

#### A THOUGHTFUL GIFT GUIDE VOL.2



## INTRODUCTION

There are many lessons we learn during the month of Ramadan but one that always strikes me is how verv possible it is to give up our comforts and desires when the will exists. With the pandemic exacerbating social and environmental injustices, privileged Muslims have important decisions to make about how they will proceed with their lives. Will we follow a path of wastefulness and excess or will we pursue a path that values contentment and collective care? I believe we must continue the spirit of consciousness that we exercise during Ramadan in all that we do. Our and worship cannot be divorced from reflections conversations about how our individual actions impact our communities, all living things, and our planet.

Low Waste Eid is a compilation of beautiful and thoughtful gifts and decor from a diverse group of talented Muslim Bloggers. The emphasis is on minimizing waste and using what you have around your home or in your craft box. These days, it's easy to give into the consumerist impulse when it comes to Muslim holidays but given the devastating effects materialism has on the environment, human lives, and our spiritual health, it's time to reconsider how we consume. While it's not possible to make all the things, our hope is that this guide will inspire you to consume more responsibly and consider DIYing and upcycling when possible. What you'll come to see as you flip through these pages is that Eid gifting doesn't have to be complicated and there's nothing you can't make with a bit of creativity and effort. Every journey begins with one step and there's never a better time than now to take a step towards sustainability.

SINCERELY,

Gammy

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## CARDAMOM ROSE GHEE

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Cardamon Rose Ghee

By Bea @drcardamom

This delicious spread can be eaten with paratha or in choori, on bread, on zardah, poured over popcorn, put on pancakes or used in coffee or tea!

#### INGREDIENTS

- 12 oz ghee
- 12 loose cardamom seeds
- 3 to 6 whole cardamom pods
- 3 packed tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp rose petals
- 3 to 6 rose buds for garnish
- 1 tbsp coarsely chopped pistachio
- mason jars

- 1. Dry roast cardamom seeds, cardamom pods, rose petals and pistachios for 2 to 3 mins in a pan.
- 2. Add brown sugar and mix; don't let it melt.
- 3. Add 1 -2 tbsp ghee and cook for 2 to 3 mins after ghee melts.
- 4. Divide into mason jars and top with melted ghee to fill jars and mix.
- 5. Once it solidifies, garnish with pistachio, cardamom pods, and rose petals.

### UPCYCLED TEA LIGHT HOLDERS





By Hana @handiyman

Transform old jars and cookie cutters into beautiful tealight candle holders that will add festivity to your Eid tablescapes. They're super easy to make and can be customized to fit your aesthetic.

#### MATERIALS (FROSTED GLASS)

- glass yogurt jars
- vinyl or stickers
- frosted glass spray paint

- 1. Enjoy your yogurt and then wash out the jar. Remove labels. If there's a sticky residue you can use equal parts oil and baking soda to create a paste. Spread the paste onto sticky areas and let stand for 30 minutes. Wipe away.
- 2. Place your vinyl cut out or sticker onto the jar.
- 3. Place jar upside down (to avoid getting spray paint inside) and spray with frosted glass paint. Let dry.

#### MATERIALS (CONCRETE)

- concrete
- cookie cutter
- oil
- parchment paper
- candle holder/tealight
- sandpaper

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Using the oil, grease the inside of the cookie cutter and place on parchment paper.

2. Mix concrete with water (as instructed on packaging) and fill the cookie cutter with it.

3. Push down a candle holder or tealight to create a spot for the tealight,

4. Let dry for 30 minutes then remove the tealight/candle holder.

5. Let dry for 1 hour then remove the cookie cutter.

6. Allow to fully dry (overnight) then sand down any areas as needed.

## DIY FRAMED WALL ART





Transform any royalty-free image into a framed wall art. I used a printed sketch of the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi, UAE but you can use any image you like to make a thoughtful gift.

#### MATERIALS

- canvas
- acrylic paint
- white glue
- water
- foam brush
- printed image (on cardstock)
- 4 pieces of shims
- utility knife
- wood stain (any color)
- wood glue

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Choose an image or art piece that you would like to frame and have it printed on cardstock from your local print shop. The print size should be smaller than your canvas size. 2. Paint a border on the canvas using your color of choice. This serves as your mat which is a common decorative addition in framed wall art.

3. When the paint has dried, place the printed image in the center of the canvas.

4. Mix 3 tablespoons of white glue with 1 tablespoon of water in a container.

5. Using a foam brush apply this mixture in vertical strokes on the entire canvas and printed image to secure the image in place. Allow it to dry for a few hours.

6. Measure 4 pieces of wood shims to form an outer frame. The measurements will vary according to your canvas size.

7. Stain or paint the wood shims.

8. Cut to size using a utility knife.

9. Secure the wood shims onto the canvas using wood glue to form a frame.

## KID'S PLAY BOARD







Kid's Play Board

By Sammy <u>@thecozyhomechronicles</u>

Upcycle an old picture frame into an imaginative play board that's sure to encourage hours of fun, open-ended play. I used an old frame and scrap felt but you can use whatever you have on hand. The creative possibilities are endless!

