

FINANCIAL POST

Objects of affection

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How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. It's good to know that even poets like Elizabeth Barrett Browning had a transactional approach to romance. Let's be honest, when it comes to Valentine's Day, who isn't counting?

Here are nine ways to capture your sweetheart's fancy:

1 The Cartier Love bracelet, which made its debut in the '60s, is a slightly industrial looking bangle stamped with rivets. It is fastened around the wrist with a gold-plated screwdriver, kept by the one who gives it. Made from 18 karat gold, the bracelet costs \$3,375 in yellow gold or \$4,200 in white gold. A platinum version starts at \$7,950. Diamonds are also an option.

2 Silk lingerie is a classic gift for Valentine's Day and there is no shortage of options. Holt Renfrew sells the Carine Gilson line of hand-made, limited-edition items from Belgium. A bra-and-panty set starts at around \$600, while camisoles run \$250 to \$400.

3 Less romantic, but far more comfortable is a pair of yummy flannel pajamas or a retro chenille robe from Web site pajamaheaven.com. PJ Salvage's "Lips" white flannel PJs with a pink-and-red lip print cost \$75; Bedhead's "Heart Strings" sateen-cotton PJs cost \$150; and a bright-pink "Cupcake" bathrobe from Canyon Group goes for \$140.

4 "If music be the food of love, play on." OK, Shakespeare wasn't referring to the Apple iPod when he penned those lines -- but he could have been. It can't get any more personal than a red iPod nano (\$229) loaded with the soundtrack of your relationship. Apple even provides laser-engraved messages on the nano for free.

5 It never hurts to appeal to the mind as well as the heart. On that note, a good bet is a first edition of your beloved's favourite book, which also proves you were actually listening when he or she came home from the book club. A first edition of F. Scott Fitzgerald's tale of obsessive love, *The Great Gatsby*, in mint condition, can be had for \$64,700 from Abe Books (abebooks.com).

6 Instead of the usual bouquet of roses, how about a clever twist on the seasonal classic? Jo Malone's Red Roses bath oil (about \$70 for 250 mL at Holt Renfrew) is made from the

petals of seven types of roses from around the world. There is also a matching body lotion.

7 For the cottage and cabin crowd, a pair of custom-decorated Adirondack or Muskoka chairs (about \$75 each) will set the scene for sunset cocktails a deux.

8 A collection of personal photographs is yet another way to profess your love. Smythson of Bond Street has a large-format 48-page photo album in red pigskin (about \$600) and a smaller version in hotpink leather (about \$250). Available at Holt Renfrew, both can be stamped with a personal message in gold or silver.

9 For hockey moms, a pink hockey stick (about \$100 for a Louisville TPS), pink Tacki-Mack Command Grip (\$10) and plenty of pink hockey tape (\$2.50 per roll) are the ultimate signs of commitment. Who says street hockey is only for little boys? Mom can yell "car!" with the best of them.

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