The Bows

I am often asked, *"How do you make the bows on each ornament on your website?"*

Included with most ornament kits on my website, are two ribbons for the bows that will adorn the top of each ornament. The bottom ribbon is 3/8" wide and I include one yard. For the top bow, I use ribbon that is 1/4" wide and I also include one yard plus a few extra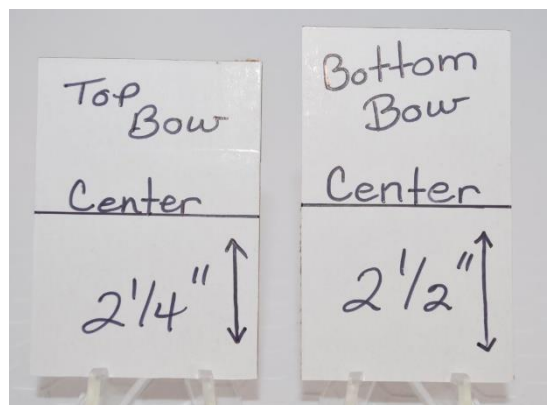 inches for the hanger. I cut my hangers 6 1/2" long before I fold it into a circle and pin it. Some people like a fuller bow, but I prefer to use about 24" to 26" for my bottom bow and even less for the top bow. You want your bows to accent and adorn your ornament, not overpower it.

I start with one continuous piece of ribbon and create six loops, pinning each loop, one at a time, and make three loops on each side. I like this method because I want the bows to look the same on each ornament.

Sometimes pushing a pin through several layers of grosgrain ribbon is difficult. If I have that problem, I use a push pin first to break through the layers of ribbon to start my holes for the straight pins.

Top Bow Center 2'1/4"
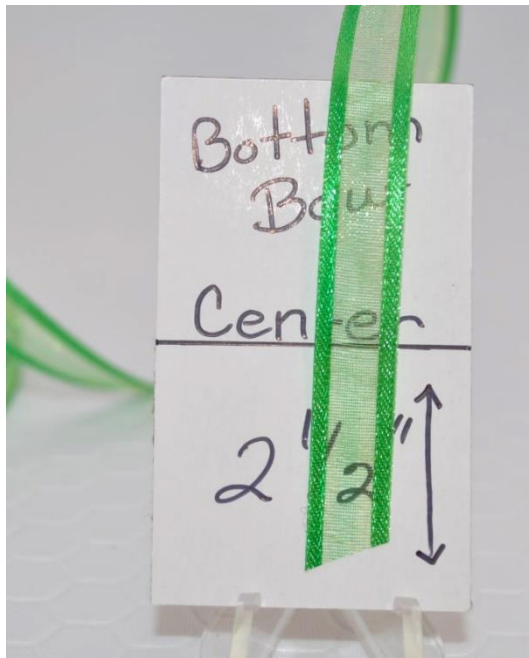
Bottom Bow Center 2'1/2"

Another way to make your bows with a little different look is to wrap the ribbon around thin cardboard templates and only use

one pin in the center as you will fan out the bow. This way the bow is a little fuller. The bottom bow uses almost 25" of 3/8" wide ribbon and the top bow will take about 23" of 1/4" wide ribbon. The 6" hanger will take 6 1/2" of ribbon.

With this method, each bow will have 9 loops and will be a little bit smaller than the first method that I illustrated above. Start by making your templates from a thin cardstock or cardboard. If you want a larger bow, make your cardboard templates 3" long for the bottom bow and 2 3/4" for the top bow. If you use the larger templates, you will need a few extra inches of ribbon for each bow.
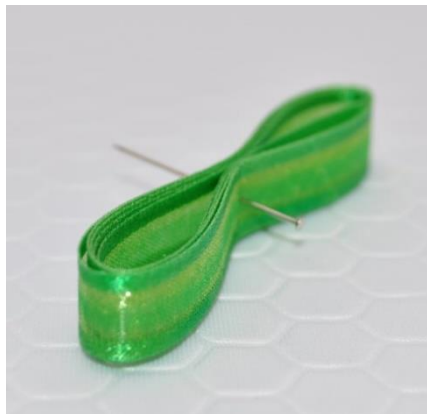

Starting with the ribbon for the bottom bow, use your thumb to hold the ribbon about 3/4" below the center line. While holding the ribbon in place, bring your ribbon around the top of the cardboard to the backside, then continue to loop around until you are back at the front center.

Now continue to wrap the ribbon around the cardboard making 4 more loops around

the top and stopping on the backside, about 3/4" below the center line.

Holding the ribbon together, slide the loops off of the cardboard template, and fold to find the center. Place a straight pin in the middle of the loops of ribbon and attach it to the top center of your ornament.

Before you push the pin through the ball, start to fan out the loops and arrange them to your liking. Remember, there will be a total of nine loops. Once you are pleased with the look of your bow, secure the bow in the center with an extra pin.

Now do the same with the top bow and then add your hanger.

One-Sided Bow Ribbon

Occasionally you will find a bow ribbon you want to use that only has the design on one side.

A solid satin ribbon is the same way, with the silky shine only on one side and a dull surface on the underside.

You can't use the first method illustrated because making loops would cause every other loop to not
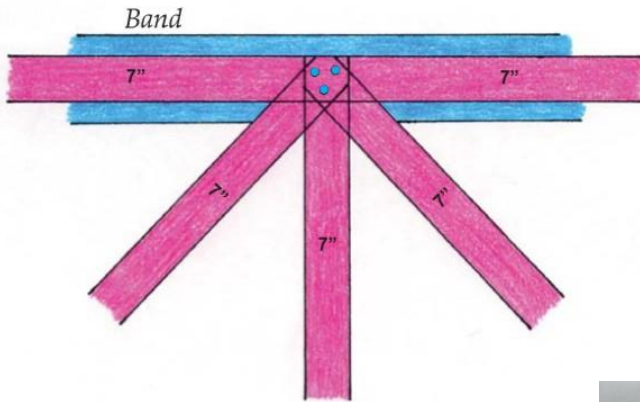

have the design show.

The second method I have shown to make a bow would work, but I prefer having more control in making my bows. When I

make my ornaments using a one-sided bow, I use 6 strips of ribbon, each one between 4" and 7" long, depending on how long and full you want your loops.

Start by making your first loop, but after each loop, cut the ribbon close to the pin

and turn the ribbon over to make your next loop. Spread your pins out in the center area, because your second bow will hide the pins from the first loops.

TIP: The photo below is an example of a red organza ribbon

that is 5/8" wide, instead of the normal 3/8".

You can use a 5/8" wide ribbon, but I only recommend using a soft ribbon like organza or satin. It will fold and lay much prettier.

Don't use a thick ribbon, like grosgrain, in any size larger than 3/8" wide.

Remember, each bow is your own personal taste and design!

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