

If you're interested in making bows for profit, and BELIEVE ME, it can be done, please see my site www.bowbusiness.com for my ebook, "How to Start a Hair Bow Business." It's a fun and very profitable way to make money as a stay-at-home, work-at-home mom! Be with your babies while you make them precious hair bows and earn money at the same time!

How to Make Simple, Basic Grosgrain Toddler Bows.

First of all, you need to know what kind of ribbon to use. The best kind of ribbon for any bow is grosgrain ribbon.

The basic grosgrain toddler bow (can really be worn by girl of any size, but it's small enough not to overwhelm a little toddlers head.) is made of 7/8 inch grosgrain ribbon.

The finished bow will look like this: (apologies for the picture quality)...



Complete List of Materials needed to make this bow:

- Super sharp scissors
- Very fine, lightweight floral wire or thread (depending on whether you want to hand sew your bows)
- If thread, a small needle
- Hot or cool glue gun
- Hot or cool glue sticks
- Approx 30 inches of 7/8 inch high quality grosgrain ribbon
- Approx 3 inches 1/2 inch high quality grosgrain ribbon of same color
- A single or double pronged alligator clip
- Fray-check (can be found at local craft store)

Step One:

Plug in hot glue gun and prop in an easily accessible place.

Cut about one foot of thread and thread needle, or cut about 4 inches of the floral wire.

Thread your needle

Cut your ribbon to approx. 30 inches (the length of the ribbon will determine the size of your bow), diagonal direction at each end.



Fray check each end. Ends will dry quickly while you're working with the ribbon. No need to wait.

Step Two: Tying the Bow

The Good news is this - once you've accomplished this step of making this bow, making all other bows (beside korkers, which aren't difficult at all) will be fairly simple to you!!!

The bad news.... This is the hardest part!!

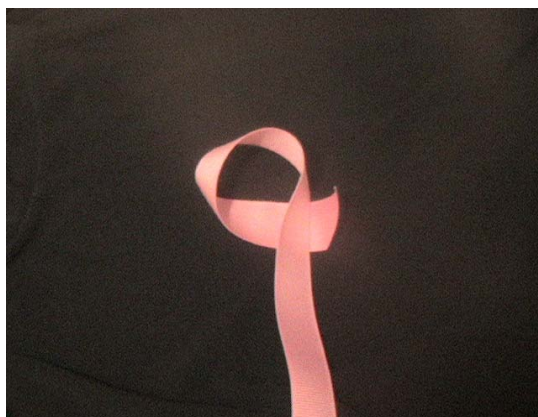
First let me give you a little instruction on how to read these directions.

When I refer to inches, that means inches down from the very tip of the ribbon. Hold your ribbon vertically, and starting from the very top of the ribbon, *5 inches down* means 5 inches down from the very top of the ribbon.

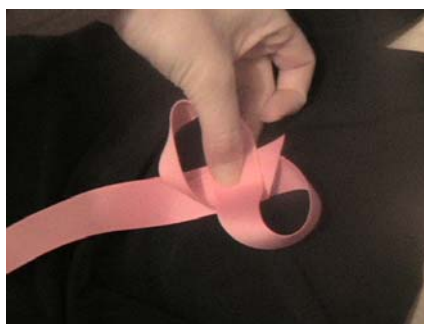


Now... hold your ribbon vertically, and hold it in place at *5 inches down*. With your thumb on the front and pointer finger on the back.

Loop the ribbon by pulling the remaining 25 inches around and over to the top of where your thumb originally was placed. This should leave a tail of ribbon approx. 1 inch to two inches long at the end. The crossover, where the ribbon meets in the center, will be where you need to hold tight for the rest of the process.



Next, while holding your ribbon in the same position as pictured here (make sure the ribbon crosses over on top) fold the remaining ribbon up and under the starting point, with just enough length to make the size of the loops match, and turn the ribbon horizontally to lay directly under the tail and beginning of the first loop. Pull the remaining ribbon under and over to the left side of the bow (the left loop).



