

Chapter 4 Bottle Cap Hair Bows

Add a little “character” to your hair bow...

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Bottle cap hair bows are very special because they can be personalized to match any character your daughter adores, character outfit, or even made with real personalization - your daughters name or initials.

Bottle Caps are pretty easy to make yourself, and your hair bow project can be very versatile when doing it that way.

Or... you can buy bottle caps.

Princess Hair Bows

If you want to make **Disney Princess bows**, this is a simple option. You can buy Disney Princess bottle caps from EK Success at a local craft store, or online. Or, an even less expensive route is to buy the birthday party sticker set with all six princesses and follow my instructions on how to make your own bottle caps below. The sticker set comes with 4 sheets of stickers (4 stickers of each princess) for a little over \$1. You can find these at just about any store that sells birthday party supplies, or online.

When I first started making hair bows, I searched everywhere for precious bottle caps I could adorn the bows with, with no luck. I couldn't find anything commercially produced, and began to get very frustrated. This is when I began researching products and getting ideas on how to make my own bottle caps.

Making Bottle Caps and Attaching them to Hair Bows

If you are making bottle caps to attach to hair bows, you will need to consider how you plan to attach it to the hair bow.

Simple tricks will allow you to do this:

1. Either by mounting tabs at your local craft store (in the scrap booking section). These mounting tabs will stick to the back of the cap very securely, and you can simply sew through the back of the tab and through the hair bow for a more secure hold. You can also hot glue to caps on, and as long as you first set the mounting tab firmly into place on the cap, and then glue the cap onto the bow, it should hold firmly.

2. The other trick is to place the bottle cap face up on a flat surface and gently hammer two small nail holes in the center of the cap. This will allow for you to sew the cap directly onto the hair bow. The only problem I have found with this method is that sometimes the thread that goes through the holes at the top of the cap, causes a small crease in the picture/sticker you put on your cap. Once you work with it a little you can figure out how to make it just right.

Now that you've decided how you are going to mount your bottle caps, you can pick out your favorite design, character, or other image that you would like to place on them. An example of one of my bottle cap bows is pictured below. It has a Dora the Explorer bottle cap on top of it. I found some really cute Dora the Explorer pictures at my local hobby store, and decided I wanted to make bows to match. I purchased the following items so that I could accomplish this:



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- Xylon Sticker Maker (cost= approx. \$8)
- A 1 inch Circle Punch (found in any stores scrap booking section)
- Stickers of choice

And the secret to making a perfect, professional-looking bottle cap ---

- Making Memories 1 inch circular page pebbles (perfect finishing touch, but optional)

- **Important note: Make sure the stickers you purchase have at least a 1 inch diameter within the sticker.** If you buy actual stickers that you find in a store, take the stickers, do not peel the backs, and center your 1 inch circle punch over the sticker.
- Punch the sticker into a 1 inch circle.
- Now it is ready to place on your already prepared bottle cap (only place the sticker on the face of your cap once you've sewn it on to the bow, if you are doing the hammer/nail method).
- If you find cute images you would like to use but they are not stickers, there is no need to worry. You can still make it work with your Xylon Sticker Maker (brand optional).
 - Punch out the image with your 1 inch circle punch. Run the image through you sticker maker by following directions on the product, and then peel the back and attach.
 - The finishing touch is adding a page pebble to the top of your bottle cap. This gives your bottle cap sticker/image a glossy protected finish. It is optional, because some stickers/images are already covered with some type of protectant/gloss.

Ideas for Your Bottle Caps

- Purchase Disney Bottle Caps by EK Success with : Tinkerbell, Winnie the Pooh Characters, The Disney Princesses Mickey and Friends
- Make Character Caps out of : Birthday Party Stickers or Images you find from anywhere (as long as the image is on paper that will punch out with your 1 inch circle punch, it will work!!) Top anything off with a page pebble to make it look like a commercially produced bottle cap.

