

Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide

Dragon Age: Origins Gift Giving Guide: Maximize Companionship & Romance! Unlock loyalty, romance, and powerful friendships with this comprehensive guide on the perfect gifts in Dragon Age: Origins. Learn what to give each companion and reap the rewards! DragonAgeOrigins DAOrigins GiftGuide BioWare Companions Dragon Age: Origins, a masterpiece of RPG storytelling, offers a richly detailed world where your choices significantly impact the narrative. One key element influencing your companions' loyalty and potential romances is gift-giving. This intricate system transcends simple pleasantries; the right gift can bolster a friendship, deepen a romance, or even avert a tragedy. This guide will dissect the gift-giving mechanic and offer a comprehensive overview of the ideal presents for each of your companions. The Importance of Gift Giving in Dragon Age: Origins Gift-giving in Dragon Age: Origins isn't just about showing your companions you care; it has tangible gameplay benefits. Giving the right gift can unlock unique dialogue options, reveal crucial backstory information, and significantly boost your companion's approval rating. This, in turn, unlocks numerous advantages:

- **Increased Companion Approval:** Higher approval leads to enhanced combat performance, special abilities during battles, and access to unique dialogue branches within the storyline.
- **Unlocking Personal Quests:** Certain companions will reveal personal quests only if their approval rating reaches a certain threshold. These quests often provide rewarding loot, experience, and significant narrative developments.
- **Romantic Relationships:** For those seeking romance, gifting plays a crucial role in progressing your relationship with your chosen companion. Offering the right gifts can significantly accelerate the romance, unlocking intimate scenes and deepening the emotional bond.
- **Avoid Conflict and Disloyalty:** Giving the wrong gift can drastically lower companion approval. In severe cases, this can lead to companions abandoning your party, permanently altering your playthrough.

Benefits of Utilizing a Gift Giving Guide Before delving into the specifics, let's reiterate the core benefits of using a guide like this for navigating the complex gift-giving system in Dragon Age: Origins:

- **Time Saving:** Avoid wasted gifts and frustration by knowing exactly which item each companion prefers.
- **Optimized Gameplay:** Maximize companion approval for optimal combat effectiveness and access to all narrative content.
- **Complete Companionship:** Forge stronger bonds and unlock all personal quests and dialogue options.
- **Romance Success:** Successfully navigate complex romantic relationships by offering your chosen companion the perfect gifts.

Understanding Companion Preferences

Each companion in Dragon Age: Origins possesses unique tastes and preferences, shaped by their personality, background, and experiences. Failing to cater to these preferences can lead to negative consequences, impacting their loyalty and your relationship with them.

Companion	Preferred Gift Types	Disliked Gift Types
Alistair	Religious items, books, practical gifts	Flashy jewelry, overly expensive items
Morrigan	Powerful artifacts, dark or mysterious items	Cheerful or frivolous items
Leliana	Sacred items, romantic poems, music	Violent or grotesque gifts
Sten	Weapons, armor, practical items	Soft or delicate items
Zevran	Exotic items, fine wines, jewelry	Common or practical gifts
Wynne	Healing items, books, religious gifts	Violent or grotesque gifts
Oghren	Alcohol, strong weapons, trinkets from dwarves	Uplifting or spiritual items
Loghain	Military equipment, strong drinks, serious gifts	Flimsy or frivolous items
Shale	Gems, powerful artifacts, anything from dwarves	Items that could be repaired

(Note: This table provides a general overview. Specific preferences can change based on character's current mood and the game's progression.)

Interpreting Companion Reactions

Observing your companions' nonverbal cues and reactions during gifting is paramount. A positive response often involves a smile, a change in tone, or a grateful comment. On the contrary, a negative response could manifest as a frown, a dismissive remark, or an outright rejection of the gift. Learning to read these cues will

help refine your gift-giving strategy over time.

Gift Acquisition Strategies

Acquiring the perfect gift sometimes requires a bit of adventure. Some gifts can be purchased from merchants, while others are found during quests or hidden within the game world. Exploring thoroughly and accepting side quests can significantly increase your chances of finding unique and valuable gifts.

Advanced Gift Giving Strategies

For those seeking mastery in gift-giving, consider the following advanced strategies:

- **Contextual Gifts:** Offer gifts relevant to current events or conversations for maximizing impact.
- **Gift Timing:** Selecting the right moment to present a gift can significantly improve your companion's response.

Conclusion: Mastering the art of gift-giving significantly enhances your Dragon Age: Origins experience. By understanding companion preferences and employing the strategies outlined in this guide, you can forge deeper bonds with your companions, unlock hidden narratives, and enjoy a richer, more fulfilling gaming experience. Remember, the journey itself, the thoughtful consideration in selecting a gift, enhances the magical bond with these memorable companions.

