Counting Loops

A. There are many places where counting loops is necessary. Here is a partial list:

1. **Counting loops between double corners for continuously braided shapes:**
   a. Octagons
   b. Hexagons
   c. Hearts
2. **Counting loops between triple corners for continuously braided shapes:**
   a. Rectangles
   b. Squares
   c. Hearts
3. **Counting loops for butted rows**
   a. Ovals
   b. Rounds
   c. All the shapes found in #1 & 2, when made with butted rows
4. **Counting loops between Corners for Fancy Borders**
   a. Picot Edge
   b. Back and Forth Triple
   c. Knotted Arches
   d. Snowflake Border
   e. Zigzag
   f. Stacked Picot
5. **Counting loops before color changes**
   a. US Flag strip rug: Blue & White Stars change colors to all white or all red stripes
6. **Counting loops between skips/increases while lacing**
   a. Curves of an oval rug
   b. Round rug rows
   c. Curvy strip rugs
7. **Counting loops on a continuous round to space spokes for a flower**

B. Most of the above examples typically count loops on the smooth edge of the braid … except for two: Butting (2) and Lacing (5).

- **When butting a row,** it is easiest to count loops on the folded-edges side of the braid, because that is the side laced onto the existing row.

- **When lacing a round or curved row,** it is easiest to count on the folded-edges side of the braid, which is laced onto the existing row. Example: skip every 5th loop on Row 5 of a round: pin

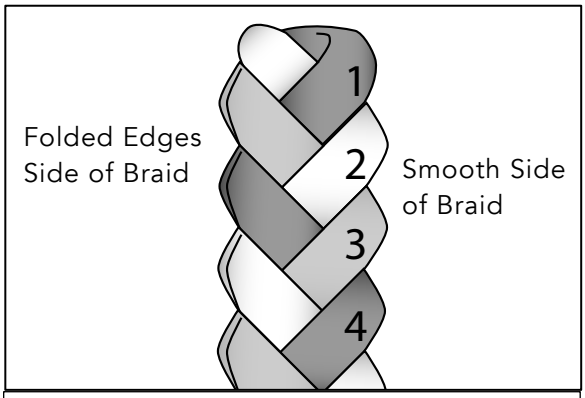
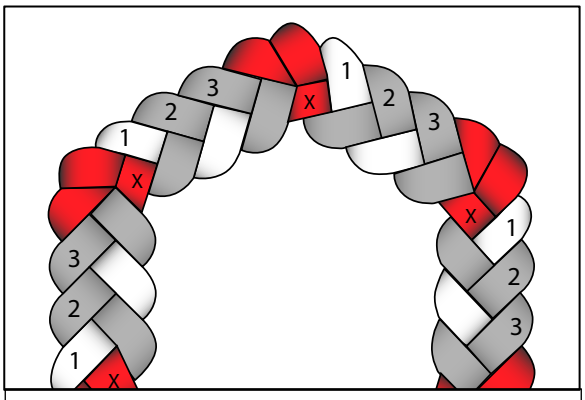
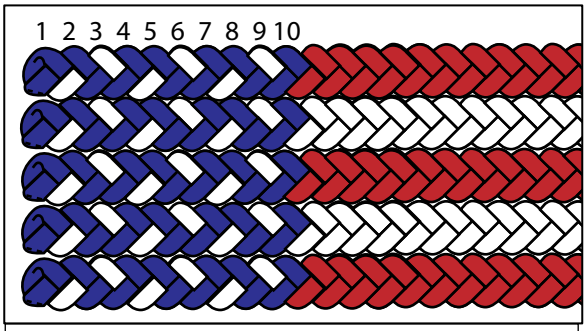


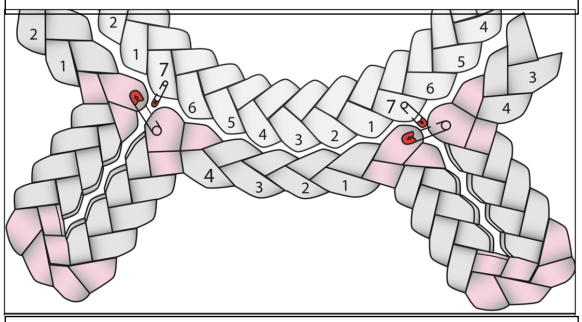
Diagram shows counting loops from a T-Start. Count on Smooth Side of braid.



Counting loops to place double corners for a hexagon row.



