

WELCOME to the World of Bowdabra ...



Sandy Sandler
Inventor

Welcome to the World of Bowdabra ... where making spectacular bows and designer crafts is always 'quick, easy and fun!' Bowdabra's patented spring technology was developed to act as a third hand, holding your materials in place, freeing you to unleash your creativity.

Bowdabra makes you an expert. You'll be able to make professional bows as well as a host of designer craft projects that will enhance your home decor, jazz up holiday decor, create elegant gifts and spectacular candles, spruce up a party or help you design a dream wedding. You'll love creating 'quick, easy and fun' crafts with the Bowdabra.

Get inspired with Bowdabra!

Discover wonderful ideas and projects at
www.bowdabra.com

Bowdabra®

The Craft Tool to Unleash Your Creativity

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Crafting with Bowdabra

BOWDABRA BASIC TECHNIQUES

Quick Reference
Instruction Booklet

•
Bowdabra
Bow Styles

•
Tips, Terms &
Techniques



FOLD BOW



MINI FOLD
& TWIST



SWAG



FOLD & TWIST BOW



BUTTERFLY BOW



SCRUNCHY BOW



Bowdabra

The Craft Tool to
Unleash Your Creativity

Tips, Terms & Techniques

Make spectacular bows and craft projects every time with these 'Tips, Terms & Techniques'

Unleash your creativity

Have fun experimenting with ribbons, florals and color schemes that compliment your home and your personal style. Let your instincts guide you on your journey into design.

BOWDABRA BOW WIRE

Bowdabra bow wire is our preference, but feel free to experiment with different types of tying materials such as floral wire, strong curling ribbon, hemp or anything you would normally use to tie off a bow.

To tie off a bow, using the Bowdabra bow wire, simply pinch the bow wire securely against the bow. Twist the bow 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction.

To tie off a bow using bow tie, secure with a knot.

DOVETAILS



Dovetailing the ends of the tails creates a finished quality to any bow.

1. Fold the ribbon in half lengthwise.
2. Position your scissors at the folded edge of the ribbon and cut the end at a 45° angle. *See illustration.*
3. Unfold your ribbon and you have a professional, finished look to your ribbon tails.



FOLD RIBBON LENGTHWISE



OPEN UP

Tips, Terms & Techniques



FLUFF & SHAPE

Fluffing & Shaping a Bow is positioning each loop of the bow to create a beautifully shaped bow. Starting from the back of the



bow and working your way forward, firmly, but gently, pull the loops in opposite directions. Continue moving and positioning each loop until you're happy with the shape of the bow.

If the bow is going to be placed on a wreath, a package, or any other



item, you'll want to partially fluff and shape it. Once you have secured the bow on the item, then complete the fluffing & shaping.

Fluffing & Shaping a Swag or Floral Arrangement

shape the overall arrangement by bending the floral stems, leaves and greenery to give your arrangement a designer look.

LOOP SIZE

To determine the number and size of loops to create when using different widths of ribbon refer to the *'Ribbon Width Chart'* pg 15.

For example, if you choose to create a 5" loop you need a 10" length of ribbon.

Tips, Terms & Techniques



RIBBON WIDTH CHART

Refer to this chart any time you need help in determining the number and size of loops to create when using different widths of ribbon.

| Ribbon Weight | Ribbon # * | Ribbon Width | Bow Diameter | Loop Size ² | # of Loops per Side ³ |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Light ¹ | # 3 | 5/8" | 3 - 4" | 1.5 - 2" | 10 - 12 |
| Heavy ¹ | # 3 | 5/8" | 3 - 4" | 1.5 - 2" | 8 - 10 |
| Light ¹ | # 5 | 1" | 5 - 6" | 2.5 - 3" | 10 - 12 |
| Heavy ¹ | # 5 | 1" | 5 - 6" | 2.5 - 3" | 8 - 10 |
| Light ¹ | # 9 | 1-7/16" | 6 - 8" | 3 - 4" | 8 - 10 |
| Heavy ¹ | # 9 | 1-7/16" | 6 - 8" | 3 - 4" | 6 - 8 |
| Light ¹ | # 40 | 2-5/8" | 10 - 12" | 5 - 6" | 8 - 10 |
| Heavy ¹ | # 40 | 2-5/8" | 10 - 12" | 5 - 6" | 6 - 8 |

