

Bowdabra®

Bow Maker, Favor Maker & Craft Tool

“Green” Holiday Decorating Project Ideas!



Step-By-Step
Instructions With Pictures

“Green” Holiday Decorating E-Book (SRP) \$14.99

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The commercialism of the holidays results in a tremendous amount of waste. Start a family tradition of decorating “green” for the holidays as your gift to your family and the world.

Here are some wonderful ways to add merriment and festivity to your home without harming the environment.

- ❖ Don't buy new decorations every year, use the same one's from last year. It is worth taking the time to securely wrap and store last year's holiday decorations. Store them in an air-tight storage container for lasting decorations for years to come.
- ❖ Shop flea markets for great holiday decorations. You can find a plethora of antique Christmas ornaments and holiday décor.
- ❖ Instead of purchasing a cut Christmas tree consider purchasing a small live Pine tree with its root system still in tack. Plant the tree when the holidays are over.
- ❖ Decorate your holiday table with Mother Nature's gifts, such as; pine cones, natural wheat, and gourds.



- ✿ Use LED holiday light strings. The LED light strings are 90% more efficient than standard light strings and have a 50% longer life-span than standard lights.
- ✿ Gather friends and family for a Christmas Ornament and Holiday Decorations Swap Party. This is a fun way to get a variety of unique ornaments and decorations without buying new.
- ✿ Avoid plastic wreaths and trees and opt for the real thing. ***Helpful Hint*** **Dispose of your live tree at a local recycling center or mulch and use in your own yard.**
- ✿ Place tapered candles into small vases with red and green glass rocks at the bottom. Instant beautiful candlesticks; while reusing vases you already have on hand!



- ✿ Use edibles as a table centerpiece and around your home. Red and green apples in large glass bowls are the perfect color accents for the holidays.
- ✿ Everyday items can be turned into decorations for the holidays. For instance, hang cookie cutter ornaments with decorative ribbon in front windows.
- ✿ Place poinsettias around your home. Sprinkle a little gold glitter on the leaves for a rich merry look.
- ✿ Make a gingerbread house. Gingerbread houses are perfect edible decorations.
- ✿ Remember making paper snowflakes as a child? This simple classic craft is perfect for children and adults alike. Add a little glitter to the snowflakes and hang.
- ✿ Buy handmade. Visit local craft fairs and artisan shops for handmade holiday ornaments.
- ✿ Make your own garland. String popcorn together and place it around your tree. Put the popcorn outside when the holidays are over for the birds to enjoy.

- ❁ Fill a salad bowl with colorful ornaments and use it as a table center piece.



- ❁ Cinnamon sticks are a wonderful “green” way to add holiday fragrance to your home. Hang with ribbon or place them in bowls.
- ❁ Reuse last year’s Christmas cards for a decorative touch in your home. Christmas cards can be reused for so many different things. They work especially well in frames place randomly around your home.

“Green” holiday decorating encourages family involvement, togetherness, creative thinking, and getting back to basics. Instead of long nights at the mall shopping for gifts and holiday decorations start some new family traditions. Stringing popcorn garland around the fireplace is a wonderful way to create lasting family memories.

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

Bowdabra®

Wonderful Wheat Bouquet

“This wonderful wheat bouquet can be laid across the table or accentuated by placing it into a large canning jar with colorful glass rocks on the bottom. Place candle sticks on either side help to balance out your table center piece.”

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES:

- [Bowdabra with Bowdabra Wand](#) (optional)
- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- Ribbon (two separate types)
- An assortment of Blackbeard Natural Wheat, Triticum Natural Green Wheat, and Natural Wheat



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. The different types of natural wheat can be found at a local craft store or florist supply store.



2. Start by cutting a 16” length of ribbon. 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.



3. 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.



4. Lay your dovetailed 16" length ribbon into the center of the Bowdabra.



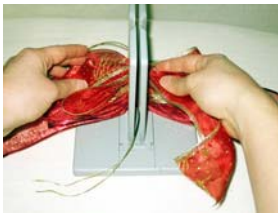
5. Lay your ribbon into the Bowdabra. Decide how big you want your loops. To make your first loop, fold the ribbon and press into the Bowdabra.



