

How to Make Hair Bows for Dolls

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This doll hair bow tutorial is meant to be used as a guide only since dolls can be made in so many different sizes. Feel free to make bows larger or smaller than what they appear to be in the pictures, to suit yourself. Instructions are included for bows with both raw edges and finished edges.

The model for this tutorial has a 2 ½" diameter head that is about 10" in circumference. I selected 1" wide bows for her head.

1. Determining proper width of the bow is based upon doll size but is usually left to the discretion of the doll maker. For small dolls, a ¼" to ½" width bow should be fine. For larger dolls you can make the width 2" or wider.
2. Cut or tear the fabric to the width of your choice.
3. For a more primitive look the edges of the fabric are left raw. Fabrics with a tighter weave are not likely to fray as much as those with a loose weave. If you want more fraying, buy homespun or similar loosely woven fabrics.
4. Length will be determined by the type of bow you wish to make.
 - * For the following bow, cut the length at least 10" X the desired width.
 - * Next, tie in the center. Tie again to knot if you wish. Glue or sew bow to the desired location on the doll's head (or tie around ponytails or braids in the same fashion). Then cut ends to desired length to finish.



Tied Bow to glue to head (before cutting)



Tied Bow around pony tail (before cutting)



Finished pony tail bow



Finished glued bow

5. The following bow should be cut about 20" long so you can make an actual bow. You may need to cut a longer piece if you want a fuller bow. The edges will be left raw for this bow also.

* You will begin by cutting the 20" length X the desired width.

* Tie in the center once. Then tie a regular bow to the desired fullness. Cut excess ends.

* Glue or sew to the desired location on the doll's head (or tie around ponytails or braids instead).



Tie regular bow



Cut off excess

6. Now, let's make a headband. The curly hair-do really looks cute with this but it was difficult to find a model with curly hair on such short notice so our ponytail model volunteered for the job. Ü

* Measure the circumference of the doll's head and cut the length of the fabric about 2 times longer (longer if you want a fuller bow) X the desired width. Leave edges raw.

*Wrap around the doll's head. Sew or glue the back in place. Either tie in a knot or tie in a regular bow on top of doll's head. Cut excess ends. Glue or sew bow itself to the desired location on the doll's head.



Back of headband (closer to the bottom of the head looks better).



Tie regular bow



Or tie plain bow



Cut excess ends from either bow that you tie

7. For bows with finished edges, cut the width 2 times wider than the finished width that you want PLUS 1/2". Cut length as described above for each type of bow. This is much easier with a wider bow for turning purposes. I have provided step-by-step pictures below of the plain tied bow and a finished picture of the regular bow.

* Fold fabric in half lengthwise with right sides together and sew raw edges together using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn right side out.



Sew right sides together



Turn right side out and estimate desired length

* Loosely tie as desired to get a general idea about how long you want the ends to be after tying. Cut ends leaving about 1/4" longer for turning inward to sew. Headbands and bows from pony tail or braids will need to be removed to cut and sew the length.



Mark cutting lines and cut to length

* Cut bow ends to desired length, turn raw ends in towards the center 1/4" and sew. No raw edges!

* Add to head or hair in desired fashion.



Finished Plain Bow



Finished regular bow (would probably look better on a larger doll's head)

8. For a Simply Cute Hair Bow with finished edges and without the long ends trailing, try this.
*Trace template below onto doubled fabric with right sides together. Trace line is the sew line.
I have offered 2 different ways of making this hair bow as you'll see on the template. Leave open where indicated for turning.



*After turning, sew opening closed. Place gathering stitches.



*Glue or sew to doll's head where desired.

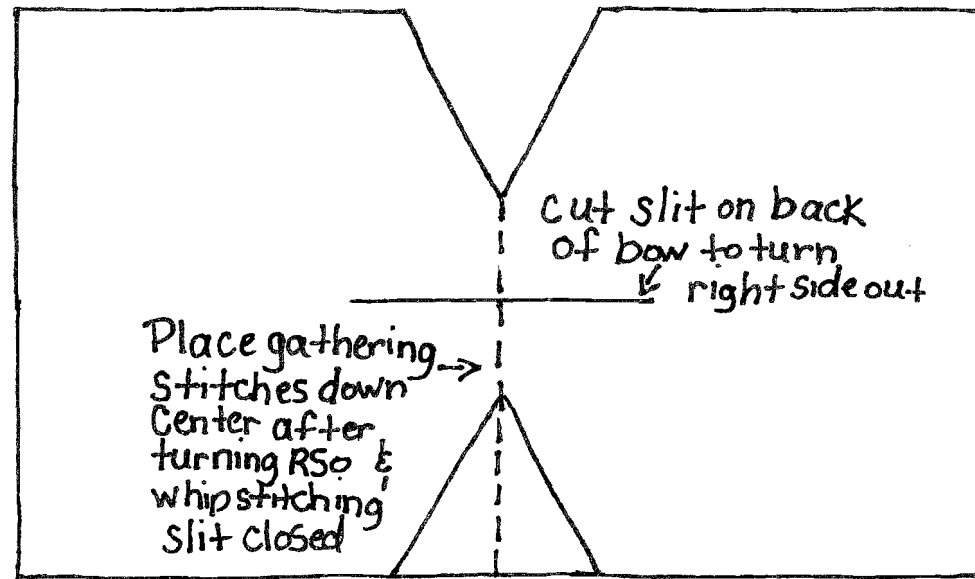


Hair bows made from this tutorial may be used on dolls that you intend to sell. Enjoy!

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Trace line is
Sew line

Cut angle or flat bottom
for 2 different looks