

Downsizer traders Christmas gift guide

Contributed by Bugs

Downsizer counts among its aims getting small traders and their customers in touch with one another - so take a look at this selection of traders offering useful Christmas gifts.

Downsizer member - Mochyn

Sells - hand-embroidered and hand-woven beaded jewellery, each piece unique, also beaded boxes

For - anyone

Prices - from £5 to !!! postage £1.00 per package (unless you want insurance, in which case I'll find out for you).

Dates - if the piece is already made, then I'll post it the next day; if not then I'll post within 3 days of ordering, unless it's a huge piece, in which case we'll discuss it.

Contacts - PM to order, payment: "I have a Paypal account, and I'm going to find out how to use it!"

URL - Pictures on this article

Downsizer member - Penny

Sells - printed t-shirts/hoodies etc - web site explains all. Can also do bags!!!! but not on website

For - anyone with a sense of humour

Prices - range from £9.99, and postage is included

Dates – Order the day before last Christmas post for guaranteed delivery on standard tops on site, but by 10th Dec for any custom jobs

Contacts - People can order direct from the site, or PM or e-mail, whichever is easier

References – Penny supplied the Downsizer.net bags

URL – www.squatorange.co.uk

Downsizer member - Lozzie

Sells - small high quality AFRICAN DJEMBES, hand made in the Gambia. They stand approx 16-18" (41-45cm) high – pictures available on gallery section of website

For - ideal gift for a child who likes music! Simple to play, with a beautiful tone.

Prices - £35.00 per drum, £10.00 postage

Dates – order by 8th December 2005

Contacts - PM or email

References – Lozzie's new venture

URL - www.worldmusictime.co.uk

Downsizer Member - sally_in_wales

Sells - traditional/historically inspired soap including all olive castile suitable for rebatching or laundry use. Books on herbs, scents and costume/textiles, various craft items including devastatingly effective 'plague rat' toys for your cat, and various other small objects of desire

For - usually someone interested in the history of things, but the soaps are well liked by anyone fed up with synthetic scents and unnecessary additives.

Prices – available with further details on website, postage typically at cost, precalculated for soaps but happy to recalculate for the cheapest options

Dates – order by end of first week in December ideally

Contacts – PM, or preferably order form on the site

References – Bugs was converted to bar soap by Sally's Honey & Almond bars, excellent friendly service

URL - www.sallypointer.com

Downsizer member – Rory D

Sells – salts, peppers, herbs and spices, with salt, pepper and spice mills to go with them.

For - people with an interest in food, or looking for an unusual gift for a foodie friend. We're tiny, only sell online really, so you're just about assured of uniqueness.

Prices - individual packets of pepper and spice average at about £1.60 and we're doing lots of Gift Boxes for £10.00 which contain a range of stuff from Star Anise and Cinnamon Sticks to our unique Salt and Pepper Blends, and country of origin peppers. We can also put together boxes to meet your budget, if you give us an idea of the sort of stuff you'd like. There is a fixed £2.50 delivery price for postage and packing.

Dates – Hmm, difficult to tell, as we've never done it before! Last posting day before Christmas is a good guide really. I've also set up a discount coupon. Simply insert the coupon "downsizer" at the end of the order process for a 5% discount.

Contacts - feel free to PM for advice, order form is on URL below

References – Bugs - great service, good, unusual products at reasonable prices. Rory kindly provided prizes for the first Downsizer Birthday photographic competition

URL - www.saltpepper.co.uk

Downsizer member - 2steps

Sells - handcrafted jewellery. Unique or very limited pieces, using mainly glass, gemstones and silver. I also make healing and gay/bi pride jewellery

For - I make a range of styles, am happy for people to make custom requests and will do my best to fill them

Prices - vary according to materials used and complexity of design. Postage varies according to weight and packaging requirements but is generally around 70p. I use first class post but can send by other means if requested

Dates - I will make and post out any day. I use Royal Mail and they do have recommended dates to guarantee delivery by Christmas. I try to be as flexible as possible and will try to fit a buyers wishes as best I can. Custom orders may take a week or two to complete, especially if I need to buy materials as I have no bead shop near me and need to buy online and then wait for them to arrive. I can give a rough idea of time scales but no guarantees. Items can also be gift wrapped or boxed as extra.

Contacts – PM for questions, order form is on website

References – First time trading on Downsizer but: “I have good feedback on ebay, ebid and wahmall under the usernames 2steps1, 2steps, Phoenix Moon respectively. You can see my items on auction at ebay for examples or ideas at <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Phoenix-Moon>

Downsizer member - GardenerJ

Sells - Wallo'waters www.wallowater.co.uk

For - Anyone who likes growing veggies

Prices - £12.49 for one pack of 3, postage included

Dates – Order by Friday 16th December

Contacts – PM for questions, but ordering online is easier if you have credit card or Paypal

URL - <http://www.wallowater.co.uk/wheretobuy.htm>

Downsizer member - mrsnesbitt

Sells - Inspirational cards for garden lovers

For - Garden lovers - pictures available on <http://forum.downsizer.net/viewtopic.php?t=8858>

Prices - £3.50 each or 3 for £10, postage at standard letter price ie 30p

Dates - order by 17th December

Contact - PM or email denise.nesbitt@btinternet.com

References - Sarah D - "Denise makes cards of a high quality, with original design and a lot of thought put into them. Would have no hesitation in recommending her or her cards to anyone of my friends; MarkD - "Denise's cards are a beautiful blend of style and originality. Clearly a lot of thought and creativity has gone into them without cluttering the design. If you're looking for something different, then I'd recommend you look at hers."; Nanny - "Having been the recipient of one of Denise's cards I can not recommend them highly enough. The quality is first class and the designs original. I would have no hesitation in recommending her cards to anyone."

Downsizer member - Downsizer!

Sells - Calico shopping bags

For - Downsizer members and their friends who want to cut down on plastic bag use and help spread the word! Also very handy for foragers to keep about their person in case of an unexpected haul...

Prices - £3.50 each plus £1.50 postage and packing per order

Dates - Last order for Christmas delivery by 18th December

Contacts - just post on the thread at <http://forum.downsizer.net/viewtopic.php?t=8217> if you have any questions

URL - <https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr>