

5 Must Haves for Any Craft Kit!

1. MODGE PODGE

I mean, obviously...nothing is more important to a crafter than her giant jar of Modge Podge. It seals, glues, glosses, decopages and (most importantly) forms a cohesive bond with glitter anytime, anywhere.

We couldn't live without it.

But did you know you can make your own Modge Podge? Whoa, hey, get up off the floor – I didn't mean to knock you off your feet with that stunning revelation, but it's true!

I've heard of a few different recipes – everything from the basic combination of [50% water to 50% Elmer's glue](#) to a recipe involving [stovetop science with flour, sugar and olive oil](#). Whatever combination of items you use, the cost is WAY less than a jar of the real deal so you score extra crafty diva points for saving some dough!

It's worth noting though that I've heard mixed reviews about the success of homemade Modge Podge. I haven't experimented with either recipe myself (I'm still using the same jar of the real stuff I bought a year or two ago) but I'd love to hear from any of you if you've taken either of these recipes for a test drive!

2. RIBBON

No visit to Michael's or Hobby Lobby is complete without a stop in the discount ribbon section. I always pass through on my way to check out and pick up a few spools. You never know when you might need some for gift wrapping, custom cards, scrapbooks, ornaments, wreaths and other crafts.

Here are a couple of fun (quick) ribbon crafts:

- [Thank you card with ribbon weave](#) (Better Homes & Gardens)
- [Bows, Ribbons and Gift Toppers](#) (Martha Stewart Crafts)
- [How to make a ribbon wreath](#) (Big Bear's Wife)
- [Christmas Ribbon Ornaments](#) (I Heart Naptime)

3. MASON JAR(S)

By now you've probably noticed the Mason Jar craze sweeping the country. Of course, we Southerners have been using those jars for years to put up veggies and jams during canning season. But they can come in handy for crafting too, you can make anything from a simple centerpiece to a beautiful candle holder (or [light fixtures and herb gardens](#)).

Beyond crafts, though, mason jars come in REALLY handy for storage! Crayons, glue sticks, paints and other messy items can easily be stored in a handy mason jar where they won't damage the rest of the supplies in your craft kit.

4. DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE

I don't have exact statistics on this, but by conservative estimate I would say crafters have saved over a million projects with a couple well-placed pieces of double-sided tape.

You never know when it will come in handy, but when you need it, nothing else will do. Yeah, yeah, you can give me a song-and-dance about making a loop from regular tape, but those loops come undone and create more space between the two objects you're trying to join together.

Keep a spool of double-sided tape handy and you'll always be covered no matter what craft snafoos come your way!

(You can also combine your ribbon or wrapping paper and double-sided tape to create [cute decorative tape](#) for fun projects!)

5. PAINT MARKERS

Once you've tried paint markers you will never, ever, EVER buy regular paints and brushes again.

For any kind of painted writing project or craft that requires detailed painting, these markers are SUPER handy! They're easier to control, WAY less messy, last longer and allow you more control when you're painting. I've used them to make [Super Mario Baby Shower decorations](#), signs, art and tons of other awesome stuff.

They work on just about any surface – glass, wood, paper, ceramics, etc. too.

If you head to Michael's or Hobby Lobby to pick up a few, be warned that they come in about a hundred colors and you will be tempted to purchase all of them. However, they are not cheap. I have a set of standard colors (red, blue, green, black, yellow, and orange) which serves most purposes. You can always pick up a specific color if you need it for a certain project, but I would stick with your basics to keep the costs down.

What's one craft essential that you can't live without?

Give me a shout (author@shannononeil.net) I'd love to talk crafts anytime!