FAQs:

1. *Can I give a companion the same gift multiple times?* Yes, but the impact diminishes with each repetition. Giving the same gift several times might even lower their opinion.
2. **What happens if I give a companion a disliked gift?** Their approval rating decreases. Severe disapproval can occasionally lead to significant narrative consequences, up to and including a companion leaving your party.
3. **Are there any "universal" gifts that most companions appreciate?** Not really. Each companion has strongly defined individual preferences. What's appreciated by Alistair may be loathed by Morrigan.
4. **Does the gift's value matter?** While the rarity of the gift can influence the companion's reaction, the most crucial factor is choosing something that aligns with their taste and personality.
5. *Can I recover from giving a disliked gift?* Yes, you can recover their approval by performing other actions, such as completing their personal quest or offering them gifts they like. However, it can take several positive gifts and actions to counteract a single highly disliked gift.

Unlocking the Secrets of Dragon Age: Origins Gift Giving

Ah, Dragon Age: Origins. A game that captivated us with its rich lore, complex characters, and, of course, the intricate dance of building relationships. While you might be focused on saving Ferelden from the Blight, never underestimate the power of a well-chosen gift. In the world of Dragon Age, the right trinket can turn a frosty acquaintance into a loyal friend, or even a romantic partner. This comprehensive guide will delve deep into the art of gift-giving in Dragon Age: Origins, ensuring you master the nuances of companion approval and unlock those precious dialogue options and combat bonuses.

Why is gift-giving so crucial? It's not just about filling up your inventory with shiny baubles. In Dragon Age: Origins, your companions have their own personalities, desires, and even personal quests tied to their approval levels. A high approval rating with a companion can unlock powerful abilities, unique dialogue, and even influence the ending of your game. Conversely, gifting items they detest can lead to disapproval, strained relationships, and missed opportunities. So, let's get started on becoming the ultimate gift-giving strategist in Thedas!

Understanding the Approval System

Before we dive into specific gifts, it's essential to grasp how the approval system works in Dragon Age:

Origins. Each companion has an approval meter, ranging from -100 (hating you) to +100 (adoring you). Your actions throughout the game—choices made in dialogue, quests completed, and yes, gifts given—will influence this meter.

Factors Affecting Approval: Beyond the Gift

While this guide focuses on gifts, remember that other factors play a significant role:

1. **Dialogue Choices:** Agreeing with a companion's moral compass or political leanings will generally boost their approval. Conversely, going against their beliefs will likely decrease it.
2. **Quest Decisions:** Certain quest outcomes can dramatically impact companion approval. For example, siding with a faction a companion distrusts will earn you their ire.
3. **Combat Actions:** Sometimes, your actions in combat, like using certain spells or tactics, can align with or contradict a companion's preferences.
4. **Killing Innocents:** Generally, a bad idea for most companions.

The Power of Gifts: A Direct Boost

Gifts offer a direct and controlled way to influence a companion's approval. Each companion has a specific set of items they like, love, or even tolerate. Giving them something they adore provides a significant approval boost, while gifting something they dislike can have the opposite effect.

Mastering Companion Preferences: The Heart of the Matter

This is where the real strategy comes in. Each of your potential companions has a distinct personality and set of interests. Understanding these preferences is key to maximizing your gift-giving success. We'll break down each companion and their favored items, along with general tips for finding these treasures.

Alistair Theirin: The Loyal, But Naive Knight

Alistair, the charmingly awkward templar, is generally pleased with gifts that reflect his sense of duty, his interest in the common folk, and his somewhat simple tastes. He has a strong dislike for anything overly cynical or cruel.

1. **Loves:** Items related to the Grey Wardens, military artifacts, and anything he perceives as a symbol of hope or justice. Think ceremonial daggers, polished armor pieces, and well-crafted shields.
2. **Likes:** Generic trinkets, anything that reminds him of his past (though be careful, some memories are painful), and well-made crafts.
3. **Dislikes:** Items associated with dark magic, blood magic, or anything that smacks of corruption or betrayal.
4. **Where to find:** Keep an eye out in templar strongholds, military encampments, and commoner settlements.

Morrigan: The Enigmatic Witch of the Wilds

Morrigan, the mysterious shapeshifter, is a creature of ancient traditions and potent magic. She values power, knowledge, and items that resonate with the wild and the arcane. She has a disdain for anything that seems mundane or overly sentimental.

1. **Loves:** Items of significant magical power, particularly those related to elven lore, ancient artifacts, and potent runes. Look for elven artifacts, ancient tomes, and powerful magical reagents.