Counting loops to place color changes



Counting loops to space spokes equally around the row

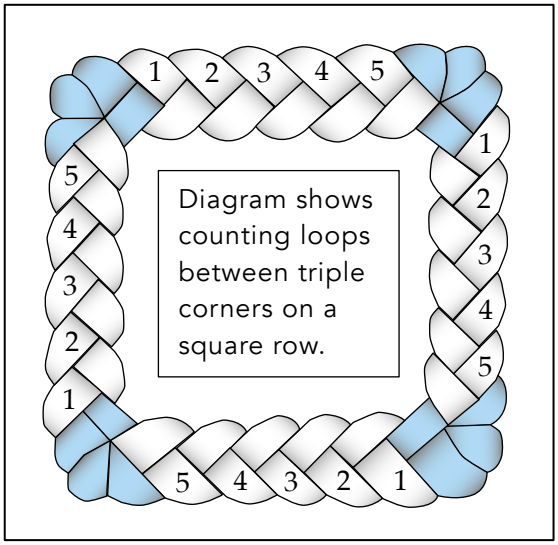
every 5th loop on the braid to know which loops to skip. (But: some mark these skips ahead of time on the smooth edge of the row below, where the number between marked loops will reduce by 1. Example: for Row 5 of a round, mark every 4th loop on the smooth edge of Row 4.

C. Counting Loops from a T-Start

When counting loops from a T-Start, include the loops of the T.
See diagram first page, upper right.

D. When counting loops from corner to corner, DO NOT include the corner loops.

See example prior page for hexagon and NOT counting the double corner loops; see right for NOT counting triple corner loops on a square row.



E. Unusual Situations:

There are unusual situations for counting, such as when **counting the outer row of loops on a row that includes a taper**. An example of when this is needed: when changing from a continuous center to outer butted rows. Or, when counting the outer row of a round to space spokes around it evenly, as for a flower.

The best method for a "good" loop count for figuring the next row is to use a ruler or yardstick to divide the rug in half. The taper should fall within one half of the rug, and the ruler should divide the rug evenly in half. Count the loops on the non-taper half, and double it to get a good number to work with.

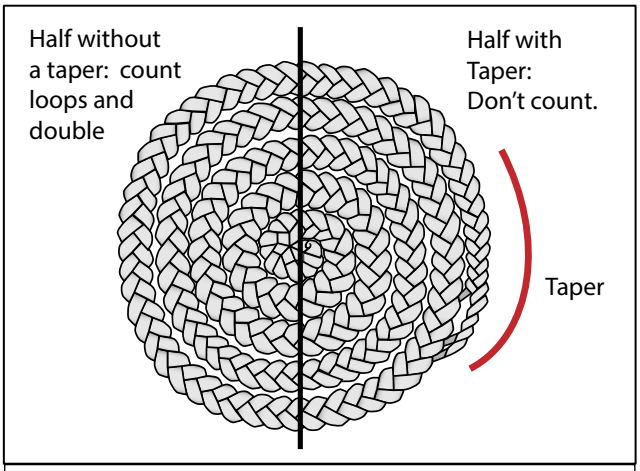


Diagram shows counting loops on the half of the rug that does not include the taper, then doubling the count. This will yield a "good" number for spacing flower spokes.

Another unusual situation is **counting loops on a continuous round for spacing flower spokes**. (Typically the color change to petal colors is made immediately after a double corner turns the braid outward for the first spoke). In this situation, it helps to place a pin and call that loop "zero;" the counting proceeds by 1's or 3's at your preference.

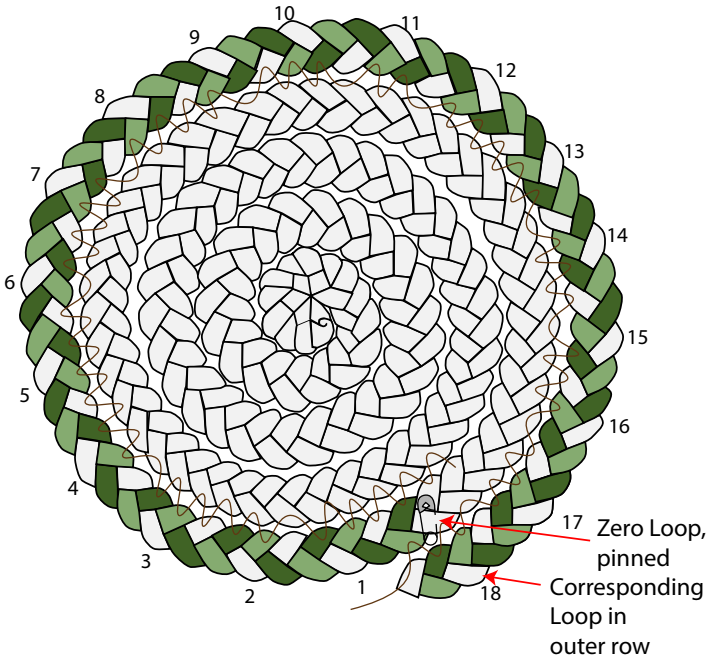


Diagram right shows pinning a zero loop; counting then proceeds by 1's or 3's until reaching the outer loop above the zero loop. This number can then be divided by the number of desired flower petals to space spokes around the row.

