

Glossary of Braiding Terms

Abbreviations

3-str: a regular braid made with three strands or tubes

3, 4, or 5-over: **A triple, quadruple, or quintuple corner with 3, 4, or 5 loops** (Right, right, right, left), (Right, Right, Right, Right, Left), or (Right, Right, Right, Right, Right, Left)

4-str or **5-str** or **6-str**, etc: A multistrand braid made with 4 strands, 5 strands, 6 strands, etc.

A-side: The side of the rug that shows the front of the braids.

AF: Annie's Fanny butting method

B Loop: The last loop braided before throwing the loops of a corner

B-side: The side of the rug that shows the back of the braids.

BE: Blunt Ending

BF: Barbara Fisher butting method

CLL: Center Line Lacing in Barbara Fisher rug patterns

DC or RRL: Double Corner or Twice-over (right, right left)

Enc End: Enclosed End. A type of braid start or finish.

GT2L: Go Through 2 Loops

Inc: Increase the loop count, or skipped loops

L: Left, as in, throw a loop on the left side of the braid.

LAL: Lace All Loops in a Barbara Fisher rug pattern

LBP: Loops Between Pins. The number of loops between each pin; the pin indicates where to skip a loop while lacing on a curve.

LH: Left-Handed

(LLR): Double Corner braided Left, Left, Right. Sometimes written (LL,R)

LME: Loops in the Middle Ends. In Barbara Fisher oval rug patterns, the number of loops between pins indicating where to skip loops, but specifically between the two pins closest to the midline of the rug. (These pins are often spaced further apart than other pins, to give some flatness to either end of the oval).

LO: Left Opening Braids, or braids with the open folded edges on the left.

MC: Main Color in Barbara Fisher rug patterns. Usually, the one color used to count sets.

MS: Multistrand braid, or a braid made with more than 3 strands

R: usually stands for "Right" as in, throw a loop on the right side of the braid. In context, it may refer to "Row" as in R3 = Third Row.

RH: Right-Handed

RO: Right Opening Braids, or braids with the open folded edges on the right.

(RRL): Double Corner braided Right, Right, Left. Sometimes written (RR,L)

Sk: skip, or don't lace this loop

SR: Sets per Row in a Barbara Fisher rug pattern

TC: Triple Corner or Thrice-over

X Loop: The crossover loop, or the loop braided after the loops of a corner; it is usually not laced. In diagrams, X can also at times refer to loops that should not be laced that are not crossover loops.

Definitions

*Note: words preceded by * have associated diagrams.*

2 into 1s: skips or increases

2 to the right, 2 to the left: see double-double braid

2 to the right: 2-over or twice-over or “double corner” or RRL (also LLR)

3 to the right: 3-over or thrice-over or “triple corner” or RRRL (also LLLR)

Anchor loop: a doubly-laced loop used to anchor lacing thread for a butted row

Anchor Strand: the strand to which all other strands are pinned at the start of a multistrand braid.

Back or Side B or B-side: The side of the rug that shows the back of the braids.

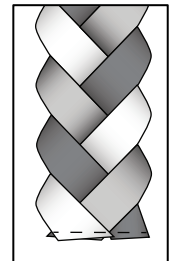
***Basting:** 1. Sewing two items together with large stitches, or 2. Sewing the folded edges of a strip together into long tubes that are ready for braiding; also called, "cabling."

Bits And Pieces Rug: A rug with a random pattern of various pieces, often using up scraps leftover from other projects. See "hit or miss" rug for more information.

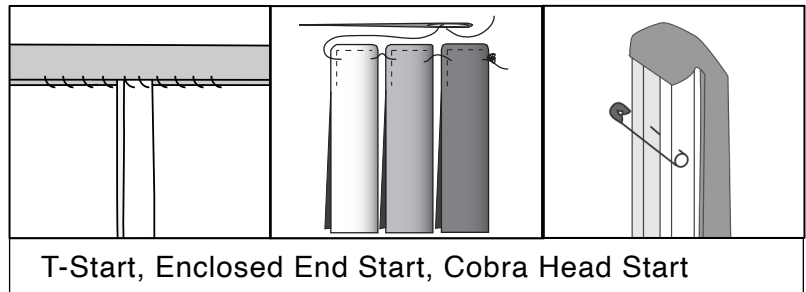
***Blunt Ending:** (BE) A method of ending a braid abruptly, typically found at the end of a row with a corner, such as a square or rectangle. The three braid strands are marked, sewn into enclosed ends at the mark, and re-braided, then the ends are hand-sewn together.

