



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY A LOVER OF JEWELRY

While December continues to be a hot month for the purchase of diamond engagement rings and brilliant diamond earrings, there are plenty of other options when going jewelry shopping. So for those who aren't quite ready to tie the knot but want to give their loved one — whether friend, family, or significant other — something that sparkles and shines, here are some ideas to consider.

— By Erica Blake
Blade Staff Writer



▲ **Recycled or eco-friendly jewelry** — Want something truly unique but don't have the time or talent to create it yourself? Try a piece made from recycled items. At Scrap4Art in Maumee, you can find a variety of interesting things, including pendants, bracelets, and pins made from old jeans zippers. Artist Sally Moore manipulates the cast-off zippers into beautiful works of art. And at a cost of \$20-\$25 — depending on size and complexity — zipper art will not only give the recipient a wearable conversation piece, but give those earth-conscious a feeling of doing something positive.



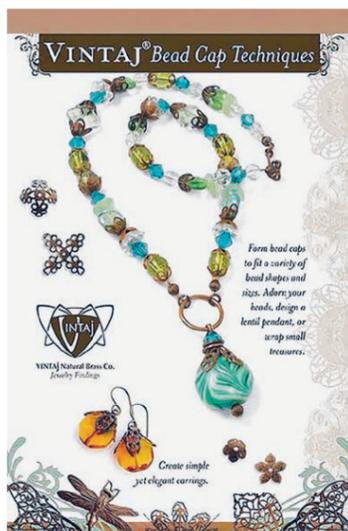
▲ **Yellow diamonds** — After a long hiatus in popularity, yellow gold has returned as a favorite with jewelers and complementing it beautifully is a yellow diamond. They are just different enough to warrant a second-look and are best displayed mixed in with traditional white diamonds. Area jewelry stores will be able to offer suggestions in all price ranges. **Broer-Freeman Jewelers** on Central Avenue recommends a mixed yellow/white diamond earring set starting at about \$2,500.



▲ **Pearls** — Seriously, they're coming back. Perhaps it's because of a renewed interest in glamour — you may have noticed Audrey Hepburn's face on wall décor in many stores — but whatever the reason, the item that for the past few years has sat unnoticed in a warehouse is now being sought after. At **Fulkerson Jewelers & Clock Shop** on Monroe Street, pearls can be purchased for as little as \$100 up to thousands of dollars, depending on extravagance. But it's not the string of pearls that has gained renewed interest. Try pearl earrings, pendants, and rings.



▲ **Charity jewelry** — Many organizations, including those fighting health issues and those involved in disaster relief and conservation efforts, offer an elegant way of supporting their work through interesting pieces of jewelry. Not only will purchasing a piece help the organization but it can also offer both giver and receiver a positive feeling of helping during the holiday season. If you know the perfect charity, check out its Web site to see about possible jewelry or you can't go wrong supporting **Susan G. Komen** (www.shopkomen.com) breast cancer research with items ranging from a \$7 pendant to a \$45 "silicone bling watch."



▲ **DIY jewelry** — When nothing else seems to fit, use your own imagination. Although jewelry was once the skill of experts, now just about anyone can make a statement necklace or one-of-a-kind bracelet by going to local craft stores. Beads of all kinds, metal pieces, and leather — pretty much everything that's in style — can be found at local specialty or craft stores. And places such as Michael's even offer classes. Strands of beads at **Michael's** range in price from \$3.99 to \$14.99. Items needed to complete your project, such as pliers, cords, and clasps, cost between \$3 and \$25.



▲ **Mustache girls jewelry** — I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it for myself, but yes, mustaches have become all the rage. And not just on Dad but instead on teens. Mustaches can be found on a plethora of items — some stores are even selling pink, felt mustaches for girls to wear on their lips — but the cutest by far is the jewelry. Once again, you have options for the younger jewelry recipient. There are rings, bracelets, earrings, and necklaces that sport handlebar mustaches — think Hercule Poirot — in a variety of colors. Check out **Learning Express Toys** for mustache jewelry for girls ranging in price from \$2.99 for mood rings and \$3.99 for bracelets.



▲ **Lotti-Dotties** — These interchangeable magnetic pieces are perfect for the girl with everything because they offer versatility. One ring, bracelet, or necklace can be turned into multiple pieces by switching out the magnetic center pieces, or "dotties." Sold in area boutiques, these pieces are not expensive and can be accented with everything from simple crystal or lettered dotties to more elaborate designs and crystals. Jewelry costs between \$15 and \$30 a piece and individual dotties are about \$7 each. They can be found online or at **The Pink Door Boutique** on Main Street in Perrysburg or **Puttin' On The Glitz** on Louisiana Avenue in Perrysburg.



▲ **Paracord bracelets** — Here's one for the guys, although bracelets for women are also available. While some men don't like the look or feel of metal jewelry, they don't mind sporting something, especially if it's for a good cause. Paracord bracelets are made out of parachute cords and in some cases are billed as survival bracelets because they can unravel to provide a sturdy cord. While they can be purchased in school, military, or law enforcement colors, why not buy a "From Soldier to Soldier" bracelet at **David Fairclough Jewelers** on Central Avenue where \$20 from each sale is donated to the Home for Our Troops organization. The bracelets are made in the United States and the funds help wounded service personnel returning from overseas. Price: \$95 and \$145



▲ **Glass jewelry** — Living in the Glass City, there is no shortage of jewelry pieces made by talented local artists using glass. All types are available at a variety of local shops, and while some of it can be pricey, there are definitely places to pick up more reasonable items. And the best part, it's a bit of Toledo for those family and friends who are out-of-towners. Try the **Toledo Museum of Art Store** for a pendant necklace, which averages \$100 in price, or perhaps **Artforms** in Perrysburg for unique earrings made of glass and metal on site for \$26-\$42 a pair.