2. **Likes:** Exotic trinkets, items with unusual origins, and anything that demonstrates intelligence or cunning.
3. **Dislikes:** Mundane items, religious artifacts (especially those of the Chantry), and anything that represents the "civilized" world she disdains.
4. **Where to find:** Often found in elven ruins, ancient libraries, and areas with strong magical resonance.

Leliana: The Bard of the Divine

Leliana, the devout and resourceful spy, has a unique appreciation for items that speak of faith, artistry, and well-crafted beauty. She also has a soft spot for anything that reminds her of her humble origins or her dedication to the Divine.

1. **Loves:** Religious relics, holy symbols, and well-crafted jewelry, especially elven designs. Think blessed amulets, ornate rings, and intricately carved idols.
2. **Likes:** Musical instruments, poetry collections, and finely made clothing.
3. **Dislikes:** Items that are crude, vulgar, or associated with violence and cruelty.
4. **Where to find:** Look in churches, temples, wealthy estates, and merchant stalls selling fine goods.

Sten: The Stoic Qunari Warrior

Sten, the disciplined and honorable Qunari, is a man of few words and even fewer expressed emotions. His approval is best earned with items that reflect his culture, his martial prowess, and his unwavering sense of honor.

1. **Loves:** Items of Qunari origin, particularly weapons and armor that adhere to their strict martial traditions. Look for well-made Qunari blades and sturdy armor pieces.
2. **Likes:** Practical, well-crafted items, particularly those related to warfare or survival.
3. **Dislikes:** Frivolous items, anything that appears weak or undisciplined, and anything that mocks his people or their beliefs.
4. **Where to find:** Often found in military outposts, trading posts with Qunari merchants, and occasionally in dwarven areas.

Wynne: The Kind and Caring Mage

Wynne, the compassionate mage and former Circle member, values acts of kindness, healing, and anything that promotes well-being and learning. She has a strong aversion to cruelty and dark magic.

1. **Loves:** Items that symbolize healing, knowledge, and protection. Think medicinal herbs, ancient spellbooks (non-dark magic, of course!), and amulets that offer protection.
2. **Likes:** Well-made crafts, items related to nature, and books of any kind.
3. **Dislikes:** Items associated with dark magic, blood magic, and anything that promotes violence or suffering.
4. **Where to find:** Often found in mage towers, herbalist shops, and libraries.

Oghren: The Boisterous Dwarf

Oghren, the gruff but good-hearted dwarf, enjoys anything that celebrates dwarven culture, drinking, fighting, and a good bit of treasure. He has a low tolerance for subtlety and a high tolerance for a good strong ale.

1. **Loves:** Items of dwarven origin, particularly intricate jewelry, well-crafted weapons, and anything related to dwarven history or heritage. Dwarven runes, fine dwarven ale, and elaborate dwarven trinkets are always a hit.
2. **Likes:** Strong alcoholic beverages, well-made armor, and anything that signifies a good fight.
3. **Dislikes:** Anything too delicate, overly refined, or related to elven culture (he has a bit of a rivalry there).
4. **Where to find:** Dwarf settlements, trading posts, and taverns are your best bet.

Zevran Arainai: The Cunning Assassin

Zevran, the charming and deadly Antivan Crow, has a taste for the finer things in life, particularly when it comes to danger, intrigue, and exquisite craftsmanship. He appreciates items that speak of wealth, power, and a certain decadent flair.

1. **Loves:** Expensive jewelry, rare gemstones, and items associated with wealth and luxury. Think exquisite necklaces, valuable rings, and ornate daggers.
2. **Likes:** Items related to assassination, poisons, and anything that shows skill or cunning.
3. **Dislikes:** Mundane items, religious artifacts, and anything that appears cheap or poorly made.
4. **Where to find:** Merchant stalls, wealthy estates, and areas where intrigue is afoot.

Shale: The Unfeeling Golem (with a Heart of Stone?)

Shale, the ancient and powerful golem, has a unique set of preferences, largely driven by her fascination with minerals, gems, and anything that expands her understanding of the world. She doesn't understand emotional nuances in the same way organics do.

1. **Loves:** Gems of all kinds, particularly those of significant size and rarity. Diamonds, sapphires, and emeralds will earn you significant approval.
2. **Likes:** Interesting geological samples, rocks, and anything that relates to her golem nature.
3. **Dislikes:** Organic matter (she's a golem, after all!), sentimental items, and anything she perceives as frivolous or illogical.
4. **Where to find:** Mines, quarries, and areas with rich mineral deposits are your best bets for finding gems and rocks.

The Lady of the Forest: The Elusive Dryad

While not a permanent companion, the Lady of the Forest is a significant figure you'll encounter. She appreciates gifts that relate to nature, the preservation of the wild, and acts of respect towards the natural world.