Now, once your ribbon looks as pictured above, you will work to make your third loop. Pull the remaining ribbon (the part that is laying horizontally up and over the center to form your third loop. Continue to hold the center tightly while you are working. The more firmly you hold your ribbon in place at the center, the better your bow will look.

To make the last loop you will simply pull the remaining ribbon around and down to lay it, again, horizontally beneath the center of the bow.



Mission Accomplished!! The hardest part is over. Now for putting the finishing touches on your bow. But, you must be careful during the final stages to ensure your bows shape will look as good as it did when you finished tying it. Sometimes finishing the bow is crucial to its final look and shape.

Step Three:

While continuing to hold your bow firmly in the center, you should take your hot glue gun, and CAREFULLY dab a VERY small amount (it won't take much, don't glop) between each places where the ribbon meets in the center (four places). Doing this will ensure the ribbons will stay put while you continue to put your final touches on the bow.

Next, you will either hand-sew or wire your bow together.

Hand-sew: If you plan to make these bows to sell (it can be a very profitable business, and very fun too!) most customers prefer that their bows are hand-sewn. There's something warm and cozy about the thought of the bows being "hand-sewn," and they are more likely to be made to last.

With your threaded needle, insert from the bottom in the center (careful, sometimes sewing through the dabs of hot glue can be tough). Come up through the center at the top, and repeat this step a couple of times until you feel like the bow is secured will in the center. **DON'T CUT YOUR THREAD JUST YET!!**

Next, you will tighten your bow. With your needle and thread in hand, pull the thread around the center of the bow and wrap it tightly around several times. Pull the center of the bow as tightly as you can, and once you feel it is nice and secure, stab the bow, once again, in the center and after coming out at the bottom center of the bow, tie a double knot in your thread and cut.

Your bow should now be nice and tight, and have a beautiful shape.



Not finished just yet!! Step Five: Topping it Off

The center of the bow must be covered with something. This type of bow is usually covered with either $\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch grosgrain of the same color.

Cut about 5 inches (you won't use all of it) of the matching grosgrain ($\frac{1}{2}$ for more tightly pulled bows).

If you prefer, you can tie the ribbon into a little knot, and place the knot on the top. With or without a knot, dab a little bit of hot glue at the very front, center of your bow (not the back, you'll see why later). **CAREFUL NOT TO GET GLUE ON THE PARTS OF THE BOW THAT WILL BE SEEN!!** Center the ribbon on top of the glue, press firmly and then bring the ends of the ribbon to the back.

Glue one end of the ribbon at the very end, and pull it as far to the top back of the bow as possible. Press firmly. (you will need to leave the center back of the bow without any glue because this is where you will need to insert your clip.

Pull the other end of the ribbon over the very top (you may have to trim to be just the right length) of the other glued end of the ribbon, and glue it and press firmly. This should be done so that the ribbon on the back is glued down nicely, with the center being free from glue so that the alligator clip will slip in underneath the ribbon.

Step Six: Clip It!!

Now that you have a beautiful bow, you must have a way to attach it to the precious hair it is intended for. The simplest way to ensure your alligator clips stay on is to clip it open, and carefully insert the bottom of the clip beneath the $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ ribbon on the back. Make sure the clip is right side up. Close the clip where the bottom part of the clip is beneath the ribbon, and the top, closing part of the clip is on top of the ribbon. Now carefully dab a little glue on the bottom of the end of the alligator clip pincher, so that it is firmly glued to the back of the bow.

Tah Dah!!! Your bow is complete. You should also know that your bow may not look perfect the first time. It takes a lot of trial and error, and practice to make a bow just right. However, once you've done it a couple of times, you will have mastered the skill, and probably found your own tricks to getting it right your own way. And... please remember to look at directions on how to make all of the other bows at my website : www.bowbusiness.com