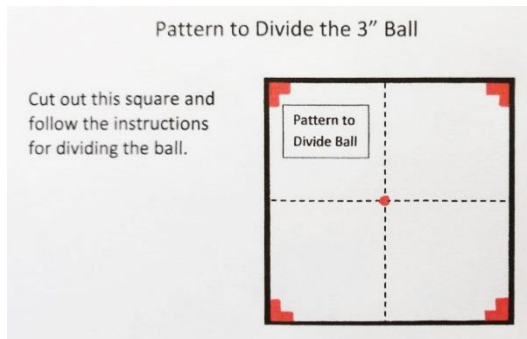


# “Better Way” Method

## All-Fabric 4-Layer Quilted Ornament

### Dividing the Ball

To make an ornament using cotton fabric, you will begin by dividing your 3” Styrofoam or Smoothfoam™ ball. This is an important step to help you keep your triangles straight on both sides of your ornament when viewing it from the side band.

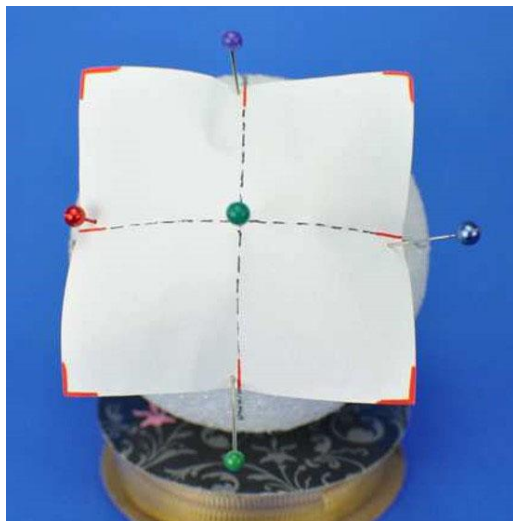


Use a paper pattern, as shown in this example, to help you divide your ball into 8 sections. This square paper pattern is 2.5" X 2.5".

You will need a string, and a leather string works best, to draw the lines on your ball using a felt tip pen. If you don't

have a leather string, you can use a rubber band.

Draw a dot, using your felt tip pen, anywhere on your ball and make that the Center Dot. If you are using a Smoothfoam™ ball, make your Center Dot on the opposite end of the hole in the ball.



Line up the center of the square with your Center Dot using a pin and pin each side to the ball.

Draw 8 small lines on the ball following the lines on the paper pattern and the corners of the pattern.



Wrap the string around the entire ball to find the diameter of the ball and then cut it in half. Tape or pin one end of the half string to the Center Dot and wrap around the ball to make an “X” at the opposite end of the bottom of the ball.



Now wrap another string around the entire ball, starting at the Center Dot and following the “mark lines” you made and passing through the “X” at the bottom of the ball. Using your felt tip pin, draw along the side of the string. Do this 8 times, following the small “mark lines” you have drawn, until you have divided the ball into 8 sections.



## Materials

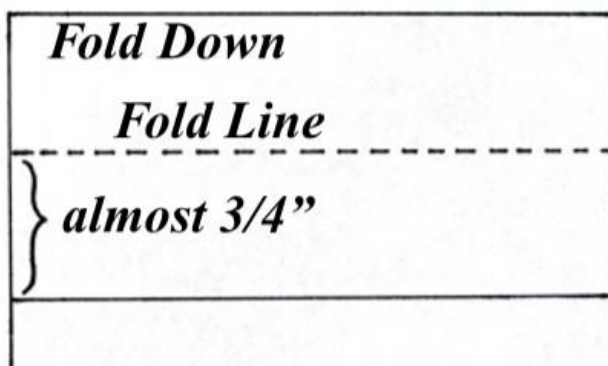
To create this ornament, you will use folded fabric triangles made from a rectangle-shaped fabric that measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and 3" long. You will need 24 solid fabric rectangles for layers #1 and layers #3, plus 2 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " fabric squares from the same solid fabric. You will also need 32 rectangles from a printed fabric for layers #2 and layers #4. For the band, cut a piece of the same printed fabric, 2" wide and at least  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Your band, when folded, will measure  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. It is best to use a light to medium weight cotton fabric to make your ornament. To create the bow with hanger, you will want two different ribbons that coordinate with your chosen fabrics. I recommend using  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide ribbon for the bottom bow and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for the top bow and hanger.

**TIP:** On the ornaments that you see on Pattern Please! website, I use 26" of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " ribbon to make the bottom bow and my hanger is 6" long.

