

Christmas Cracker Making Instructions

As seen on CTV's "Good Living" (27 November 2009)

You will need:

- Cracker bangers
- Cardboard inners – use inners from glad wrap, paper towels, toilet rolls or make your own out of lightweight cardboard. Use three to make a neatly finished cracker.
- Paper wrap – you can use any sort of paper that suits your taste – crepe paper, gift wrap, cake foils, brown paper, stamp your own plain papers, photocopy music scores or photographs, add stickers to plain paper, add glitter to plain paper, plain red, white or green are attractive, etc, etc
- Double-sided sellotape or glue
- Ribbons – satin, metallic, organza, curling, tinsel, raffia, tartan ribbon, etc
- Jokes or trivia sheets
- Treats, gifts, novelties, balloons, paper hats, etc – these need to be small enough to go inside the inner. These can be personalized for the person receiving the cracker or suitable for children, adults, male or female.

Method:

1. If you do not have ready-made cardboard inners - Make cardboard cylinders approx 12cmx17cm. Use stapler or wrap roll with sellotape to hold into tube shape.
2. Place banger into roll and use a bit of glue or selloptape to hold it in place while you assemble the cracker.
3. Cut outer paper approx 40cmx25cm. Run double sided tape or glue along one long edge.
4. Place three tubes end to end along the length of the paper. Roll all three rolls up in the paper to make one long roll.
5. Pull one roll out of one end 4-5cm and gather in between the two rolls. Tie with ribbon.
6. **Most important stage:** Put your treats inside the cracker!
7. Repeat step 5 on the remaining end.
8. Push the rolls together to make a crease and neat finish. Remove two end rolls.
9. Decorate as desired!

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