

# 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 Flower Loop Hair Bow



# Supplies & Tools



Hair Bow Maker  
Ribbon  
Barrettes & Clips  
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>

## Flower Loop Bow Tips

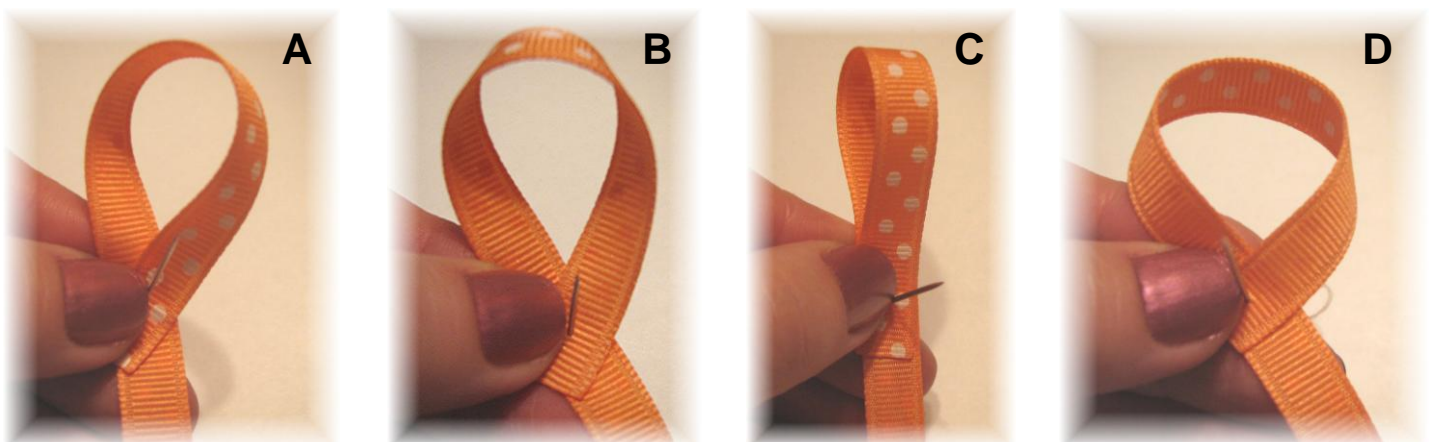
- You can make this bow as big or as small as you want.
- For each subsequent layer, you'll need to decrease the ribbon length by 1 inch – you could even decrease it by ½ inch if you want – it all depends on the look you're trying to achieve.
- You can use as many or as few pieces of ribbon for each layer. Experiment to see what you like.
- You can decide how many layers you want and what size of ribbon to use for each.
- Once your ribbon length gets to 5 inches, it may be too small – but it's up to you.
- For each piece of ribbon you cut, you will get 2 loops. So if you cut SIX pieces, you will get 12 loops.

# Ribbon Length Formula

(Width of Bow x 2) + 2 inches = Length of ribbon for the first layer. For each subsequent layer, subtract 1 inch. Depending on the type of fold you use, adjustments may need to be made to the measurements listed below. This is a guideline only.

	3 inch bow	3 ½ inch bow	4 inch bow
Layer 1	8 inches	9 inches	10 inches
Layer 2	7 inches	8 inches	9 inches
Layer 3	6 inches	7 inches	8 inches
Layer 4	5 inches	6 inches	7 inches

## Types of Folds

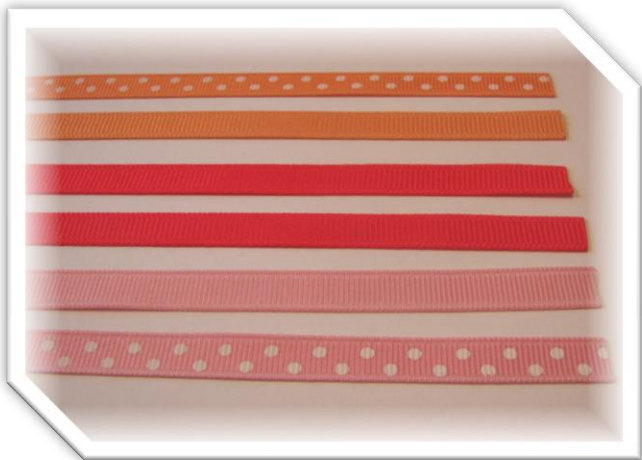


- A. **Figure 8 Fold**. This fold will be used in the demonstration below.
- B. **Inside-Out Fold**.
- C. **Straight Down Fold**. Many of the examples shown use this fold.
- D. **Backwards Fold**. This fold only works with solid color ribbon – otherwise, your pattern (the dots) won't show.

