

Christine's Bow Recipe

INGREDIENTS;

1 #18 gauge floral wire (18" long)

3 1/2 yards of ribbon for the bow and streamers

Needle nose pliers Scissors

RECIPE;

Step 1 - Using a #18 floral wire, bend in half (like a bobby pin). Set aside.

Step 2 - For the streamers, cut off a strip (18-20 inches long) of ribbon off the 3.5 yds. Set aside.

Step 3 - To start the bow, take one end of the yardage of ribbon and measure off around A inches, twist* at that point, hold the ribbon at the twist - between your thumb and the two middle fingers of the same hand (with thumb facing you). Now wrap the long end of the ribbon very loosely around the thumb, twist, and let the two middle fingers again secure the twist behind the first twist (both twists are now under the thumb). From this point, do not move your thumb until the bow is complete. Only the two middle fingers will move to add the twisted petals of the bow.

Step 4 - Begin the petals of the bow. With the remaining ribbon, extend approx. 7", loop under, twist at the 7" point, and secure the twist with the middle fingers - under the two previous twists. Now your ribbon will be on the opposite side. Again extend approx. 7", loop under, twist at the 7" point, and secure under the three previous twists. You have now returned under, and in the same direction as the first 7" petal. This time you will extend the ribbon approx. 8", loop under, twist at the 8" point, and secure the twist as before. Now facing the opposite side, extend approx. 8", and continue as previously done. At this time, you have a total of 4 petals (2 petals on each side). The third set of petals will be extended slightly larger (approx. 9"), loop, twist, and secure. And the fourth set extended even larger (approx. 10"), loop, twist, and secure.

A total of 8 petals (4 petals on each side) are needed to accomplish a full figure bow. If you prefer, more sets of petals may be added. Just remember, the width of a ribbon will be the factor in deciding the number of sets of petals. For instance, a ribbon that is 2 and 3/4 inches in width will have a stunning fullness with a total of at least 8 petals (4 on each side), but, a ribbon that is 2 inches in width needs to have a total of at least 10 petals (5 on each side) for the same beautiful effect.

Step 5 - Take the bent floral wire and insert one end slowly under your thumb (between your thumb and the twists, being careful not to loosen the petals) and the other end of the wire passing over the total of the twists. Pull the wire completely around the twisted part of the bow. At this time, the middle, bent part of the wire should be directly under your thumb and around the twists. Now take your needle nose pliers, twist completely and tightly together the two wire stems. (The twists of the wires should be flush against the underneath part of the bow.)

Step 6 - Take your streamer (18-20 inch long ribbon strip), crinkle it in the middle, and lay the crinkled middle flush against the twist in the wire. (The streamers should lie in the same direction as the petals.) Hold it tightly in place. Using the pliers, again twist the two wire stems flush against the underneath part of the streamers. Again twist the wire stems two more times tightly to secure the ribbon streamers.

Step 7 - With one hand, hold the wire stem of the bow. Now you are ready to separate the petals. Start with the 4" ribbon leaf (the beginning of the bow in step 3). Twist it a little and pull it up to form a 90-degree angle from the first set of 7" petals. Let the first set of 7" petals stay as they are. With the second set of 8" petals, put a finger in one loop at a time and bring them up toward the 4" ribbon leaf, (You will need to twist a little and work the petals to take form.) The 8" petals should end up between the 4" leaf - at the top, and the 7" petals in the center. Skip the third set of 9" petals. Proceed with the 10" petals. Put a finger in one loop at a time and work the petals down -forming the legs of the bow. When doing this, the 9" petals will follow in proportional position. Now twist a little and work the streamers to a favorable position.

- The twists of the bow (petals) are half twists - do not twist completely around.

