

## Bow Making General Instructions by Ben Franklin Crafts

We suggest that you read through our numbered step-by-step instructions first, to familiarize yourself with the process of gathering between thumb and index finger. It's best to practice the procedure on a scrap of ribbon until you are comfortable with the technique. As with any ribbon craft, make sure that you have scissors and wire on hand.

To figure out approximately how much ribbon you will need, simply follow this general formula: Determine how long each loop will be. Multiply this length by 2 and then multiply this figure by the number of loops desired. This will give you the total number of inches needed for a bow without tails. Add the total inches required for your bow tails to the previous figure. Divide by 35 to determine the actual yardage.

### Make a Bow

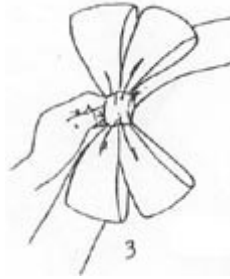
**Step 1:** Begin by leaving a tail length of 8" or more and gather the center between thumb and index finger.



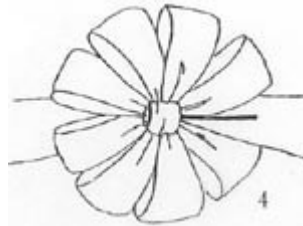
**Step 2:** Bring ribbon up and back down, forming a loop. Gather firmly between thumb and index finger. Then bring ribbon down and back up to form another loop and again pinch it into place between thumb and index finger.



**Step 3:** Repeat the process of forming loops until you have made half of the total loops desired. At this time, make a center knot or nose by forming a small loop up over your thumb. Gather and pinch this loop into place.



**Step 4:** Continue to make remaining loops desired. Cut off ribbon end leaving a tail length of 8" or more. Secure gathered area with a length of wire through center knot and around to back of bow. Fasten wire and twist the bow a few turns in the same direction to finish. Adjust loops to form a nicely shaped bow; notch or cut tail ends.



#### **Designer Tips:**

Create a fuller and softly rounded bow by adding on an extra loop on one side of your bow.

For a multi-colored bow, work two (or even three) ribbon layers together. Simply lay narrow ribbons over wider ribbon widths and handle together as one.

For a two-tone effect, fasten a smaller bow into the center of a larger bow which is created without a nose.