F. Counting by Ones or Threes

When the braid has strands that are of different colors, it is possible to count by threes to save time.

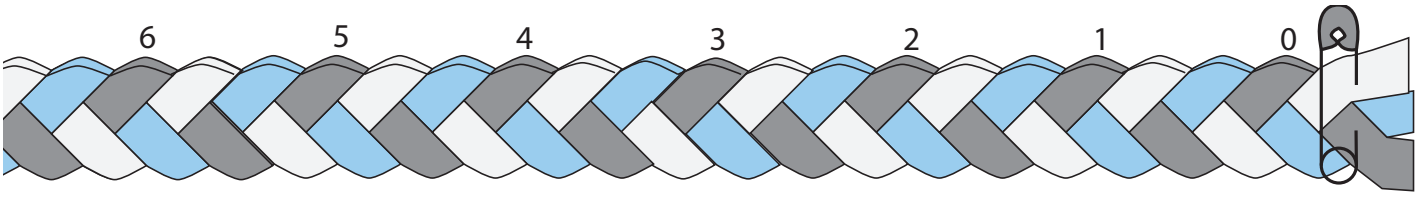
a. Count every third loop of the same color by ones and multiply by three.
Example: prior page, bottom. There are 18 sets of three, or 18 X 3 = 54 loops.

b. Count by threes.
Just as we learned to count by twos, fives, and tens in school, you can teach yourself to count loops by threes.

3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60
63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84	87	90

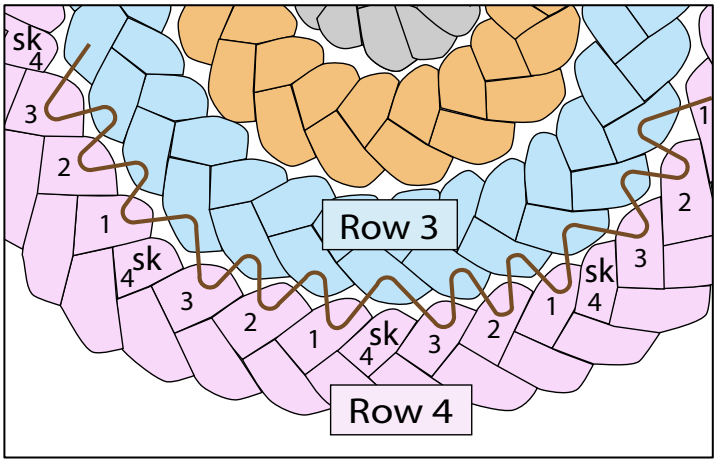
G. Counting for Butting

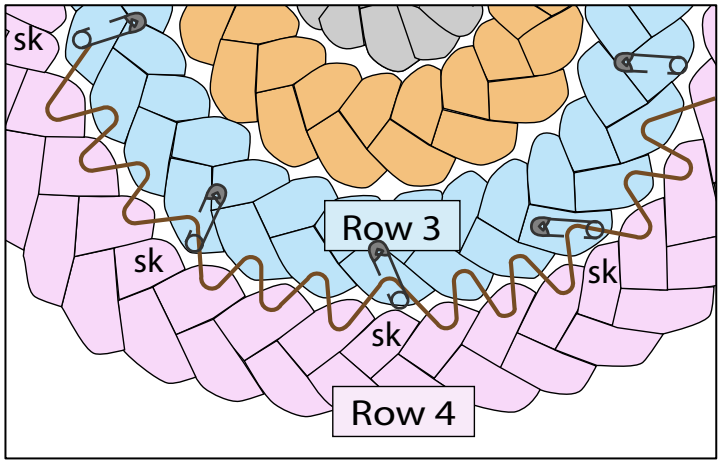
When counting for butting, it is easiest to break with tradition and count on the folded-edges side of the braid. I recommend placing a temporary pin in the "zero" loop, which should be the color you're going to count (if counting by threes). Don't include the Start Pin loops in your count.



If, for example, Row 2 of a round chair pad is being counted for butting, that row is 18 loops or 6 sets of three. Match up the ZERO and the SIX loop or, if counting by threes: 0-3-6-9-12-15-18, match up the ZERO and the EIGHTEEN loop and pin them together.

If all three strands are the same color, then you simply have to count every loop.





H. Counting for Skipping Loops While Lacing

Diagram left gives an example of counting loops for skipping evenly around a braided circle, whether braided continuously or butted. Typically in Row 3, one skips every third loop. In Row 4 (shown), one skips every 4th loop. The count is made on the folded edges side of the braid.

However, some mark their skips or increases in loop counts differently: some mark the loops on the already-laced row. Typically, when these loops are marked with pins, it means, "lace the pinned loop, then skip the next loop on the new braid." Notice that every 3rd loop is pinned on Row 3, but this will also result in skipping every 4th loop on Row 4. So: either way works.