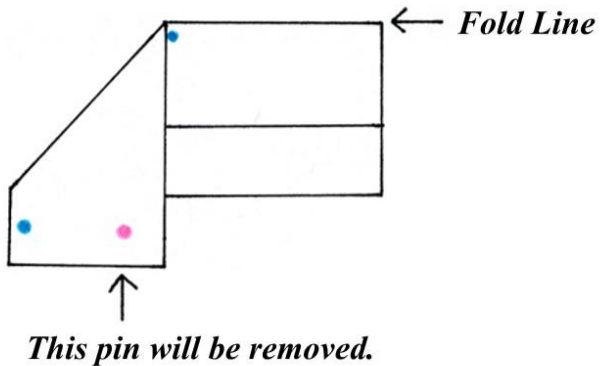
To complete your No-Sew quilted ornament, you will need about 250+ Flat Head Straight Pins, all  $1\frac{1}{6}$ " long. When using the solid Smoothfoam™ balls, you may find it easier to use Sequin Pins that are shorter, about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. Don't use the  $\frac{5}{8}$ " Sequin Pins as they are difficult to pick up and handle with ease.

You will need a small pair of scissors, a small ruler (metal sewing gauge works great), and a metal thimble to help you push the pins into the ball.

## Folding A Triangle

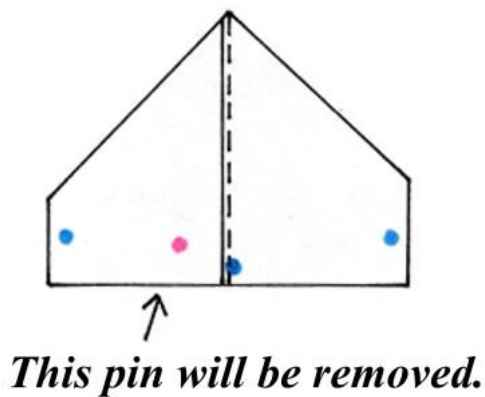


Fold over your rectangle fabric piece almost  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Press the fold line with your fingers. No need to measure with your ruler as it does not need to be exact measurements.



Once you have folded over the top half of the rectangle, fold again from edge to edge to find the center. Push your pin through the folded fabric at the center fold, about 1/16" down from the folded edge. That pin will be pushed into the ball that will create the point of each triangle.

Next, fold the left side or right side down to start your triangle. This depends on whether you are left-handed or right-handed as to which side you fold first. It makes no difference, so do what is best and comfortable for you.



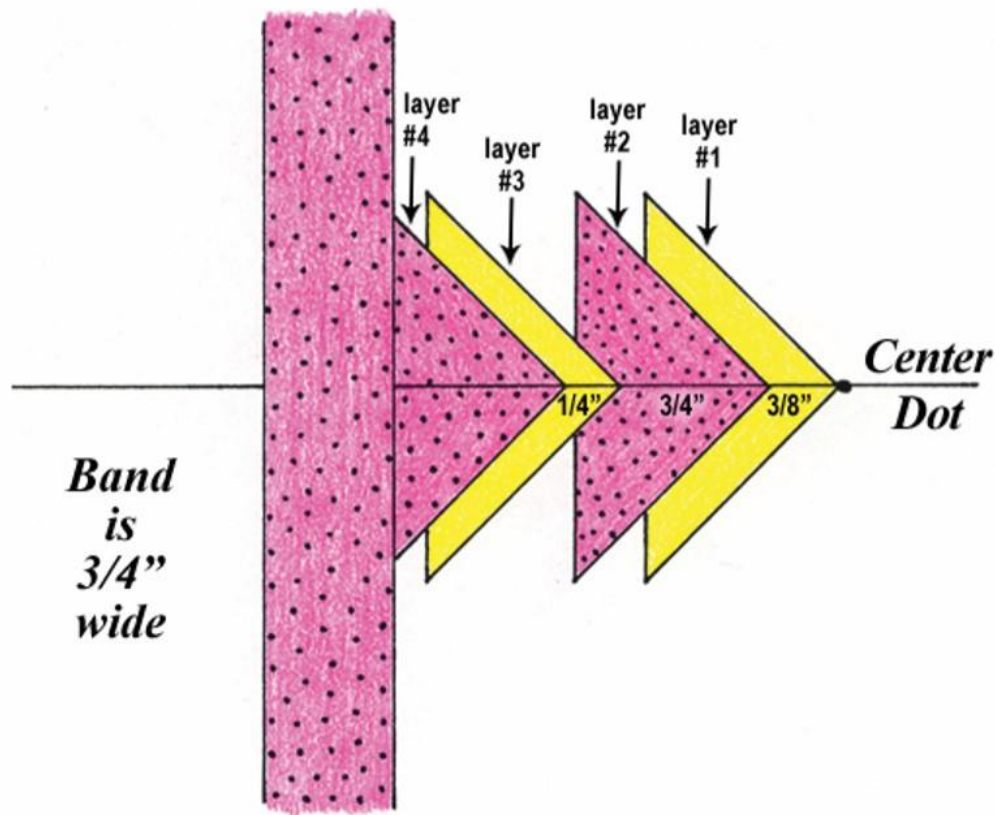
To complete the triangle, place a temporary pin at the bottom of the side you folded first (red pin in photo), then fold over the other side. Notice that you will be overlapping the fabric just slightly along the center line. For this reason, you will only need to use one pin to hold the fabric together at the center bottom of the triangle. When you do this,

