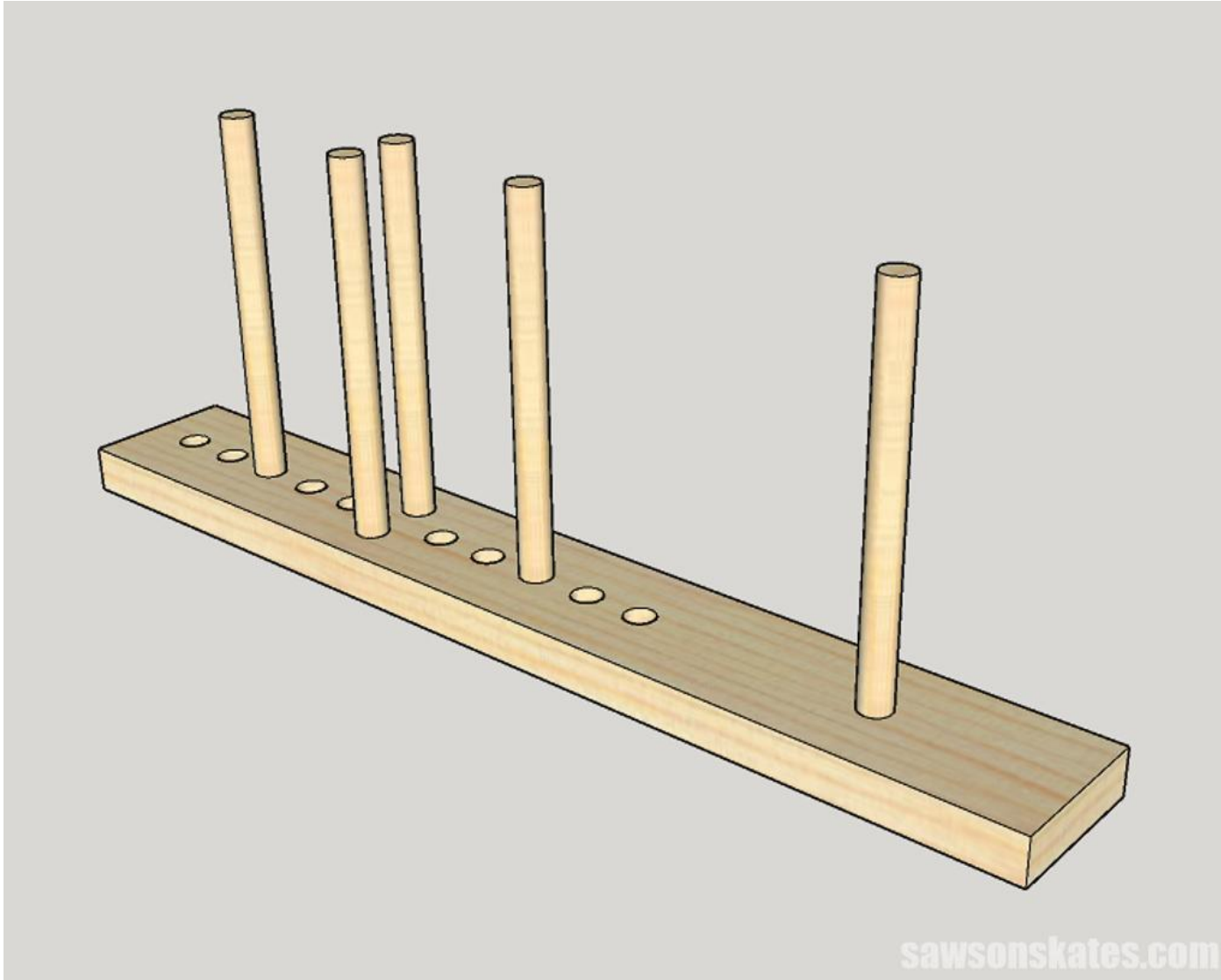


Wooden Dowel Bow Maker



Supplies

- 1×3 (18")
 - ½" x 48" Dowel
-

Tools

- Tape Measure
- Kreg Multi-Mark
- Miter Saw
- Drill
- ½" Forstner Bit

Notes

- [Click here for the original tutorial](#)
 - By using this plan you are agreeing to all [terms and conditions](#).
 - **This plan is for personal use only.**
 - Plans are the intellectual property of Saws on Skates® and **may not be duplicated or sold**.
 - By using these plans, you are agreeing to do so at your own risk.
 - This plan contains affiliate links. I may receive a small commission if you make a purchase. There is no cost to you for using these links. Thank you for your support.
-