CHRISTINE'S WREATH RECIPES

A. "FESTIVE CHRISTMAS WREATH" RECIPE

(In retail stores this wreath usually sells around \$90.00-\$150.00. In five & dime, and arts and craft/hobby shops, the cost of supplies will be around \$34.00.)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 16" straw wreath ring (or 16" Styrofoam ring) 5 dozen green foliage (pine) picks - plastic
- 2 dozen decorative picks (pine cones, fruit, nuts, berries, ornaments, etc.)
- 3 1/2 yards of ribbon for the bow and streamers (2 1/2" - 2 3/4" in width)
- 2 #18 gage floral wires (18" long)
- 1 can of green spray paint
- 1 flat piece of cardboard (at least 18" square)

RECIPE:

Step 1 - Take the piece of flat cardboard. Cut out a circle 17" in diameter. Lay it on a flat surface. Place the wreath ring on top the cardboard, center it, and with a pencil, trace the center hole of the wreath ring. Cut out the penciled center of the cardboard. Now set the cardboard ring aside.

Step 2 - Spread newspapers down on a cleared work area. Be sure it is well ventilated and dry. Using the green spray paint, spray one side (front side) of the wreath ring - also, paint the Inside and outside edges of the ring. Let dry thoroughly. (For both straw and Styrofoam rings.)

Step 3 - Using a #18 floral wire, bend in half (like bobby pin). Insert both pointed ends into the painted side of the ring and pull through toward the back. The bent center will be flush against the painted front side of the ring. Twist together both wires in the back to form one wire. Wrap with floral tape. Now loop the wire to form a 2" high loop hanger. Twist the left over wire completely around the base of the hanger loop. This is now the top, center of the wreath.

Step 4 - For a Styrofoam wreath only. Glue will be necessary for all picks.

In a jar, pour 2/3 full of Elmer's glue, and 1/3 full of water, mix.

Place picks (as needed) in the jar of glue mixture until ready to insert into the wreath ring, (glue on stem end only)

When using Styrofoam, all picks must be glued and stem ends of picks shortened, or they will work out of the wreath. Since Styrofoam rings are approx. 2" thick, all picks must be shortened. Measure all stems and cut off with wire cutters all but 2". Make sure and leave at least 2" stems. If any shorter, even with glue, the picks will not stay in place.

Step 5 - First imagine an imaginary line down the middle of the wreath ring, starting at the top center where the wire hanger was placed. Using the green foliage (pine) picks, begin at the top center, inside hole of the ring and work the picks to the left of the imaginary line at the inside top, down to the imaginary line at the inside bottom of the ring. Insert one pick at a time, spacing the same between each and all going in the same direction. Space the foliage to slightly overlap each other. Be sure to insert picks at a slant angle (as parallel as can be to the inside hole of the ring.)

Now on the right side of the imaginary line, complete the inside hole of the ring. Starting at the top and work down to meet the last foliage pick previously inserted at the bottom. (The right side will mirror image the left.) Approx. 8 to 10 foliage picks will be needed for the inside hole of the ring.

Step 6 - Remembering the imaginary line in the middle, start inserting the foliage picks at the top, outside edge of the wreath ring. Again work the picks down the left side first, to the imaginary line at the bottom of the ring. Be sure to space evenly, overlap foliage, and slant the picks (as parallel as can be to the outside edge of the ring). Also, be sure all picks are going in the same direction as the picks on the inside circle of the ring.

Now on the right side of the imaginary line, complete the outside edge of the wreath ring. Starting at the top and work down to meet the last foliage pick previously inserted at the bottom. (You will mirror image the left outside edge.) Approx. 2 dozen foliage picks will be needed for the outside edge of the ring.

Step 7 - With the remaining foliage (pine) picks fill in the painted center portion of the ring. Keeping with the imaginary line, start at the top and work the left side first. Stagger and slant the picks. Again work the picks down to the imaginary middle at the bottom. Begin again on the right, at the top, work down and meet the left side picks. (Mirror image)

Step 8 - Use the 2 dozen decorative picks to fill in any gap areas and to decorate as desired.

Step 9 - See Bow making recipe.

Step 10 - Position the Bow at the top of the ring - in the area of the hanger. Next, insert the wire stems of the bow into the front of the wreath and push through toward the back. With the pliers, twist both wire stems (in the back of the wreath) together a couple of times and re-insert remaining wire stems back into the wreath ring.