6. Continue folding the ribbon back and forth until you have created as many loops as you desire.



7. Next lay a coordinating ribbon into the Bowdabra. Decide how big you want your loops. To make your first loop, fold the ribbon and press into the Bowdabra.



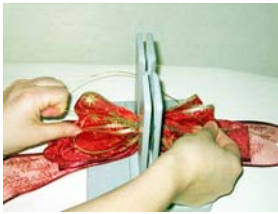
8. Continue folding the ribbon back and forth until you have an odd number of loops made with your coordinating. The last loop should be a little smaller and will be your center loop.



9. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



10. 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.



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



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



13. Fluff bow.



14. Place your loopy bow on to the top center of your wheat bundle. Wrap the Bowdabra Bow Wire tightly around the back. Pinch the Bowdabra Bow Wire securely against the wheat. Twist the wheat 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction. Bring the wire back to the front and tie an additional knot in the front.



15. Use a pencil or paint brush, create fun ringlets by twisting the Bowdabra Bow Wire around it.



16. Using scissors cut the bottom of the wheat bundle evenly.



17. Place in the decorative wheat boutique in the center of your table or upright in a vase or large canning jar.

Bowdabra®

Holiday Napkin Holder

“Add a touch of jubilee and good cheer to your holiday table with these easy and inexpensive napkin holders!”

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES for Napkin Holder:

- [Bowdabra with Bowdabra Wand](#) (optional)
- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- Coordinating Ribbon Scrapes
- Small Ornament



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Recycle small ornaments and pieces of coordinating ribbon from past projects.



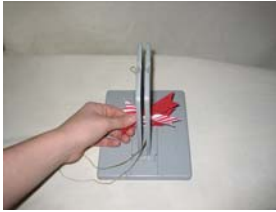
2. Start by cutting several 4” lengths of ribbon. Dovetail both ends: fold the ribbon in half lengthwise. Position your scissors at the folded edge of the ribbon and cut the end at a 45° angle. Unfold your ribbon and you have a professional, finished look to your ribbon tails.



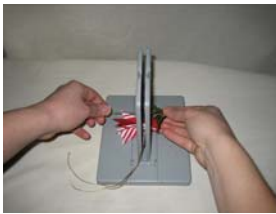
3. Cut a 24” piece of Bowdabra Bow Wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Bowdabra. You’ll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.



4. Lay your dovetailed 4" length ribbon into the center of the Bowdabra.



5. Continue to stack several pieces of dovetailed 4" length ribbon one on top of the other.



6. Place the ornaments hanger through the center of the Bowdabra.



7. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



8. 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.



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



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



11. Fold a cloth napkin and tie Bowdabra Bow Wire around the center. Bring the wire back to the front and se a pencil or paint brush to create fun ringlets by twisting the Bowdabra Bow Wire around it.



12. Make several cloth napkin holders to place around your table.

Bowdabra®

Canning Jar Holiday Place Setters

“Guests are sure to enjoy these darling, easy, and eco-friendly place setters!”

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES for Holiday Place Setters:

- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- Scrap Fabric
- Last year's Christmas cards
- Jelly Jars (various sizes)
- Candy
- Liquid Stitch (optional)



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Scrap fabric and canning jars can often be found at your local goodwill or thrift store.



2. Trace a large circle on the wrong side of your fabric. The picture to the left shows a large spool of ribbon but a coffee can lid or saucer will work, as well.



3. After your circle is traced, cut it out.



4. Place fabric wrong side up and run a bead of liquid stitch along the edge.



5. Brush and thin out the liquid stitch with a paint brush or cotton swab (if necessary).



6. Fold the fabric over to give it a nice hem and keep the fabric from fraying.



7. Wait 30 minutes for the liquid stitch to dry.
Helpful Hint Use liquid stitch according to manufacture's instructions.



8. Place candy into your jelly jar.



9. Place the dome lid on top of jar.



10. Place the circular fabric centered on top of dome lid.
Helpful Hint Make sure you wait the 30 minutes for the liquid stitch to dry.