¹ *Light & Heavy refer to the weight of the ribbon. For example, a sheer or an organza would be considered light. A velvet ribbon would be heavy.*

² *The size of the loop is an approximation. If you decide to make a 5" loop, this will require 10" of ribbon. Don't worry about perfectly measuring your loops. The loops in a hand tied bow are never exactly even.*

³ *The number of loops refer to the number of loops per side of the Bowdabra. This is only a guide. Use your creative discretion.*

* *This # refers to an industry standard for ribbon width.*

RIGHT SIDE

Most ribbons have 2 sides that look very different from one another. The *right side* refers to the side of the ribbon that you want to have showing on the outside of the loop once the bow is complete.

Tips, Terms & Techniques



SCRUNCH

Grasp the ribbon at both edges of one end of your length of ribbon and feed the ribbon into the Bowdabra. The ribbon quickly piles up like an accordion.



SCRUNCH DOWN

Use your Bowdabra wand to push down the materials to make it easier to tie off the bow.



TAILS - LENGTH*

The length of a bow's tails is generally three times the size of the bow. See the chart below for some detailed examples.

| Loop Size | Finished Bow Width | Tail Length | Ribbon Required |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1.5" | 3" | 9" | 18" |
| 2" | 4" | 12" | 24" |
| 2.5" | 5" | 15" | 30" |
| 3" | 6" | 18" | 36" |
| 4" | 8" | 24" | 48" |
| 5" | 10" | 30" | 60" |
| 6" | 12" | 36" | 72" |

* *Feel free to create tails that are even or uneven in length. There are no set rules. Let your creative eye be the judge.*

Tips, Terms & Techniques



TAILS - Option 1



Create tails any length you wish!

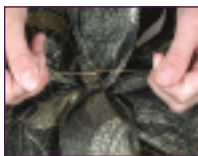
Tails is a term used to describe the extra ribbon that flows from a bow.



1. Decide upon the length of tails you desire. For example ~ two 10" tails. Add the two lengths together ($10'' + 10'' = 20''$) and cut that measurement of ribbon (20"). Fold the ribbon in half.



2. Decide exactly how you want your tails positioned. You can either center the ribbon to create even tails, or off-center the ribbon for uneven tails. Position the ribbon so its right side is facing the back of the bow.



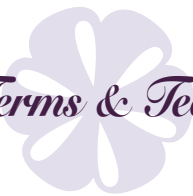
3. Using the excess Bowdabra bow wire that you used to create your bow*, attach the tails. Secure by twisting or by tying a knot.

Fluff and shape the bow.

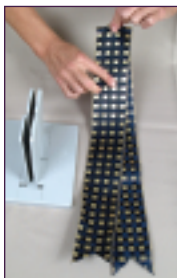
Dovetail the tails if desired.

** If the bow wire is too short, cut a 6" piece of Bowdabra bow wire. Attach the wire to your bow and then proceed to secure your tails to this new bow wire.*

Tips, Terms & Techniques

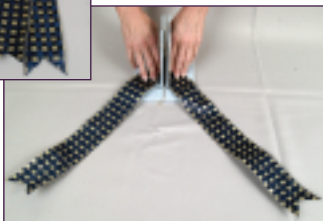


TAILS - Option 2



Follow this 2nd Tail Technique when you know that you want tails when you are making your bow.

1. Decide upon the length of tails you desire. For example ~ two 10" tails. Add the two lengths together ($10'' + 10'' = 20''$) and cut that measurement of ribbon (20"). Dovetail the ends.



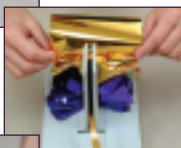
2. Cut a 24" piece of Bowdabra bow wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Bowdabra.
3. Center your tails in the Bowdabra, right side up.
4. Continue to make your bow on top of the tails. Tie off your bow.
5. Fluff and shape the bow.
6. Now you have a professional looking bow with elegant tails.