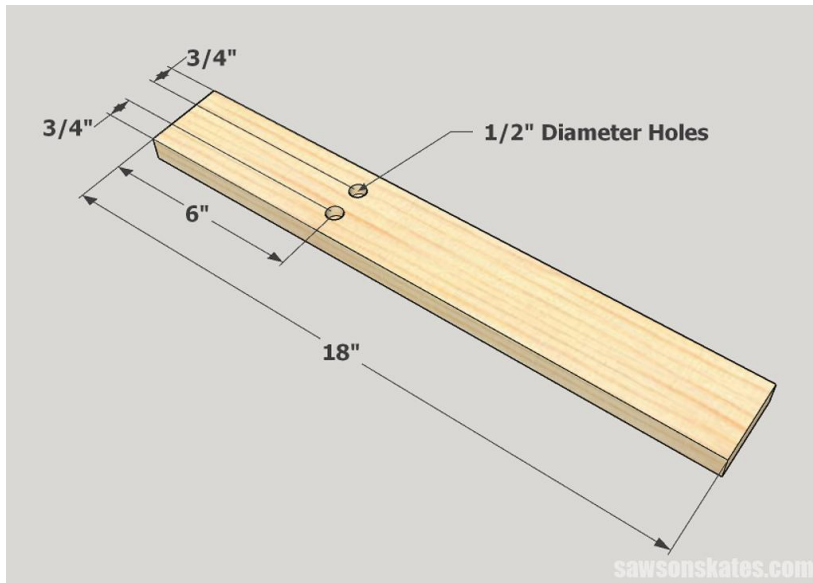
Safety First

- Please wear all personal protective equipment (PPE). Protect your eyes with safety glasses, ears with hearing protection, and lungs with a dust mask or respirator.
 - Follow all safety instructions that come with your tools.
-

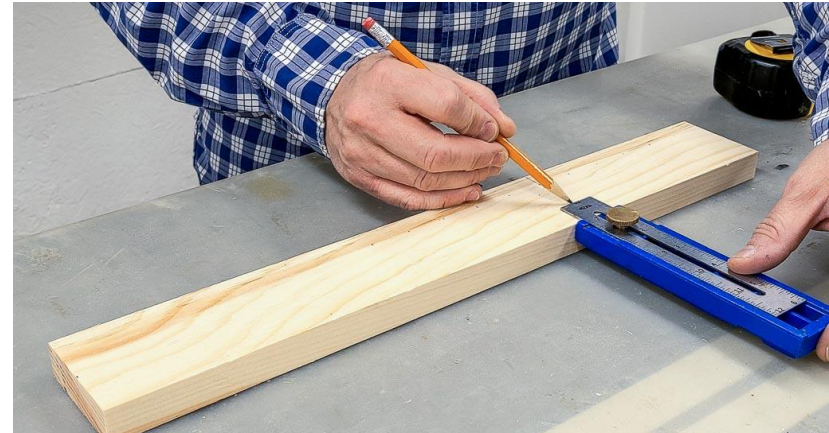
Step 1. Make the Base

Cut one piece of 1×3 to 18" for the base.

Related: [Why Can't I Make Accurate Cuts?](#) (& How to Fix It!)

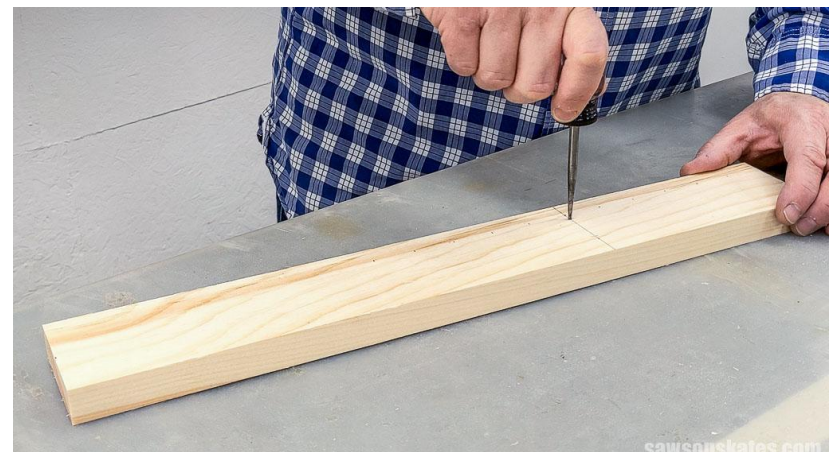


Use the diagram to mark the location for the center dowel holes.