#### MATERIALS

- Old picture frame/scrap wood/ cardboard
- scrap fabrics (felt, denim, cloth)
- rocks, branches, foliage
- hot glue gun

- 1. Remove the glass or plastic sheet from your picture frame.
- 2. Cut your fabric and arrange the pieces over the inside of the frame.
- 3. Once you're satisfied with your design, glue your fabric down with hot glue.
- 4. Embellish your play board with rocks, branches, and other accessories.

## POCKET WALL PLANTER







Pocket Wall Planter

#### By Azima & Shazia @madeafterhours

Brighten up any space with a beautiful handmade pocket wallplanter - this is a great way to gift your small succulent or plant clippings to any plant lover friend!

#### MATERIALS

- polymer oven-bake clay (can be found at any local craft store)
- clay extruder (optional but recommended
- circular cookie cutter or cup
- rolling pin
- hot glue
- soil
- plant clippings

- 1. Roll out a slab of clay and cut out a circle with a 3-5inch diameter, depending on the size of planter you want to make. This will be the back wall of your planter.
- 2. Make a small hole the size of the nail you will use to hang this on the wall, at the top or middle of the circle - placing it at the middle will hide the nail behind the plant for a floating planter look.

3. Next, roll out even coils of clay using a clay extruder (or your hands!) to shape around each other in an arch pattern - tap each coil close to each other to ensure they stick together.

4. Make 2-3 additional coils and stack vertically on top of each other around the bottom half of the base of the circle — this will build a short wall so your planter has ~1 inch width to hold soil.

5. Place circle slab and arch on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake according to clay manufacturer's instructions.

6. Once baked, use hot glue to attach the arch to the base

7. Fill with soil and your plant clipping to gift to a friend!

## COLORFUL MAGNETIC BLOCKS





By Nada @<u>onefortyfour</u>

DIY Magnetic, colorful and educational blocks for the kids in your life! I made Arabic-themed blocks but you can customize this DIY however you'd like!

#### MATERIALS

- wooden blocks (I used scrap pine wood 1x2s) I cut the wood to 2 ¼ inches each
- 80 grit sanding block/paper
- magnetic tape
- scissors
- 70% rubbing alcohol
- food coloring
- small paint brushes
- white acrylic paint
- sharpie pen

- 1. Cut your wood to the desired size for blocks (I cut mine to 2 ¼ inches)
- 2.Sand the blocks down to make rounded edges and ensure smooth blocks
- 3. To Dye the wood: In a bowl add 2 tbsp of rubbing alcohol and then add 5 drops of food coloring. Have fun making different colors and hues!

4. Paint your blocks with the mixture (use paint brush). Place colored blocks on paper towel and let them dry overnight

5. Customize your blocks! You can paint or draw a pattern on them using paint/sharpie pen. I used white acrylic paint to add dots for the numeric value.

6. Cut your magnetic tape and place on the backside of the blocks.



APPY







By Farhana @fooodlicious

Cookie Mix Javs

Cookie mix in a jar is super cute and easy to whip up at home. Layer the dry ingredients creatively to create a lovely textured look and wrap it up with a ribbon, instructions tag and personalized Eid note.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 11/2 cups mixed chocolate chips (I used caramel and semi-sweet chocolate)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup oats
- 1/4 cup shredded coconut

#### DIRECTIONS

Step 1:

- 1. Clean and dry a large mason jar
- 2. In a bowl, mix the flour, baking soda and salt.
- 3. Spoon the dry ingredients in the jar accordingly to create your choice of layers.

- 1. Press down after adding each ingredient to make even layers. I did the following order: flour, brown sugar, white sugar, caramel choc chips, semi-sweet choc chips, oats, coconut, and left a little of semi-sweet and added on top for the final layer.
- 2. Add your tag below from step 2 with your choice of ribbon, personalized note etc. It's ready to gift away! Step 2:
  - 1. Write on small tags with the following instructions below and attach it to the jar with a ribbon:
  - Preheat oven to 350c
  - Stir dry ingredients in a large bowl and add the following:
  - 1/2 cup butter, softened
  - 1 large beaten egg
  - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
  - Combine thoroughly. Roll into 1.5-inch balls. Bake for 9-10 mins. Enjoy!









Wooden Dowel Vase

By Filsan @daradesigns

Giving a vase a new life can be as easy as hot glueing wooden dowels onto it. This trendy look can be very pricey, but when you use things from around your home, you can get the look for less.

#### MATERIALS

- old cylinder vase
- hot glue gun and glue sticks
- wooden dowels (I used 12 in. dowels for this vase) or scrap wood cut into strips

- 1. Give your vase a nice clean
- 2. Hot glue your wooden dowels onto the vase
- 3. Optional: Spray Paint the wooden dowels (I decided to not opt to spray paint to keep it more natural)
- 4. And ta da! You now have a brand new vase that can be used as a decorative vase. I decided to put pampas grass in mine to give it some extra height and texture but you can fill with local flowers for a beautiful gift.