your pin at the top point of the triangle will not show. To secure each triangle, place a pin on each lower corner (blue dots) and remove the pin (red dot) that held the fabric in place on the first fold. This is how you will complete each triangle as you work each layer of your ornament.

## Now, Let's Get Started!

Your 4-layer ornament will be created using the following measurements on each side.

## Measurements for the 4-layer ball:



**TIP:** When working on your ornament, complete layers #1 and #2 on each side before starting layer #3. Then complete layer #3 on each side and finish with layer #4. The fabric in layer #4 will require some trimming along the edge of each triangle.

To begin creating your ornament, take one of the 2 1/2" fabric squares and fold it in half and then in half again until you have found the center of the square. This square will be placed behind layer #1 on both sides to prevent the Styrofoam or Smoothfoam™ from showing, just in case you don't get the 4 triangles close enough together at the Center Dot in layer #1. This first layer is often referred to as "The Star."

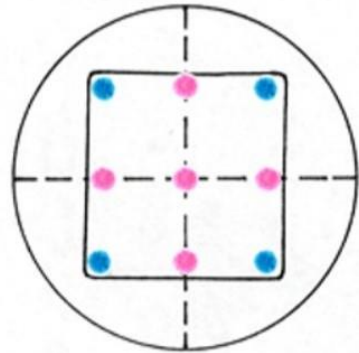
Place a pin in the center of the fabric square and line it up with your Center Dot on one side. Don't push the pin at the Center Dot all the way through the ball because you will be removing that pin. Line up the fold marks on the fabric square with your lines drawn on the ball. Place a pin



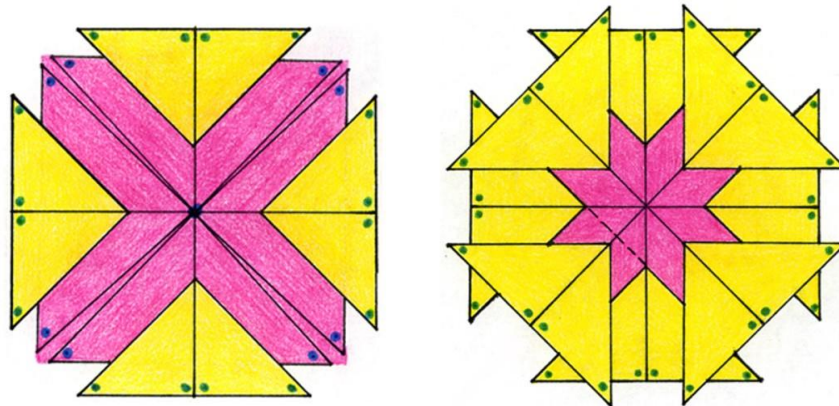
on each line (red dot) to hold the fabric square in place before you secure it with pins on each corner. Smooth the fabric onto the ball and secure each corner with a pin, then remove the other pins, except for the pin in the Center Dot. Remember, this fabric square will not show.

