

Birthday Hair Bow Style 1

Bowdabra® Hair Bow Tool & Ruler

+ Materials Needed:

- Mini Bowdabra
- Bow Wire
- Hair Bow Tool for Mini Bowdabra
- 18'' Happy Birthday Ribbon
- 18'' Green White Gingham
- 18'' Pink White Gingham
- 6'' Green White Gingham for Finishing Knot
- Alligator Clip



+ Step 1:

Begin by gathering your materials. You will need a Mini Bowdabra, Bowdabra Hair Bow Tool and Ruler, and Bowdabra Bow Wire.



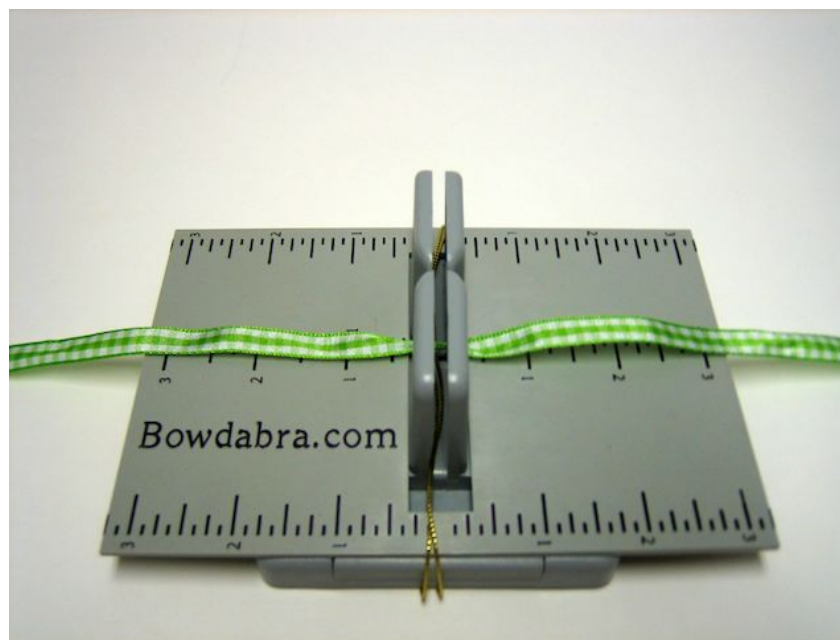
+ Step 2:

Place the Bowdabra® Hair Bow Tool and Ruler onto the Mini Bowdabra, leaving a space at the bottom for the Mini Bowdabra tower to move. Cut an 18" piece of Bowdabra Bow Wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Mini Bowdabra. You'll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.



+ Step 3:

Cut an 18" piece of Green & White Gingham. Fold the ribbon in half to find the center point. Make a crease in the center. Place the ribbon at the crease mark down into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.



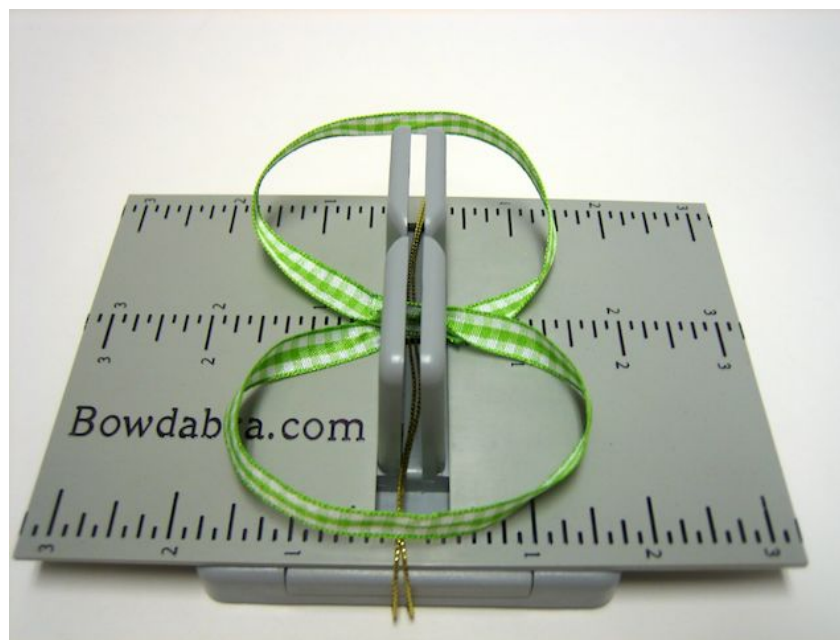
+ Step 4:

Grab the very end of one side of the ribbon. Fold the end piece right side down into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.