***Braid Starts** for Continuous Braids:
The most common braid start is the T-Start, followed by the Enclosed End Start, then the Cobra Head.

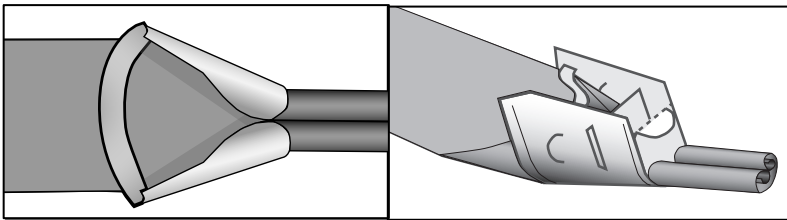
***Braid-Aids:** small metal guides that turn the raw edges of braiding strips inward for braiding.



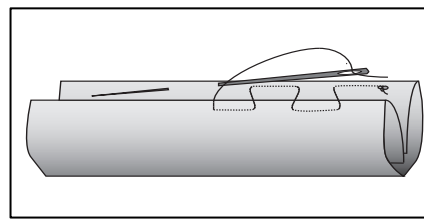
Blunt Ending



T-Start, Enclosed End Start, Cobra Head Start



Braid-Master and Vari-Folder braid-aids



Basting or Cabling

Braiding: A method of weaving 3 strands together, placing left strand over the center strand, then right strand over the center strand, and repeating. Unlike in plaiting, the strands always face front, as do the thumbnails holding the strands.

Braiding stand: A tall clamp that holds the braid steady while your hands make the braid.

Braidkins: Flat curved lacing “needle” specifically designed for lacing under braid loops.

Buckling: When there have been too many increases in a row, the edges of the rug will begin to ripple. Also called Rippling or Ruffling.

Butting: Joining the Start and Finish of a row of braid so that the row becomes a ring. An entire rug may be butted, or it may be used for outer borders after tapering.

Cables: strips with their folded edges sewn together in preparation for braiding.

Cabling: Sewing the folded edges of a strip together to prepare for braiding. See "Basting."

Cape Cod lacing: Only every other loop is laced. It causes the loops of one braid to match up with the other braid's loops in placement. Also called Every Other Loop Lacing and S-Lacing.

Chevron Braid: When 4 strands of two colors are braided together in a particular arrangement, a braid results that looks like stacked chevrons or checkmarks. One half of the braid has loops that are slightly longer than usual. An example is: Right over 1 strand, Left over 2 strands, repeat.

Cobra Head: A type of braid start that is hand-sewn and was popularized in Fern Carter's *The Braided Rug Book*. See Braid Starts.

Coiling/coiled: continuous rug.

Continuous Rug: A method of making a braided rug in which a braid begins in the center and each additional row wraps around the previous row. The same braid continues to the last row. Also called a spiral rug and a coiled rug.

***Counted loops:** By convention, loops are counted on the smooth side of the braid only. (Exceptions exist, such as when counting loops for butting). Typically the loops of corners are not counted.

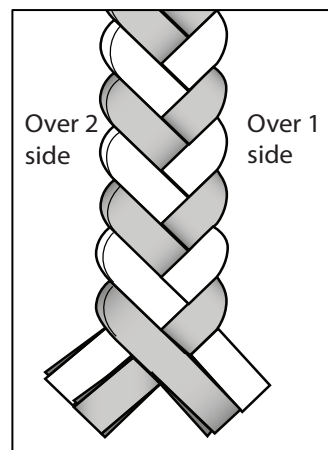
Crossover Loop: The loop braided after corner loops. For a LLR double corner, the "R" is the crossover loop. Often abbreviated "X" in diagrams.

Diagonal Lacing: When loops from one braid match up diagonally with loops in another, then diagonal lacing is required. Diagonal lacing includes shoe-lacing and e-lacing. Used in the center line of the rug, when lacing two squares or hexagons together, or when one side of an even multistrand is laced to a 3-strand braid.

