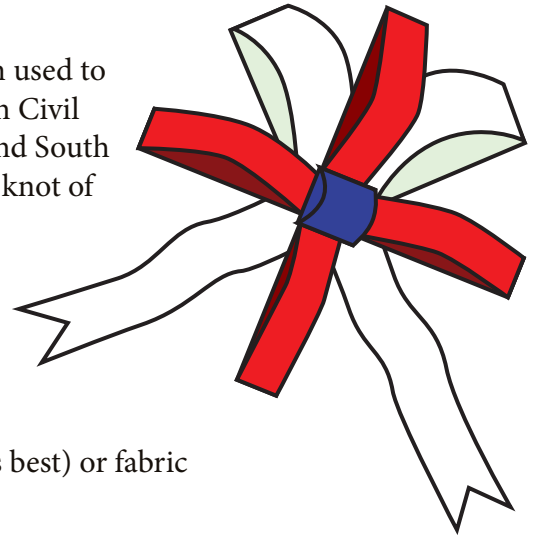


# Cockade Ribbon

Throughout history, special emblems, symbols and colors have been used to show patriotic support for a cause or country. During the American Civil War (1861-1865), a popular way of showing support in the North and South was to wear a cockade ribbon. A cockade, or rosette, is a decorative knot of ribbons or bows worn on a hat, lapel, jacket, dress, or sleeve.



## What you will need:

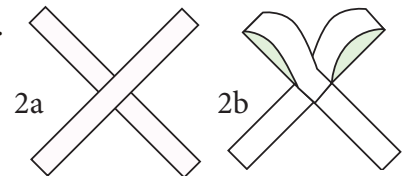
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Pencil
- 3 colors\* of thick paper (construction paper or cardstock works best) or fabric
- Stapler, glue, tape, or safety pins
- Velcro tab or safety pin

\*Patriotic ribbons were made using red, white, and blue ribbon. You can choose other colors or patterns based on the cause that you are supporting. For example, show support for healthcare workers with blue ribbon, support animal rescues with paw print fabric, or celebrate Earth Day with green and blue recycled paper.

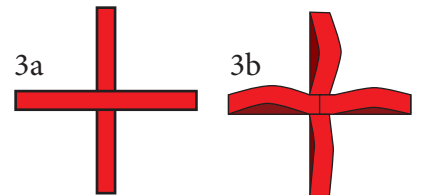
## Make your ribbon

1. **Measure and cut.** Use a ruler, pencil, and scissors to cut the following shapes out of paper or fabric:
  - Two 9" x 1" rectangles using the first color of paper or fabric (white for a patriotic ribbon)
  - Two 9" x 1" rectangles using the second color of paper or fabric (red for a patriotic ribbon)
  - One 4.5" x 1" rectangle using the third color of paper or fabric (blue for a patriotic ribbon)

2. **Make the base.** Cross the first two rectangles in the middle to form an X. Use white for the patriotic ribbon. Loop the top of each strip down to meet evenly in the middle of the cross. Hold them together using a staple, glue, tape, or safety pin depending on the material you are using. The un-looped ends of each strip will be the streamers.



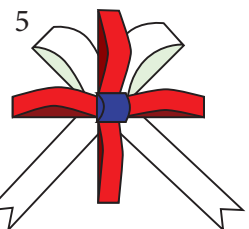
3. **Add the second color.** Take the two remaining long rectangles (red if you're making a patriotic ribbon) and add them together in the middle to make a plus sign. Fold each end inward to meet in the middle, creating four equal loops.



4. **Put them together.** Fit the looped cross over the base so that all of the loops and streamers are visible. Staple, glue, tape, or use a safety pin to attach them all together in the middle.



5. **Finish your ribbon.** Make a small loop using the remaining colored strip of paper or fabric. Attach it to the very center of your cockade using a staple, glue, tape, or safety pin. Make forked ends on the bottom of each streamer by making diagonal cuts with scissors.



6. **Display it with pride!** Use a safety pin or velcro to wear your ribbon on your shirt, or put it in your window or on your door.

## Take it further!

The tradition of wearing cockades was strong in 18th and 19th-century Europe. In America, cockades were first used during the Revolutionary War. George Washington's Continental Army did not have enough money for uniforms to show rank, so soldiers from privates to officers were identified by colored cockades on their hats. By the Civil War, cockades were adopted as a patriotic accessory worn by men, women, and children to show support for the Union or Confederacy, and even to mourn loved ones or fallen leaders like President Abraham Lincoln.

This detail from a Harper's Weekly newspaper illustration dated June 1861, shows a Northern woman wearing a cockade ribbon while she and others sew clothing to send to soldiers at the front.

