

The Complete Photo Guide to RIBBON CRAFTS

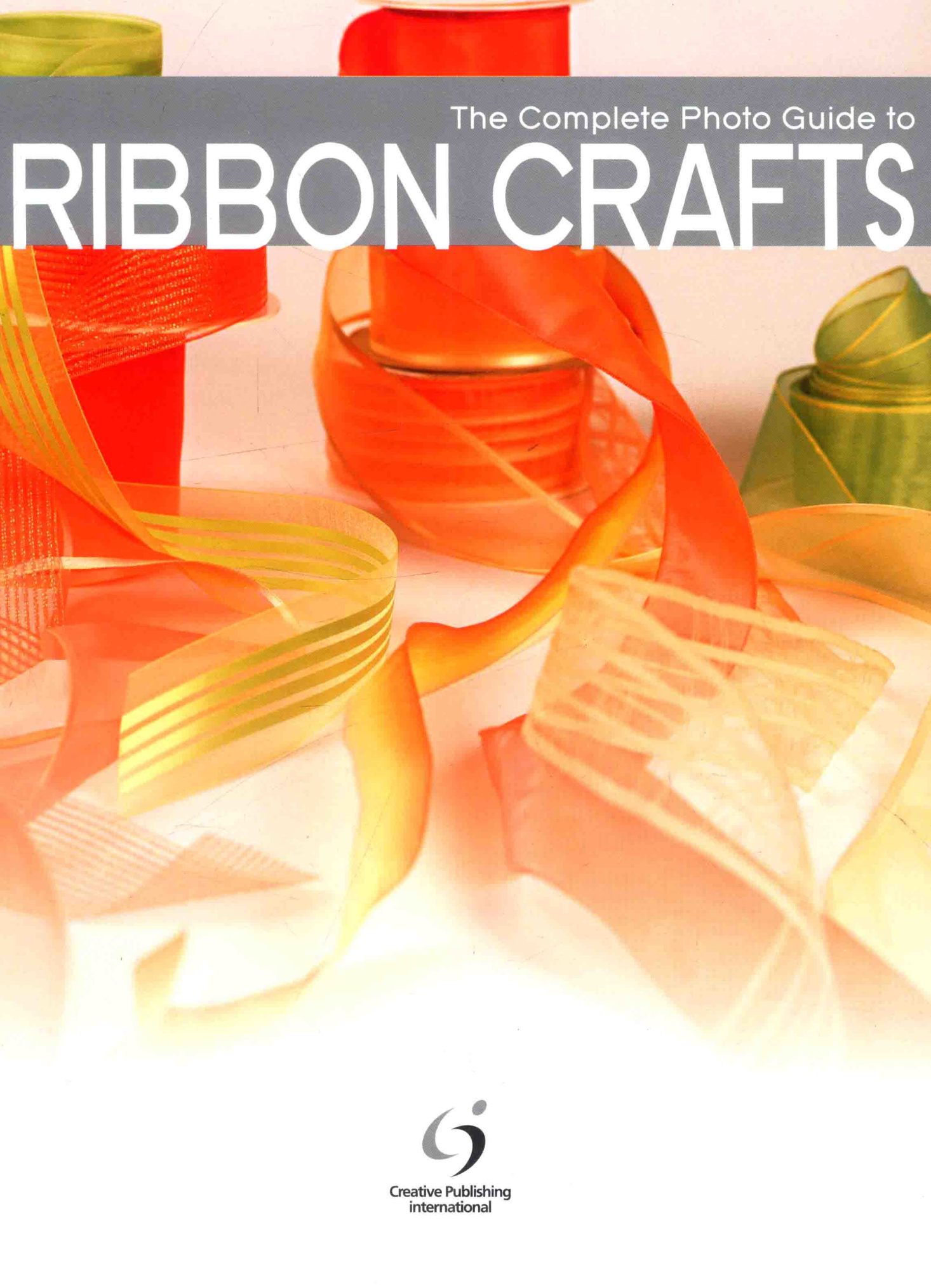


- ✦ All You Need to Know to Craft with Ribbon
- ✦ The Essential Reference for Novice and Expert Ribbon Crafters
- ✦ Packed with Hundreds of Crafty Tips and Ideas
- ✦ Detailed Step-by-Step Instructions for Over 100 Projects



Elaine Schmidt

More than
700
Large Format
Color Photos



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RIBBON CRAFTS



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Introduction

As long as I can remember, I have collected ribbons—salvaged lengths from holiday and birthday gifts, antique snippets from my grandmother's sewing basket, treasures from a flea market, and the oh-so-many impulse purchases of wonderful ribbons I just had to have. I love playing with the ribbon lengths, rolls, and remnants in my stash, organizing the different types, colors, and patterns, and combining them as inspiration for my next craft or sewing project.

