

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



3 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY ON A BUDGET

Most of these gifts range from \$10 to \$20, so you won't have to dread opening your January credit card statements. Plus, these are great gifts that almost anyone will appreciate.

—Mark Reiter
BLADE STAFF WRITER



▲ **Gunmetal Drop Earrings.** Who says jewelry has to be expensive? For \$6.40 Pier 1 has teardrop earrings that will add flair to any occasion and complement most outfits.



▼ For the music lover on your list — a 2-giga-byte MP3 player with earbuds from JC Penney. At \$19.99 this is an amazing, low-cost stocking stuffer. Available in five bright colors, it can hold up to 64 hours of music or 1,360 songs and clips easily.



▲ The stylish yet functional Rubber Bumpy Strap watch comes in five fun colors: pink, white, turquoise, blue, green, and yellow. Only \$14.99 at Target.



▶ Thrift gifting is made easy with a 14-inch glass flower vase from Bed Bath & Beyond. This sleek round glass makes a beautiful addition to any arrangement yet its heavy enough to hold any bouquet. Cost: \$9.99.

▼ The North Face Men's Bones Beanie guarantees a warm fit for any winter activity. One size fits all in four colors: red, deep water blue, graphite grey, and black. \$20 at Dick's Sporting Goods.



▲ A gift idea for wine connoisseurs that won't break the bank is the Metrokane Rabbit wine preserver that can be purchased for \$14.99 at Dillard's. A gauge on the stainless steel pump calculates the right amount of pressure to create the necessary vacuum to keep wine fresh.

▶ The Sharper Image 2.4-inch digital photo album key chain makes a great but affordable gift for anyone. At only \$9.99, the miniature photo frame allows taking snapshots of favorite memories along anywhere. Available at Macy's.



▲ A selection of hand-poured, affordable soy candles can be purchased at Shannon Jean on Glendale, or online at shannonjeanlc.com. More than 150 scents are available and customers can wait while the candles are poured. Prices start at \$1.50 each for a 1.5 ounce candle. The store also has do-it-yourself candle kits for \$10.



▲ The \$6.47 Fringe Joy porcelain tea mug with strainer from Barnes & Noble will keep anyone toasty. The festive 12-ounce cup is dishwasher and microwave safe.



▲ The patriotic cook will enjoy this oven mitt (\$9.95) and matching pot holder (\$7.95) from Williams-Sonoma. These handy quilted, cotton-lined kitchen items are made in America and are machine washable.