Personalizing Your Caps

PERSONALIZED CAPS: The easiest thing to do for bottle caps is to open up your favorite word processing program (Microsoft Word, etc.), choose a pretty font like Calligraphy, or Lucinda , and type your daughter's name or initials in a space that doesn't extend one inch in diameter. Be creative and type "Princess Sarah" or whatever you like!!

Once you printout your names, punch them out, run them through your sticker maker, and then place them on your caps.

This is, in my opinion, the best place to use the page pebbles because the plain paper and ink from your printer will be easily damaged if it comes in contact with humidity, rain, etc... .

****Important Note****

Remember that topping your bottle cap off with a sticker should be the last step in the bottle-cap bow-making process. You must first attach the cap to the bow, and your sticker and page pebble will be the finishing touch.

Simple Steps in Making a Bottle-Cap Hair Bow

1. Find stickers/images of choice for your bow.
2. Decide what type of bow you will attach your bottle caps too. It works best to attach these to either basic bows, boutique bows, or korkers.
3. Choose coordinating ribbon colors to match your bottle caps.
4. Using hair bow instructions, make your hair bow.
5. Decide how you will attach your bottle cap.
6. Attach your bottle cap.
7. Make your bottle cap stickers.
7. Finish the cap off with your coordinating sticker.

Chapter 5

Deluxe Boutique Hair Bows

Perfect for special outfits...

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The best thing about this type of bow is it costs less than a few dollars to make but looks like a million. (an exaggeration, but makes a pretty good point) 😊

You can make these bows with many different colors of ribbon to match any outfit. They have the versatility of stackable bows, combined into one.

Pictured below is a boutique hair bow made to match the “Wish You Were Here” line from Gymboree. These instructions will give detailed directions on how to make this bow, but you can make any bow like this using your choice of ribbon.

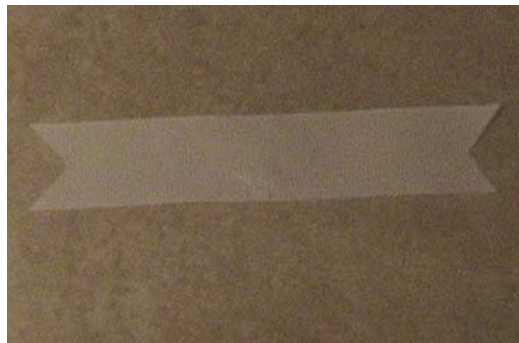


Make a 5-6 inch basic bow out of apple green 7/8 inch grosgrain.

A picture of this bow is shown below as it looks before it is topped off with the remaining boutique bow ribbons.



2. Cut one 6-7 inch strip of 7/8 inch navy Swiss dot grosgrain. Give the ends of this strip a triangular cut by simply nipping from each side of the ribbon, toward the center.



3. Cut two 5 inch strips of 7/8 inch white grosgrain ribbon. Do the same with the ends of this ribbon. **BE SURE TO FRAY-CHECK or HEAT TREAT!!**



4. Make a 4-5 inch basic bow in white 7/8inch grosgrain. Make sure this

bow is about an inch smaller than the first apple green basic bow .

5. Now you are ready to begin attaching the loops.

Do not be discouraged, but this is probably the hardest part at first.

Below is what the finished looping step will look like from the back side.



6. Cut 2 strips of 3/8inch ribbon about 40 inches long (you will not need this much for this actual bow, but until you get pretty good at this step, you will need the extra ribbon for flexibility).

7. While holding your white basic bow in one hand, take the end of one of your strips, and place it at the back and center of this bow. Keep it in place with your finger. Because this step depends a lot on how well the ribbons stay in place, I usually dab hot glue on the ribbon as I am forming the loops for the extra security, in case my finger slips out of place.

8. Pull all of the ribbon strip so that as you hold it in place at the back of the bow, the remainder of the strip is above the top of the bow.

9. Begin making your loops by using the same looping directions as you would a basic bow, but be sure the loops come around, and just outside of the center basic bow. Be sure to continue holding/gluing in place as you work.

