

Tricks of the Trade

Hair Bow Instructions



Learn the
Tricks that
Only Pro's
Know!



Copyright



The Ribbon Retreat

How to Make a Twisted Boutique Hair Bow

Two Methods



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>

Hair Bow Making Tip

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.

1/4" Ribbon

1 to 2 inch Hair Bows

1 1/2" Ribbon

3 to 5 inch Hair Bows

3/8" Ribbon

2 to 3 inch Hair Bows

2 1/4" Ribbon

5 to 6 inch Hair Bows

5/8" Ribbon

2 to 3 inch Hair Bows

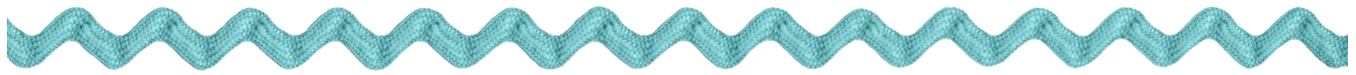
3" Ribbon

5 to 6 inch Hair Bows
(or bigger)

7/8" Ribbon

3 to 4 inch Hair Bows

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 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 one 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 1/2", 3 1/2", 4 1/2", or 5 1/2" bow, then the dowel on the right needs to be moved 1/2" to the right. For example, if you want a 3 1/2" bow, then place the left dowel in the 2nd hole and the right dowel in the 3rd hole. You would use the 1/2" line as the Center Point for this bow.



Ribbon Length Formula



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

(Width of Bow) x (# of Loops + 4.5) ***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:

$$3" \text{ 4-Loop Bow} = 3 \times (4+4.5) = 26.5"$$

$$3 \frac{1}{2}" \text{ 4-Loop Bow} = 3.5 \times (4+4.5) = 29.75"$$

$$4" \text{ 4-Loop Bow} = 4 \times (4+4.5) = 34"$$

$$4 \frac{1}{2}" \text{ 4-Loop Bow} = 4.5 \times (4+4.5) = 38.25"$$

$$5" \text{ 4-Loop Bow} = 5 \times (4+4.5) = 42.5"$$

$$5 \frac{1}{2}" \text{ 4-Loop Bow} = 5.5 \times (4+4.5) = 46.75"$$



Bow Maker Method

It is recommended that 2 to 3 other techniques are mastered before moving on to the Twisted Boutique Hair Bow. It is much more difficult and generally takes more practice. While learning this technique, use a ribbon that has a “right” and a “wrong” side (Ex: Polka Dot Ribbon).

This technique will be demonstrated on the 4” setting of the Hair Bow Maker using 1 ½” Polka Dot 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

Cut ribbon to size. Then, with the ribbon **BEHIND** the Hair Bow Maker, take 6” of one of the ends and wrap it in **FRONT** of both dowels, leaving approximately 2” of excess ribbon at the right of the **RIGHT** dowel. See Picture. Note how your **LEFT** hand is holding the ribbon at the back as well.



STEP 2

While your **LEFT** hand is holding the ribbon at the **LEFT** dowel, take your **RIGHT** hand and angle the tail of the ribbon upward almost **VERTICAL**. This will naturally cause the ribbon to create a wider loop towards the front.



STEP 3

It is **EXTREMELY** helpful at this point to use an alligator clip to hold the center together.



STEP 4

With your **RIGHT** hand, take the ribbon at the back and bring it around the front of the **RIGHT** dowel.



STEP 5

Once again, angle the ribbon **UPWARDS**, almost **VERTICAL** and if needed, slide the ribbon down slightly to create a wider loop.



STEP 6

Now use the alligator clip to hold both of these loops together. With your **LEFT** hand, grab the remaining ribbon and get ready for Step # 7.



STEP 7

Using your **LEFT** hand, twist the ribbon down and towards you just as shown. Notice how the wrong side of the ribbon is touching the dowel.



STEP 8

Now take your **LEFT** hand and slide it all the way down the ribbon until you get to the end.



