

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. I am so happy that Daylight Savings has given us an extra hour to make beautiful creations. We can use simple, recycled items and whip out special table or placemats for the holiday or just to share with friends or neighbors. These are easy and fun to make using our own ideas and talents. Make one for every day and another one for the upcoming holidays. Make it ahead of time and decorate it up whenever you want a special place at the table. Write someone's name or a special message just for them. When they sit down, they will feel so good that you took the time to make this gift.



1-Cut the bottom section from a brown paper bag. Turn the bag so the inside is on the outside with no writing visible. Flatten the bag out and fold the sides in between the front and the back sections. You may want to put some heavy books on the bag overnight to flatten it out. Punch holes around the edges. If you do not have a paper punch, fold the edge over about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and cut small slits all around the edge. For a younger artist, less holes would not overwhelm. Take a cord, ribbon, string, or long strips of paper and weave through the holes. You can weave in and out or over and under. Tie a knot or bow when the two ends meet. Decorate your mat as desired. You can make a placemat for or a center mat for the table. It can be hanging decoration or desk mat. You could even make a decorated envelope by only weaving the string around the two sides and the bottom.

2-Cut out leaves or other decorations that you can write on for name tags or holiday wishes. Tie them on to the edges of the mat. If you make your tags with black paper, you can use white chalk to write the names. Another fun idea would be to make a mat for each person at the table and then have crayons or markers at the table. Have fun decorating while having good conversation and sharing ideas.

Grateful for each day with artCart friends!

Ms. Susan

