

Tricks of the Trade

Hair Bow Instructions



Learn the
Tricks that
Only Pro's
Know!



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The Ribbon Retreat

How to Make a Funky Loops Hair Bow



Supplies & Tools



Ribbon & Trims
French Barrette
Cutting Mat
Scissors
Hi-Temp Glue Gun
Glue Sticks
Needle
Thread
Lighter (for sealing
ribbon ends)

Ribbon and supplies may be purchased from:
<http://www.TheRibbonRetreat.com>

This hair bow is very involved! Please be patient with yourself as you make it. And remember that pretty much **ANYTHING GOES!**

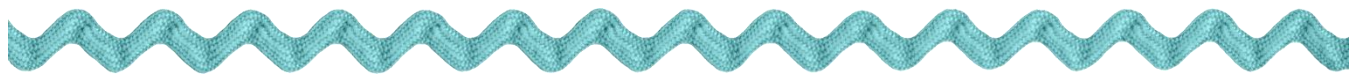
There are 4 main ways to add ribbon in this bow. They are illustrated below.

- Loop & Tail
- Just a Loop
- Loop & 2 Tails
- Just 2 Tails

Other ways to add to the bow (not pictured):

- Just one tail
- Korker
- Any other embellishment you want to add (material strips, ric rac, etc.)

Types of Folds



Loop & Tail



Just a Loop



Loop & 2 Tails



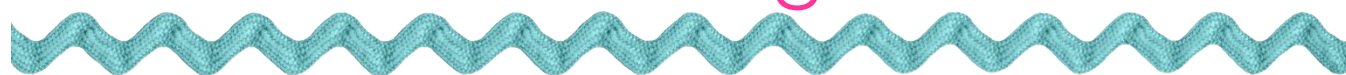
Just 2 Tails



PLEASE NOTE

Before you begin, you need to decide how TALL you want your bow to be. Or, in other words, how big do you want your loops? Do you want them to be 2", 2 ½", etc. Take a piece of ribbon and measure it to help you decide how big you want your loops. Use the 2" Ribbon Cutting Guideline below, or the ribbon cutting formula that follows.

2" Ribbon Cutting Guideline



Loop & Tail

- Ribbon Length=7"
- Marks at 2 ½" & 6 ½"

Loop & 2 Tails

- Ribbon Length=9"
- Marks at 2 ½", & 6 ½"