I have compiled *The Complete Photo Guide to Ribbon Crafts* as a comprehensive reference to the vast world of ribbon that is available today. You'll learn about the different types of ribbon and the current materials that make ribbons perfect to use for many craft techniques. I will show you how to make a variety of bows, ribbon flowers, and trims. I'll pass along a list of supplies you'll need, as well as tips for cutting, gluing, sewing, and crafting with ribbons. And you'll see how ribbons can be used with various craft components and everyday items to make unique projects for yourself, your home, and your friends. Just a touch of ribbon can turn something plain into something fabulous.

My hope is that this book will inspire you to create your own ribbonwork treasures and heirlooms. You may not have on hand the exact ribbon or crafting supply I use for any particular project, but you can easily make substitutions in ribbon type, color, width, etc. Let the examples shown be a starting point for your own creations. That's what making things is all about—making it you!





A Brief History of Ribbon

Whether used to tie a bow on a birthday present, trim a dress for a special occasion, or decorate a flower arrangement, ribbons have literally woven themselves into our everyday lives. We win blue ribbons (if we are so lucky!), attend ribbon-cutting ceremonies for major events, and display ribbons to support causes close to our hearts. For many centuries, ribbons have been used as tokens of love, badges of honor, and status symbols.

Ribbons are among the oldest materials used for decoration and adornment. In ancient Egypt, tunics were embellished with narrow bands of fabric. The more elaborate the clothing, the higher the status of the wearer. This pattern of dress continued through subsequent eras, including both Greek and Roman civilizations. During the Middle Ages, peddlers traveled throughout Europe selling exotic decorative borders used to embellish clothing. The tales of Geoffrey Chaucer mention “ribbands” used to adorn garments. The ribbon industry sprang from the silk trade as products were sold in the major cities and exported for trade. Rich patrons bought ribbons woven with silver and gold threads and made from silk and other rare materials. Modern ribbons with woven selvages came into being around 1500. During the sixteenth century, the English Parliament tried to make wearing ribbons a right only of the nobility. By the seventeenth and eighteenth century, ribbons reached the height of popularity as a fashion embellishment for both men and women. Men’s clothing from that period could be trimmed with as much as 250 yards (228 m) of ribbon. Many of the ribbon manipulation techniques that we use today are taken from earlier examples of historic ribbonwork. Popular Victorian ladies’ magazines of the early 1900s featured yards and yards (meters) of ribbon used to trim dresses, coats, hats, and undergarments, as well as decorations for the home.

Today we have access to an amazing array of ribbons and by incorporating them in combination with old and new techniques and modern crafting supplies, we can use ribbons in a contemporary way for our homes and active lifestyles.

Ribbons for a Cause

Ribbons have long been associated with the awareness of various situations and worthy concerns. During Victorian times, black ribbons were worn as a sign of mourning. The use of ribbons has also been associated with various political events around the world, including red ribbons worn to commemorate the October Revolution in the former Soviet Union. In the 1970s, the theme of the popular song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree" inspired Americans to display yellow ribbons in support of the hostages held by Iranian militants. Yellow ribbons saw renewed popularity during the Gulf War and continue today to be a symbol of support of the Armed Forces deployed overseas.

In the 1990s, activists drew awareness to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) funding, research, and support with red ribbons, as red is the color of passion. Pink became universally connected to breast cancer. Today the list of causes associated with various colors of ribbon has grown, and the universal symbol of the overlapped ribbon loop continues to draw awareness and support to many concerns.

How to make an awareness ribbon

① Cut a 6" to 8" (15.2 to 20.3 cm) length of $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9 mm) ribbon. Form a small loop at the center by bringing the right side of the ribbon over the left. Leave the tails hanging down.

② Apply a small amount of glue between the ribbons at the point where they overlap. Trim the ends of the ribbon on the diagonal.

③ Attach the ribbon to your shirt with a straight pin or double-face tape. Or, glue a small pin-back jewelry finding to the back of the ribbon.