**FOR THIS DEMONSTRATION, THERE WILL BE 4 LAYERS.**

- Layer 1: SIX 9" pieces of ribbon
- Layer 2: FIVE 8" pieces of ribbon
- Layer 3: FOUR 7" pieces of ribbon
- Layer 4: FOUR 6" pieces of ribbon





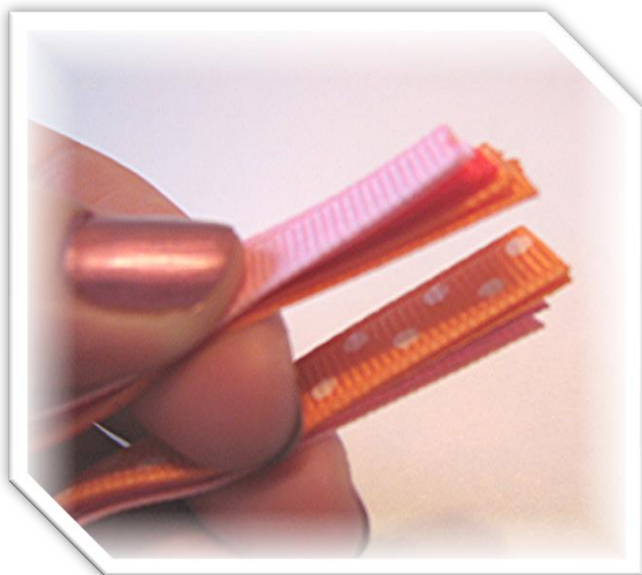
## STEP 1

Once you have all your ribbon cut to size, heat-seal the ends with your preferred method.



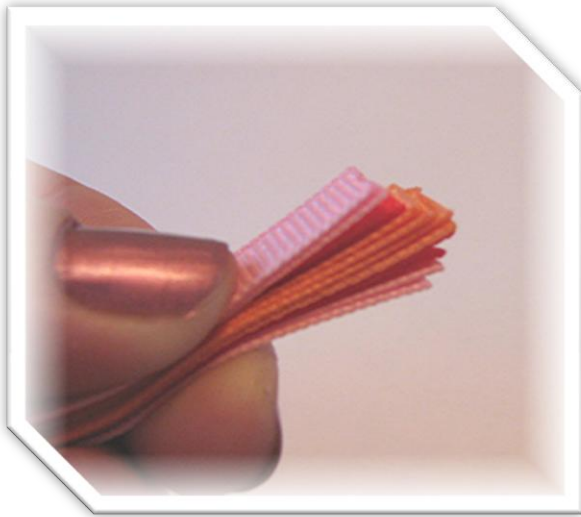
## STEP 2

Take the ribbon for **LAYER 1** and place it all on top of each other. For the ribbon that only has the print on one side (the dots), you need to make sure that you place it **PRINT DOWN**. In this example, I placed a dotted ribbon at the bottom of the stack to illustrate how you need to fold the ribbon for Step 3. If you're only using solid ribbon, it won't matter how you fold it in Step 3.



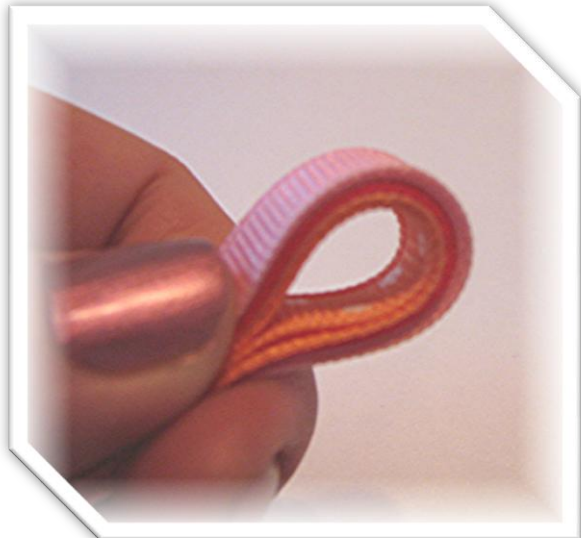
## STEP 3

Take one end of the "Stack" and bring it around to the other end, forming a loop. Notice how the dotted ribbon is now face-up. In fact, the two ends of the dotted ribbon will be touching each other.