1. **Loves:** Items that represent the purity of nature, ancient trees, and the wild. Think rare herbs, untouched flora, and seeds of ancient plants.
2. **Likes:** Items of elven origin that respect nature.
3. **Dislikes:** Anything that signifies destruction of the natural world, industrialization, or disrespect to the wild.
4. **Where to find:** Often found in deep forests and natural preserves.

Strategic Gift Acquisition: Where to Find Your Treasures

Knowing *what* to give is only half the battle. The other half is finding those precious items without emptying your coin purse or spending hours grinding.

Merchants: Your First Stop

Local merchants are your most reliable source for common gift items. As you progress through the game and unlock new areas, their inventory will often expand. Don't overlook specialized merchants, like those selling herbs or fine crafts, as they might stock items perfect for specific companions.

Looting and Exploration: The Thrill of the Hunt

Dragon Age: Origins is filled with hidden treasures. Keep your eyes peeled during your explorations:

1. **Chests and Containers:** Always loot every chest, crate, and even discarded sack you come across. You never know what rare gem or valuable trinket might be hiding inside.
2. **Enemy Drops:** Defeated enemies can drop a variety of items, including armor, weapons, and even unique trinkets.
3. **Quest Rewards:** Some quests offer items as rewards that can be perfect gifts. Pay attention to the loot promised when you accept a quest.
4. **Environmental Clues:** Sometimes, the environment itself holds clues. Look for shimmering objects or interactable elements that might yield a hidden item.

Crafting: The Art of DIY Gifting

While Dragon Age: Origins doesn't have an extensive crafting system like some later entries, you can still utilize any item enhancements or rudimentary crafting options available to improve items you find, potentially making them more appealing to your companions.

The Art of Delivery: Timing and Tactics

Simply handing over a gift isn't always the most effective strategy. Consider these tips for maximizing your gift-giving impact:

When to Give: Beyond a Whim

There's no single "best" time to give a gift. However, consider these moments:

1. **After a Major Quest:** Successfully completing a challenging quest can put your companions in a good mood, making them more receptive to your gestures.
2. **Before a Difficult Encounter:** Boosting a companion's approval before a tough fight can not only increase their combat effectiveness but also improve their morale.
3. **When Dialogue is Stagnant:** If you're not unlocking new dialogue options or companion quests, a well-timed gift can often be the catalyst.
4. **During Downtime:** Simply having a conversation with a companion in camp and then offering a gift can feel more natural and personal.

How to Give: The Conversation Starter

When you offer a gift, initiate a conversation with the companion. This allows you to present the item in a context that makes sense. For instance, you might say to Alistair, "I found this, and it reminded me of our efforts to protect the innocent." For Morrigan, you might present an artifact by saying, "This ancient relic may be of interest to you."

The "Favorite" Item Bonus

Each companion has a "favorite" item (or a small category of items) that grants a particularly large approval boost. Identifying and stocking up on these is the ultimate gift-giving goal. Keep notes or refer to this guide to ensure you're always on the lookout for their most cherished possessions.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Even with the best intentions, you can make gifting mistakes. Here are a few common pitfalls:

1. **Giving Generic Gifts to "Lovers":** While a generic trinket might be tolerated by some, giving a "loved" item to a companion who truly adores something specific will yield far greater results.
2. **Disregarding Dislikes:** Gifting something a companion actively hates is a sure way to tank their approval. Pay close attention to their negative preferences.
3. **Hoarding All the Goodies:** Don't be tempted to keep all the rare gems and artifacts for yourself. Your companions are invaluable assets, and their loyalty is worth more than a few extra gold pieces.
4. **Ignoring Companion Quests:** While gifts are great, remember that completing personal companion quests will often provide the largest approval boosts and unlock crucial story elements.

Beyond Approval: The Broader Impact of Gift Giving

Mastering gift-giving in Dragon Age: Origins is about more than just ticking a box on a checklist. It's about:

1. **Unlocking Companion Stories:** High approval ratings often lead to deeper conversations, revealing more about your companions' backstories, motivations, and personal struggles.
2. **Gaining Powerful Abilities:** Many companions have special abilities or talents that can only be unlocked when their approval reaches a certain threshold.
3. **Influencing the Ending:** The loyalty and support of your companions can have a significant impact on the final choices you make and the ultimate fate of Ferelden.
4. **Romance Options:** For those seeking a romantic connection, building strong approval with certain companions is a prerequisite.

