Bow Instructions (for wired ribbon)

1. Using Costco 1.75" - 3" wide wired ribbon, cut end of ribbon at an angle. Wrap ribbon a minimum of 4 complete times (4 loops on each end) around an 8.5" piece of cardboard. Be sure to start the cut end below center of the cardboard by at least an inch, and end the final loop an inch past center also. Cut the end at an angle.

2. Remove the ribbon from the cardboard and fold the circle of loops in half. Using strong scissors, cut a wedge out of the center of the ribbon along the fold, being careful not to cut the wired edges of the ribbon. Ideally the wedge should be about 1/2" deep and leave about 1/4" of ribbon next to the wired edges. You may need to fold in both directions and cut from each side. Removing this wedge of ribbon reduces bulk at the center of the bow.

3. Open the folded ribbon out, keeping a firm grip on the center where you have made the cut. Bunch up the ribbon at the middle and fold a straight 12" piece of wire in half over the cut. Twist the wire as close as possible to the ribbon. Using pliers, give the wire a couple of twists to cinch it up and hold the ribbon tightly. If you twist too many times the wire will break however, and you'll need to add another piece of wire.

4. Cut a 15" length of the same ribbon, with angled cuts on both ends. Bunch up the center of this piece and place it on top of the twisted wire holding the loops. Give the wire another couple tight twists. This piece will form the tail of the bow.

5. Starting from the inside-most loop (or cut end piece) on one end, pull each loop alternately to the left and right and, holding as close to the center as possible, give each loop a hard 360º twist while pulling up a bit. The wire in the ribbon will help hold the twist, but you need to pinch the loop as close to the center as possible. When you have pulled and twisted all the loops on one half, repeat on the opposite side, always starting from the inside loop, and alternately pulling to the left and right.

6. When all loops have been twisted, turn the bow right side up and, using the wired edges, shape each loop into a nice circle and arrange the loops so they fill out the bow.

NOTE: If making bows from un-wired ribbon, the technique is basically the same except that you don't cut a wedge out of the center of the ribbon, instead you cut a triangle off each side of the folded loops, on the outside of the ribbon, leaving a small amount of ribbon in the center. You can use another piece of ribbon to tie up the center instead of the wire, especially when making bows for packages, etc.

Depending upon the width of your ribbon, you will want to adjust the size cardboard you use to wrap around and the number of wraps you make.