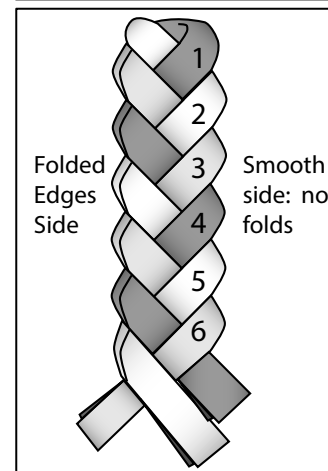
Double: short for a double corner (DC).

***Double corner:** When two rights or two lefts are braided in a row, the braid makes a corner that is roughly 110°. The corner is completed with a "crossover loop" on the other side of the braid. Examples: (RRL) or (LLR) are double corners.

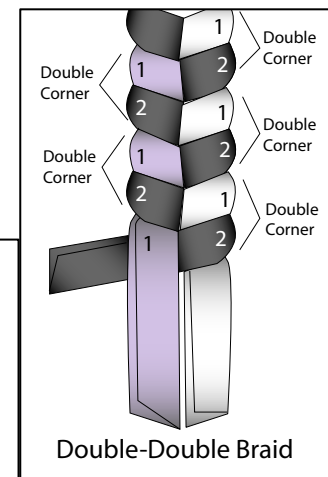
***Double-double braid:** A method of braiding where the right strand stays on the right and the left strand stays on the left and the 3rd strand is woven back and forth over and under them. Can make a very nice accent row that does not stretch as much as a regular braid. Also called, "wrapped false braids."



Chevron Braid

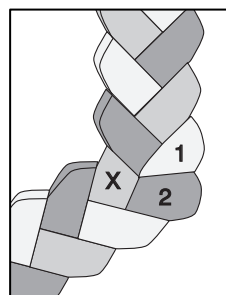


Counted loops on smooth side of Left Opening braid.



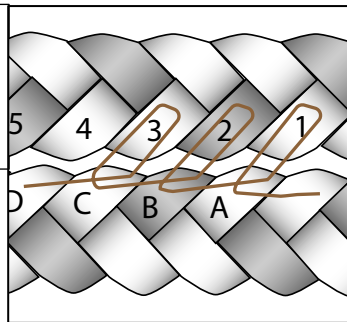
Double-Double Braid

Note that the dark strand wraps around the other two.



(RRL) double

Diagram shows E-Lacing. The loops to be laced are on the same diagonal. The pattern, proceeding right to left, is: A1A, B2B, C3C, etc. The numbered loops are laced in a left-to right direction; the lettered loops are laced twice in a right to left direction.



***E-lacing:** Also called Reverse-e-lacing, because of the “reverse e” path of the lacing thread. This is a diagonal lacing method used to lace braids together when the diagonals of both braids’ loops match up. Used in the center line of the rug when braids go in opposite directions, when lacing two squares or hexagons together, or when one side of an even multistrand is laced to a 3-strand braid.

Enc End: Enclosed End: Finishing a strand bluntly. With right sides together, an L-shaped seam is sewn at a marked location, and then turned right side out.

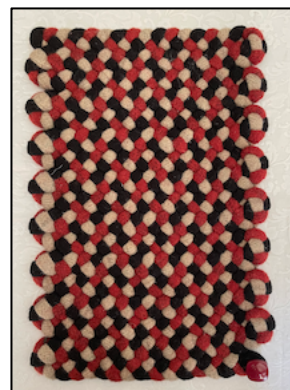
Enc End Start: Three strands with enclosed ends sewn together to begin a braid. See Braid Starts.

Every Other Loop Lacing: Only every other loop is laced. It causes the loops of one braid to match up with the other braid’s loops in placement. Also called Cape Cod Lacing and S-Lacing.

Fish-Tail Braid: a braid that looks like a 3-strand braid, whether it is made with 4 or 5 (or more) strands. Also called a Standard Braid (vs Flat or Round).

Flat Braid (vs Standard or Round): Usually refers to multistrand braids. A braid in which all strands are braided over 1 or under 1, yielding a braid that is flat in cross-section.