Conclusion: Become the Ultimate Gift-Giver in Thedas

Dragon Age: Origins is a game that rewards careful attention to detail and strategic thinking. By understanding your companions' individual preferences and diligently seeking out the right gifts, you can forge stronger bonds, unlock new possibilities, and ultimately, shape your journey through Ferelden in profound ways. So go forth, explore every nook and cranny, and become the most revered gift-giver in all of Thedas!

The Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide: A Thoughtful Approach to Meaningful Presents

Gift giving in the world of Dragon Age is far more than a mere exchange of items—it's an expression of connection, respect, and cultural identity. Whether you're sharing a token of loyalty with a trusted companion or honoring a cherished bond during a celebration, understanding the nuances of gift giving in the Dragon Age universe enriches the experience. This guide explores the historical, emotional, and strategic dimensions of gifting in both the original Dragon Age titles and the expansive narrative world they inhabit.

Historical and Cultural Context of Gifts in Dragon Age

In the lore-rich realms of Thedas, gift-giving reflects deep-rooted traditions that vary across cultures and factions. From the noble courts of Thedas to the hardy clans of the High Rock, gifts serve as symbols of allegiance, gratitude, and power. In high-stakes political landscapes, a well-chosen gift can strengthen alliances, defuse tensions, or signal respect between leaders and allies. The act transcends material value; it

embodies intention, care, and shared values. Knowing the cultural backdrop behind each gift ensures that the gesture resonates authentically within its setting.

Key Insights: What Makes a Gift Meaningful in Dragon Age

A truly impactful gift in Dragon Age is rooted in personalization and relevance. It reflects an understanding of the recipient's identity, experiences, and role within the story. For example, a warrior may value durable armor or a sturdy shield, while a scholar might appreciate a rare tome or a carefully preserved artifact. Emotional resonance often matters more than material cost—items that evoke nostalgia, honor a past struggle, or symbolize hope carry deeper significance. Additionally, gifts that align with a character's journey or current challenges demonstrate attentiveness, reinforcing trust and loyalty.

Strategic Applications: Gifts as Tools for Storytelling and Relationships

Beyond sentiment, gifts serve practical narrative and relational purposes. In role-playing and storytelling, a well-timed gift can advance character development, deepen emotional stakes, or open dialogue. In-game, trading or receiving gifts can unlock new quests, strengthen faction ties, or influence political outcomes. For players, thoughtful gifting enhances immersion and emotional investment, transforming passive encounters into meaningful interactions. Whether you're portraying a diplomat, a knight, or a rebel, the items you choose become extensions of your character's diplomacy, values, and strategic vision.

Benefits of Mastering the Dragon Age Gift Giving Approach

Adopting a mindful gift-giving philosophy inspired by Dragon Age yields lasting benefits. It fosters stronger interpersonal connections by showing genuine care and attention. In immersive storytelling, it builds richer, more believable relationships that evolve naturally over time. For players and creators alike, this approach enhances engagement, creativity, and emotional depth. It encourages empathy, cultural sensitivity, and strategic thinking—skills that extend beyond the game into real-life interactions and decision-making. Over time, mastering this practice cultivates a deeper appreciation for the power of symbolic gestures in shaping bonds and narratives.

Future Outlook: Evolving Gift-Giving in Expanding Dragon Age Lore

As the Dragon Age universe continues to expand through new games, expansions, and fan creations, the concept of gift giving evolves alongside it. Modern interpretations may blend traditional elements with innovative mechanics, allowing for personalized, dynamic gifting that adapts to character growth and player choices. Whether through in-game systems or narrative tools, the emphasis on meaningful, context-aware gifts will remain central to authentic storytelling. As players and creators embrace deeper emotional and cultural layers, gift giving in Dragon Age will continue to be a vital expression of identity, loyalty, and connection—bridging past traditions with future possibilities.

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Perhaps the most valuable aspect of downloading **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide** is how it encourages curiosity. When information is readily available, exploration feels effortless. Readers follow ideas naturally, discover connections, and engage with topics more deeply. Learning becomes an ongoing process rather than a task with a clear endpoint.

Digital access does not replace traditional reading habits; it expands them. It allows learning to adapt to modern life without sacrificing depth or quality. With **Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide** available in digital form, knowledge becomes a companion that evolves alongside changing interests, challenges, and ambitions.