STEP 9

Take note that the **WRONG** side of the ribbon is facing towards you (or **UP**).



STEP 10

You may want to use a pen or pencil and write a "**T**" for the **TOP** and a "**B**" for the **BOTTOM** to help you with this step.



STEP 11

Now with your **LEFT** hand hanging on to the end of the ribbon, simply angle (turn) the ribbon around so that the **B** is now at the Top and the **T** is now at the Bottom. You're not really twisting the ribbon, just angling it differently. Your left hand will move in a counter-clockwise direction – but remember it doesn't **TWIST**!



STEP 12

Continuing with your **LEFT** hand you will thread the end through the ribbon as shown.



STEP 13

Grab the end of the ribbon with your **RIGHT** hand and continue to thread it all the way through, finishing the loop on this side.



STEP 14

Take note of what the bow should look like so far.



STEP 15

Now with your **RIGHT** hand, take the ribbon and place it in **FRONT** of the right dowel. Please note that the **WRONG** side of the ribbon is towards you at this point.



STEP 16

With your **RIGHT** hand thumb and first finger, twist the part of the ribbon that is closest to the right dowel **UPWARDS**. It looks a little funny, but that's okay.....it's supposed to at this point.



STEP 17

After you've twisted the ribbon, continue taking the ribbon around the dowel.



STEP 18

Bring the ribbon to the front of the bow and angle the tail downward as shown. The top right loop still looks a little funny.....that's okay.



STEP 19

With your **RIGHT** hand, take your first finger into the loop and shape it as shown. You're basically just opening up that loop a little more.



STEP 20

Now remove the alligator clip and place the needle through the back of the bow, making sure you have the center point.



STEP 21

Remove the bow from the Hair Bow Maker. You can angle your tails a little more if you would like at this point. Pull the needle and thread all the way through until the knot stops at the back.



STEP 22

Take the thread over the top center of the bow as shown. Make sure you are keeping a very **TIGHT** hold on the bow so that it doesn't lose its shape.



STEP 23

Move your **LEFT** hand thumb a little closer to the top of the bow and pull tightly on the thread with your **RIGHT** hand. This will create a very tiny little crease in the top of the bow. Please keep in mind that the way the center is pulled together will greatly determine the outcome of this bow.



STEP 24

Now bring the thread from the back and take it around the entire center of the bow.



STEP 25

With this step, think about an accordion, or perhaps a paper fan – like the kind you used to make when you were younger by folding paper. That's basically how you need to fold the center of your bow. With the **THUMBS** of both hands on top of the bow and your **FINGERS** of both hands behind the bow, make your creases in the center of the bow. It really is just like folding a paper fan. Refer to picture. Tighten the thread a little after each fold or crease.



STEP 26

Wrap the thread around the middle until there is no more "give". Take up a stitch at the back of the bow. Cut your tails & finish the ends as desired. Shape your bow.



"By Hand" Method
& Examples Follow.

Page 13

Copyright  The Ribbon Retreat

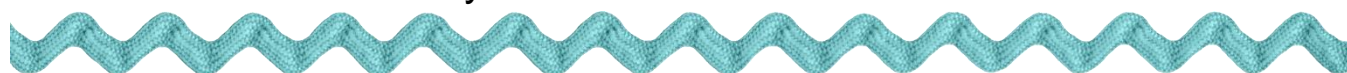


"By Hand" Method

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.

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



FOR THIS EXAMPLE, I will be using 1 ½" Red with White Hearts Grosgrain Ribbon. This ribbon is being used so that you can see that there is a **RIGHT** side and a **WRONG** side -- and also the direction of the ribbon. I will be making a 4 ½" hair bow.



STEP 1

Using the Ribbon Length Formula above, cut your ribbon to size. For this example, I am cutting my ribbon to 36 inches. This allows for 5 inches on each end for tails. Have a needle and thread ready, as well as an alligator clip.