- *Pins that will be removed.*

- *Pins that will be left in the ball.*

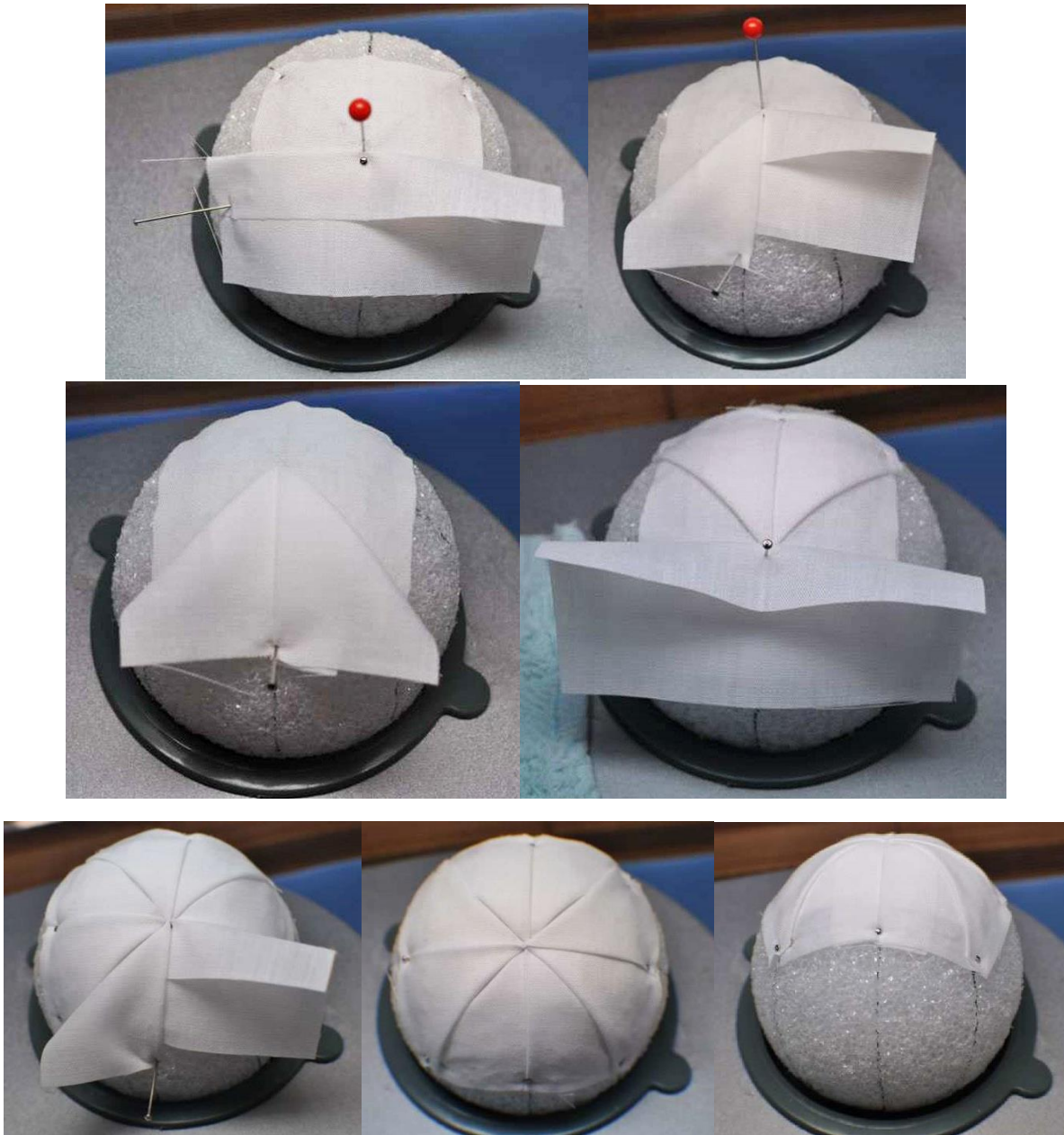


Each layer, except layer #1, consists of eight triangles, two sets of four. When making each layer, do the first set of 4 underneath triangles and then the top 4 triangles as shown in the following examples.

