



**austin**woman

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maxborges

# HOT TO TROT Valentine must-haves 2006

BY MARIKA FLATT



## CRAFTS AT THE WORK\*SHOP

If you are the type that would rather make than buy a gift for your sweetie, The Work\*Shop makes it easy for you to create a beautiful, meaningful and personal work of art that will serve as a lasting reminder of your feelings. Or, plan a date night at the shop where you can spend some quality time with each other in a relaxed and fun setting. ([www.theworkshopaustin.com](http://www.theworkshopaustin.com), 512.473.2787, 1211 W. Sixth St, Suite 400)

## GALLERY OF LOVE

What if you could do something lavish and creative like "commission" your own personalized romantic artwork for Valentine's Day? Gallery of Love captures the romance between two people. For dating couples "The Pledge" is a fun retro Pop Art design. Married couples can choose a "Pledge of Love" or they can have their boring marriage license turned into a personalized piece of wedding art. It's sure to be a conversation piece. Other Valentine's Day styles include Art Nouveau and Art Deco complete with personalization. ([www.galleryoflove.net](http://www.galleryoflove.net), \$34.95 to \$124.95)

## GIFTS FOR ANYONE, ANY TIME



## THE OSTER INSPIRE ELECTRIC WINE OPENER

For you wine connoisseurs, unwind with the one you love this Valentine's Day with the Oster Electric Wine Opener that opens a bottle in seconds with no effort. No more good ol' fashioned corkscrew. (\$19.99, Costco)

## MultiTASKit

Everyone can use a helping hand when it comes to home improvement and repair. Ryobi's MultiTASKit is a unique "do it all" kit that acts as a project assistant for people tackling common home improvement jobs by themselves. It includes the MultiTASKit body, which houses the AIRgrip vacuum technology, and four attachments that are designed to make home repairs and projects a one-person job. The MultiTASKit can help when installing chair rail and crown molding, hanging pictures, installing window dressings (curtain rods, blinds, etc), laying tile and flooring, putting up shelving, and many other odd jobs around the house. (\$50, Home Depot)



## BOXED STATIONERY FROM DEMPSEY & CARROLL

Writing notes by hand is a lost art. Help your sweetheart by giving him/her some fancy, ready-to-go note cards. Here are a few examples: Red Bordered Heart, A Love Note and Love Engraved. Each one has its own fun design. ([www.dempseyandcarroll.com](http://www.dempseyandcarroll.com), \$4 to \$42)

## ALLYKATS

With a line of age-appropriate yet fun bath and beauty products in vibrant pink and green packaging, AllyKats Pink Purses (\$19.99) are the perfect affordable gift. A pink organza bag with marabou feather trim comes filled with 2 oz. sizes of Bubble Bash, Squeaky Clean Wash and Super Spritz in either Lily Grapefruit or Apple Blossom. Another perfect gift is AllyKats new Lip Gloss Book (\$9.49). Open the cover to reveal a cleverly disguised compact with mirror, mini lip brush and two tasty lip glosses – AllyKats watermelon-strawberry light pink and grape-strawberry dark pink. ([www.allykats.com](http://www.allykats.com), Hey Baby and Bright Beginnings in Austin)



## PIANO WIZARD

Give your kids the gift of music. Piano Wizard is a PC-based video game that teaches the user how to play the piano. The game uses a proprietary computer game engine along with a color-coded piano keyboard (bundled with the software) allowing the user to simply hit the correct note at the correct time. The software is compatible with electronic music files, allowing users to import their favorite song and play along with a completely new music game. [www.pianowizard.com](http://www.pianowizard.com)



## SWEETHEARTS CRAFTY COOKING KITS

Sweethearts Cakes and Sweethearts Cookies kits make a perfect and thoughtful gift for Valentine's Day or as a fun winter activity. Crafty Cooking Kits encourage children to "think outside the cookie cutter" and explore their creativity by mixing together colored gels to create new colors, using brownies as a canvas to paint a colorful treat for friends, or swirling softened marshmallow on graham crusts for a unique s'more. Many of the kits are all-inclusive or require the addition of just one ingredient. Each kit comes packed with fun facts and puzzles, encouraging more shared time while the treat is cooking. (Albertsons, \$4 to \$6)