

The Container Store®

Your Guide To Making Beautiful Bows



The Container Store® bow making experts have assembled these practical tips and helpful hints for creating handmade bows. With a little help from us, you'll delight and impress your family and friends by creating one-of-a-kind gift wrap presentations that are as special as the gift itself.

Basic Bow



Step 1

Cut ribbon to desired length. Form into two equal loops.

Hint: Double-faced ribbon works the best. Wired ribbon is also great for this bow.



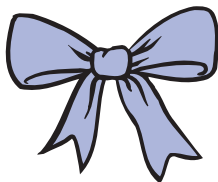
Step 2

Cross the right loop over the left loop.



Step 3

Knot the loops by pushing right loop beneath left, then pull under and through hole.



Step 4

Pull knot tight and adjust loops and tails until they are the same size. Use scissors to notch ends of ribbon.

Florist Bow



Step 1

Measure desired tail length. Twist ribbon to keep right side out. Wrap ribbon loosely around thumb to form center loop. Holding between thumb and forefinger, twist. Make first loop to desired length on one side of hand, holding ribbon between thumb and forefinger. Give ribbon a half twist.

Hint: Wired ribbon is also great for this bow.



Step 2

Make second loop on the other side of your hand returning it to thumb and forefinger, hold loop and make another half twist.



Step 3

Continue making a loop and a half twist alternating sides until you have the desired number of loops. Measure the second tail length and cut.

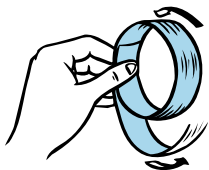


Step 4

To secure loops, insert wire around center loops, fold in half, bring wire ends to the back, pinch together and twist. Leave ample wire for attaching to gifts, wreaths etc. Trim bow tails.



Basic Pom-Pom Bow



Step 1

Form loop about 4" in diameter and wind ribbon around 12 to 15 times (you may use a 4" cardboard square as a guide to form your loops).

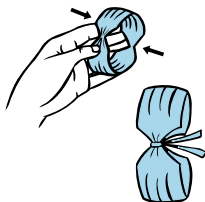
Hint: For a multi-colored Basic Pom-Pom Bow, use two ribbon colors together and wrap them around half as many times as recommended.



Step 2

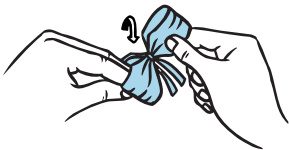
Flatten and crease loop so the inside end of the ribbon is at the top. Cut all four corners of the folded loop, cutting at a steep angle. Be careful not to cut all the way through — leave some ribbon in the center.

Hint: If using wire ribbon, omit Step 2 and tie center of bow with a wired tie.



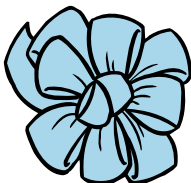
Steps 3 & 4

Push notched ends of the loops together. Firmly tie the notched center with wire or ribbon using a double knot on the left or right side of loops. Trim outside edge of tie.



Step 5

Holding ties in left hand, pull innermost loop out to right, then pull toward you with a half twist. Repeat with next loop, but twist away from you. Repeat, pulling loops and alternating twists toward and away from you until all loops from the same end are pulled out. Turn bow around so unopened loops are on top. Repeat alternate twisting, starting with innermost loop.



Step 6

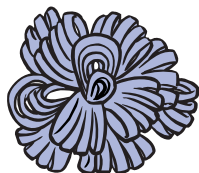
Occasionally cut ends will protrude from bow. Twist them into the bow and cut at an angle for a finished look. Hold ties and shake bow to fluff.

Chrysanthemum Bow



Step 1

Start with the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Cut four evenly spaced slits from the top of the loop toward the center. Take care not to cut too closely to the center tie.



Step 2

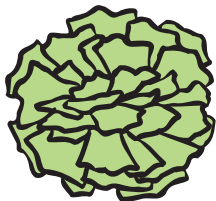
Open loops the same way as the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Hold ties and shake bow to fluff.

Carnation Bow



Step 1

Start with the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Open loops the same way as for the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Squeeze the bow tightly as shown and cut off all loop ends using a curve cut.



Step 2

Fan out and shake.

Poinsettia Bow



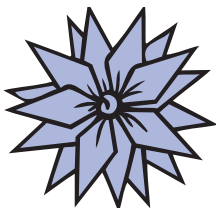
Step 1.

Start with the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Take a piece of different colored ribbon, 6" in length and tie two knots — one on top of the other in the center for the center of the poinsettia.



Step 2

Before pulling the loops out, cut the ends of the loop to form a pointed petal shape. Cut loops completely through the ribbon so each petal is separate.



Step 3

Pull out bottom petals from left to right, twisting at base where tied. Arrange top petals the same way — no twisting needed.

Hint: Use double-sided tape to attach a bow to a package.

Aster Bow



Step 1

Start with the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Make an angled cut on one side of the loop end (working from the tie inward as illustrated), to form a short pointed tip that sticks out. Turn bow around and repeat this cut on the other loop end.



Step 2

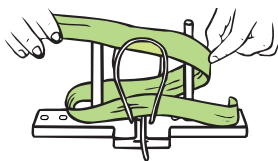
Open loops the same way as the Basic Pom-Pom Bow. Fan out and shake.

Bow Making Tools Available

The Container Store® offers a variety of tools that will ensure a professional looking bow.



Ribbon Shredder



DecoFun™ Bow Maker



Pixie Bow Maker

Gift Packaging Tips

- When selecting a gift wrap for a box, the pattern should be in proportion to the box. A smaller pattern looks better on a smaller box, and a large, bold pattern is preferable for a larger box — that way, the entire pattern is showcased on the box.
- We recommend using double-sided tape when wrapping gifts for a clean, professional presentation — no tape will be visible.
- The width of your ribbon determines the finished size of the bow. A wider ribbon needs fewer loops and results in a larger bow. A narrow ribbon will make a smaller bow, therefore more loops are needed to fill in.
- The size of the bow should be in proportion to the size of the package. Also consider the pattern of the wrap when determining the size and type of bow to use.
- Ribbon tails should be cut either diagonally or in an inverted “v.” This will give your bow a more finished look and will help to keep the ribbon from unraveling. Also, the length of the tail is important. When a tail is cut too short, the bow will look unbalanced.
- If shipping gifts, use wired ribbon, tulle, yarn or cording to avoid crushed or damaged bows. Wired ribbon is very forgiving and can be fluffed once the package reaches its destination.
- Have fun and be creative!