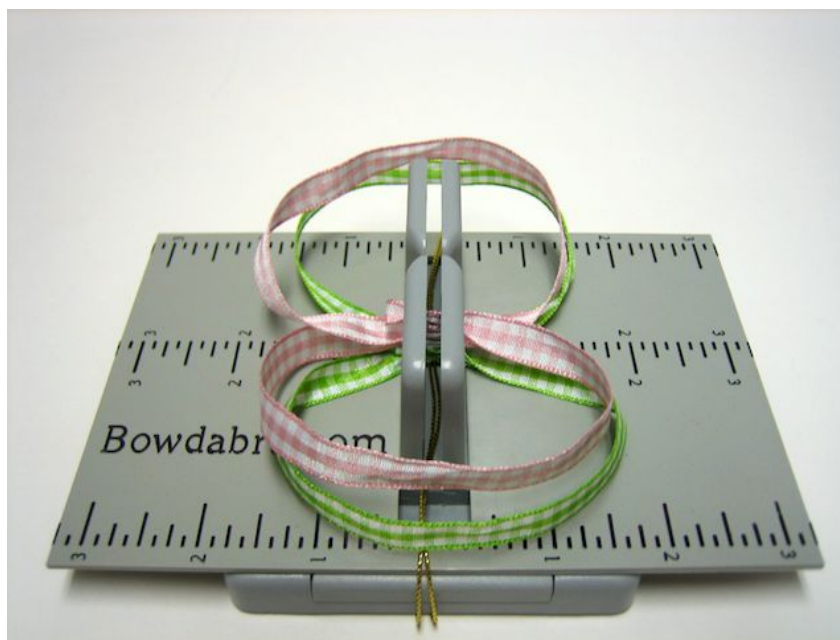
+ Step 5:

Grab the very end of the other side of the ribbon. Place that end into the center of the Mini Bowdabra. Place each loop on either side of the Mini Bowdabra tower.



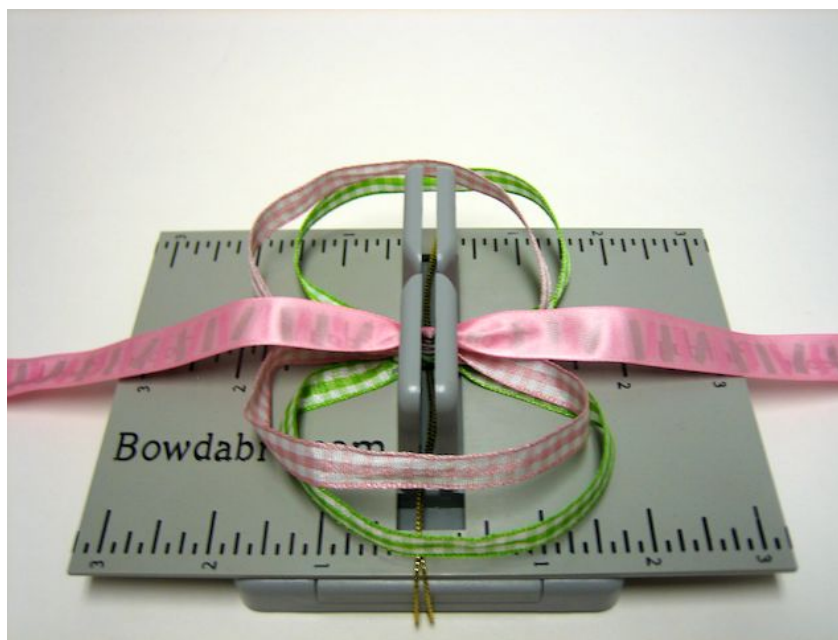
+ Step 6:

Repeat Steps 3 – 5 using the 18” of the Pink and White Gingham ribbon.