I used an awl to make a starting point for the drill bit.

Related: [What is an Awl?](#) (+ How to Use It)



Step 1. Continued...

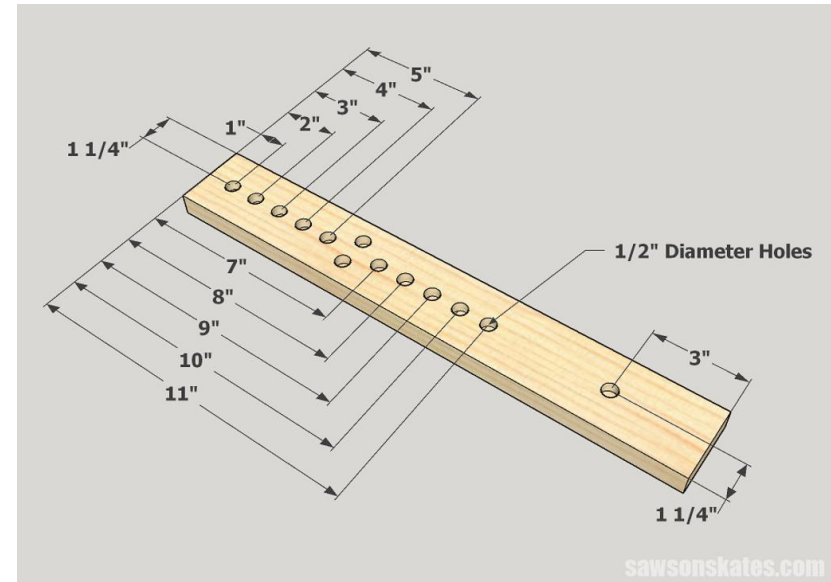
Then, I used my drill and a 1/2" Forstner bit to make a 1/2" deep hole at each mark.

I recommend attaching a piece of painter's tape to your bit to act as a depth stop, which I did when I drilled the second set of holes.

Related: [What is a Forstner Bit?](#) (& How to Use It)

I would have used my drill press, as it would've ensured the holes were perfectly square to the board's face; however, I couldn't access it while working on this project.

If you're using a handheld drill like I did, try to keep the drill as square to the wood's face as possible.



Use the diagram to mark the remaining holes and an awl to make a starting point for the drill bit.

Next, I drilled the holes. You'll notice I added painter's tape as a depth stop.



Step 2. Make the Jig

Cut five pieces of ½" dowel to 6".

I noticed the dowels were a little loose when I test-fit them in the holes. This could be because the dowel is slightly smaller than a ½" inch, I didn't keep the drill bit square to the board when I drilled the holes or a combination of both.

Either way, there's an easy fix. I wrapped one end of the dowel once or twice with scotch tape until it was snug when I pushed it into the hole.



How to Use a Wooden Dowel Bow Maker

You can use your DIY bow maker in several ways; I'll show you two common methods.

Single Loop Bow

Place the dowels closer in the base to produce a smaller bow, or space them farther apart to create a larger one.



Single Loop Bow Continued...

Wrap the ribbon around the dowels, allowing extra for the bow's tails, and cut to length.

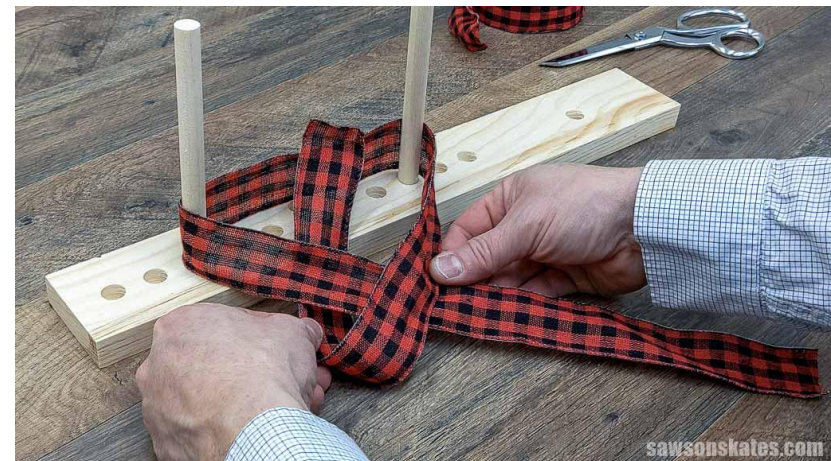
For this tutorial, I positioned the dowels three holes away from the center on each side and cut my ribbon to approximately 36", but you can make it shorter or longer depending on how long you want your tails.