Flip-Flop Rug: A rug in which the braid flips from front to back at the side edges of the rug. This creates a bulge at the sides that becomes flat with use; it enables the use of regular lacing throughout the rug.



Flip-Flop Rug

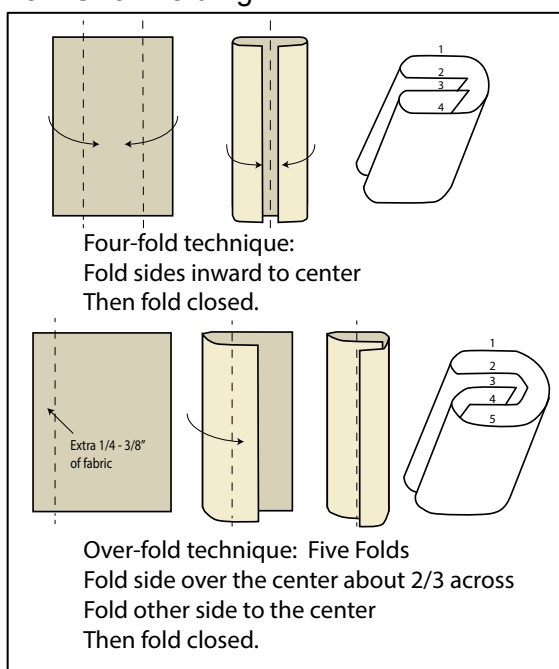
***Four-Fold, Five-Fold, Over-Fold:** Folding raw edges to the center of a strip is “four-fold.” Folding one raw edge 2/3 of the way across the strip and the other to the center is called “Five-Fold” or “Over-Folding.”

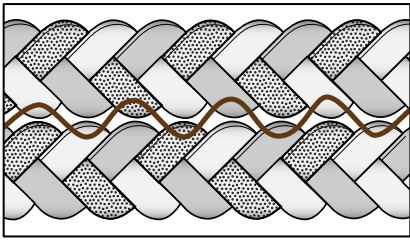
Folded Edges or Open Folded Edges: the side of the strand or braid where there are two folds visible.

Front or Side A or A-side: The side of the rug that shows the front of the braids.

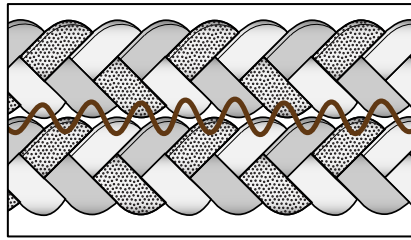
Hit Or Miss Rug: A rug using up short strips leftover from other projects. It can be made of all scraps, or can have one or two strands constant. It usually has many colors. Also called “Hit and Miss” or “Bits and Pieces Rug.”

Increases: (Inc): skipping loops while lacing OR lacing two loops at a time on the same braid. The skipped loops or 2-loops-at-a-time lacing methods create an increase in the loop count so that the rug will lay flat around curves. Increases are needed on oval and round rugs.

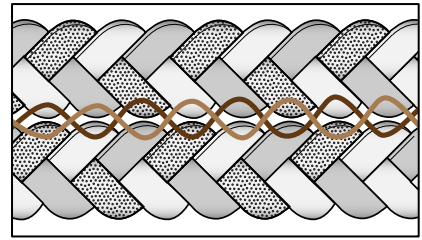




Cape Cod Lacing or S-Lacing
Every Other Loop Lacing



Every Loop Lacing or
Regular or Standard Lacing



Serpentine Lacing

Lacing: Method of attaching the new braid to the body of the rug.

Lacing needle: Any needle utilized for lacing braided rugs.

Examples are Braidkins and large tapestry needles.

Lacing every other loop: S-lacing or Cape Cod Lacing

Left opening (LO): Left Opening Braids, or braids with the open folded edges on the left.

Linear Yard: a measured yard from a bolt of fabric that is typically 56"- 60" wide. Contrast with "square yard."

Loop: The discrete appearance of one strand's color within a braid, either on the left or right side of the braid.

One-to-one lacing: Lacing under one loop of the rug, then one loop of the new braid, then repeating.

Open Folded Edges or **Folded Edges:** the side of the strand or braid where there are two folds visible.

