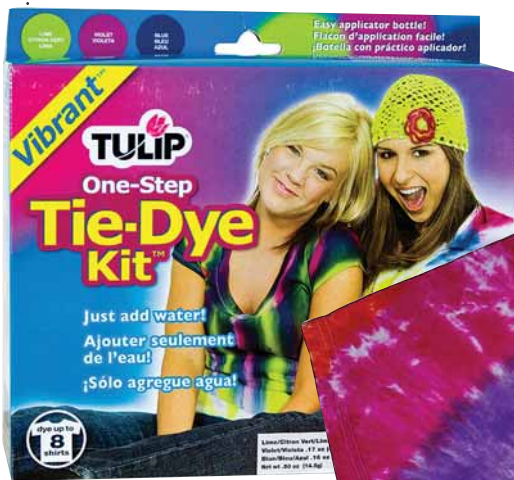


WHAT TO BUY THE ARTS & CRAFTS CROWD



► Bring some nostalgia into the holidays or get ready for a much needed winter getaway to warmer climes with the **Tulip 3-color Tie-Dye Kit**. The kits tie-dye up to eight T-shirts and have directions for different patterns. They come in various color combinations, such as navy blue, lime green, and violet in the vibrant kit. There also are bigger kits with more colors to decorate more shirts. Far out, man, far out. *Available at Meijer for \$9.99.*

► Hello sewers: **Omnigrid Flip-N-Cut Magic Templates** are sets of three nested shapes that can be used to trace multiple patterns on fabric or other materials. Clear template sets can be used, for example, to make circles and flowers in different sizes. Whether resulting patterns are embroidered, appliqued, quilted, collaged, or scrapbooked is up to each crafter. *Available for \$12.97 at Crafts2000.*

▲ **Frank A. Edmunds Co.'s Quilting and Embroidering Hoop With Stand** is a must have for many hand sewing projects. The 31-inch floor stand holds a 16-inch-by-27-inch hardwood hoop. The hoop can be tiled for hands-free quilting or detached from the frame for use on a lap. As a bonus, the product is made in the United States. *Available at Hobby Lobby for \$42.99.*

► The knitting craze continues. For those who haven't figured out how to cast on, much less the difference between garter and stockinette stitches, how about the **Boye Taught Myself Knitting** kit with a beginner's instruction book, some patterns, two sets of knitting needles, and other tools? Throw in a skein of yarn so the recipient can practice before shopping for more, part of the fun for any crafter. *Available at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores for \$14.99.*

▼ You typically can't go wrong with crafting products from the Martha Stewart brand. The grooved **Martha Stewart Crafts Scoring Board** comes with a folder and envelope guide to make boxes, invitations, cards, and other items. The tool scores crisp lines, so even turning simple paper into an elaborate froufrou to adorn wrapped gifts is possible for those who are patient. *Available at Michaels for \$19.99.*

► **Cricut Expression Machine** likely is on the wish list for almost everyone who makes scrapbooks, cards, home decor items, displays, and signs. Cricut's newest electronic machine cuts letters, shapes, and phrases from as tiny as one-quarter inch to as gigantic as 23½ inches. It uses cartridges from all Cricut machines, and it comes with a complete font and a shape sampler cartridge. *Available at Hobby Lobby for \$399.99.*



▲ For papercrafters, there are numerous 12-month calendar kits available. Rounding kits out with photos, mementos, and other tidbits allows crafters to create a year's worth of personalized touches. **Me & My Big Ideas** is among brands offering kits with a blank grid for each month, so the calendar could be finished for 2012 or beyond — and there will be no rush to get even one page done by Jan. 1. *Available at Michaels for \$19.99.*

◀ Jewelry makers always need some more inspiration to use their collection of beads and baubles. Among the plethora of books out there is **Beads Buttons and Bijoux** by Nathalie Delhaye. The Parisian fashion maven's book has 58 designs for rings, necklaces, pins, and bracelets. Each piece has step-by-step instructions, and there is a chapter on needed tools and supplies. *Available at Meant to Bead for \$25.99.*

◀ It is never too early to get children interested in crafting, including food crafting just in time for Valentine's Day and Easter preparations. (Whether "candy" can be considered "food" obviously is not a discussion for the holidays.) **Thames and Kosmos' Candy Creator Lab** includes molding supplies, decorating materials, and 16-page illustrated instruction book with recipes. *Available for children 10 and older at Learning Express for \$29.99.*

▲ The Toledo Museum of Art offers a selection of classes, and it seems a natural step for any Glass City area crafter to want to learn at least a little bit about working with molten glass. The museum's **Paperweights for Everyone** is a five-hour session on Feb. 20, when participants will create colorful one-of-a-kind artworks. Cost is \$90 for members and \$105 for nonmembers.

Gift ideas: Julie McKinnon