



Valentine Love Pouches



My mom and I used to make these every year, and they were always a hit with my classmates. They would be great for co-workers, too. This is an EASY no-sew project for parents and kids who want to enjoy a little creative time together and give extraordinary valentines. ~ Anna-Beth

You'll need:

Fine tulle – Choose a shade – red, pink or white are all beautiful and traditional, but you could be a rebel and make aqua, black, or even lime green pouches! We have a rainbow of choices! Netting is 72” wide, and you’ll want about 1/3 of a yard for every 6 pouches you are making.

Pretty Ribbon – You could use any ribbon – classic satin, sturdy grosgrain, delicate sheers or extravagant embroidered. Each pouch will need 1/3 yard, so for every 6 you will want 2 yards.

Sweet Treats: Fill your pouches with jelly beans, Hershey’s Kisses, conversation hearts, or the candy of your choice. Or try my recipe for delicious sugar cookies, cut out with a heart-shaped cookie cutter.

Some sort of gift tags – Now this is the best part. You can do this super easy, buying little premade cards, punching a hole in the corner and tying them on. OR, with a little more work, you can make creative, unique tags:

Take two pretty pieces of red or heart-themed fabrics, place them back to back with a layer of fusible web between them – iron them, so the bond is permanent, then cut out hearts with small holes in one corner for the ribbon to pass through. Sew on sweet buttons, bows, or try hot-fix rhinestones for a blinged love note!

Take heart-shaped chipboard tags and embellish them – you could use fun stickers, glued-on buttons or sequins, or doodle in glue and cover in sparkly glitters. We have so many embellishments to try, we invite you to have fun experimenting!

Purchase a Heart-Shaped Punch, for perfect hearts every time with no crease marks down the middle, and punch hearts from magazines, scrapbooking paper, or plain construction paper or cardstock.

Instructions:

1. Cut your tulle into 12” squares, and your ribbon into 12” lengths.
2. Place your sweet goodies in the center of the square.
3. Bring the corners together and give the fabric a twist, so all your goodies are secured in a little pouch.
4. Tie your ribbon around the tulle in a simple knot.
5. Put your gift tag onto the ribbon, and tie ribbon into a bow.

Pretty!

Don't miss this sugar cookie recipe – you can replace the almond extract with vanilla, or even lemon, if you prefer. You can also skip the sprinkling sugar and frost them, instead, if you would prefer. Most recipes call for unsalted butter, but I love salt-sweet contrast, so I always use salted butter.

Anna-Beth's Favorite Sugar Cookies (Valentines Day Edition)

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups salted butter, softened
- 2 cups white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Sugar for sprinkling on top (I recommend getting larger crystal red sugar for your valentines! It's often available in grocery stores in the cake decorating section.)

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Roll out dough on floured surface 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Sprinkle your finishing sugar on in a thin, even layer, then roll gently in – not with enough force to roll your dough out flatter, just enough to make the sugar stick in the dough. Cut into shapes with heart-shaped cookie cutter. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake 6 to 8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.

Dip in milk for a wonderful, traditional treat.

Designed and Written by Anna-Beth Meyer-Graham Exclusively for Pacific Fabrics and Crafts 2009.