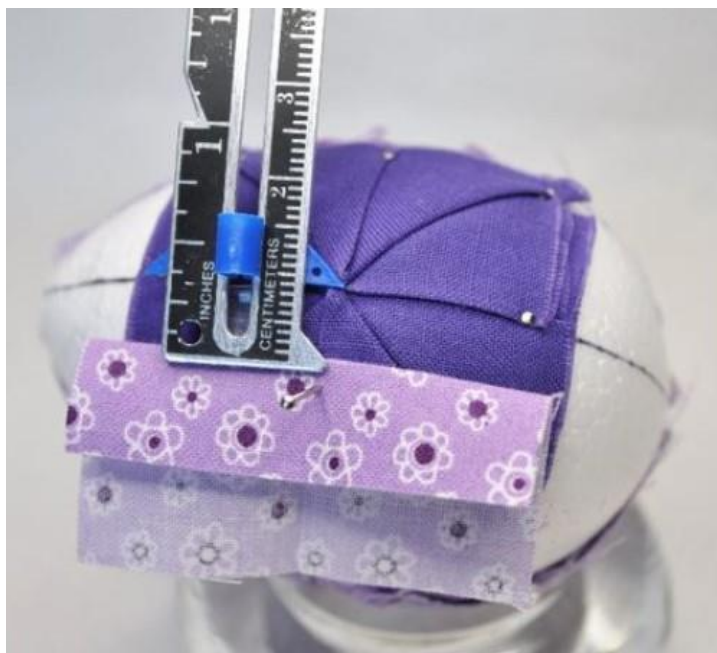


## Layer #1

Layer #1 will be made using 4 triangles. The point of each triangle will meet and touch at the Center Dot, even slightly overlapping, as shown in the following photos. Your center pin at the Center Dot, shown with the red ball, will then be removed. When you overlap the points of each triangle just slightly, this will bring your Layer #1 triangles close enough together so your fabric square will not show through.



Notice how the center fold of each triangle is following the lines drawn on the ball. This is how you will keep each layer straight. Next, do layer #2 before moving to the other side to do the same.



**TIP: How to Measure  
Between Layers**

This photo shows you an example of how to measure between each layer using your sewing gauge ruler. Even though the ruler is overlapping the folded fabric, when the triangle is completed, the desired measurement will be perfect.

## Layer #2

To create layer #2, use the printed fabric to make each triangle. Make the first set of 4 triangles and then complete the layer with the second set of triangles. The points of each triangle in layer #2 will be  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the Center Dot points in layer #1. When you have completed layer #1 and layer #2 on the first side, turn the ball over and do the same on the other side. Notice in the last photo how the center fold of each triangle follows the lines drawn on the ball.







## Layer #3

To create layer #3, use the solid fabric to make each triangle. Make the first set of 4 triangles and then complete the layer with the second set of triangles. The points of each triangle in layer #3 will be  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from layer #2. When you have completed layer #3 on one side, turn the ball over and do the same on the other side. Make sure the center fold of each triangle follows the lines drawn on the ball.





## Layer #4

To create layer #4, use the printed fabric to make each triangle. Once again, make the first set of 4 triangles and then complete the layer with the second set of triangles. The points of each triangle in layer #4 will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from layer #3. When you have completed layer #4 on one side, turn the ball over and do the same on the other side. Make sure the center fold of each triangle follows the lines drawn on the ball.

triangle follows the lines drawn on the ball.



**TIP:** The fabric at the bottom of each triangle in layer #4 may need to be trimmed about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". You want Layer #4 on both sides to meet in the middle so all fabric and pins will be covered by the band.

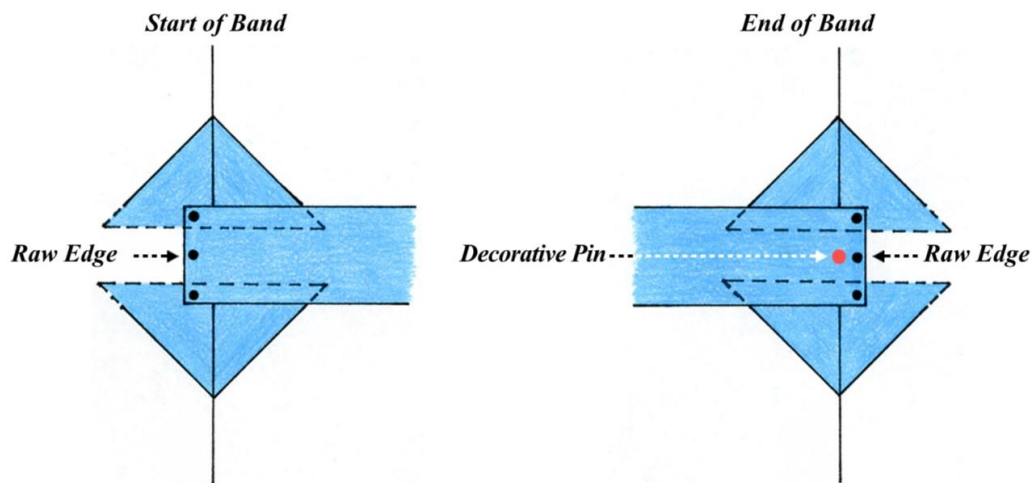
Notice how straight and equal each side is, viewing from the side where you will place the band. This is the result of following the lines drawn on the ball.