Place the right tail over the left.



Pass the right tail under the left.

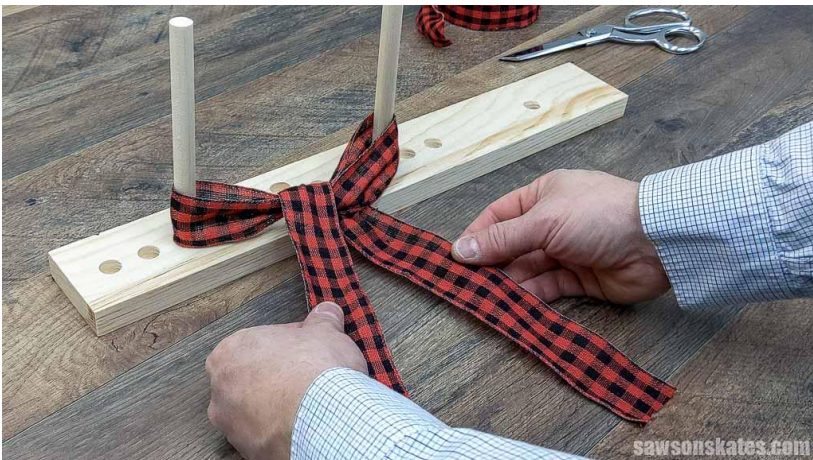


Single Loop Bow continued...

And behind the back loop.



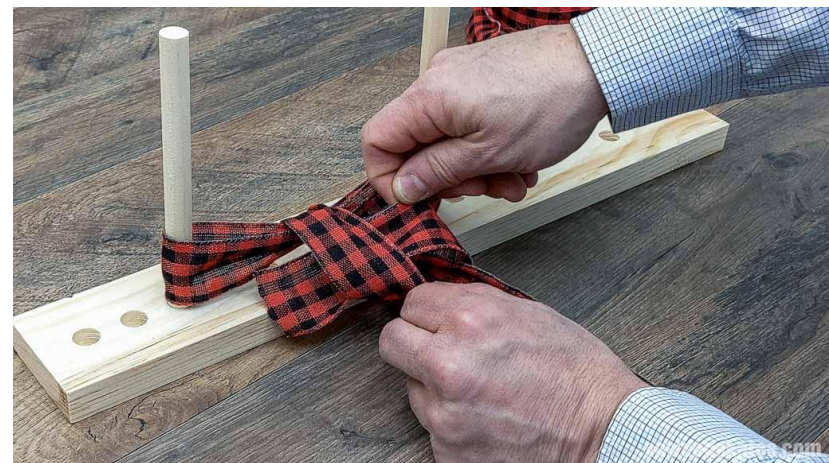
Then over the front and to the left.



Pass it to the right.



Then over and through to the left.



Single Loop Bow continued...

Gently pull each tail.



Until it's snug.

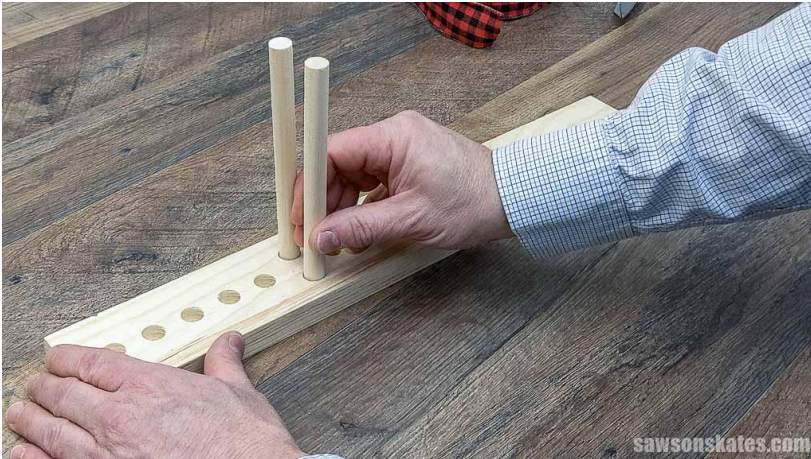


Then, you can remove the bow, adjust the loops, and use it for your gift, basket, or wreath.



