



Looking for the unusual? Consider these

(AP) — Gift-giving, for better or worse, has come a long way since the choice was frankincense and myrrh.

If incense isn't on your list this year, or if frankincense and myrrh are too tough to find, consider some of these unusual ideas:

- Is your car on your gift list? From the people who gave you automotive sunshades comes Sno-Off, to protect a car's windshield from snow, ice and frost.

The cover, with a ski-goggle design, fits across the outside of the windshield and secures inside with two suction cups. Auto-Shade manufacturers say it will sell for about \$5.

- Elegant Lasso. A new variation on a classic is the Lariat, a strand of pearls with chandelier crystals at both ends that tie instead of clasp. From the Swarovski Signature Collection, the Lariat was inspired by western neckwear and comes with a tag-booklet to show different ways to wear it — over the shoulder for low-backed evening wear, the traditional front knot, around the waist, or in a double strand. The necklace retails for about \$500, and matching drop earrings are about \$135 at department and specialty stores.

- You won't have to go far to enjoy holiday lights and music; you can wear them.

'Class in a Glass,' for those who have run dry on unusual gift ideas, is a water-of-the-month club offering subscribers mail order gift packs of bottled water from around the world.

Bonnie Boerer's holiday fashions include a decorated blouse that plays "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" for Christmas and a similar sweater that plays "Auld Lang Syne" for New Year's.

The battery-powered show is operated by a switch hidden underneath the sweater. About \$160.

- When asked "what's your sign," you won't have to know the zodiac to answer.

A company called What's Your Sign, in Northfield, Ill., will custom imprint a metal street sign with anything you want, up to 11 characters, plus any abbreviation such as St., Dr., Rd.

- If you suspect a Merlin on your list, he'll probably like "White Lightning," a grown-ups' toy that makes real lightning, enclosed under a glass dome. Controls let the mover and shaker form one or two streaks of lightning or a mini-storm with hun-

dreds of separate bolts. Created by neon artists Larry Albright and made by Rabbit Systems Inc. This conversation-stopper costs about 150 at department and specialty stores.

- A novel solution to the toilet seat battle of the sexes: LidAlert. I plays "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" if the seat is left up after flushing. Its manufacturer, Kaleidoscope, Huntington Beach, Calif., says it will be priced at about \$20.

- For the person in your life who has everything, what's left but the world? You can have the world in your hands — if you have Atlas' hands and can afford to spend at least \$36,250.

Rand McNally Map and Travel Stores offer a custom-made globe that weighs more than 500 pounds, with a 325-motor and axis that turns it one full revolution every three minutes. Hand-laminated in fiberglass and epoxy, it's 6 feet in diameter.

- "Class in a Glass," for those who have run dry on unusual gift ideas, is a water-of-the-month club offering subscribers mail order gift packs of bottled waters from around the world. From the Water Centre, Edison, N.J.

- For those who like their books read to them: Random House Audio books on tape, including "My Turn," read by author Nancy Reagan, and "It Was On Fire When I Laid Down On It," read by its author, Robert Fulghum.


- For hair on the go: Jetsetter hair rollers from Helen of Troy Corp., a five-roller set, with cord and clip storage in a zippered travel bag. About \$25.

- Diamonds, of course, still fit


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Club Mate is a new portable device that allows golfers to strike each shot during a round with a freshly cleaned club. It mounts easily to either a pull cart (shown here) or a golf car, and works on woods and irons, both left- and right-handed. The jet-action water spray and multi-directional brush in the unit clean the clubs with no more effort than pressing a couple of times on the bellows pump. Weighs two pounds. For more information, call the U.S. sales office in Palm Desert, Calif. at (818) 568-2002.



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