

HOW I GET GIFTS I REALLY LIKE

My husband never has a clue as to what I may or may not like, when it comes to gift giving! He doesn't remember anything I point out to him. One year I took him past a lamp I wanted at least three times, saying how much I loved it and how nice it would look on our second floor landing. After Christmas, I went back and bought it for myself! He's an engineer and a real nice guy but he lives in his cubicle and notices very little that happens outside it! He doesn't think ahead about gift giving or look at what I wear or take note of what I say so, right before a holiday, he goes out shopping and buys me something HE likes. Do not misunderstand; I really like jewelry, but sometimes, instead of another bracelet, I may want an infrared heating pad, a denim coat or a decorative lamp.

A few years ago I came up with an ingenious solution. I created a folder in my internet browser favorites called Pat's Wish List that works as an ongoing, easily revisable gift registry. This makes it very easy for him to buy me EXACTLY what I want WITHOUT having to go out shopping. I know he wants to please me and now he can!

I LOVE catalogs! I receive bushel baskets-full of them and look through every one. When I see something I want, I go online to the company website, enter the item number and pull up the page on the appropriate item. I add that page to my favorites list in the Pat's Wish List folder. If it's an article of clothing, I can even indicate the size and color I want. Previously, before Christmas, I was so focused on buying for others that I couldn't think of anything I wanted, when asked. Now, He can look at all the things I would like to receive, choose which he would like to give me, click checkout, type in his credit card number and the item arrives like magic on the front porch!

I also use my Wish List for the rest of my family. Every Thanksgiving we travel to Connecticut to celebrate with his sisters. We used to spend Black Friday at the malls buying Christmas gifts for each other. After fighting the crowds we'd go home and wrap all the gifts so we could take our own gifts home to open on Christmas. Often we couldn't find something I wanted and, after trudging from store to store until exhausted, I'd talk them into buying me something else. Now, I print out all the pages in my Wish List and take them along. My sisters-in-law are delighted to pull a page out, go to the computer and order the item, having it shipped DIRECTLY to my home in Pennsylvania. I've encouraged them to do the same so I can order something THEY really want online, too. This type of shopping gives us more time to lounge around, visiting and eating leftovers, and it's still fun to open the packages a month later.

I think this idea would be an excellent addition to the traditional wedding or shower gift registry concept. This method allows one to choose items from MANY DIFFERENT STORES and place them on one list. Copy the web addresses for the individual pages into an email and distribute to family and friends or place the links on a simple web page created for the purpose. It is so easy to order gifts from the comfort of the giver's home and have them shipped directly to the recipient.

So, start your Wish List today! Encourage your friends and family to do the same! Lower your stress level; spend less time shopping and more time enjoying being together, happily giving and receiving!

Patricia Kenworthy June 2006