

Bowdabra®

Bow Maker, Favor Maker & Craft Tool

Frugal and “Green” Kid’s Crafts: A Guide to Simple Projects That Both Kids and Parents will Love!



Step-By-Step Instructions with Pictures

Frugal & Fun Kid’s Crafts SRP \$14.99

Frugal and “Green” Kid’s Crafts:
A Guide to Simple Projects That Both
Kids and Parents will Love!

Bowdabra® E-Book Series
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Dear Readers:

In today's world of hard economic times with parents working two or more jobs, combined with society's tendency to use television, computer games and iPods as "babysitters," it is extremely important for parents to spend quality time with their children.

Arts and crafts projects have been proven time and again to be one of the best activities for quality parent/child interaction. Additionally, craft projects provide exceptional benefits for children, as well as, amazing quality family time!

The primary reasons parents don't "craft" with their children are:

- 1) Parents are "Craft Phobic" because they think they are creatively challenged.***
- 2) Parents think they don't have time.***
- 3) Parents don't know what projects to attempt.***

There are countless resources for creative play – large craft store chains offer kid's craft classes and events, which are often free! Websites with free project ideas and even downloadable e-books with simple and inexpensive projects you can do with your children!

There is no reason to be "Craft Phobic!" We are all creative in our own way and we just need to trust our abilities. By spending just 15 minutes a day, or even 15 minutes a week, crafting with your children, the benefits will not only be there for your children, but for you too!

The benefits of parents crafting with their children are endless, but here are just a few:

- 1) Craft projects develop self esteem and pride in projects that children, and their "adult" helpers, create.***
- 2) Craft projects develop creativity along with the ability to think and problem solve.***
- 3) Craft projects teach persistence and the ability of a child to systematically and***

logically work a project through to completion, while dreaming up new thoughts, ideas and even methods of creating projects from these ideas and dreams..... All skills that will prove invaluable later in life!

4) Most importantly, family crafting is amazing fun, which creates priceless family time and memories!

As a parent, you will love how your children take ownership of toys and projects that they create. They're proud of their crafts and they get tremendous enjoyment from them.

Crafting builds creativity and self-esteem. It promotes an "I can do it" mentality that serves children well later in life, giving them the motivation to complete and try things that would otherwise seem "too difficult" or "impossible!"

Have Fun!!!

Sandy Sandler
Creator of Bowdabra®

Tips for Crafting with your Children!

For kid's crafts all you need is a table with protective covering and a few basic craft supplies on hand.

Children love to color, cut, and glue!

The craft supplies that I would recommend always having on hand are; safety scissors, glue, glue sticks, or glue dots, washable markers, assorted colored pipe cleaners, and construction paper. With these basic craft supplies children and parents can have hours of fun. Some fun craft ideas are making "thinking of you cards" to mail to distant family members (children love to send and receive mail), themed holiday decorations for their bedroom or the house and fun colorful pictures to hang on the refrigerator.

Re-use items around your home for craft supplies. I can't stress enough you do not need a huge amount of expensive craft supplies to do crafts with your children. You can easily use items from around your home for crafts, as well.

- Washed soup cans are fun to paint and turn into a pencil and pen holder.
- Uncooked macaroni works great for beading necklaces.
- Plastic water bottles can be painted, filled with beans and turned into maracas.
- Old buttons work great for gluing on paper.
- Even rocks from outside can be painted and turned into fun magical little creatures.

When you do purchase craft supplies buy them frugally. There is no need to pay full price when you don't have to.

- Purchase holiday themed craft supplies after the holiday and store them away for the following year.
- Use in-store coupons or watch for store sales on children's crafts.
- Visit the Dollar Store they often have a wide variety of inexpensive craft items.
- Search Craig's List or Ebay for used children's craft supplies.

Bowdabra®

Rock n' Roll Mini Mouse

"Children will love making and keeping these little mini mice as pets!"
Sandy Sandler, founder of the Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES:

- Smooth oval-like rock
- 2 Pipe Cleaners
- Adhesive Googly Eyes
- Small Pompom
- Glue or Glue Dots



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Rocks can be found outside and cleaned with soap in the sink.



2. Place a rock onto the center of a pipe cleaner. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the rock tightly.



3. Form the pipe cleaner ends into mouse ears. Place a small glue dot underneath the ears to hold pipe cleaner securely to the rock.