Scrunchy Bow

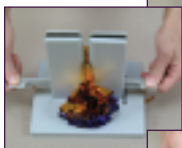
Use any type of ribbon for this unique bow.
It's so quick, easy and fun!



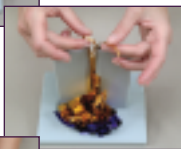
1. Cut a 24" piece of bow tie. Fold it in half and lay it into the Bowdabra.



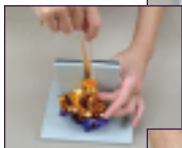
2. Cut a 2 foot length of metallic ribbon*. *Scrunch* it into the Bowdabra. The ribbon piles up like an accordion.



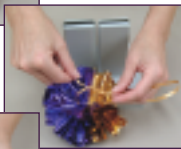
3. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



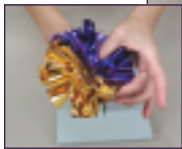
4. Grasp the loose ends of the bow tie and feed it through the loop.



5. Pull the bow tie tightly while the bow is still in the Bowdabra.



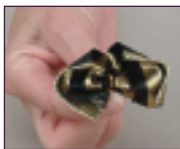
6. Take the bow out of the Bowdabra. Separate the two loose ends of the bow tie and bring them around to the back of the bow. To secure tie a knot.



7. Fluff the bow.

The size of your bow is determined by the width and the quantity of ribbon you use. The more ribbon you use, the puffier your bow will be.

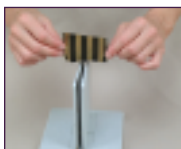
Mini-Scrunchy Bow



*A perfect sized bow
for the smallest package.*



1. Fold a 24" piece of bow tie in half and lay it into the Bowdabra.



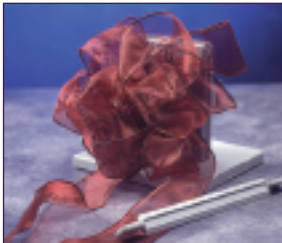
2. Cut a small piece of ribbon anywhere from 1 inch to 4 inches in length. Grasp the ribbon by its width and *scrunch* it into the Bowdabra. The ribbon piles up like an accordion.

3. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.
4. Grasp the loose ends of the bow tie and feed it through the loop.
5. Pull the bow tie tightly while the bow is still in the Bowdabra.
6. Take the bow out of the Bowdabra. Separate the two loose ends of the bow tie and bring them around to the back of the bow. To secure, tie a knot. Fluff the bow.

Creative Hint

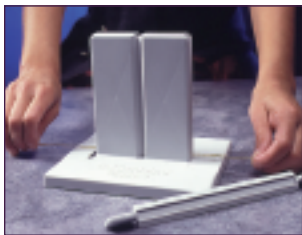
Mini Scrunchy Bows are a great way to utilize the smallest remnants and create a bow that will suit your smallest package design.

Fold Bow

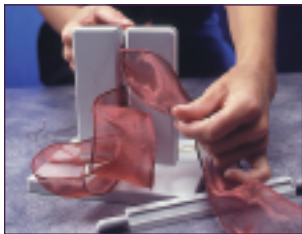


It's so easy to make a fabulous bow with the Bowdabra!

This technique is great for ribbon that is the same on both sides.



1. Cut a 24" piece of Bowdabra bow wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Bowdabra. *You'll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.*

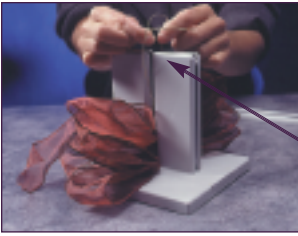


2. First, determine the length of your tails. Lay your ribbon into the Bowdabra. Decide how big you want your loops.* To make your first loop, fold the ribbon and press into the Bowdabra. Continue folding the ribbon back and forth until you have created as many loops as you desire.



3. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.

* To determine the size of bow and the number of loops it will require, refer to the 'Ribbon Width Chart' on page 3.



