Learn the Tricks that Only Pro's Know!
How to Make an Inside-Out Hair Bow

Two Methods
When making Hair Bows, it is best to use the right size of ribbon for the right size of hair bow. For example, using a 3/8” ribbon to make a 5” bow, may not work well. 😊

The following is to give you a general idea of what size ribbon works best for what size bow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ribbon Size</th>
<th>Hair Bows Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4” Ribbon</td>
<td>1 to 2 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8” Ribbon</td>
<td>2 to 3 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8” Ribbon</td>
<td>2 to 3 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8” Ribbon</td>
<td>3 to 4 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ½” Ribbon</td>
<td>3 to 5 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ¼” Ribbon</td>
<td>5 to 6 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3” Ribbon</td>
<td>5 to 6 inch (or bigger)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ribbon and supplies may be purchased from: http://www.TheRibbonRetreat.com
Using the Hair Bow Maker

There are two lines on the Hair Bow Maker. The longer line is the center line. The second, shorter line is the \( \frac{1}{2} \)" line. When you have the Hair Bow Maker in front of you, this line should be to the RIGHT of the center line. The first set of holes from the center of the bow maker will make a 2" bow. Move each dowel over and you will have a 3" bow. Move each dowel over and you will have a 4" bow, etc.

The bow maker will make bows over 6 inches in width. If you want to make a 2 ½", 3 ½", 4 ½", or 5 ½" bow, then the dowel on the right needs to be moved \( \frac{1}{2} \)" to the right. For example, if you want a 3 ½" bow, then place the left dowel in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} hole and the right dowel in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} hole. You would use the \( \frac{1}{2} \)" line as the Center Point for this bow.

Ribbon Length Formula

This formula is for the Inside Out Hair Bow (Bow Maker Method). If you find that you don’t have enough, or too much ribbon, make adjustments to the numbers below.

\[
(\text{Width of Bow}) \times (\# \text{ of Loops} + 4.5) \quad \text{***The extra 4.5 is for allowances.}
\]

Example: For a 4" four-loop bow, your formula would be: \( 4 \times (4 + 4.5) = 34" \) Ribbon

Other Examples:

- 3" 4-Loop Bow = 3 \times (4+4.5) = 26.5"
- 4" 4-Loop Bow = 4 \times (4+4.5) = 34"
- 5" 4-Loop Bow = 5 \times (4+4.5) = 42.5"
- 3 ½" 4-Loop Bow = 3.5 \times (4+4.5) = 29.75"
- 4 ½" 4-Loop Bow = 4.5 \times (4+4.5) = 38.25"
- 5 ½" 4-Loop Bow = 5.5 \times (4+4.5) = 46.75"
When making an Inside-Out Hair Bow, do not tighten the ribbon around the dowels. You’ll want to leave it a TINY bit loose. Otherwise the effect of the bow will be ruined. If you find it to be too difficult to make all 4 loops at once, then simply make TWO 2-Loop Bows and stack them together side by side.

This technique will be demonstrated on the 4” setting of the Hair Bow Maker using 1 ½” Solid Grosgrain Ribbon. This setting will result in an approximately 4 ½” to 5” hair bow. Have a needle & thread ready (with a knot at the end of the thread).

**STEP 1**
Place the ribbon in the FRONT of the right dowel and in BACK of the left dowel as shown. Make sure there is some excess ribbon to the right.

**STEP 2**
With your LEFT hand, bring the ribbon around the LEFT dowel towards the center and then grab it with your RIGHT hand and twist it up as shown. While your right hand is twisting up on the ribbon, hold the middle of the ribbon together with your LEFT hand. Remember not to pull too tightly.
STEP 3
With your RIGHT hand, take the ribbon around the back of the RIGHT dowel and then continue to the front, this time grabbing with the LEFT hand and twisting it up again in the middle as shown. (Hold the middle of the bow together with your RIGHT hand.)

FOR A 2-LOOP BOW, GO TO STEP 6.

STEP 4
Repeat Step 2.

TIP: Use an alligator clip to hold the center of the bow together if it’s too difficult to hold it together with your fingers.

STEP 5
Repeat Step 3.

Take note of how the bow looks at this point. The loops are “scrunched” together.
STEP 6
With your LEFT hand holding the ribbon together in the center, grab your needle and thread with your RIGHT hand. With the needle at the back of the bow, bring it through the middle of the bow. To make sure you have the center, point your needle downwards so that you can check it with the center line of the Hair Bow Maker.

STEP 7
Remove the bow from the Hair Bow Maker by sliding it up over the top of the dowels. The bow may relax a little bit, and that’s okay. Pull the needle and thread through until the knot stops at the back. Take the thread over the top of the bow. Let go of the needle and just hang onto the thread.

STEP 8
With your LEFT hand, bend back the top fold by about a quarter of an inch. DO NOT tighten the thread yet.
STEP 9

With your **RIGHT** hand, bend the bottom three ribbon seams under slightly.