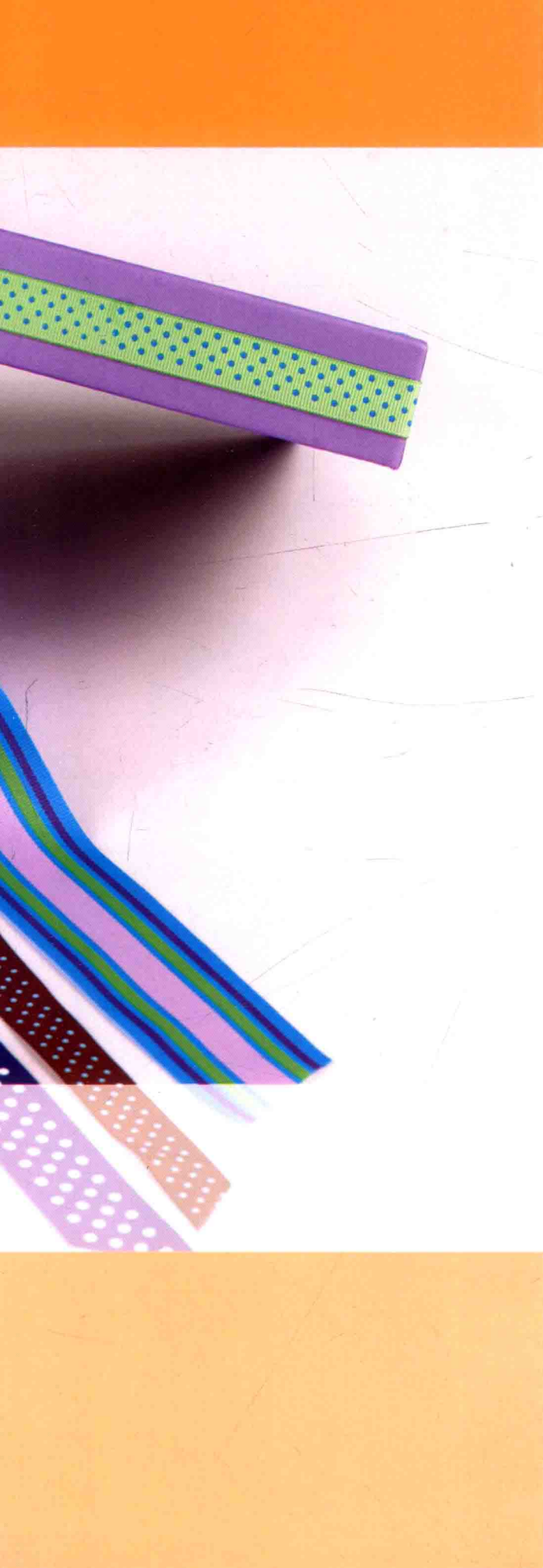


Ribbon colors continue to be selected to represent different causes. Here are just a few.

COLOR	CAUSE
White	Peace, Right to Life, Victims of Terrorism
Pink	Breast Cancer
Red	AIDS/HIV, Heart Disease, Substance Abuse
Orange	Leukemia, Cultural Diversity and Racial Tolerance
Yellow	Military Support, POW/MIA
Lime Green	Lyme Disease, Lymphoma
Green	Environmental Protection, Organ Donation
Teal	Ovarian Cancer
Light Blue	Prostate Cancer
Dark Blue	Child Abuse Prevention, Colon Cancer
Purple	Domestic Violence, Religious Tolerance, Animal Abuse, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Ally
Gray	Diabetes, Brain Cancer, Asthma
Black	Mourning, Melanoma
Silver	Parkinson's Disease
Gold	Childhood Cancer



ALL ABOUT RIBBONS



Traditionally, a ribbon was defined as a narrow strip or band of fine fabric, such as satin or velvet, finished at the edges and used for trimming, tying, or finishing. With new materials and production technologies, along with time-honored methods, the selection of ribbons available is greater than ever. The vast assortment of ribbon colors, patterns, textures, and widths now inspires the creation of a wide variety of projects—from wearables, accessories, and home décor projects to paper crafts, gift wrapping, and more.

Different Types of Ribbon

Many names are used to identify various types of ribbons.

Basically, all ribbons fall into one of two categories—woven edge ribbons and cut-edge or craft ribbons.

Woven edge ribbons are woven on a loom and have finished edges, or selvages. Many are washable or dry-cleanable. Check the information on the label of the ribbon, and test-wash a sample before using it in a project that will be washed. For items that will be laundered, both the fabric and the ribbon should be preshrunk by washing before constructing the project. Craft ribbons, sometimes referred to as floral ribbons, can be made from a variety of materials and are often cut from fabric that has been slit into widths and treated with a stiffening agent to give it body. They are not recommended for apparel or craft projects that are to be washed.

SATIN RIBBONS

Satin ribbons are woven to produce a glossy, smooth finish on one side (single-faced satin) or both sides (double-faced satin). Double-faced satin can be woven with one color on both sides or a different color on each side. Satin ribbons are available in different widths and are suitable for many applications and manipulation techniques. They come in a rainbow of colors and can be printed with dots and other designs.