Questions & Answers About dragon age origins gift giving guide

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the best gifts to give specific companions in Dragon Age: Origins for maximum approval?	For maximum approval, tailor gifts to individual companion preferences. For example, Leliana loves jewelry and elven trinkets, Alistair enjoys dwarven craftsmanship and items related to his childhood, and Morrigan is fond of magical artifacts and ancient relics. Always check the in-game codex for specific likes and dislikes.
2	Are there any 'universal' gifts in Dragon Age: Origins that most companions will like?	While most companions have strong preferences, certain items tend to be well-received by a broader range of characters. High-quality jewelry, potent magical items, and rare crafting materials can often garner at least moderate approval across multiple companions, though it won't reach the peak levels of a perfectly tailored gift.
3	How does gift giving affect companion approval and potential outcomes in Dragon Age: Origins?	Giving gifts strategically is crucial for increasing companion approval. High approval can unlock unique companion quests, special dialogue, improved combat synergy, and even influence their loyalty and ultimate fates within the game. Low approval can lead to betrayal or refusal to assist you.

4	Where can I find the best gifts to give my companions in Dragon Age: Origins?	Gifts can be found throughout Ferelden! Loot enemies, discover hidden chests, purchase them from merchants (especially those in larger cities like Denerim and Lothering), and complete quests. Some unique gifts are tied to specific areas or lore discoveries.
5	Is it worth spending a lot of time hunting for gifts in Dragon Age: Origins, or can I just push through the main story?	While you can complete the main story without extensive gift-giving, investing time in it significantly enhances the companion experience. It unlocks richer dialogue, opens up vital questlines that provide experience and loot, and solidifies your relationships, leading to a more fulfilling and often more successful playthrough.

Dragon Age Origins Gift Giving Guide

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Dragon Age: Origins - The Ultimate Gift Giving Guide for Maximum Approval

In the sprawling, war-torn world of Ferelden, forging strong bonds with your companions is as crucial as mastering your combat skills. In BioWare's epic RPG, *Dragon Age: Origins*, these bonds are meticulously cultivated, not just through shared battles and heroic deeds, but through the thoughtful act of gift-giving. Mastering the art of gifting is your key to unlocking deeper conversations, significant lore, powerful companion quests, and even crucial stat bonuses. This comprehensive guide will equip you with the knowledge to navigate the intricate world of *Dragon Age: Origins* gift giving, ensuring your companions adore you and Ferelden's fate remains in capable hands.

Understanding companion approval in *Dragon Age: Origins* is paramount. Each of your party members – Alistair, Morrigan, Leliana, Sten, Oghren, Zevran, and Wynne – possesses unique personalities, backgrounds, and moral compasses. What one companion cherishes, another might find trivial or even offensive. Therefore, a scattershot approach to gifting will yield suboptimal results, potentially even alienating those you seek to impress. This guide will break down each companion's preferences, offer strategic gifting advice, and highlight some of the best gifts to procure for maximum approval gains.

The Mechanics of Gift Giving in Dragon Age: Origins

Before diving into individual preferences, let's clarify how gift giving works within the game's engine. Every companion has an invisible "approval" meter. Giving a gift that aligns with their personality, past, or interests will increase this meter. Conversely, giving a gift they dislike will decrease it, sometimes significantly. High approval levels unlock companion-specific quests, which often reveal crucial backstory, offer unique rewards, and can even influence their ultimate fate in the game's narrative. Furthermore, reaching maximum approval with a companion grants them a powerful passive bonus, a permanent stat boost that will benefit your entire party.

When you discover a gift, you'll need to interact with your inventory and select the "Give Gift" option. You can then choose which of your active companions to present it to. Some gifts are unique and can only be found once, while others are more common. It's worth noting that certain gifts might have a higher impact at different stages of the game. Early game gifts can set the stage for strong relationships from the outset, while late-game gifts can be crucial for solidifying bonds before the final confrontations.

Alistair: The Noble Heart's Affections

Alistair, the charming but often naive Templar, is one of the first companions you'll recruit. His moral compass leans towards justice and duty, but he also possesses a surprisingly sentimental side. He values genuine sentiment and practical items related to his life as a Grey Warden.

Alistair's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Figurines:** Alistair has a particular fondness for small, carved figurines. Those depicting animals, especially dogs, tend to be highly favored.
2. **Templar-Related Items:** Anything that resonates with his Templar past, such as holy symbols or items associated with the Chantry, will earn his approval.
3. **Gems and Jewelry:** While not ostentatious, Alistair appreciates well-crafted jewelry and polished gems. These often represent stability and value.
4. **Drinking Horns:** Alistair enjoys a good drink and a hearty laugh. A well-made drinking horn can remind him of simpler times.

Gifting Strategy for Alistair:

Focus on gifts that reflect his earnest nature and his commitment to the Grey Wardens. Avoid items that are overtly cruel, cynical, or associated with dark magic. Gifts that remind him of his lost family or the simpler life he sometimes craves will also be well-received. Remember, Alistair is also a bit of a romantic, so a carefully chosen item might even pave the way for a more personal connection.