## SPLIT IMAGE COASTERS









By Nida @nimistyle

You can make beautiful custom coasters using scrap wood and any royalty-free stock image.

#### MATERIALS

- scrap wood (4"x4" each)
- school glue
- foam brush
- water
- printed image
- exacto knife

- 1. Cut your scrap wood into 4"x4"coasters.
- 2. Place two coasters side by side on your image.
- 3. Use the exacto knife to cut the image to fit both coasters. Creating a split image.
- 4. Use a mixture of 50 % school glue and 50% water and put it on your scrap wood.
- 5. Glue your images down and let dry.

### JAM JAR DESSERTS







Jam Jav Desserts

By Areeba @mintcandydesigns

Make an easy Eid dessert packaged in upcycled glass jam jars. This dessert comes together in a jiffy and can be dropped off to friends and family to make Eid even more sweet!

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 jar Bonne Maman Dulce De Leche
- 2 blocks of cream cheese softened at room temperature
- 1 can condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1/2 cup 18% cream
- 1 pack digestive biscuits

- Start by mixing all the wet ingredients (cream, vanilla, condensed milk) and cinnamon in a large bowl. Mix until well incorporated.
- 2.Next, in the bowl of your stand mixer, or with a hand held mixer using the wire whip attachment, beat cream cheese for about 1-2 minutes.

3. Slowly pour in your mixed wet ingredients into the cream cheese, while letting the mixer run. You may have to stop the mixer and scrape off the sides to fold in the cream cheese.

4. Run your mixer for 3-4 minutes, until stiff peaks start to form.

5. While your mixer is running, place the digestive biscuits in a large ziploc bag and use a rolling pin to crush them into coarse crumbs.

6. Warm up the jar of Bonne Maman Dulce de Leche in the microwave for 30-45 seconds to get a pourable consistency.

7. Next, we will layer the dessert in a container of your choice: jars/cups/a large bowl. For maximum impact use smaller personalized clear containers. I used empty Bonne Maman jars I have collected from eating their jams and jellies. The order of layers is: digestive biscuit crumbs, whipped mixture, digestive biscuit crumbs, whipped mixture, generous dollop of dulce de leche.Let the jars refrigerate for 2-3 hours before serving. Enjoy!

### REUSABLE **GIFT TAGS**

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Reusable Gift Tags By Amanie @theplayfulfawn

Reusable gift tags cut down on holiday waste while adding a gorgeous, unique touch to your presents. Best of all, they can be used time and time again without the typical scraps of cards and envelopes.

#### MATERIALS

- air dry or polymer clay
- letter stamps
- cookie cutters (optional)
- toothpick
- ribbon or twine

- 1. Roll out your air dry clay onto a flat, floured surface
- 2. Cut out your desired shapes with your choice of cutter (or the top of a cup)
- 3. Create inscriptions by gently pressing letter stamps into the clay
- 4. Use a toothpick to create a hole at the top of your shape
- 5. Set aside to dry (most clays recommend about 36 hours)
- 6. Once dry, lace ribbon or twin through the hole to attach to your gifts

## DIY MODERN PLANTER







DIY Modern Planter

By Hana <u>@hanashappyhome</u>

Got a plant lover in your life? I whipped up this modern planter with scrap wood in my garage and you can too! You can even stain or paint this planter, or leave it natural like I did!

#### MATERIALS

- 2×6 cut into 5.5" x 7". You can adjust the size based on the size of your planter
- plywood. You can adjust the size based on the height of your planter. I did 2 of each 8" tall x 5.5" and 8 x 77
- thin scraps of wood. Mine were 1" wide
- nail gun
- wood glue
- mitre saw
- clamps

- 1. After all your pieces are cut, just nail the plywood to the 2×6 base.
- 2.1 also used wood glue along the edges of the plywood and clamps to hold them together.
- 3. Once your box is made and glue is dry then you can lay out your thin strips and figure out your pattern. I just marked each piece and cut it as I went along. I used the 45\* for the angled cut. I used wood glue to glue them on! Voila!

## DIY PRAYER RUG





DIY Prayer Rug

By Tayyaba @moonorchidsdesign

This DIY prayer rug is a great Eid gift for any young school aged Muslim. You can use different types of cloth material and can omit the batting if you don't have any at home. I sewed this by hand, but this project would be even easier if you use a sewing machine!

#### MATERIALS

- fabric
- thread
- needle
- scissors
- measuring tape
- fabric glue or E6000

- 1. Measure the cloth to the desired size. I wanted my prayer rug to be roughly 3 feet by 4 feet. I cut the material so I could sort of make a pillow.
- 2. Once measured I put the batting inside and sewed the sides shut. To make it more decorative I cut and sewed a rectangular shaped cloth for the middle of the prayer rug. With the left over purple cloth I cut a small masjid and glued it to the green cloth. You can decorate with beads, lace, and many other designs. Be creative and personalize the prayer rug!

IF YOU FELT INSPIRED BY THIS GUIDE, WE WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU SHARED IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Eid Mubarak