STEP 2

Using a ruler or cutting mat, on the **WRONG** side of the ribbon, measure in 5 inches from one end. Make a mark. You may even find it helpful to mark this with a # 1.



STEP 3

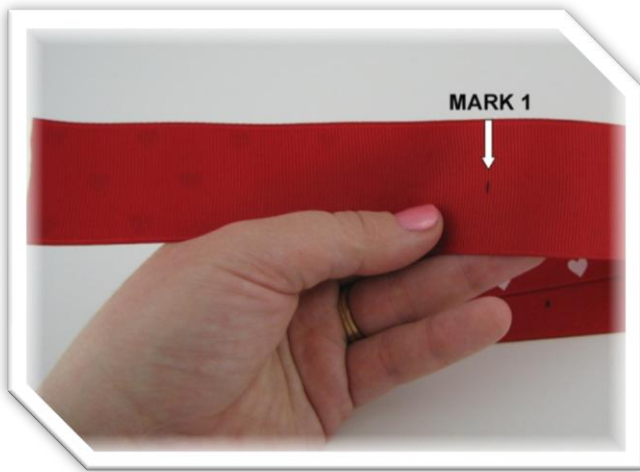
Now measure 6 ½" from **MARK 1**. Place a line, dot, or a # 2 in this spot.

CONTINUE measuring 6 ½" from each mark until you have a total of **FIVE** Marks.



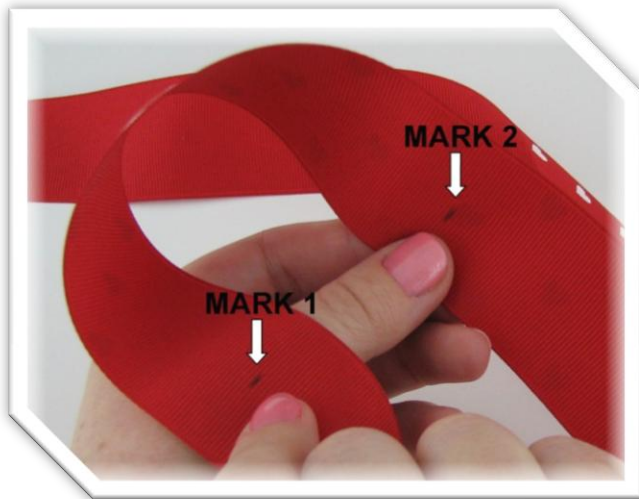
STEP 4

If you're using directional ribbon like these hearts, make sure that the pattern is facing the right direction before you start making your bow.



STEP 5

Turn the ribbon over to the **WRONG** side and start with **MARK 1**.



STEP 6

With your **LEFT** hand, hold the ribbon at **MARK 2**. With your **RIGHT** hand, take hold of the ribbon at **MARK 1**.



STEP 7

Press **MARK 1** and **MARK 2** together, forming a loop. Note how the **WRONG** sides of the ribbon are touching.



STEP 8

The direction on the tail of this loop needs to be an approximate 45 degree angle. This is important!!



STEP 9

Holding that first loop tightly with your **LEFT** hand in the **CENTER**, take your **RIGHT** hand and slide it down to **MARK 3**.



STEP 10

Loop the ribbon around until **MARK 3** comes in contact with the **CENTER** of the bow. The **WRONG** side of the ribbon will be touching the **RIGHT** side of the ribbon for this loop.



STEP 11

Grab onto that loop with your **LEFT** hand.



STEP 12

At this point, you need to make sure that the direction of both tails is at an approximate 45 degree angle. This is key to making sure your loops are uniform.



STEP 13

For help in supporting the bow, use an alligator clip to hold the center together, but continue to hold that center tight with your left hand.