Step 11 - Use the wire cutters and cut any wires that protrude out the backside of the wreath ring.

Step 12 - Take the cardboard ring. Lay it flush against the back of the wreath ring. Now use 3 floral pins and secure the cardboard ring to the wreath ring.

B. "CHRISTMAS GOLD WREATH" RECIPE

(The cost of supplies will be around \$17.00.)

INGREDIENTS:

1 16" Styrofoam wreath ring

Dozen "flocked" green foliage (pine) picks - plastic

Gold colored bells (or brass bells)

9 1/2 yards of white satin ribbon for covering wreath ring (2 1/2" - 2 3/4 in width)

3 1/2 yards of white satin ribbon for the bow and streamers (same width)

2 yards of gold lace ribbon

2 #18 gage floral wires (18" long)

Decorative picks - gold and white ornaments, pinecones, etc.

RECIPE:

Step 1 - Of the 9 1/2 yards of ribbon cut off 1/2 yard and set aside for later.

Step 2 - Take one end of the 9 yards of white satin ribbon and with one floral pin, secure it to the front side of the Styrofoam ring. With one end secured, lap the ribbon around the Styrofoam ring. Continue until the Styrofoam ring is completely wrapped. While wrapping, slightly overlap each previously wrapped ribbon and be sure to pull tight at all times until you meet back to where you started. Take a floral pin and secure the end of the ribbon. (Note: the bow will hide the pins and ribbon ends.)

Step 3 - Take one end of the 2 yards of gold lace ribbon and attach it to the front of the wreath ring with a floral pin (at the same place both white ribbon ends are pinned). Now lap the gold ribbon around the ring, over the white ribbon, spacing evenly between each lap, (space like candy stripes) until you meet back to where you started. With a floral pin secure the gold ribbon end.

Step 4 - Bend in half a #18 floral wire (like a bobby pin). Insert both ends into the front side of the wreath and push through to the backside. Make the bent center of the wire flush against the front side of the wreath. (Note: pierce the wires at

the same place the ribbon ends were pinned.) This is now the top, center.

Step 5 - Take the two extended wires on the backside and twist both completely together to form one wire. Wrap with floral tape. Now loop the wire to form a 2" high loop hanger. Twist the left over wire completely around the base of the loop hanger.

Step 6 - Take the ½ yd. of white ribbon that was cut and set aside in step 1. Cut lengthwise, 2 ribbon strips, both 1-inch in width. Loop one of the 1-inch wide ribbon strips through one bell loop - as to form a necklace. Position bell to desired height. Secure both ends of the ribbon with a floral pin at the top, inside center of the wreath. Repeat for the second bell. (Be sure the bells, when purchasing, have hanger loops at the tops.)

Step 7 - See Bow making recipe. Step 8 - See Wreath "A", Step 10.

Step 9 - Using the "flocked" green foliage picks, first position the picks to your desired liking, then insert the picks one at a time at a slant angle going with the round of the wreath. (Suggestion: 6 picks left of bow, 4 picks right of bow, and 2 picks behind the bow.)

Step 10 - Use ornamental picks to decorate as desired. (Then see Wreath "A", Step 11.)

C. "LITTLE BIT COUNTRY WREATH" RECIPE

(The cost of supplies will be around \$14.00.)

INGREDIENTS:

1 16" straw wreath ring

1 dozen green foliage (pine) picks - plastic

4 1/2 yards of red velvet ribbon for stripes on the wreath ring (2" in width) 3 1/2 yards of red velvet ribbon for the bow and streamers (2" in width) 3 decorative picks - nut/berry cluster picks

2 wicker bells

2 #18 gage floral wires (18" long)

RECIPE:

Step 1 - Of the 4 ½ yds. Of ribbon, cut off ½ yd. and set aside for later.

Step 2 - Secure one end of the 4 yards of red velvet ribbon with a floral pin to the front side of the straw ring. Lap the ribbon around the ring 9 times (like candy stripes), until you meet back to where you started. Space evenly between all 9 ribbon laps. Again secure the ribbon end with a floral pin. (Note: the bow will hide the pins and ribbon ends.)