Morrigan: The Witch of the Wilds' Intrigue

Morrigan, the enigmatic Elven shapeshifter, is a complex character with a cynical worldview shaped by her isolated upbringing. She values power, knowledge, and anything that further enriches her understanding of the world and its magic. She has a particular disdain for sentimentality and the perceived weaknesses of "civilized" folk.

Morrigan's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Talismans and Magical Artifacts:** Morrigan is a practitioner of ancient magic, and she'll be thrilled with anything that hints at arcane power or hidden lore. Ancient talismans, runes, and artifacts of power are excellent choices.
2. **Ancient Texts and Tomes:** Knowledge is power for Morrigan. Books detailing obscure histories, magical theories, or forgotten rituals will be greatly appreciated.
3. **Dark/Blood Magic Items:** While not overtly encouraged by the game, items associated with darker magical practices often appeal to Morrigan's pragmatic and sometimes ruthless approach to power.
4. **Unique Gems:** She appreciates rare and potent gems, especially those with unusual properties or origins.

Gifting Strategy for Morrigan:

Morrigan is not easily swayed by simple gestures. Your gifts should reflect an understanding of her insatiable thirst for knowledge and power. Avoid anything that seems overly sentimental, moralistic, or weak. Items that align with her interest in ancient magic and the arcane are your best bet. Gifts that hint at the Brecilian Forest or her mother, Flemeth, can also be impactful.

Leliana: The Bard's Heart and Soul

Leliana, the cheerful and devout Orlesian bard, brings a touch of optimism to the grim world of Thedas. Her faith in the Maker and her love for music and stories are central to her personality. She values kindness, piety, and items that evoke a sense of beauty and wonder.

Leliana's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Jewelry and Trinkets:** Leliana has a soft spot for beautiful jewelry, especially those with intricate designs or religious significance.
2. **Flowers:** Simple, beautiful flowers are a surprisingly effective gift for Leliana, appealing to her appreciation for nature and beauty.
3. **Religious Artifacts:** As a devout follower of the Chantry, anything related to the Maker or the Saints will earn her favor. Holy symbols and prayer beads are excellent choices.
4. **Musical Instruments:** While she may not be able to use them directly, gifts related to music, such as a lute or a finely crafted flute, will resonate with her bardic soul.

Gifting Strategy for Leliana:

Leliana responds best to gifts that are beautiful, heartfelt, and aligned with her faith. Focus on items that evoke a sense of wonder, peace, and devotion. Avoid anything that is overly violent, cynical, or sacrilegious. Gifts that remind her of her past in Orlais can also be quite impactful.

Sten: The Qunari's Respect

Sten, the stoic and honorable Qunari warrior, is a man of few words and even fewer outward displays of emotion. He values discipline, honor, and the practical application of strength. He has a deep respect for loyalty and the principles of the Qun.

Sten's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Weapons and Armor:** As a warrior, Sten appreciates well-crafted weaponry and sturdy armor. Gifts related to combat prowess are always a safe bet.
2. **Artisan Tools:** Sten has a hidden appreciation for craftsmanship. Tools used for smithing, woodworking, or other artisanal pursuits can impress him.
3. **Religious Items (Qunari-related):** While he adheres to the Qun, Sten may show a subtle appreciation for items that reflect his cultural heritage.
4. **Unique or Rare Items:** Anything that is rare, well-made, and demonstrates a certain degree of strength or utility will earn his respect.

Gifting Strategy for Sten:

Sten is not one for sentimentality. Your gifts should reflect a respect for his martial prowess, his honor, and his practical nature. Focus on items that are useful, well-made, and perhaps hint at a shared sense of duty or strength. Avoid anything frivolous or overly emotional. He values strength and utility above all else.

Oghren: The Drunkard Dwarf's Delight

Oghren, the boisterous and often belligerent dwarven warrior, is a lover of ale, combat, and a good time. He's gruff on the outside but has a surprising capacity for loyalty and a hidden soft spot for those he deems worthy. He appreciates simple pleasures and anything that reminds him of his dwarven heritage.

Oghren's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Alcohol:** Oghren's love for ale is legendary. Any kind of alcohol, especially potent dwarven spirits, will be met with enthusiasm.
2. **Weapons and Armor:** Like Sten, Oghren appreciates a good weapon or a sturdy piece of armor, especially if it's practical and robust.
3. **Dwarven Artifacts:** Items that are clearly of dwarven make, such as crude but effective mining tools or dwarven-themed trinkets, will resonate with him.
4. **Crude Jokes/Songs:** While not a physical gift, telling Oghren a crude joke or a dwarven drinking song can sometimes boost his approval.

