

# Style Fun from A to Z

Don't worry Muffy – your monograms won't lose their status, now that everyone wants their own. Those block letters have come a long way since your preppy days at school and the beach. Your name in polo pink stitches is still right up there with boarding schools, perky names and madras. But today, more of us are interested in monograms. So hang onto your signet ring while we review what's going on with the latest trends in monogramming and personalization. It's time to share! The trend is to monogram and personalize everything! Preppy or pretty or trendy – you decide.

**GIFTS GET PERSONAL** • Personalized gifts connote high value, making a statement that the giver cares and took the time to pick out something special. Gifts for the household include acrylic trays, recipe holders, picture frames, candles, pillows, plates, and wall art – all with initials, names or favorite quotes. One of the recent favorites are personalized pillows. Pillows are personalized with house numbers, favorite numbers, last names, zip codes, or towns, to name a few. You won't be able to purchase one only as a gift – you'll want one for your own house as well. A popular choice among personalized housewarming gifts is a wooden sign with the family name and the home's established date. Unexpected and fun personalized gifts for individuals also include aprons, totes and cosmetic bags.

**BABY AND BRIDAL KEEPSAKES** • Be unique in your baby or bridal shower gifts and think outside of the registry. It's time to get personal. Give a personalized gift to the mom-to-be. While moms will continue to need diapers, their eyes really light up when receiving a monogrammed onesie, blanket, burp cloth, first dress, first jersey, piggy bank or wall art for baby. And for the bride and groom ... everything these days about a wedding is personalized, so why not get the bride something special for her wedding day? Two popular gifts immediately come to mind. First, 'Soon to be Mrs...' zip hoodies that brides wear the morning of their wedding day while getting ready. And the icing on the cake? Get her something blue in the form of custom underwear - with her new last name and a tiny blue bow, which will certainly be one of her favorite gifts for her wedding day! Savvy brides and grooms personalize gifts to give to the entire wedding party.

**SAY WHAT?** • Everywhere you go you see people wearing clothing with some type of message on it, whether for a school, club, passion, a vacation spot or (fill in the blank). The new trend is personalized clothing for the whole family. While most people think of monogramming as little initials on a baby outfit, don't stop there. Put your initials on a fitted zip up, a sweatshirt, or flannel pants. Or make your child something personalized with their favorite team on a sweatshirt or T-shirt.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. Use your imagination the next time you need to give a gift. Whether for someone else or yourself, personalized items can be done just as quickly as any other present and make the perfect thoughtful gift! Monogram traditionalists, thanks for sharing. U

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