Step 3 - See Wreath "B", Step 4 and Step 5. Step 4 - See Bow making recipe.

Step 5 - See Wreath "A", Step 10.

Step 6 - Take the ½-yard of red velvet ribbon that was cut and set aside in step 1.

See Wreath "B", Step 6.

Step 7 - Using the 1 dozen green foliage (pine) picks, see Wreath "B", Step 9.

Step 8 - With the three decorative picks, insert 2 on the left, and 1 on the right of the bow.

(Now see Wreath "A", Step 11.)

D. "CHRISTMAS STOCKING WREATH" RECIPE

(The cost of supplies will be around \$16.00.)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 18" Styrofoam wreath ring
- 1 dozen foliage (pine) picks - plastic
- 9 yards of red velvet (or satin) ribbon for covering wreath ring (2 ½" - 2 ¾" in width)
- 3% yards of red velvet (or satin) ribbon for the bow and streamers (same width)
- 1 Christmas stocking
- 2 #18 gauge floral wires (18" long)
- Decorative picks - berries, pinecones, miniature toy picks, etc.

RECIPE:

Step 1 - Using the 9 yds. of red velvet ribbon and a floral pin, see Wreath "B", Step 2.

Step 2 - See Wreath "B", Step 4 and Step 5.

Step 3 - See Bow making recipe.

Step 4 - See Wreath "A", Step 10.

Step 5 - Using the Christmas stocking, position in the center of the wreath, under the bow. Take floral pins, secure the stocking to the top, inside center of the wreath ring.

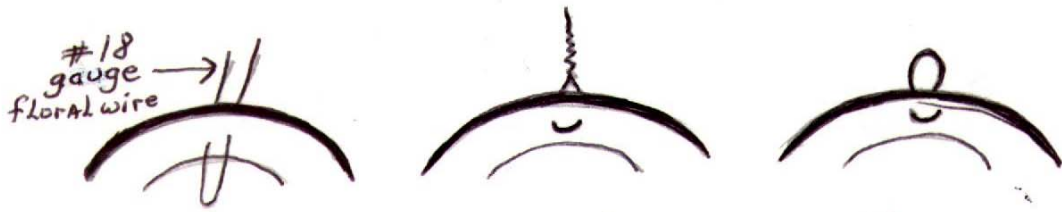
Step 6 - Using the 1 dozen foliage picks, see Wreath "B", Step 9.

Step 7 - Use ornamental or miniature toy picks to decorate as desired.

(Then see wreath "A", Step 11.)

