

Bowdabra

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LIPITOR
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Dr. Robert Jarvik
Inventor of the Jarvik Artificial Heart and LIPITOR Patient

"I trust my own heart to LIPITOR."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
LIPITOR is a prescription drug. It is used in patients with multiple risk factors for heart disease such as family history, high blood pressure, age, low HDL ("good" cholesterol) or smoking to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke. When

PATIENT INFORMATION

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Bows and beyond

by **Kimberly L. Jackson/The Star-Ledger**

Friday December 14, 2007, 11:18 AM

Want to add a little more sparkle to your holiday without having to dip into the gift fund? Invest in a few rolls of cloth ribbon and think of it as a decorating tool. Wider types can be as effective in your living room or dining room as they are on presents and Christmas trees. And with prices starting at about \$4 for rolls of 9 feet or more, you can stock up without guilt.

Ribbon comes in sheer, satin, velvet, metallics and other materials. If your choice is wired, you can more easily mold it to your will. Fabric and craft stores now carry so many ribbon prints and patterns that it's easy to find uses beyond finishing gifts.

The first secret to ribbon decorating is tying a good bow. Practice this: Wrap a length of ribbon around the width of a book so the ribbon ends match up. Then tie the ribbon, pulling one leg up and the other down. Fold the bottom leg over to form the first bow loop. Next, in the same way you'd tie a shoe, wrap the top leg around and behind the loop to finish your bow. Adjust and clip ends as needed.

Basic bows can enhance wreaths, floral arrangements, baskets and more. You can tie them on stair railings and lampposts outside. But don't stop at basic. The Chester-based ribbon maker Offray has instructions for several bows among project ideas at www.offray.com. Try making the easy but impressive Pinwheel and Dior bows.

Pom-poms to cheer about
We got several bow-making ideas from the Container Store, which sells a variety of gift wrapping supplies, including papers, storage units and ribbon. Visit "Expert Help for the Holidays" at www.containerstore.com for wrapping tips and a guide to make basic and fancy bows. We were surprised how easy it is to create their version of the familiar pom-pom bow.

Here's how:

1. Form a loop of about 4 inches and wind ribbon around it 12 to 15 times. Flatten and crease the loop so the inside end of the ribbon is at the top. Notch all four corners of the loop, cutting each at a steep angle. Be careful not to fully cut through either end.



2. Push notched ends of the loops together in the middle. Cinch the notched center with wire. Hint: Leave enough wire to easily attach bow to ribbon tied around a gift or other object.



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3. Holding one side of the loop with one hand, pull the innermost loop out to the right, then pull it toward you with a half twist. Repeat with the next loop, but twist it away from you. Repeat until all loops from one end are pulled out. Turn the bow and repeat alternate twisting on the opposite end.



4. If cut edges protrude, twist them into the bow and trim at an angle. Hold the bow at the center and shake it to fluff. Attach bow with wire or double-sided tape.



Another spin

Ribbon can become flowers with the help of Wright's Bloom Loom. The simple circular device, which sells for \$3.59 at Joann stores or www.joann.com, was used to make this "Ribbon Poinsettia." To learn how, visit the holiday area of the Classroom at www.wrights.com/wrights.



Ribbon flower made with Wright's Bloom Loom

Like Magic

If trying to make your own bows has you in knots, Bowdabra promises to simplify the process. The bow-making tool is available at www.bowdabra.com, where you can see how it works. Prices start at \$9.99 for the mini Bowdabra, also available at Michaels. (If you'd rather not make your own, Michaels sells ready-made and custom bows in your choice of ribbon starting at \$6.99 each. Michael's floral designers will also teach you how to make bows.)



Bowdabra

More ties to try

1. Deck your draperies for the holidays by bow-tying them with ribbon to replace your usual tie-backs.
2. Weave ribbon through the bread basket and tie a bow on the handle.
3. Tie cloth napkins with wired ribbon in place of napkin rings.
4. Wind ribbon around the base of a floor lamp to temporarily change its color. Tuck in the ends.
5. Tie ribbon bows around lamp shades for a festive holiday touch.
6. Wrap ribbon (2½ to 4 inches wide) around each dining chair back and tie a big bow. You'll need about 3 yards (9 feet) for a Parsons chair.
7. In the guest room, stack bathing towels and tie with ribbon.
8. Tie ribbon around the serving dish of your showpiece dessert.



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9. Weave one or two colors of ribbon into place mats. Seal the ends with a little fabric glue. (Place mat instructions are under Thanksgiving Place Setting in the Classroom at www.wrights.com/wrights).

10. Tie the bottom of candlesticks or pillar candles with a bow to match your table setting.

See more in [Gifts](#), [Holiday style](#)

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