STEP 10

Take the thread all the way around the center of the bow and tighten **ONCE**.

STEP 11

While holding the bow tightly in the middle, shape your bow by spreading out the loops; tighten the thread again. Just keep taking the thread around the center of the bow again and again, tightening each time it goes around. Continue doing this until you no longer have any “give” to the thread.
STEP 12

Turn the bow to the back and take up a few stitches. Cut the thread.

STEP 13

Trim the tails and seal the ends. Use your fingers to fluff up the loops. You can either leave this as a simple Inside-Out Bow by adding a knotted or flat center and a clip to the back—or embellish and enhance as desired.

For a different look, you can also turn this hair bow over.

"By Hand" Method & Examples Follow.
“By Hand” Method

RIBBON LENGTH FORMULA (By Hand Method)
Please note that for each of these bows, a 5” allowance is made for each of the tails – totaling 10”. Your first mark will be made 5 inches from one end (for the tail) and then follow the “Ribbon Markings” guide below for all other marks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOW SIZE</th>
<th>RIBBON MARKINGS</th>
<th>TOTAL RIBBON LENGTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 inches</td>
<td>Every 4 inches</td>
<td>26 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ½ inches</td>
<td>Every 4 ½ inches</td>
<td>28 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 inches</td>
<td>Every 5 inches</td>
<td>30 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ½ inches</td>
<td>Every 5 ½ inches</td>
<td>32 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 inches</td>
<td>Every 6 inches</td>
<td>34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ½ inches</td>
<td>Every 6 ½ inches</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 inches</td>
<td>Every 7 inches</td>
<td>38 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ½ inches</td>
<td>Every 7 ½ inches</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 inches</td>
<td>Every 8 inches</td>
<td>42 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This bow is great for its possibilities! It can be a great framework for resins, korker hair bows, bottle caps, flower loop bows, or any other bow. Experiment and have fun with it!

Have a needle and thread ready. Using the Ribbon Length Formula, cut and measure your ribbon. For this example, I am making a 4 ½” bow, so will make marks 6 ½” apart. As you’re learning this technique, I would recommend using a double sided ribbon (print or dots on one side).
STEP 1
Make your first mark 5 inches from one end of the ribbon (tail allowance). After your mark has been made, write an “A” just underneath it for learning purposes. This will all be done on the WRONG side of the ribbon.

STEP 2
Measure 6 ½” from “A” and make another Mark.

STEP 3
Write a “B” just underneath the mark.

Follow Steps 2 and 3 for Marks C, D, and E. You should have a total of 5 marks.
STEP 4
Fold the ribbon as shown – so that the A is upside down. The letters have been accentuated for illustration purposes.

STEP 5
Place the ribbon at “A” directly over the ribbon at “B”. Note that the RIGHT side of the ribbon at “A” will be placed on top of the WRONG side of the ribbon at “B”.

STEP 6
You may find it helpful to use an alligator clip to hold the ribbons together.
STEP 7

Now take the ribbon at “C” and loop it around as shown. Take note of the wrong side of the ribbon vs. the right side.

STEP 8

Place the ribbon at “C” directly over the ribbon at “A”. Note that the RIGHT side of the ribbon at “C” will be placed on top of the WRONG side of the ribbon at “A”.

STEP 9

If you find it helpful, remove the alligator clip at this point and reposition it so that all the layers are being held together. Try to make sure that the loops formed are as even as possible, forming the same angles. This may take some PRACTICE.
STEP 10
Take the ribbon at “D” and loop it around as shown, paying close attention to the way the loop is being formed. You will be placing it directly over the ribbon at “C”. Note that the RIGHT side of the ribbon at “D” will be placed on top of the WRONG side of the ribbon “C”.

STEP 11
Now take the ribbon at “E” and loop it around as shown, again paying close attention to the way that loop is being formed. Use the picture as a close guide. You will be placing the RIGHT side of the ribbon at “E” on top of the WRONG side of the ribbon at “D”.

STEP 12
The key to making this bow look precise and neat is to make sure that all of the angles of your loops and tails match. They should all be at about a 45 degree angle.
STEP 13

Remove the alligator clip and position your thumb at the center of the bow. Your hand will be wrapped around the bow, with your thumb on top. Hold the bow very tightly so the ribbon does not lose its position.

STEP 14

Take your needle through the back of the bow to the front as shown. Pull the needle all the way through until the knot stops at the back.

STEP 15

Follow the same method as the Twisted Boutique bow for tying off the center. (Accordion fold and wrap the thread around the center to secure.)
STEP 16
Cut the tails in the desired shape and seal the ribbon ends. Embellish as desired.

Flip the bow over to the back for an entirely different look.

Other Recommended Tutorials
Twisted Boutique Hair Bow
BIG Loopy Stacked Bows
Surround-A-Bows
Spikes
Two-Loop Topper

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