11. Screw the band down over the fabric and dome lid.



12. Use an old gift tags to trace a place setting tag onto a last year's Christmas card and then cut it out.



13. Wrap Bowdabra Bow Wire around the band and twist Bowdabra Bow Wire 5 - 6 times to hold tightly in place.



14. Wrap the Bowdabra Bow Wire back to the front of the jelly jar and twist 5 – 6 more times. Thread place setting tag through one of the Bowdabra Bow Wire strands. Tie the strands tightly together.



15. Curl each Bowdabra Bow Wire around a pencil to give it a nice finished look.



16. Make as many place setting jelly jars as you have guests. Place these cute eco-friendly place setters on your holiday table so there is no confusion where everyone should sit!

Helpful Hint Decorate your place setters to match your holiday table décor.

Bowdabra®

Elegant Hand Towel

“Follow these easy step-by-step instructions to make this wonderfully exquisite but inexpensive hand towel!”

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES:

- [Bowdabra with Bowdabra Wand \(optional\)](#)
- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- Ribbon (two different styles)
- Hem Tape (Iron-On Adhesive Fusible Tape)
- Hand Towel
- Needle & Thread



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. The iron-on hem tape can easily be found at your local craft store.



2. To decide the ribbon lengths for hand towel lay it out first. Lay the ribbon across the entire bottom of the towel and leave an extra inch on each side to fold underneath.



3. Decide how many pieces of ribbon you want across the bottom and cut to desired length. Then according to hem tape instructions iron the ribbon to the hand towel.



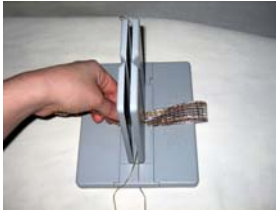
4. Once you have attached the entire piece of ribbon to the front of the hand towel. Turn the hand towel over and adhere the one inch tail of ribbon to back of the hand towel.



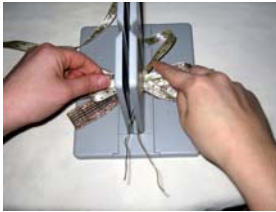
5. Once you have attached the ribbon to the towel neatly fold it and set it aside.



6. 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.



7. 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.



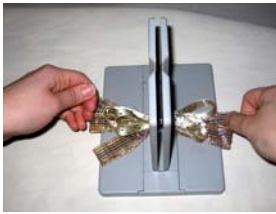
8. Continue folding the ribbon back and forth until you have created as many loops as you desire. Add additional styled ribbon for an elegant effect.



9. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



10. 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.



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



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



13. Use a pencil or paint brush, create fun ringlets by twisting the Bowdabra Bow Wire around it.



14. Using a needle and thread attach your Loopy Bow to the front of your hand towel. *optional* String a charm or bead on the front of your bow while sewing it to the front of the towel.



15. Fluff bow.



16. Hang on a towel rack in your bathroom for a festive extravagant look.

Bowdabra®

Rustic Pinecone Wreath

“What better way to inexpensively decorate your home than with Mother Nature’s gifts!”
Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES for Rustic Pinecone Wreath:

- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- Small Pinecones
- 6” grapevine wreath
- ¼”wide dark ribbon



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Pinecones can even be found right in your back yard.



2. Tie Bowdabra Bow Wire around the grapevine wreath.



3. Take your first pinecone and wrap it around the wreath. Place the Bowdabra Bow Wire through the edges of the pinecones.



4. Continue to add pinecone after pinecone wrapping them tightly and close together.



5. When you have added your last pinecone tie the Bowdabra Bow Wire tightly to the grapevine wreath.



6. Next take 1/4" wide dark ribbon and wrap it around in between the pinecones.



7. Hang your wreath.



8. Or place a candle in the center as a decorative center piece.

Bowdabra®

Candle Gourds Embellished with Ribbon

“They are the perfect accent to your holiday décor!”