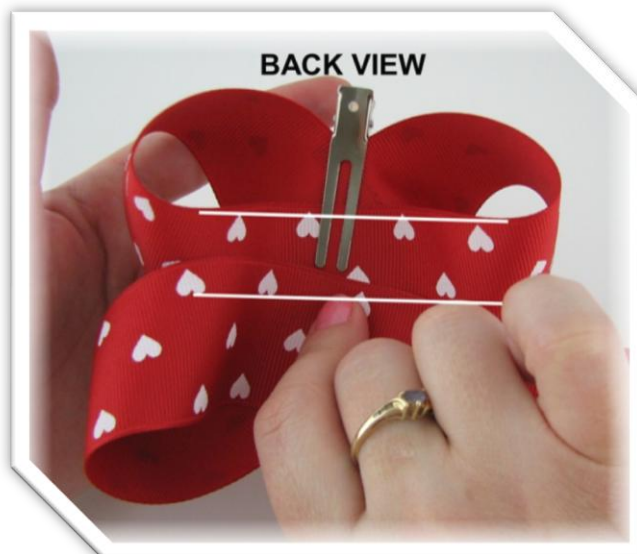
STEP 14

Now take your **RIGHT** hand and slide it down to **MARK 4**.



STEP 15

Form your next loop. **MARK 4** will be placed **BEHIND** the bow.



STEP 16

Take note of the back view. Notice how everything is symmetrical.



STEP 17

For an alternate way of making this bow, you can also place the 3rd loop **IN FRONT** of the bottom loops. This will give you a different look.



STEP 18

Take note of the 1st Tail. We will be placing our 4th loop **AROUND** this tail.



STEP 19

Take your **LEFT** hand down to **MARK 5**.



STEP 20

Make a loop and bring **MARK 5** to the center of the bow. The **WRONG** side of the ribbon will be touching the **RIGHT** side of the ribbon.



STEP 21

Hold onto the center of the bow very tightly with your **LEFT** hand. Notice the angles of all the loops and tails. It is very important that they be uniform in approximate 45 degree angles. Again, this is **KEY** to making your bow full and fluffy.



STEP 22

With your **LEFT** hand holding the center of the bow very tightly, get your needle and thread ready.

BACK VIEW



STEP 23

Take the needle to the back of the bow and place it through the center.



STEP 24

Again, make sure that you're holding the center of the bow very firmly in place with your **LEFT** hand.



STEP 25

Pull the needle and thread all the way through until the knot stops at the back.



STEP 26

Let go of the actual needle and just hang onto the thread with your **RIGHT** hand.



STEP 27

Take the thread over the top center of the bow – do not take it all the way around the bow just yet.



STEP 28

If you've been using an alligator clip to help you hold the bow in place, you can remove it now.



STEP 29

Place your **LEFT** hand thumb at the **TOP** of the bow – still in the center. While doing this, hold the bow in place with your **RIGHT** hand so that the bow keeps its form.



STEP 30

Holding the top center tightly with your **LEFT** hand, pull the thread **DOWN** with your **RIGHT** hand. This will give you your first crease at the top of the bow.



STEP 31

This is what the creases will start looking like.



STEP 32

Using the thumbs of both hands on the top & your fingers of both hands at the back of the bow, continue to crease the center of your bow. This does take practice, so please be patient with yourself. You may find it helpful to practice this technique with 7/8" ribbon – the center isn't as hard to crease.



STEP 33

Once you have your creases made, take the thread around the center of the bow.



STEP 34

Continue taking the thread around the center quite a few times, pulling each time until you no longer have any "give".



STEP 35

Turn the bow over and take up a couple of stitches at the back of the bow. Tie a knot and cut your thread.



STEP 36

Turn your bow back over to the front and if you need to, shape your loops. Once you've practiced with this bow, you'll find that the loops won't need very much shaping.



STEP 37

Cut your tails and seal the ends.



STEP 38

This is a side view. Add a knotted or flat center and a clip to the back.

Other Recommended Tutorials

Surround-A-Bows, Loopy Stacked Bows, Spikes, Inside-Out Hair Bow





Check out our BIG
Loopy Stacked
Bows Tutorial for
more examples.

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