4. Take another pipe cleaner and wrap the end of it around the bottom center of the pipe cleaner from step 3.



5. Curl the pipe cleaner into a mouse tail shape.



6. Attach two adhesive backed googly eyes to the mouse's head.



7. Attach a small pom-pom to the rock for the mouse's nose. Use either a "glue dot" or a small dot of glue.



8. Take this craft a step further and have children use their imagination to make a home and food for their new pet.

Bowdabra®

Picture Perfect

“This is a real easy craft that is perfect for a rainy day.”
Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES:

- Darice Kid's Crafts Picture Frame
- Darice Kid's Crafts Adhesive Foamies



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



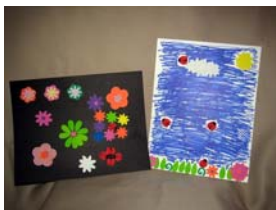
1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Darice products can always easily be found at Joann Fabrics.



2. Take the picture frame and foamies out of the packaging. Let children use their imagination to design their own picture frame.



3. Display the picture frame proudly or give as a gift.



4. Have children use the extra foamies to make their own masterpieces.

Bowdabra®

Piggy Bank

“Frugal and fun is the essence of this craft! Help children to save their pennies by unscrewing the nose and placing them inside the piggy bank! “

Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES:

- Small Water Bottle
- Pink & Black Paint – Acrylic or Finger-paints
- Pink Paper
- Black Crayon
- Pink Pipe Cleaner
- Googly Eyes with Adhesive Backs
- Glue or Glue Dots



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project. Wash the label off of a small water bottle. Allow the water bottle to dry before working with.



2. Use either acrylic paints or finger-paints to paint the water bottle (except for cap). If pink paint is not available; mix white and red paint.



3. Place the water bottle on its cap to let it dry.



4. Once the water bottle is dry, turn it over and paint the cap and the top neck of the bottle.



5. When everything is dry screw the cap back onto the water bottle. Use black paint to design the pig snout.



6. Attach two googly eyes.



7. Use pink paper to cut two triangles for the pig's ears. Fold the ends of the ears over so that they can easily be glued to the top of the bottle. Color the inside of the pig's ears with a black crayon.



8. Glue the ears to the bottle with either glue or glue dots.



9. Use a pink pipe cleaner to attach to the bottom of the water bottle. Glue dots work the best to adhere the pipe cleaner to the water bottle. Shape the pipe cleaner into a pig's tail.



10. Children can display their homemade eco-friendly piggy bank in their room. Just unscrew the nose to place pennies, nickels, and dimes into the pig.

Sparkly Sun-catching Insects

“These little insects work great at catching sunlight in windows. “

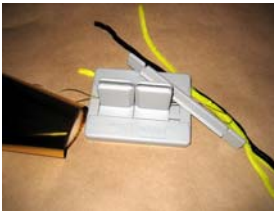
 Sandy Sandler, founder of Bowdabra®

SUPPLIES:

- [Mini Bowdabra with Mini Bowdabra Wand](#)
- [Bowdabra Bow Wire](#)
- [Metallic Scrunchy Ribbon](#)
- Assorted Colored Pipe Cleaners



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project.



2. Cut a 24” piece of Bowdabra Bow Wire and fold it in half. Lay it into the Mini Bowdabra. You’ll have a loop at one end and two loose pieces at the opposite end.



3. Fold a pipe cleaner in half and place it into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.



4. Take another pipe cleaner fold it in half and place the ends into the Mini Bowdabra. Form the pipe cleaner into a wing. Fold another pipe cleaner in half and place the ends into Mini Bowdabra. Form the wing on the other side.



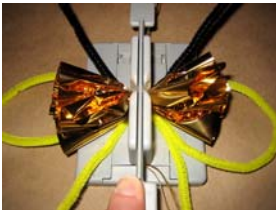
5. Take another pipe cleaner for the bee's stinger and fold it in half and place it into the center of the Mini Bowdabra.



6. Use metallic scrunchy ribbon and fold it down inside of the Mini Bowdabra.



7. Continue to fold the metallic scrunchy ribbon down into the Mini Bowdabra like an accordion. Cut the ribbon when it reaches the top of the Mini Bowdabra towers.