+ Step 7:

Cut 18" of the Happy Birthday ribbon. Begin by cutting about a $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the word "Happy" and end about $\frac{1}{4}$ " after the "Y" in Birthday. Fold the ribbon in half to find the center point. Make a crease in the center. Place the ribbon at the crease mark down (print side down) into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.



+ Step 8:

To make your first loop, fold at the 2.25" mark, make a crease into the ribbon and press into the Mini Bowdabra. Extend tail down at an angle. Author's Notes – The loop is a little larger than the gingham so that "Birthday" can easily be read on the ribbon.



+ Step 9:

Make a 2.25" loop on the either side. Extend tail up at an angle.



+ Step 10:

One at a time starting with the pink gingham crease and press the ribbon loops into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.



+ Step 11:

Next, crease and press the green gingham in the the Mini Bowdabra.



+ Step 12:

Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra Wand.



+ Step 13:

While the bow is still in the Mini Bowdabra, thread the two loose ends of the Mini Bowdabra Bow Wire through the loop at the other end.



+ Step 14:

Pull the Bowdabra Bow Wire tightly while the bow is still in the Mini Bowdabra.



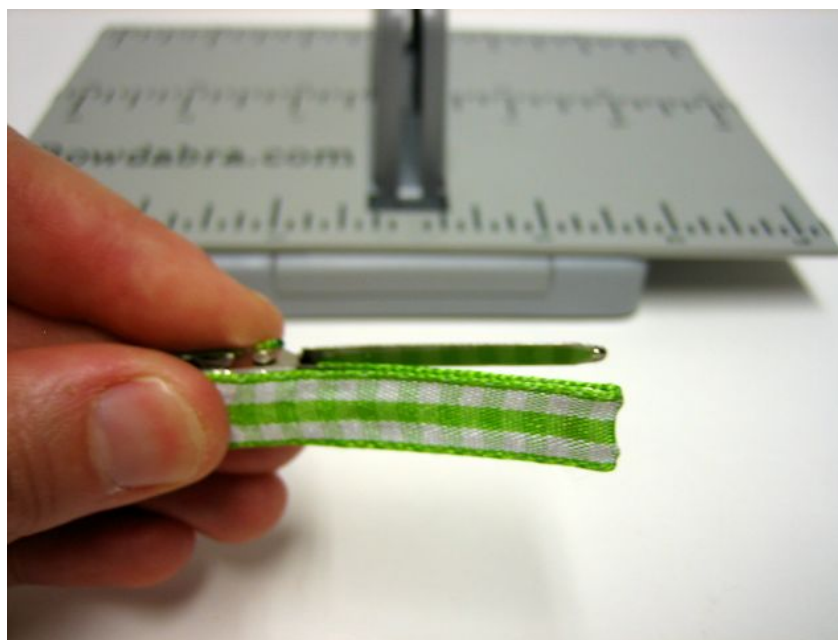
+ Step 15:

Gently pull the bow out of the Mini Bowdabra.
Separate the two loose ends of the Bowdabra Bow Wire and bring them around to the back of the bow and knot.



+ Step 16:

Optional: Cover an alligator clip with Green and White Gingham ribbon. Use a hot glue gun to attach the ribbon to the clip.



+ Step 17:

Tie the bow onto the front of the alligator clip using the Bowdabra Bow wire. Cover the Bowdabra Bow wire with a finishing knot. Either hot glue the finishing knot onto the bow or use glue dots.





