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This is a preliminary report on the behavior of the Bollobas-Riordan-Whitney-Tutte polynomial of ribbon graphs under the operations of 2-sums and tensor product. Our approach uses a generalization of the 3-variable pointed Tutte polynomial of Las Vergnas to a 5-variable invariant of pointed ribbon graphs. Applications are made to the Jones polynomials of k -fold parallels. (Received September 21, 2009)