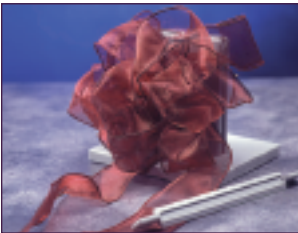
4. While the bow is still in the Bowdabra, thread the two loose ends of the Bowdabra bow wire through the loop at the other end.



5. Pull the bow wire tightly while the bow is still in the Bowdabra.



6. Gently pull the bow out of the Bowdabra. Separate the two loose ends of the bow wire and bring them around to the back of the bow. To tie off the bow, pinch the bow wire securely against the bow. Twist the bow 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction.



7. Fluff and shape the bow. *Refer to 'Fluffing & Shaping' on page 2 for detailed instructions.*

*If you want to add long tails,
refer to 'Tails' on page 4
for detailed instructions.*

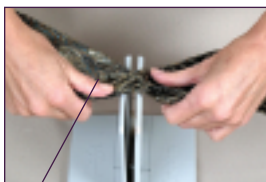
Fold & Twist Bow



A very simple technique to use when using 2-sided or very thick ribbon.

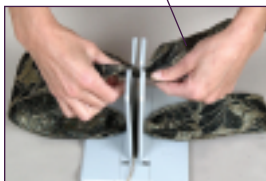


1. Cut a 24" piece of Bowdabra bow wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Bowdabra. *You'll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.*



2. Take the end of the ribbon and twist the side that has the longest end and place it **right side facing downwards** (see definition page 3) into the Bowdabra. This is the beginning of your first loop.

Right side facing down



3. FOLD the ribbon to make a loop* (ie: 5" loop which will require 10" of ribbon). TWIST the ribbon 180° and press down into the Bowdabra. The **right side** of the ribbon will now be **facing down**, ready for your next loop.



4. Repeat this step. You'll now have a loop on each side of the Bowdabra.

** To determine the loop size refer to 'Ribbon Width Chart', page 3.*



5. Continue to create as many loops as you desire. *For guidance refer to the 'Ribbon Width Chart' on page 3.*



6. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



7. While the bow is still in the Bowdabra, thread the two loose ends of the Bowdabra bow wire through the loop at the other end.



8. Pull the bow wire tightly while the bow is still in the Bowdabra.



9. Gently pull the bow out of the Bowdabra. Separate the two loose ends of the bow wire and bring them around to the back of the bow. To tie off the bow, pinch the bow wire securely against the bow. Twist the bow 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction.



10. Fluff and shape the bow. *Refer to 'Fluffing & Shaping' on page 2.*

If you want to add long tails, refer to 'Tails' on page 4 for instructions.



Mini Fold & Twist Bow



The Mini Fold & Twist Bow is the perfect size for those small packages and projects.

This technique works great with a Mini Fold Bow too!



1. Cut a 24" piece of Bowdabra bow wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Bowdabra. You'll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.

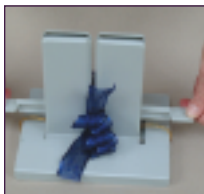
The key to making a MINI BOW is to work in the upper region of your Bowdabra. As you add more loops, they will work their way down the Bowdabra.



2. Just as with the large Fold & Twist Bow, begin by folding the ribbon to make your loop (1.5" to 2"). TWIST the ribbon 180° and press down into the Bowdabra.



3. Continue to create as many loops as you desire. Refer to the 'Ribbon Width Chart' on page 3 for guidance.



4. ***Complete ALL OF YOUR LOOPS BEFORE scrunching your ribbon down.*** When you have as many loops as you desire, use your Bowdabra wand to scrunch the ribbon down.



5. While the bow is still in the Bowdabra, thread the two loose ends of the bow wire through the loop at the other end. Pull the bow wire tightly while the bow is still in the Bowdabra.

6. Gently pull the bow out of the Bowdabra. Separate the two loose ends of the bow wire and bring them around to the back of the bow. To tie off the bow, pinch the bow wire securely against the bow. Twist the bow 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction.