Gifting Strategy for Oghren:

Oghren is the easiest companion to please. Focus on gifts that are hearty, robust, and reflect his simple tastes. Ale is always a winner, as are practical weapons and items of dwarven origin. Avoid anything too refined or intellectual, as these will likely go over his head. Remember, Oghren enjoys a good laugh and a strong drink.

Zevran: The Antivan Crow's Cunning

Zevran Arainai, the charming and deadly Antivan Crow assassin, is a master of manipulation and deception. He values cunning, skill, and a healthy dose of self-preservation. He has a penchant for the finer things in life and a cynical outlook on morality.

Zevran's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Poison-Related Items:** Zevran is an assassin, and anything related to poisons, toxins, or their creation will pique his interest.
2. **Rare and Exotic Items:** He has a taste for the unique and unusual. Rare gems, exotic artifacts, or items with a dubious origin will appeal to his sense of adventure.
3. **Lockpicking Tools/Daggers:** Items related to his profession, such as finely crafted lockpicks or daggers, will be appreciated.
4. **"Dark" or Mysterious Items:** Zevran is drawn to the darker aspects of life and enjoys items that have a mysterious or even sinister aura.

Gifting Strategy for Zevran:

Zevran is all about practicality and a bit of danger. Gifts that reflect his skills as an assassin, his enjoyment of luxury, or his fascination with the forbidden will earn his favor. Avoid overly moralistic or pious items. He appreciates a good gamble and a well-executed plan, so anything that hints at cunning or a shared appreciation for the darker arts will be well-received.

Wynne: The Temperance's Blessing

Wynne, the kind-hearted Circle Mage, is a beacon of hope and compassion. She values life, healing, and the preservation of knowledge. She has a strong moral compass and is dedicated to protecting the innocent.

Wynne's Favorite Gifts:

1. **Herbal Remedies/Potions:** Wynne is a healer, and she will appreciate anything related to medicine, herbs, or healing potions.
2. **Books and Scrolls (especially on healing or magic):** Similar to Morrigan, Wynne values knowledge, but her interests lie more in healing magic and academic pursuits.
3. **Religious Artifacts (Chantry-related):** As a devout follower of the Chantry, Wynne will appreciate items that reflect her faith.
4. **Items related to the Circle of Magi:** Anything that shows respect for her former home or the traditions of the Circle will likely be well-received.

Gifting Strategy for Wynne:

Wynne responds best to gifts that are benevolent, compassionate, and related to her skills as a healer and mage. Focus on items that promote life, knowledge, and the greater good. Avoid anything that is cruel, violent, or associated with dark magic. Gifts that show respect for her dedication to helping others will always be a good choice.

The Art of Strategic Gifting: Beyond Individual Preferences

While understanding each companion's individual tastes is crucial, the truly skilled player will employ strategic gifting. Consider the following:

1. **Party Composition:** If you have multiple companions with similar tastes, you can effectively "stack" approval with a single well-chosen gift. For instance, a powerful gem can please Alistair and Morrigan simultaneously.
2. **Companion Quests:** Many companion quests are triggered by high approval. Strategically gifting early on can unlock these quests sooner, allowing you to gain their loyalty and unique bonuses before crucial story moments.
3. **Dialogue and Lore:** Some gifts, when given to the right companion, can unlock unique dialogue that provides deeper insights into their backstory, motivations, and the world of Thedas. This is especially true

for gifts tied to specific locations or events.

4. **Maximum Approval Bonuses:** Don't forget the ultimate goal: the passive stat bonuses from maximum approval. These can significantly enhance your party's effectiveness in combat.

Where to Find the Best Gifts in Dragon Age: Origins

The world of Ferelden is brimming with potential gifts. Keep an eye out for:

1. **Merchants:** Many merchants, particularly those in larger cities like Denerim and Lothering, will stock a variety of gifts. Their inventories refresh periodically.
2. **Looting:** Every enemy you defeat, every chest you open, and every corpse you loot has a chance of yielding a valuable gift.
3. **Quest Rewards:** Some quests offer unique gifts as rewards, often tailored to specific companions.
4. **Exploring:** Hidden nooks and crannies in dungeons and outdoor areas can often hide rare and valuable items. Pay attention to interactive objects.

Conclusion: Forge Bonds, Conquer Thedas

Mastering the art of gift giving in *Dragon Age: Origins* is more than just a minor gameplay mechanic; it's an integral part of the experience. By understanding your companions' unique personalities, preferences, and motivations, you can forge unbreakable bonds that not only enrich the narrative but also provide tangible benefits in your quest to save Ferelden. So, go forth, explore the world, gather your treasures, and present them wisely. A well-chosen gift can be the difference between an ally and an estranged companion, and in the perilous journey ahead, you'll need every ally you can get.