

## Bow Instructions for Swags & Wreaths

1. Use 1-3/4" - 3" wide wired ribbon (great price & selection at Costco). Cut the end of ribbon at an angle, cutting the wire edge either with wire cutters or the very farthest inside part of your scissors so you don't wreck your scissors. Wrap ribbon a minimum of 4 complete times (4 loops on each end) around an 8.5" piece of cardboard. Start the cut end at the edge of the cardboard and end the final loop at the end also. Cut the ribbon's end at an angle.
2. Remove the loops of ribbon carefully 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 edge 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 the loops in both directions and cut from each side. Removing this wedge of ribbon reduces bulk at the center of the bow.
3. Unfold the loops, keeping a firm grip on the center where you have made the cut. Bunch up the ribbon at the middle and fold a 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 center of 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 on one end (or cut end piece), pull each loop alternately to the left and right and, holding as close to the center as possible, give each loop a hard 360° 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 and twisting each loop 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. You also can eliminate the tail piece if using the bow for a package.

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