***Over-folding:** A folding method used to plump a thin strand. Instead of folding the raw edges into the center of a strip, one side is folded 2/3 of the way across the strand, then the other side is folded into the center. When the final fold is made while braiding, this results in a 5-fold thickness of the strand. See diagram prior page.

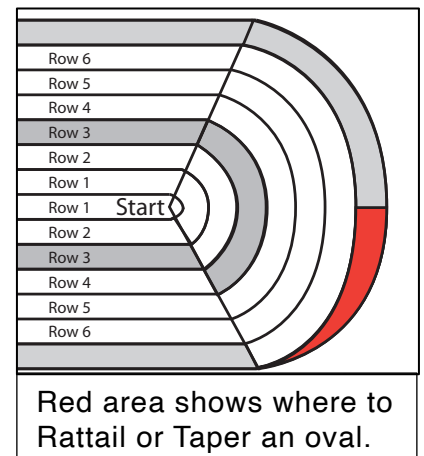
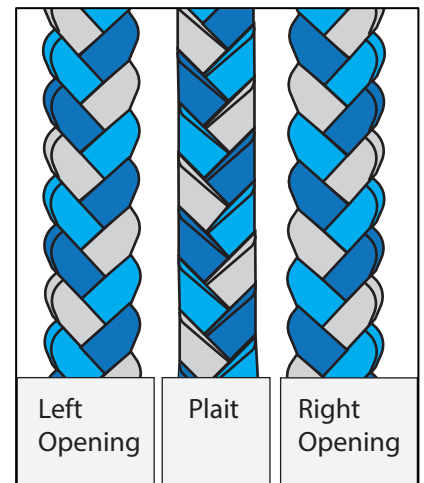
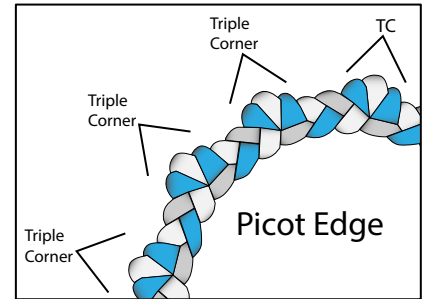
Picot Edge: A decorative braid in which triple corners are braided after every two counted loops.

Pivot Strand: The strand that doubles back on itself to make a multistrand corner.

***Plait vs Braid:** See Plaiting, next; and diagram.

Plaiting: Braiding with three strands where each strand is folded over at the sides of the plait. Plaits tend to lay flatter than braids. Strands flip from front to back as they are turned over at the sides. Yields a straight edge on the sides of the plait. Usually the folded edges turn toward the center of the plait.

Pulled Loop: Another name for the crossover loop or X-Loop, which is the last loop of a corner and found on the other side of the braid from the corner loops. In LLR, the R is the pulled loop.



***Rattail:** Method of ending a continuous braided rug. Progressively narrow the width of the strands, re-braid with the narrowed strands, and tuck the ends under loops in the row below. Also called, "Taper."

Regular Lacing: Refers to lacing every loop, with skips as needed for keeping a rug flat around curves.

Reverse-e-lacing: Also called e-lacing, this is a diagonal lacing method used to lace braids together when the diagonals of both braids' loops match up. Used in the center line of the rug, when lacing two squares or hexagons together, or when one side of an even multistrand is laced to a 3-strand braid. See diagram at e-lacing.

Reverse-T-End: A type of blunt ending that looks like the back of a T-Start.

Right Opening (RO): braids with the open folded edges on the right.

Rippling: When there have been too many increases in a row, the edges of the rug will begin to ripple. Also called Ruffling or Buckling.

Rolls: Strips are typically rolled up and held in place with a rubber band or piece of thin elastic or a pin to prevent them from entangling while braiding.

Round Braids: As opposed to Flat or Standard Braids, Round Braids are round in cross-section. These braids have 4 or more strands. Sometimes in rug braiding, round braids are used for tote handles. These braids are typically found in "kumihimo," which is a complex braiding method that often utilizes a circular loom.

Ruffling: When there have been too many increases in a row, the edges of the rug will begin to ruffle. Also called Rippling or Buckling.

S-Lacing: Only every other loop is laced. It causes the loops of one braid to match up with the other braid's loops in placement. Also called Cape Cod Lacing and Every Other Loop Lacing. See p. 5

Scalloped edge: Can refer either to a spoked outer braid or a picot edge.