7. Fluff and shape the bow. *For detailed instructions refer to 'Fluffing & Shaping' on page 2.*



Butterfly Bow

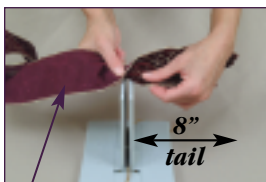
with floral loop



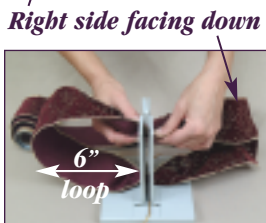
A very simple technique makes a professional bow ~ large or small. All you have to do is graduate the loops in size.



1. Cut a 24" piece of Bowdabra bow wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Bowdabra. *You'll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.*



2. Determine the length of tail you desire (*ie: 8" tail*). Measure your ribbon and at the 8" point, twist the ribbon. Place the ribbon **right side facing downwards** (*see pg 3 for definition*) into the Bowdabra. This is the beginning of your first loop.

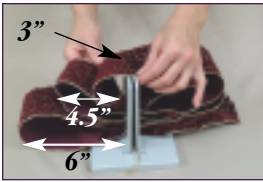


3. FOLD the ribbon to make a loop* (*ie: 6" loop which will require 12" of ribbon*). TWIST the ribbon 180° and press down into the Bowdabra. The **right side** of the ribbon will now be **facing down**, ready for your next loop. Repeat this step. You'll now have a loop on each side of the Bowdabra.



4. Repeat step 3, making a smaller loop (*ie: 4-1/2" loop*) on each side of the Bowdabra.

** To determine the loop size refer to 'Ribbon Width Chart', page 3.*



5. Now you'll have 2 loops on each side of the Bowdabra. Make one more loop, half the size of the previous 2 loops. (*ie: 3" loop*). Leave 8" of extra ribbon trailing out from the last loop. You'll use this piece as your second tail.



6. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



7. While the bow is still in the Bowdabra, tie off the bow by threading the two loose ends of the bow wire through the loop at the other end. Pull the bow wire tightly before removing from the Bowdabra.



8. Separate the two loose ends of the bow wire. Gently pull the bow out of the Bowdabra.



9. Bring the Bowdabra bow wire ends around to the back of the bow. To tie off the bow, pinch the bow wire securely against the bow. Twist the bow 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction.



10. Starting with the center loop, fluff and shape it so that it covers the bow wire. Proceed to fluff and shape the rest of the bow.

Dovetail the tails to create a professional floral bow. See page 1 for instructions.





An exquisite way to dress up a picture or mantel in every season



1. Fold a 24" piece of bow tie* or hemp in half and lay it into the Bowdabra.
** Feel free to use Bowdabra Bow Wire, hemp or any other tying material.*



2. Lay the eucalyptus spray (approximately 18"**) into the Bowdabra. Lay in the second eucalyptus spray on the opposite side of the Bowdabra.



3. On top of the eucalyptus, lay down 2 orchid sprays and 2 day lilies, one stem of each type on each side of the Bowdabra.

*** Please note that these measurements are only approximations.*



4. Center a 1' piece of #40 ribbon in the Bowdabra to create a 6" tail on each side (*see 'Tails', pg 4*). Now, make a Fold & Twist bow on top of your tails. Using 6' of the same #40 ribbon, make 9 four-inch loops. *For 'Fold & Twist Bow' instructions, refer to page 11*. Scrunch materials down with the Bowdabra wand.
5. While the swag is still in the Bowdabra, tie off the swag by threading the two loose ends of the bow tie through the loop at the other end. Pull the bow tie tightly before removing the swag from the Bowdabra.
6. Bring the bow tie ends around to the back of the swag. Secure tightly with a knot. Trim excess bow tie ends.
7. Dovetail both ends of the 1' piece of #40 ribbon. *See 'Dovetails', page 1 for instructions*.
8. Trim excess bow tie or hemp. Fluff and shape the bow and the florals. *See 'Fluffing & Shaping', pg 2 for instructions*.

Feel free to use flowers and foliage that compliment your decor.