrate birthdays, holidays, and

holy days, so parties can get expensive. But with some imagination, amazing treasures can be created from things I already have in my tree house—including items from our trusty recycling bin.

Are you ready to let your creativity and generosity shine? Here’s a cool house-shaped planter to make for someone special. Decorate it with photos of their radiant family and friends.

I MADE YOU THIS GIFT WITH LOTS OF LOVE!



You'll Need

- hammer
- large nail
- ruler
- pencil
- scissors
- soap
- water
- paintbrushes
- cup
- tacky glue
- small photos
- plate or tray
- pitcher
- black permanent marker
- potting soil and houseplant
- 64 fl. oz. (1.9 L) empty drink carton
- white and colored acrylic paint
- decorative paper

- 1 Ask an adult to help with steps 1 and 2. Evenly cut off top portion of carton for planter. Wash with soap and warm water, and let dry.



- 2 Use hammer and nail to punch several holes in the bottom for draining water. Widen holes with pencil point.





3 Draw a straight line 2" (5.1 cm) below top of planter. Mark a dot in center of top edge.



4 Draw triangle rooftop by connecting dot to ends of line. Repeat steps 3 and 4 on all sides. Cut along angled lines to trim off excess carton.



5 (a) Completely coat outer carton (except bottom) with white paint to cover graphics. Let dry. (b) Repeat with colored paint.



6 Use glue to decorate house with a paper door, trimmings, and windows. Put photos of planter recipient's family members or friends in windows.



7 Add details such as bricks and rooftop shingles with black permanent marker.



8 Put soil in planter, filling non-rooftop portion about 3/4 full. Add some water to slightly dampen the soil.



9 Dig a hole in soil that's big enough for your plant's roots.



10 Add plant. Add more soil around and on top of roots. Place planter on tray and use pitcher to carefully water plant.