## The Band

Once you have completed all of your triangles on both sides, you are ready to apply the band that will be placed around the center to cover your pins showing on layer #4. At this point, take a good look at both sides of the ball and decide where you want the top of the ornament to be, depending on the design of the fabric.

Your band is created from a piece of the printed fabric that measures 2" wide and at least 10 1/2" long. You will find that you can fold the band and press down the fold on each side with your thumbs. You can also use a low-heat iron to press the band, but it's not necessary.

Fold under one side of the band 5/8" and then fold under the other side 1/2". This will make your band 3/4" wide.



Center and place the raw edge of one end of the band at the top of your ornament, just a little left of the center lines as shown in the illustrations above. Secure with 3 pins. Then pull your band around the center of the ball, making sure you cover all the pins in layer #4 and keep the band as straight as possible, centered between your triangles. Don't pull the band too tight, because the

fabric and pins underneath will cause it to look lumpy from the side view, and you want your band to be smooth.





When you have pulled the band around the ball, extend the other edge of the band a little past the center line. Secure with three pins and trim the excess material.

## The Bows

There are many ways to make bows, but I like to use one continuous piece of ribbon, making loops and pinning each loop, one at a time. I make 6 total loops, 3 on each side. By doing this, you can control the look of the bow and how it lays on top of the ornament. You will use several pins. Keep them close at the center area of the band, but stay away from the very center where your decorative pin will go to hold the hanger.



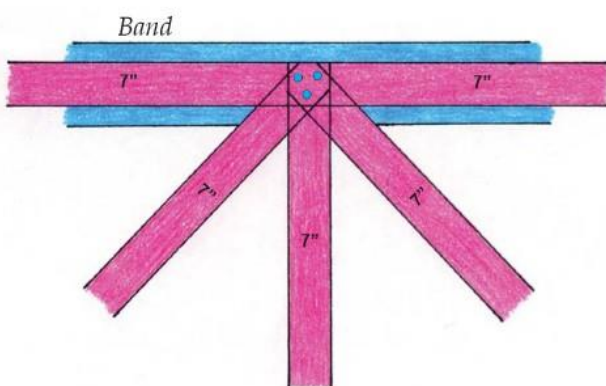




The bottom bow will be created from a ribbon that is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide. The top bow and hanger are best created using ribbon that is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, but you can use  $\frac{3}{8}$ " ribbon. When both bows are in place, cut the hanger ribbon from a piece that is  $6 \frac{1}{4}$ " long. Overlap the hanger ribbon about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and push your decorative ball pin into the center of the ball to make a 6" hanger.

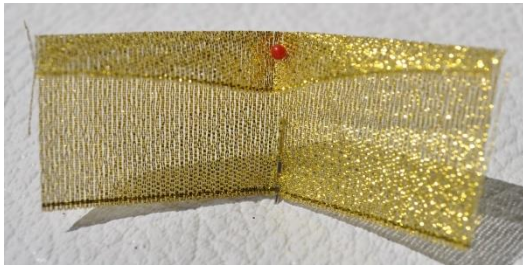
## One-Sided Bow Ribbon

Occasionally you will find a ribbon that you will want to use that only has the design on one side. A solid satin ribbon is the same way, with the silky shine only on one side. If you apply this on the ornament using the loop method above, you will only see the design or silky shine of the satin on every other loop. To prevent this from happening, you will use 6 strips of ribbon, each one between 4" to 7" long, depending on how long and full you want your loops.



You will continue to make your loops, but after you make and pin the first loop, cut the ribbon, turn the ribbon over and pin at the center area of the band and make the next loop. Spread your pins out in that center area because your second bow will hide the pins from the first loops.

**TIP:** You can use 5/8" organza ribbon as the bottom bow, but don't use a thick ribbon, like grosgrain, in any size larger than 3/8". Remember that your bow is to accent your ornament, not overpower it. All of the kits from Pattern Please! website includes 1 yard of each bow ribbon, but on my ornaments, I only use about 26" or less for each bow. The bow is your personal taste and design.



**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** Sometimes an ornament will be made using this "Better Way" Method, but layer #1 and #3 are made with a 1 1/2" ribbon. Fold the top of the ribbon 3/8" and continue as you would with fabric.



**Congratulations!**

You have now completed your beautiful quilted ornament!

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