



## Duct Tape Bows

Free 1-2-3 Craft HOW-TO

My six brothers, father and husband are always difficult to find just the right gift for but, at least, I have wrapping their gifts down to a masculine art. Recycling brown paper bag as gifts wrap and the ever useful "duct tape" for handcrafted "unique" bows I give them gifts that immediately brings a smiles to their faces. Follow the simple directions below and make your own duct tape bows.



### 8-Looped Bow

Items needed for both projects:

*duct tape* – Duct tape can be found at hardware stores, craft stores, even most grocery stores.

*scissors* – Use a pair that you don't mind getting sticky

*ruler or tape measure* – Some people like to be exact. For them, a measuring device is a must. I wing it.

#### 8-Looped Bow

1. Tear or cut several strips of duct tape in manageable lengths. Any thing longer than 4 feet is too much of a challenge. Fold strips in half so that no sticky areas are exposed. I like to fold the ends toward center of tape length on both sides so that the raw edges are not exposed (photo 1).

2. Using one strip, fold over one edge making a loop whatever size you desire. (photo 2).

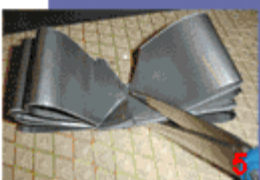
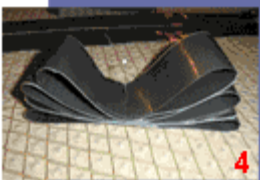
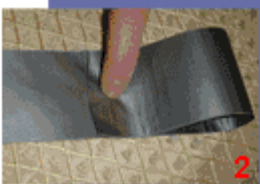
3. Fold duct tape strip back and forth making loops on both edges (photo 3)

4. When you run out of one length of duct tape, cut the edge of strip you are using to overlap the center of loops approximately 1/2", overlap another duct tape strip 1/2" in the other direction from the center and continue making loops until you have 4 loops on each side - 8 total loops (photo 4).

5. Use scissors to cut two notches in the center of the loops (photo 5).

6. Cut or tear a small strip of duct tape to secure the loops around the notches (photo 6).

7. Use your fingers to pull out each loop, twist and manipulate it into place to complete your bow (photo 7).



### 10-Looped Bow

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1. Follow step one as described for the 8-Looped Bow.

2. Using 5 strips of duct tape, make 3 large double-looped pieces and 2 smaller double-looped pieces. The size of the pieces depends on how large you want your bow to be. The duct tape ends should meet in the middle of the two loops and be secured in place with a small piece of duct tape (photo 1).

2. Pinch each double-looped piece in the center and secure in place with a small piece of duct tape (photo 2).

3. Arrange the three large double-looped pieces side by side on a table and then the two smaller pieces on the top of larger looped pieces. Pinch all pieces together in center and wrap around the center of all pieces with narrow strip of duct tape. No need to worry about this piece of tape looking pretty as it will be covered up (photo 3).

4. Cut a strip of duct tape about 5" long. Fold it in two lengthwise. Cut this piece along outside edge so that you have a piece 5" long and about 1/2" wide. Wrap prepared piece around the center of bow several times, covering up securing tape. Trim in back if necessary and secure in place at back of bow with a tiny piece of duct tape (photo 4).

5. To make tie ends for bow, cut two lengths (exact length your choice) of duct tape strips that have been folded back to back - as in step one. Use scissors to cut notches out of one end of each strip (photo 5). Pinch other end of each strip and secure into place at center back of bow.

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