

UPCYCLED BOWS

An upcycled bow can elevate your gifts from "just wrapped" to "wow!" There are many different ways to make a bow or add your own trim to enhance gift wrapping. Here is one method to make an elegant and easy bow from repurposed magazine or newspaper.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Old magazines and/or newspapers
- Scissors
- Glue (tacky glue works best)
- Tape
- Stapler

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Cut 7 long strips of paper - 1/4 inch wide x 8 inches long. Cut 6 short strips of paper - 1/4 inch wide x 4 inches long.

Step 2: Take 1 of the long strips and bend it into a loop. Secure the loop with a small piece of tape. Repeat this with 5 additional long strips, so you have a total of 6 loops.

Step 3: Take 3 of the loops and pinch them in the middle. Stack them on top of each other so they make a star. Secure the star with a staple. Repeat step 4 with the other 3 circles. Now you should have 2 six-point loop stars.

Step 4: Place two short strips on top of one another to make an X. Place the other 4 short strips on top of the X, adjusting each one so the X turns into a 12 pointed star. Secure the 12 pointed star in the middle with a staple.

NOTE: in the example photo we mistakenly used 7 strips and made a 14 pointed star!

Step 5: Take the last long strip and wrap it loosely around your finger to make a small circle. Secure it as a small loop with a piece of tape.

Step 6: Put a small dot of glue on the 12 pointed star. Place one of the looped stars on top of it. Place another drop of glue on the top of that star and add the second looped star. Place a final drop of glue on the top of the pile and add the small loop as your center, finishing loop.

**Variations: There are dozens of creative ways to add variation to your bows. Try adding more or less loops, widen or narrow the strips of paper, change the colors, change the length of the strips, etc.*

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FUROSHIKI WRAPPING

(USING A TEA TOWEL, HANDKERCHIEF, OR OTHER FABRIC)

Furoshiki is a traditional Japanese method of wrapping gifts using fabric. Wrapping a gift in this method is a sustainable way to enhance any gift you give - the reusable wrapping becomes an attractive part of the gift itself. Although traditional Furoshiki did not use embellishments, adding your own touch with dried herbs, evergreen branches, or other items can enhance the fabric and make your wrapping extra special.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tea towel, cloth napkin, handkerchief, or other piece of fabric
- Assorted items to embellish the wrapping (e.g., dried sage leaves, dried fruit, gift tags, ornaments, etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Spread your fabric flat, with the front side down. Place your box in the middle of the fabric at an angle, so the straight edges of the box are aimed at the corners.

Step 2: Fold one side of the fabric over the box. Fold the opposite side of fabric onto the box and then tuck or fold the end under so you have a smooth overlapping edge.

Step 3: On each side, fold the outer edge of fabric across the box along the lower edge to create triangle shapes, as you would do with wrapping paper. With the fabric, it works best to fold it under as neatly as possible so you end up with a long, thin "tail" of fabric to wrap over the top of the box.

Step 4: Pull the two "tails" over the box cross them over one another. Tuck one under the other to form a simple knot. Double tie the "tails" to make a basic knot.

Step 5: Add evergreen sprigs, dried fruit, or dried herb embellishments to enhance the top. Use a thin piece of jute twine to tie the embellishments together, and then tie them to the top of the gift.

Note: it is important to have a piece of fabric that fits the size of box you are using, just as when you are wrapping a gift with paper giftwrap. Thinner, slightly stretchy fabric works better than thick, stiff fabric.

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