Multi-Loop Bow

Position the dowels in the center holes.



Place a wire or pipe cleaner diagonally between the dowels.



Decide the desired length of your bow's tail and place it on the left side of the dowels with the ribbon's good side facing up.

Both sides of the ribbon I'm using appear finished, so it might be challenging to distinguish between the "good" and "raw" sides. However, you'll notice the difference if your ribbon has an unfinished side.

Next, give the ribbon on the right side of the dowels a half twist so the raw side faces up, ensuring the good side will face outward when you make the loop.



Multi-Loop Bow continued...

Next, determine the length of your loops. I used one of the holes in the base as a reference point.



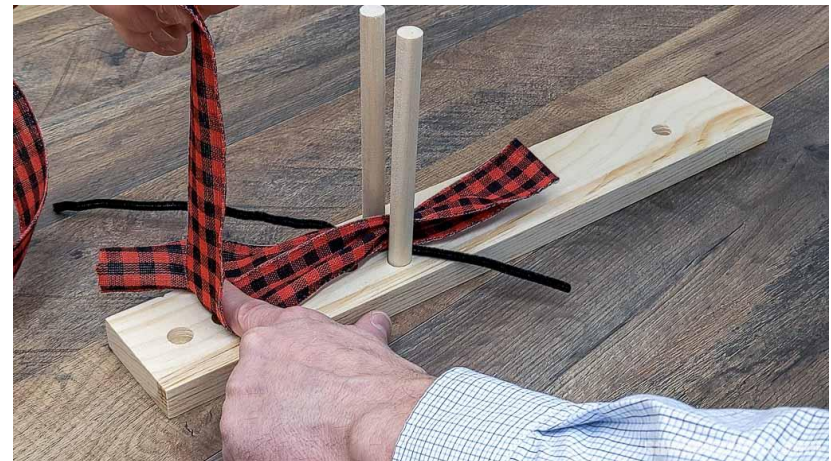
Then, fold the ribbon to the left.



Again, give the ribbon on the left side of the dowels a half twist so the raw side faces up, ensuring the good side will face outward when you make the loop.



Determine the length of your second loop.



Multi-Loop Bow continued...

Then, fold the ribbon to the right.



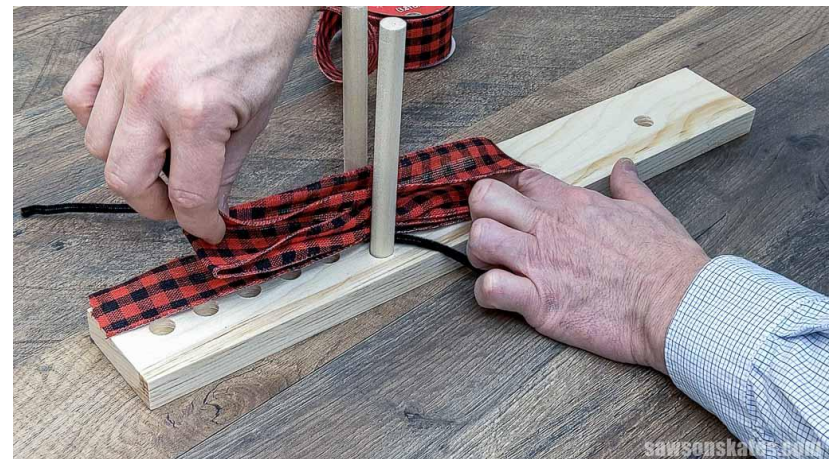
Again, give the ribbon a half twist in the middle.



Bring the ribbon even with your first loop.



Then, fold it back to the left.

