

# Wedding Present

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Friends of ours got married in mid-October and we made every effort to make it to their wedding. We live out-of-province, so the trip would be quite lengthy. We thought about driving but opted to fly, figuring that the cost would be more practical, then the time off work and utter exhaustion involved in driving the 2400 kilometres to get there. Unexpectedly, I ended up in the hospital, just days before the wedding. We were already in a panic about what to buy for a wedding present, and now I was completely out of commission. My husband would now be responsible for choosing an appropriate gift on his own. After much discussion, we determined that he would still attend the wedding despite my hospitalization, since our friend's wedding simply could not be missed. The bride spoke with my husband two days before the wedding. She graciously assured him that he was under no obligation to attend - that they would completely understand if he couldn't make it. She told him that if he did end up coming, that no wedding present was expected - that his presence, and the cost involved in getting there, would be more than enough of a gift. But still, we felt moved to find a perfect wedding present. At the last minute, after long debate, we decided to give them a belated wedding present once I had fully recovered. My husband attended the beautiful wedding and had a wonderful time and I was released from the hospital a few weeks later. Now, it has been just over two months since the wedding, and as these things tend to go (at least in our household), we still haven't sent a wedding present. We both feel terrible, and the pressure and guilt are just making our lack of ideas worse! Just this week, we finally struck upon two potential ideas for the perfect wedding present. The work and care required for these ideas to work, will hopefully help to account for the amount of time it's taken us to send them. The first idea involves taking a thick, length of copper wiring and untwisting several of the cables at one end. I saw my father do this when I was a child. Then each thinner, section of wire is partially untwisted and formed into branches and twigs, with the remaining untwisted wire, serving as the trunk of a beautiful copper tree. This tree would be planted in a terra cotta pot and secured in place with the sort of foam used in silk flower arranging. Delicate leaf would be cut out from thin, copper plating, and using a torch, would be attached to the branches. The second idea for a wedding present, is to create a fairy tale of our friends lives so far and on into the future. My husband is a very experienced graphic designer and writer and recently, he's studying how to make game design too. He has some solid ideas for the story line and a folder of beautiful artwork that he would then layout and have bound in an aged leather binding, complete with gold leaf embossing on the cover. We love both ideas and hope to make some progress very soon. Thankfully, our friends are very understanding and they value our friendship more than any wedding present we could dream of giving them.