Serpentine Lacing: Only every other loop is laced by each of two lacing cords. It causes the loops of one braid to match up with the other braid's loops in placement. See P 5 diagram.

Sets: A series of 3 loops on the outside of the braid. Often used to count the number of loops in a butted row. Example: 30 loops = 10 sets.

Shoe-lacing: Can be "one-needle" or "two-needle." A method of diagonal lacing in which every other loop is caught by one lacing cord, and an interlocked second piece of lacing cord catches the remaining loops.

Shoulder of an oval rug: The beginning and end of the curve. It is recommended to change or add colors where the curve of the added braid transitions to straight for smoother visual transitions. It is also the best place for a rattail.

Side A: The side of the rug that shows the front of the braids.

Side B: The side of the rug that shows the back of the braids.

Skips: to increase the loop count around curves and help the braid lay flat, loops in the new braid are skipped when lacing. Also called increases.

Smooth Edge: the other side of the braid opposite where the folded edges are.

Sore Thumb – I think this is a T-Start, but I am not certain.

Spiral Rug: 1. A rug in which a spiral pattern is created by lacing more than one braid onto the rug at once. 2. A continuous rug: A method of making a braided rug in which a braid begins in the center and wraps around each additional row. The same braid continues to the last row.

Square Yard: 36" x 36" of fabric. Contrast with "linear yard."

Starts: There are several different braid starts for a continuous braid; the most common is the T-Start. Others include the Enclosed End Start and the Cobra Head. See Braid Starts.

Standard Braid: (vs Flat or Round): a braid that looks like a 3-strand braid, whether it is made with 4 or 5 (or more) strands. Also called a Fish-Tail Braid.

Strand: A strip of wool after the edges have been turned in. See also "tube."

Strips: A flat piece of fabric of the desired width, ready to have the edges turned in to form a tube or strand.

Stuffing: Occasionally a desired color or pattern is not of a heavy-enough weight for standing alone as a strand. It may be wrapped around a wool core (or stuffed) to give it the desired heft.

T-Start: A common method of joining the three strands at the beginning of a continuous rug. See Braid Starts for diagram.

Taper: Finishing the braid by narrowing its strands, re-braiding with the narrowed strands, and tucking the ends under loops in the row below. See "Rattail" for diagram.

Taper In, Taper Out: A method of starting and finishing a row or a series of rows with a narrowed braid. Typically the taper-out is found at the same rug-location as the taper-in.

Triple: Triple corners: Three loops are braided on one side before braiding a crossover loop on the other side.

Tube: Used interchangeably with "strand." It takes a minimum of 3 tubes or strands to form a braid.

Tweak: the folds in braid loops typically found on the back of braids. Tweaks typically are found in thinner wool and are cured by stuffing or over-folding..

Twice-overs: Double corners formed by braiding twice from one side before braiding once from the other side.

Thrice-overs: Triple corners. Three loops are braided on one side before braiding a crossover loop on the other side.

***Wheels** strips of wool rolled into a flat round shape for storage until use.

Wool Weights: Weight of wool per linear yard (36" long X 58-60" wide).

Tropic weight wool: 5 oz. per linear yard or less

Womens' suit weight or worsted: approximately 7-8 oz./linear yard

Flannel weight: between 10.5 – 13 oz./linear yard. Some consider up to 14.5 oz./linear yard flannel weight.

Medium weight: approximately 16 oz./linear yard

Coat weight: can mean anything heavier than the above weights

Blanket weight: thick, heavy wool. Can be 25 oz./linear yard or more. Can be difficult to work with. Heaviest wool: horse blanket.

Note: It simplifies the process to use the same weight of wool throughout a rug.

"Dorr Weight" – refers to the weight of solid-colored wool from Dorr Mill Store: 11 oz.

"Rebecca Erb Weight" – refers to the weight of wool from The Wool Studio: 14.5 oz.

Working braid: the braid being attached to the rug. Also called the "new braid."

Wrapped False Braids: another term for Double-Double braids.

X-Loop: The crossover loop, or the loop braided after the loops of a corner; it is usually not laced. Also called a pulled loop.