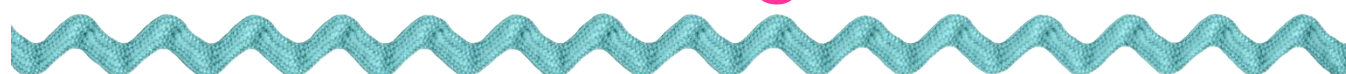
Just a Loop

- Ribbon Length=4 ¼"
- No marks, just fold in half

Just 2 Tails

- Ribbon Length=5"
- Fold the ribbon in half and make a mark

Ribbon Cutting Formula

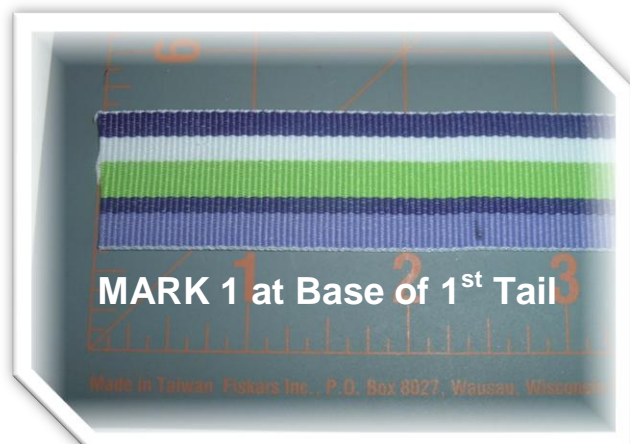


(Length of Tail) + (Height of Loop x 2) + (Length of Tail) = Length to Cut

Example: (2 ½") + (2x2) + (2 ½") = 9 inches

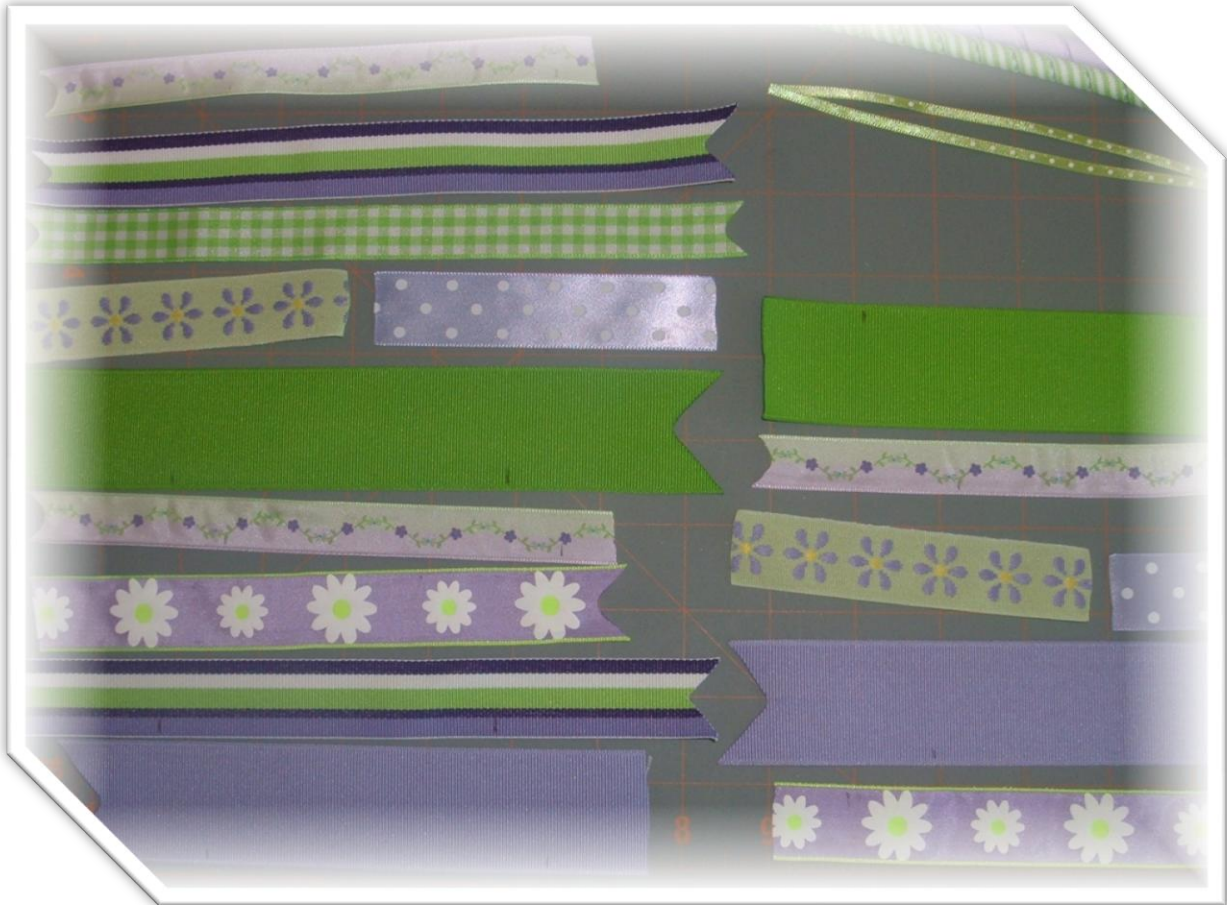
RIBBON MARKING GUIDELINE

You'll need to mark the ribbon with a pen or pencil at the base of both tails. (See Below)
This will help you in the placement of your needle when making the actual bow.



TIME TO BEGIN!

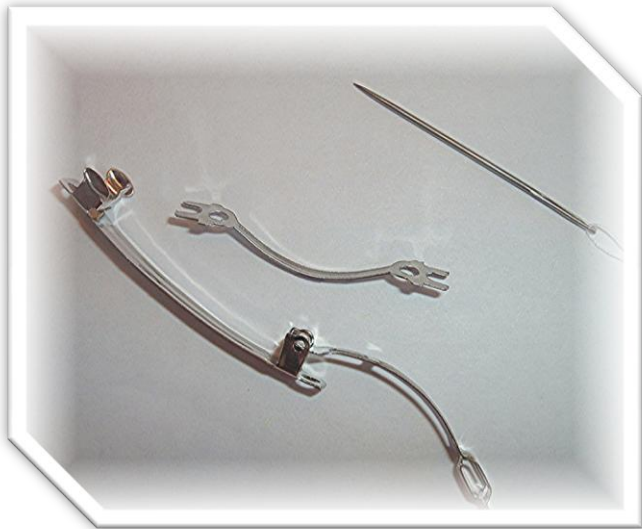
Decide what sizes and colors of ribbon you want to use. Then start cutting and marking your ribbon. You don't necessarily need to mark your ribbon, but I would recommend that when you're first starting out that you **DO MARK** your ribbon. It will help you to keep all of your loops and tails even and uniform.