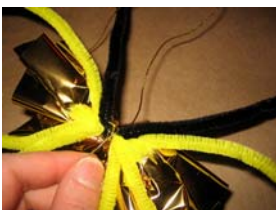
8. Scrunch down with the Mini Bowdabra Wand.



9. While the bow is still in the Bowdabra, thread the two loose ends of the Bowdabra Bow Wire through the loop at the other end.



10. Pull the Bowdabra Bow Wire tightly while the bow is still in the Bowdabra.



11. Gently pull the bow out of the Mini Bowdabra. Separate the two loose ends of the Bowdabra Bow Wire and bring them around to the back of the bow. To tie off the bow, pinch the Bowdabra Bow Wire securely against the bow. Twist the bow 4 to 6 times in a clockwise direction and knot.



12. Use the Bowdabra Bow wire to make a large loop hanger for the bumblebee.



13. Fluff the scrunchy bow.



14. Form the bee's antennae and bottom stinger.



15. **Variation:** To make a butterfly follow the same directions except skip step 5.



16. Use the Bowdabra Wire loop hanger to hang your insects.

Bowdabra®

St. Patrick's Day Card

*"Children love to send and receive mail. This is the perfect card to send to distant family members."
Sandy Sandler, founder of the Bowdabra®*

SUPPLIES:

- Black & Green Construction Paper
- Ric Rac
- Adhesive Gem (Optional)
- Glue or Glue Dots



PUTTING IT TOGETHER.....



1. Begin by gathering all the materials you will need for this project.



2. Fold a piece of black construction paper in half.



3. Fold paper in half again.



4. Use the picture to the left as a guide for cutting the leprechaun's hat.



5. Unfold the paper once. It should look like this.



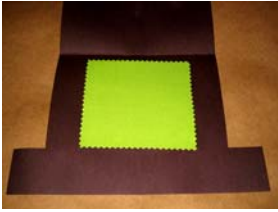
6. To make the clover cut out three hearts and a stem.



7. Glue the points of the hearts together to form the clover. Add the stem.



8. Dress the card up with ric rac, gems, and other fun embellishments.



10. Once card front has dried glue a piece of green paper on the inside.



11. Have children write a fun message inside.



12. Put in an envelope and mail!

Facts

What is the Bowdabra®?

The Bowdabra® (pronounced like “abracadabra”) is an easy-to-use crafting tool people use to make professional-looking, hand-tied bows at home.

What types of things can a Bowdabra® be used for?

Just about any type of material can be used in a Bowdabra® to create beautiful bows for gifts, baskets, home décor, bridal decorations, hair accessories, and more.

How does the Bowdabra® work?

The Bowdabra’s patented design makes it simple to create medium to large bows. The process begins by inserting a piece of ribbon wire into the Bowdabra®. Then, material is either scrunched or folded on top of the wire to achieve the bow size and fullness desired. Once the material is in, the Bowdabra Wand is used to compact the material onto the ribbon wire. The wire is then tied, and the bow can be removed from the Bowdabra®. Once removed, the bow can be fluffed, arranged, and retied to the maker’s liking.

Who is Sandy Sandler?

Sandy Sandler is the creative mind behind the Bowdabra®. She owned a corporate gift company that created gift baskets and other items in need of bows and found it difficult to train employees to create them by hand. Sandy tried other bow-making tools on the market, but they were difficult to use and did not produce the result she was looking for.

Certain there had to be a better way to quickly and easily create bows; Sandy hired a design engineer to help develop what became the Bowdabra®.

Did Sandy Sandler invent the Bowdabra®?

While Sandy takes credit for recognizing the need for a better way to make bows, she shares the spotlight with her team of designers that helped make her dream a reality. Patents for the Bowdabra® are in Sandy’s name.

Where are Bowdabras® sold?

Bowdabras can be found in retail stores like ACMoore, Michael’s, Hancock Fabrics, and Garden Ridge. They are also available online at www.Bowdabra.com. Many owner-operated craft shops stock Bowdabra® as well. Check with your local craft supply store.

How much does a Bowdabra® cost?

The exact pricing for the Bowdabra® varies slightly between retailers, but remains inexpensive in the range of \$14.99 to \$30.00, depending on the kit configuration. When you factor in the money saved not having to buy manufactured bows, the Bowdabra® practically pays for itself.