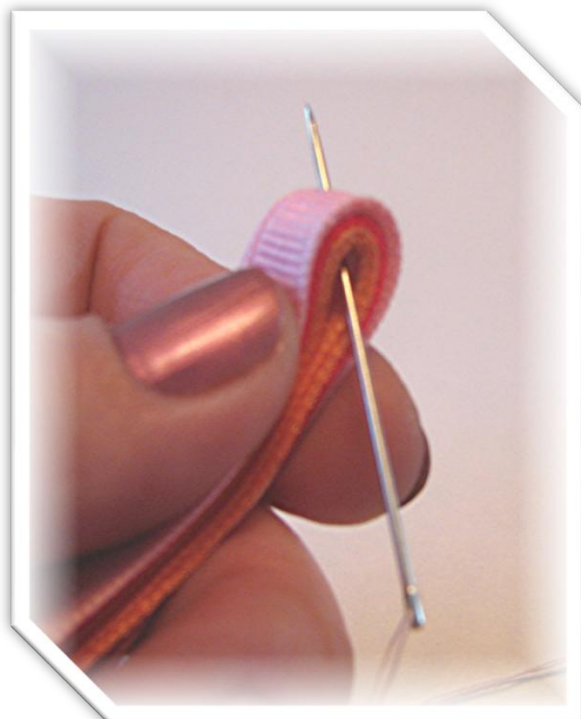
## STEP 4

Now you will have both ends of the ribbon stacked together.



## STEP 5

At the opposite end you will have formed a loop.



## STEP 6

Take your needle and place it into the center of the loop, stopping when the ribbon gets about half way onto the needle.



## STEP 7

Fan all the pieces of ribbon out into an even shape. You can play around with this until you get the ribbon exactly where you want it.



## STEP 8

At this point you may find it helpful to use a double prong alligator clip to hold the ribbon in place. Place the clip so that the needle is in between the two prongs. At any point, if the alligator clip becomes an annoyance, just remove it.



## STEP 9

Take one end of any ribbon and fold it in your desired shape and place it onto the needle. The fold being used here is the Figure 8 Fold.



## STEP 10

Now take the ribbon directly next to the one you just folded and do the same thing.



## STEP 11

Continue all the way around the bow. You may need to re-shape some of the loops to make sure that everything is even.



## STEP 12

Pull your needle all the way through until the knot stops at the back. Then take the needle and put it back through the middle of the bow – making a stitch through the center. Repeat this 4 or 5 times – or until you feel comfortable that the bow will stay together.



## STEP 13

If you find it difficult to get the needle through all the layers of ribbon, then use a hard surface to push the needle through, rather than using your fingers.



## STEP 14

When you're finished, this is how the bow will look.



## STEP 15

If you flip the bow over, you can see that you don't have the ends showing. You can use either side as the "top", but I would recommend using this side.



## STEP 16

At this point you can sew on a 2 ½” piece of ribbon to the side that will be the **BOTTOM** of the bow. This piece of ribbon will be used as another measure of keeping your bow attached to the barrette. See Step 19. This is, however, optional.

**REPEAT STEPS 2 – 16 FOR THE REMAINING LAYERS.**



## STEP 17

Using a High-Temp Hot Glue Gun, glue each layer together.



## STEP 18

This is how the bow looks with all the layers glued together.



## STEP 19

Glue your desired clip to the back of the bow. Use the added piece of ribbon to glue across the barrette for additional stability.



## STEP 20

Turn the bow back to the front and add your center embellishment (resins, buttons, gems, ribbon knot, etc.) for a completed hair bow.

### [Other Recommended Tutorials](#)

Inside-Out Hair Bow, Basic Boutique Hair Bow, Ribbon Covered Snap Clips





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