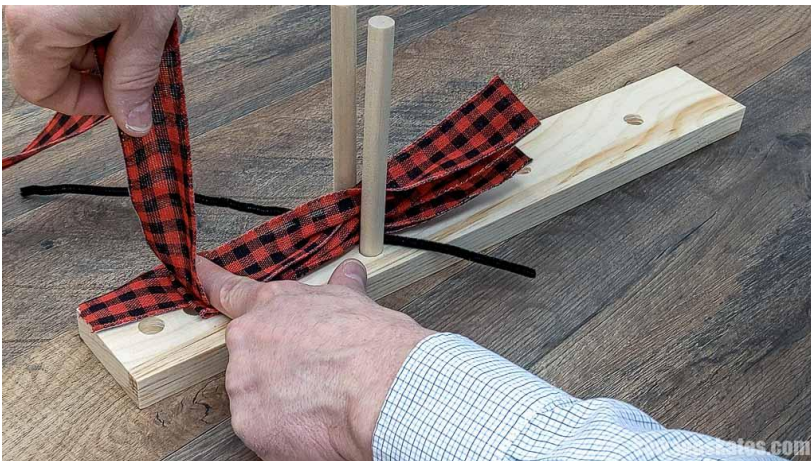


Multi-Loop Bow continued...

And give it a half twist.



Bring the ribbon even with your first loop.



Then, fold it back to the right.

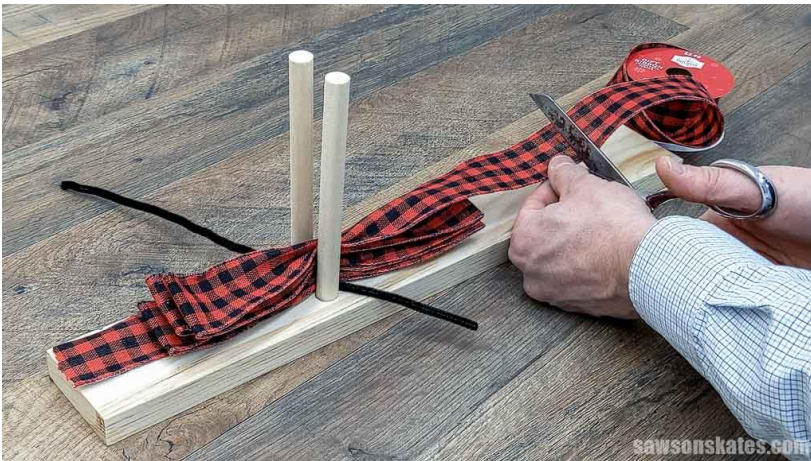


You can stop here or repeat these steps to add as many loops as you want.

I chose to add one more loop on each side for a total of three loops.

Multi-Loop Bow continued...

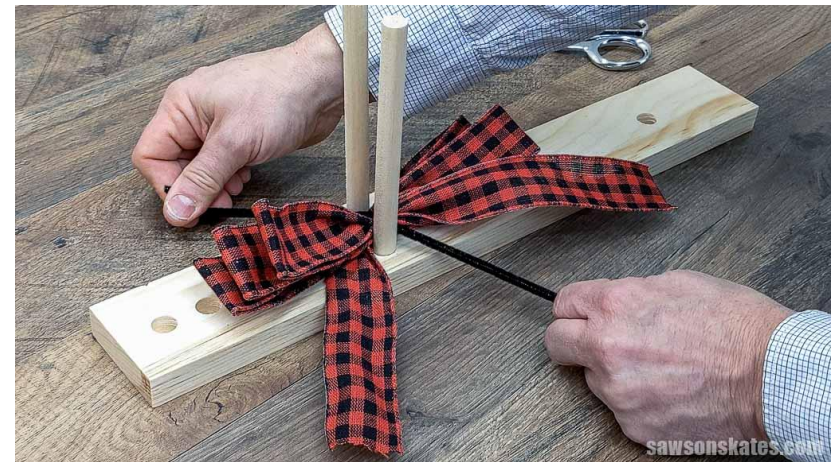
Once you've created your desired number of loops, trim the remaining ribbon to match the approximate length of the first tail.



Then, bring your tails forward.



Grab the ends of the pipe cleaner and twist it around the bow.



Hold the bow in one hand and twist the pipe cleaner securely around the back of the bow.



Multi-Loop Bow continued...

Next, shape the loops to your personal preference.

Then, use the wire or pipe cleaner to attach the bow to your gift, basket, or wreath.



Coffee is Like a High Five in Your Mouth!



Did you find value in this **free plan**?

If you answered **yes**, please consider **scanning the QR** with your phone's camera or **clicking the link** to treat me to a small [cup of coffee](#).

Thank you for your support!