Frequently Asked Questions



- **Can I use any type of ribbon when making hair bows?** All hair bow directions can be used with any style ribbon (organza, grosgrain, and stain).
- **How do I know which hair bow should be attached to which hair bow clip?** Experiment with different hair bow clips to determine which one is best for your application. It has less to do with the style of the bow and more to do with the type of hair the bow is going into.
- **Do I have to use Bowdabra Bow Wire?** Bowdabra Bow Wire is essential for making these hair bows. The design of the Bowdabra Bow Wire holds everything together tightly and makes for a long lasting sturdy hair bow. Bowdabra Bow Wire and Bowdabra Products can be found on the shelves of Michaels, A.C. Moore, Hancock Fabrics, Joann Fabrics, Pat Catan's, & Walmart.
- **How do I keep my stacked bows tight one on top of the other?** After you have tied the bows one on top of the other. Twist each individual bow clockwise to pull the Bowdabra Bow Wire tightly.
- **Why do my hair bows not look like the ones in the picture?** It is important to not skip any steps. Remember to always scrunch down the bow with your Mini Bowdabra Bow Wand, as well as pull your Bowdabra Bow Wire tightly while the bow is still inside the Mini Bowdabra. And always remember to fluff and shape your bow when you are done!
- **How do I keep my hair bows shape?** Once bow is made and shaped spray your bow with a regular starch according to the manufacture's directions. Let the bow dry for 1 – 2 minutes before using.
- **What is the best way to store my hair bows?** The best way to store hair bows is to make a hair bow holder . A hair bow holder keeps bows from getting crushed and /or misshapen in storage.
- **How do I keep my hair bows in fine hair?** To prevent hair bows from slipping out of fine hair; glue on the top-underneath of hair clips small strips of latex free (in case of allergies) shelf lining.



Making creases

When making ribbon creases prior to setting them into the Mini Bowdabra Tower there are two separate types; “Mountain Up” and “Mountain Down”.



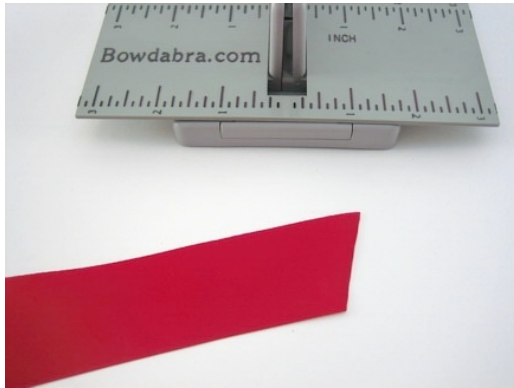
A “Mountain Down” crease is used when first beginning your bow. To make the crease pinch sides in and push center down. Place the “Mountain Down” crease into the Mini Bowdabra.



When making your bow loops pinch ribbon sides and push the center up. Press “Mountain Up” crease into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.

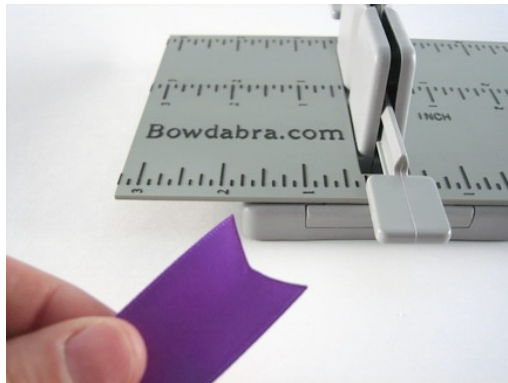


Finishing Ribbon ends



Diagonal Cut:

Position your scissors at an angle and cut the ribbon in a slant.



Dove-Tail:

Dovetail both ends: fold the ribbon in half lengthwise. Position your scissors at the folded edge of the ribbon and cut the end at a 45° angle. Unfold your ribbon and you have a professional, finished look to your ribbon tails.



Sealing ribbon



- **Bowdabra® recommends using clear nail polish to seal the ends of ribbon and prevent fraying. Clear nail polish dries quickly and allows all ages to participate in bow making, safely.**
- A fray blocker can also be used at the end of ribbons and is available at any local craft store.
- Placing the ends of the ribbon over the flame of a lighter can also seal the ribbon. However, extreme caution should be used! The flame can darken ribbon or even set the ribbon on fire.
- Another alternative for sealing ribbon is using a wood burning tool. Many professional bow makers choose to use a wood burning tool.



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