Have all of your ribbon together in front of you so that you can decide on the placement of all the different loops, colors, etc.

HINT: Use your wider ribbons for your first layer across the barrette.

NOTE: You will run out of thread quite a few times in the process of making this bow. When you get to the end of your thread, just tie it off somewhere at the bottom of the barrette (where it won't be seen). Then, load your needle with more thread (with a knot at the back) and start up again.



STEP 1

Have a needle and thread ready. Remove the middle metal piece from the barrette.



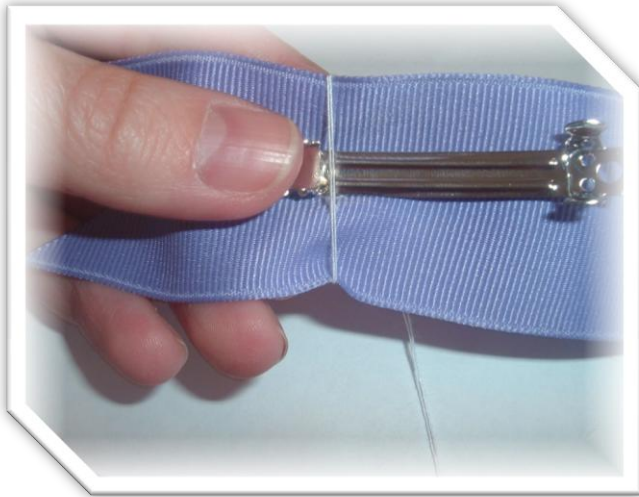
STEP 2

Place the needle through the middle part of the ribbon at one of the markings. For this example, I am using a "Loop & Tail". Pull the needle & thread all the way through until the knot stops at the back.



STEP 3

Now place the ribbon directly on top of the barrette.



STEP 4

Take the needle and thread around the ribbon and barrette as shown.



STEP 5

Pull the thread tightly, adhering the ribbon to the barrette. You'll need to squeeze the ribbon together on top of the barrette so that the ribbon doesn't fold over into the inside of the barrette. It should look as pictured. Take the thread around a few times until it is very secure.



STEP 6

This is what the top of the barrette should look like.



STEP 7

Now form the ribbon into a loop on top of the barrette, using the next "Marking" as a guideline.



STEP 8

Place your needle through the middle of the ribbon at the next Mark. Pull it all the way through until the knot stops at the back.



STEP 9

Take the thread all the way around the ribbon and the barrette a couple of times and pull tightly. Once again, you'll need to squeeze the ribbon together to keep it from folding to the inside of the barrette.



STEP 10

Now add your next piece of ribbon – in this case I used a “Loop & 2 Tails”. Use your markings as a guideline as to where to place the needle each time. Place the ribbon a little at an angle so that it’s not just straight across the barrette.



STEP 11

Now add your next piece of ribbon – in this case I used a “Loop & Tail”.



STEP 12

Keep on adding. 😊



STEP 13

This is what the inside of the barrette looks like so far.



STEP 14

Keep on adding until you get to the end of the barrette. For this bow, I used 4 pieces of 1 1/2" ribbon, 5 pieces of 7/8" ribbon, and 1 3/8" piece.



STEP 15

This is how the inside looks at this point.



STEP 16

Now start at one end of the bow and start adding additional pieces of ribbon. In this picture I'm using "Just a Loop".



STEP 17

Insert the piece between 2 other pieces of ribbon and wrap the thread around a few times until it's secure. Angle it any way that you want.



STEP 18

In this picture, I've added 3 additional pieces between the Apple Green Grosgrain and the Lavender & White Striped ribbon.



STEP 19

Keep filling pieces in all across the barrette. Angle some towards the bottom, angle some towards the top, and then have some be right in the middle. Use korkers, 3/8", 5/8", or whatever works! In this picture, I've only gone back in and added stuff in the first half of the bow.



STEP 20

In this picture, I've added additional pieces throughout the entire bow.



STEP 21

To cover up all the thread, cut a piece of 3/8" grosgrain to fit inside the barrette. Glue it down. Replace the metal piece and you're now finished!



For more tips & techniques, please visit:
<http://www.TheRibbonRetreat.com>