

EASY BOWS

No pattern needed, use up just about any fabric, even furs.

Can be decorations or wearables.



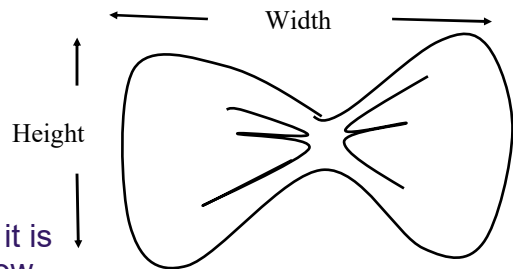
Decide on the size:

We cut a simple rectangle for the bow. Decide how big you want the bow to be when finished. I like to make the height of the bows about half the width, seems a good proportion. But you can make the height measurement larger if you want a floppier bow.

CUTTING OUT

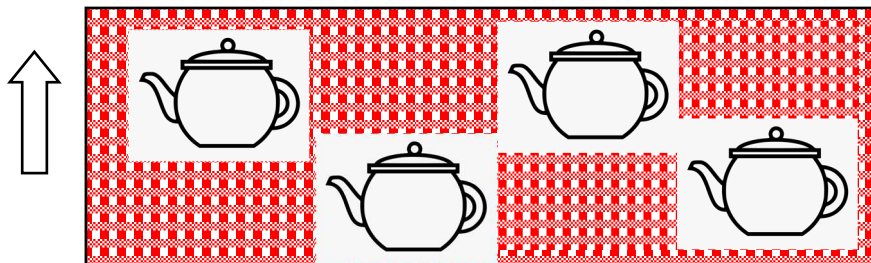
When you come to cut out your rectangle it is important to follow the measurement guide below.

Width of fabric = width of bow x 2 + 2cm
Height of fabric = height of bow + 2cm



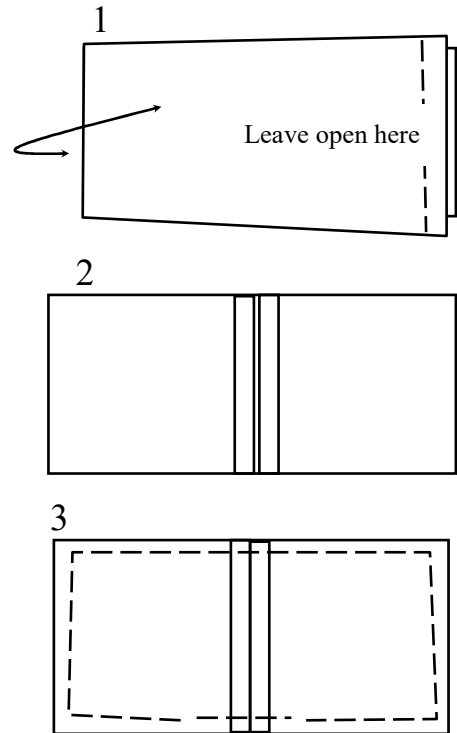
We double the width of the bow as we need a back and front. The height remains the same, but we need to add 2cm to each to allow for seams when sewing.

Cut out your rectangle, making sure that if your fabric has a pattern, this is sitting correctly (see below)



MAKING UP THE BOW :

- 1 Fold the fabric in half and sew the two shorter edges together (keep to a 1cm or less seam). Leave a small gap of 2 or 3cm at the center (see right). This is for turning the bow through. If you are using a thick fabric, like fur for instance, you may need a larger turning gap.
- 2 Turn the fabric so that the seam we have just sewn is centred.
- 3 Next sew all the way around the edges, keeping to your seam allowance of 1cm or less again. Trim the corners and turn the bow through the small opening we left at the back.
- 4 Press the bow as it can get quite wrinkled after turning !
- 5 Wrap the center of the bow with embroidery or double sewing thread and tie this quite tight at the center. See Fig 4. This thread can then be used to sew the bow directly onto a head band or ribbon for gift wrapping :)



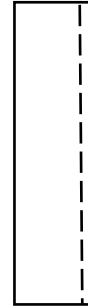
MAKING A BOW TIE:

These are fun to make for your teds or other softies, even yourself ! For these we need two more pieces.

- 1 Make up the basic bow following all the instructions above. To make the bow wearable we need strip of fabric to tie the bow in place and a smaller piece to act as a buckle for it to thread through (these can be the same or in contrast to the bow itself)
- 2 Cut one small piece to cover the centre of the bow approx 4cm wide and long enough to go around the middle of your bow with an excess of 3cm.
- 3 Cut a longer length about 3cm wide and 30cm long, so we can tie the bow around your ted. Note: for soft toys, we can tie the bowtie in place but If you are making the bowtie for a child or adult, measure around their neck and add another 4cm to the length ready to add a hook 'n eye.



- 4 Sew the longer edges together on both the short and long pieces. Trim the seam close to the stitching to make turning easier.
- 5 Turn both tubes through to the right side. *Can be tricky to turn the longer piece, try sewing a strong thread to one end to help pull it through. If you have doll-turning tubes then these are ideal :)*
- 6 Start with the smaller tube. Neaten the raw edges by turning them to the inside and tack them to hold in place.
- 3 Wrap the smaller tube around the center of your bow (seam against the bow so that it is hidden from view).
- 4 On the back tuck one end of the tube into the other and sew across to hold in place (do not sew through to the bow itself)
- 5 The longer tube is used to tie the bow on, press this so the seam is centered on one side, then thread this under our small tube. A pair of tweezers will help pull the tie through. *Check that the seam will sit on the inside when tied.*
- 6 The raw edges can be neaten as before but check the fit and trim the ends first if needed.
- 7 Tie the bow in place !



You can go one step further and add a hook and eye to the strap. Test the fit and trim the strap/tie so that it overlaps comfortably at the back (1 or 2cm should do).

Add a hook and eye, or press stud to the ends and away you go :)



Large green spotted bow (12cm)
 Cut fabric 28cm (width) x 24cm (h)
 Tie 30cm x 4cm
 Center contrast 4cm x 4cm

Smaller floral bowties (8cm)
 Cut fabric 18cm x 10cm
 Tie 18cm x 3cm
 Center 3cm x 3cm

Pink head band bows (8cm)
 Cut fabric 18cm x 10cm
 No tie but I left a good 5cm opening for turning as the fabric is quite thick on these.