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES for candle gourds:

- [Bowdabra with Bowdabra Wand \(optional\)](#)
- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- Scrap Ribbon
- Mini Gourds
- Tea Lights
- Plate or Cutting Board
- Sharp Knife



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Mini gourds can be found at your local grocery store or farmer's market.



2. Use a pencil to gently trace the tea light's diameter onto the gourd.



3. Before you begin cutting the gourd place it on a cutting board or plate. The process of cutting the gourd is very easy, but messy. Use a sharp knife to cut into the line you traced.



4. Once you have cut the entire perimeter pull it out of the gourd.



5. Use a knife to round and trim the edges.



6. Use a spoon to scoop the insides out of the gourd and discard.



7. Fold a paper towel and place in the bottom of the gourd. The paper towel will help to absorb any moisture inside the gourd and will also keep your tea light from falling down into the gourd.



8. Place the tea light into the gourd and then set aside.



9. To make a package bow for your gourd begin by cutting several 4" length scrap pieces of fabric. 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.



10. 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.



11. Lay your dovetailed 4" length ribbon into the center of the Bowdabra.



12. Continue to stack several pieces of dovetailed 4" length ribbon one on top of the other.



13. Before you lay the last dovetailed ribbon place a floral holiday pick into the center of the Bowdabra.



14. Place the last dovetailed ribbon into the Bowdabra.



15. Scrunch down the ribbon with the Bowdabra wand.



16. 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.



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



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



19. Tie the package bow to the gourd using the Bowdabra Bow Wire.



20. Use a pencil or paint brush, create fun ringlets by twisting the Bowdabra Bow Wire around it.



21. Arrange gourds on your table for a beautiful center piece.
Warning NEVER leave lit candles unattended!

Facts

What is the Bowdabra®?

The Bowdabra® (pronounced like “abracadabra”) is an easy-to-use crafting tool people use to make professional-looking, hand-tied bows at home.

What types of things can a Bowdabra® be used for?

Just about any type of material can be used in a Bowdabra® to create beautiful bows for gifts, baskets, home décor, bridal decorations, hair accessories, and more.

How does the Bowdabra® work?

The Bowdabra’s patented design makes it simple to create medium to large bows. The process begins by inserting a piece of ribbon wire into the Bowdabra®. Then, material is either scrunched or folded on top of the wire to achieve the bow size and fullness desired. Once the material is in, the Bowdabra Wand is used to compact the material onto the ribbon wire. The wire is then tied, and the bow can be removed from the Bowdabra®. Once removed, the bow can be fluffed, arranged, and retied to the maker’s liking.

Who is Sandy Sandler?

Sandy Sandler is the creative mind behind the Bowdabra®. She owned a corporate gift company that created gift baskets and other items in need of bows and found it difficult to train employees to create them by hand. Sandy tried other bow-making tools on the market, but they were difficult to use and did not produce the result she was looking for.

Certain there had to be a better way to quickly and easily create bows; Sandy hired a design engineer to help develop what became the Bowdabra®.

Did Sandy Sandler invent the Bowdabra®?

While Sandy takes credit for recognizing the need for a better way to make bows, she shares the spotlight with her team of designers that helped make her dream a reality. Patents for the Bowdabra® are in Sandy’s name.

Where are Bowdabras® sold?

Bowdabras can be found in retail stores like ACMoore, Michael’s, Hancock Fabrics, and Garden Ridge. They are also available online at www.Bowdabra.com. Many owner-operated craft shops stock Bowdabra® as well. Check with your local craft supply store.

How much does a Bowdabra® cost?

The exact pricing for the Bowdabra® varies slightly between retailers, but remains inexpensive in the range of \$14.99 to \$30.00, depending on the kit configuration. When you factor in the money saved not having to buy manufactured bows, the Bowdabra® practically pays for itself.