

## Holiday gifts

11/22/2021

We will have our nuclear family together for an early holiday celebration in a few weeks so we couldn't wait for the traditional Black Friday starting gun to begin our preparations. Accordingly, I've been making giftable doodads out in the shop and that got me to thinking about my own wish list.

Now, ma famille has long ago given up on asking me for hints. Truth is, I own sweaters galore, we have shelves full of games we've never played, and our general trend is toward reducing, not increasing the piles of past gifts for which we have to find a plausible display location when the givers come to visit.

Yes, I like to read but Daughters One and also Two are fairly adept at choosing books. So, the library angle is covered. You might think woodworking tools but at this point in my life, the few tools I would choose to add to my arsenal, I really need to choose for myself. Other than that, I'm pretty much a dry hole when it comes to gift ideas. And by the way, my sock drawer is full to the brim, thankyouverymuch.

Since most of the folks likely to read this missive are, like me, both non-poor and non-wealthy, I'm speaking to an audience of holiday givers with a gifting budget somewhere between an orange and a new car. Mostly, closer to the orange end of the range, I'm thinking. Also, most of us are of an age, meaning we don't need more stuff. Still, people do like to give gifts...

What I usually suggest is that the giver find a kid in need and give a gift in my name. Or your own; I don't care about credit. Finding the kid (or dare I say, kids?) is not that difficult. Many shopping malls have those giving trees where you can respond to a request from a specific child or family. If not, a quick Internet search will reveal some options. Keep in mind, I'm talking here specifically about gifts. Many of the charities and most of the giving trees will ask for things like 'a girl's winter coat, size X.' So, who says you can't give a kid a winter coat AND a toy. A child needs a coat but they also need a toy, don't they? And if there are two kids on the request, gift them both, individually. Keep in mind that these are not wealthy families, so don't put the parent in the position of having to match your gift for the second or third child.

We seem to be finding ample reasons to disagree these days. Perhaps we can agree on this one thing – receiving a gift at the holidays (and who cares if we call it a Christmas present, or Kwanzaa or Chanukah or Yule or simply, the Holidays) lets a child know someone was thinking of them and wishes them a good day.

And by the bye, with distribution and mailing disruptions being what they are this year, please act now.