10. Do the same thing with the lemon strip of 3/8 inch grosgrain. The backside of your bow should now look like the picture above. Now that you have all your pieces, it is time to secure them all together.

11. --Crucial step --So that your boutique bow lays right, you will position your bottom basic bow (apple green bow) with the back side of the bow

facing up.

12. Sew or glue the first center strip across the center of the bow.

13. Now, sew or glue the two 5 inch strip in a criss-cross position across the center of the bow.

Sew your top bow/loops onto the top of the bottom bow and ribbon strips.

14. Crucial step---If you are sewing all your bow pieces together, once you come out with your needle when you are finished sewing, take your thread and tie all the pieces together (pull tightly) around the center of the bow.

15. Run your thread once more through the center of the bow, and then -Top it off with a 5inch strip of 3/8inch red Swiss dot grosgrain by covering the front, and gluing it at the back over a French barrette or clip.

**Tip: Alligator clips or French barrettes can be used for this bow, but because of its size, the bow is likely to slide around in your girl's hair if it is on a clip.

You can also top these bows off with beautiful, classy center knots, or bottle caps. (See Chapter 4).

To make M2M (made to match) bows, simply coordinate beautiful ribbon colors with your Gymboree outfits, or any other outfits you want to match with your bows.

Chapter 6 Korker Bows

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Korker bows may look very difficult to make, but they are actually the easiest, in my opinion. They are also so precious in a little girl's hair. You can make them with a multitude of colors to match any outfit or to go with any season. And, you can make them in many different sizes. Below is a picture of precious snowball korker made to match a Gymboree outfit from the line Prima Ballerina.



The first step in making korkers is choosing the colors/patterns you want to use. Any number of colors can be used, but I recommend using 3 different colors/patterns, just based on my personal experience with how these bows turn out. Experimenting is always fun, so just be creative and see what you think works best for your taste.

For korkers, you need something called korker ribbon. It is actually just 3/8 inch grosgrain ribbon that is shaped to crinkle. You can buy korker ribbon sometimes on eBay, or you can make your own. It is very easy to make korker ribbon. To make enough korker ribbon for one bow, you will need:

- Six 18 inch wooden dowels (find these at your local craft/department store)
- 12 wooden clothes pins
- String or yarn (about 2 feet)
- 3/8 inch grosgrain ribbon in 3 different colors (or any other variation of this, depending on your creativity)

- An oven
- Foil
- A cookie sheet

Making Korker Ribbon

1. First, you should clip the end of one strand of ribbon at one end of an 18” dowel rod with one of your wooden clothes pins.
2. Tightly spiral the ribbon all the way around and down the dowel until you reach the bottom. Clip your ribbon at this point and pin it down on the dowel with another clothes pin.

**Be sure the entire dowel is covered with the ribbon all the way down.

You will repeat this step for all 6 of your dowels.

3. Once you have finished wrapping your ribbons around your dowels and pinning the ribbon into place, place them on a foil-covered cookie sheet. Your oven should be set at 275 degrees.
4. Place the cookie sheet into the oven and bake at 250° (may vary depending on oven) for 15 minutes.
5. After 15 minutes, take the ribbon-wrapped dowels out of the oven.

Once the ribbons have cooled down, you can gently slide them off of the dowel. You should see that a nice, springy, spiral ribbon has formed.

Making the Korker Hair Bow

1. With your six ribbons, place them side by side. You will cut these in half right down the middle.
2. Once you have cut the ribbons in half, place your piece of string (about 2 feet in length) on a flat surface, and elevate each side of the string with something sturdy (I have always propped each side of my string up on small cardboard box.) In between the elevated portions of the string is where you will place your korker ribbons.

3. Stack your korker ribbons in the center of the string and vertical to the strings position, in two- three layers.
4. Pull the string up from each elevated side, tighten the korker ribbons together and tie a double knot in place. You should now see the form of your snowball korker hair bow.
5. You should now hand-sew through the center to make sure the ribbons stay in place.
6. Clip an alligator clip at the back of your korker hair bow by inserting one side through the string and you are done!