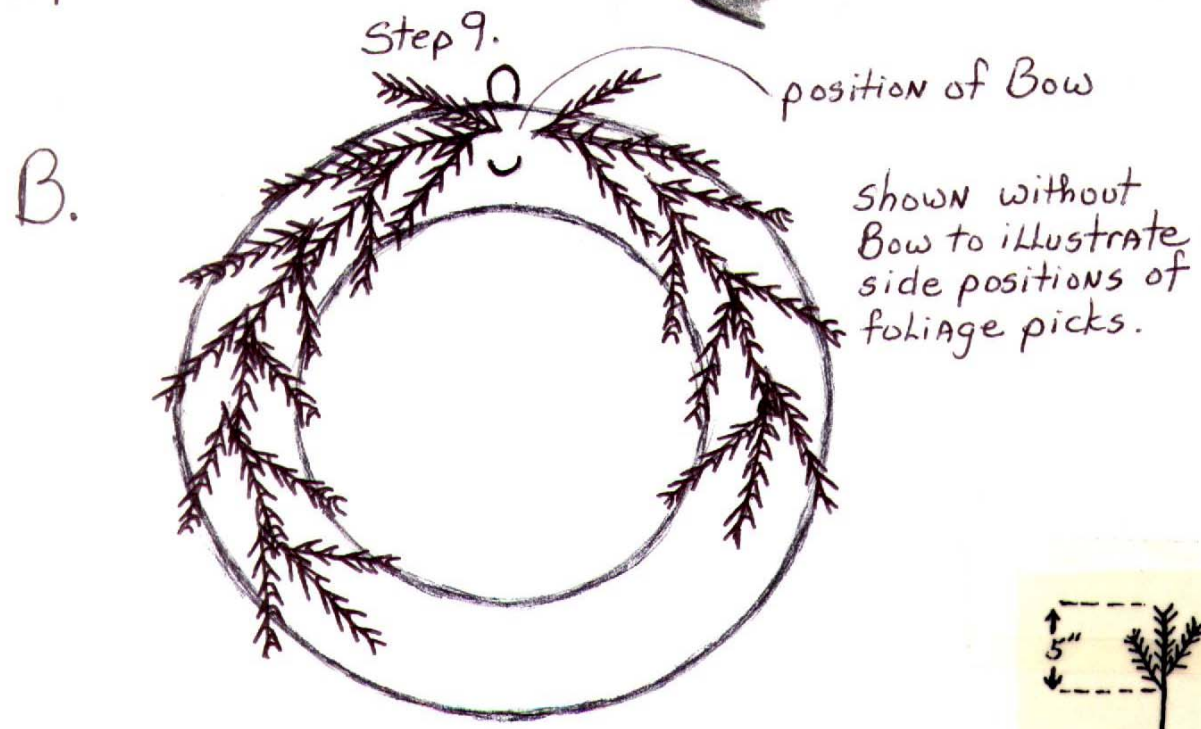
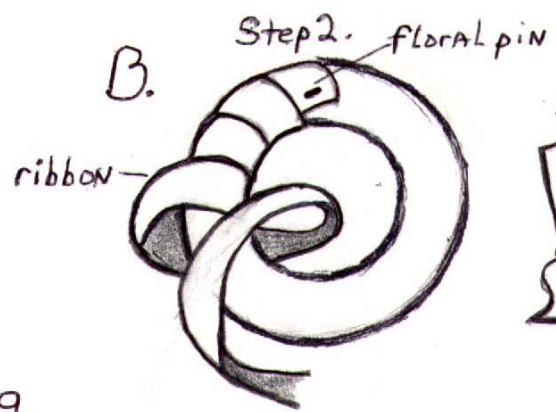
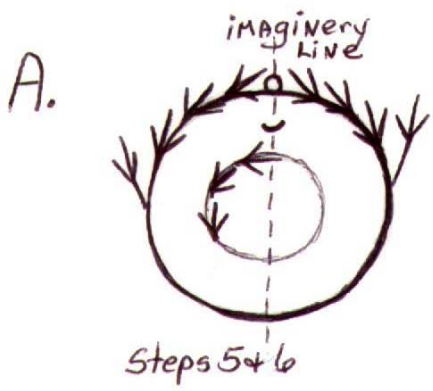
All materials for the wreaths can be found in your arts & crafts shops. But, be sure to shop for the best prices and don't overlook the five & dime stores. By the way, not only do I enjoy making wreaths for gifts, as I know you will, but, I found a way to make extra income for Christmas. After making these wreaths for family and friends, they started ordering more for their friends and families. This gave me an idea. I made up one of each wreath for display. Then, to assure myself of not losing money and to keep from using my own, I requested 50% (of selling price) down payment on every order. I then used the down payments to purchase the materials needed. It was so simple, fun and definitely financially rewarding. Whether you are making wreaths for yourself, for gifts, or for extra income, I know you will enjoy the satisfaction of accomplishment and achievement when making these beautiful "homemade" wreaths, as I have.

My best to you always. God Bless. Christine



#18 gauge floral wire

The wire hanger for ALL wreaths.



NOTE: The plastic foliage, pine picks are Scotch Pine with a total length (stem included) of $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches - 5 inches branches only. For larger plastic pine picks, less will be needed (for A. approx. $3\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 dozen; for B., C., & D. approx. 7 - 9 picks).

Best Wishes