Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild

One-Needle Shoe-Lacing
For Left-Opening Braiders
Instructor: Christine Manges
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One-Needle Shoe-Lacing is one of the methods used to lace together two braids going in different directions, such as in the center row of an oval rug.

I. Where is One-Needle Shoe-Lacing Used?

  A. It can be used anywhere that e-lacing or (regular) Shoe-Lacing is used, but specifically, places where a short length of lacing is needed. It would not be good for lacing a continuous rug made with 4-strand flat braids, for example, because there is no "out and back" in this situation. There needs to be a turn-around point to the lacing.

  Examples: 1. The center of oval or rectangular rugs – turn around at double corners.

    2. Lacing two shapes together (4 hearts laced into a Shamrock; 4 squares laced to each other; lacing circles together in a line) – turn around at the edge of the shape & go back to Start.

    3. Lacing a long shape from the outside to the inside: when the braids finally touch each other at the center, you can close them with One-Needle Shoe-Lacing. Turn around at the far end of where the braids touch & come back.

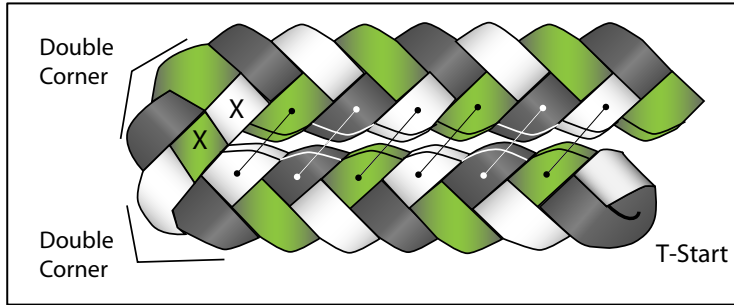## II. How Does One-Needle Shoe-Lacing Compare to E-Lacing & Shoe-Lacing?

	E-Lacing	Shoe-Lacing	One-Needle Shoe-Lacing
Number of Lacing Needles	1	2	1
Ability to Hide Lacing Thread[a]	Fair	Good	Good
Laces the Braids without Tension[b]	No	Yes	Yes
Good for Short Stretches of Braids	Yes	Yes	Yes
Good for Long Stretches of Braids	Yes	Yes	No
Requires a "Turn Around & Come Back"	No	No	Yes
Where to Start for Center Lacing?	2-DC Curve	2-DC Curve	T-Start

Comment on the above table:

  a. "Ability to Hide Lacing Thread:" Note that no method receives a "Great." The best you can do is "good."

  b. "Laces the Braids without Tension:" I have to pull my lacing thread so hard to hide it when I'm e-lacing, that the braids get squeezed together and actually lose some of their length. I don't find that happens with either type of shoe-lacing.

III. Method

1. Position the braid as shown.
• The 2-DC (Double Corners) Curve is off to the left.
• The T-Start (or other start) is at the bottom right.
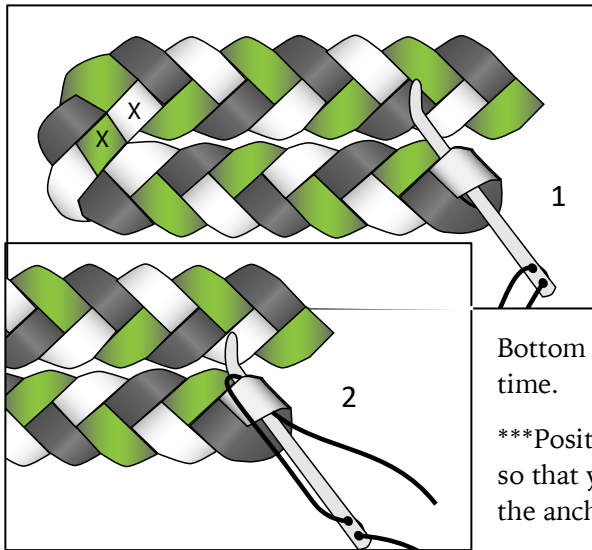• The front of the braids is showing.
• Folded edges are inward.

2. **Terminology:**

2-DC Curve = the hairpin turn in the braid made by making two double corners in a row (braiding: right, right, left; right, right, left).

T-Start = the start of the braid. If you use a different start, this technique will still work.

Matching Diagonal Loops: Note that there are diagonal lines across the braids that pair loops up. One color always matches in a 3-color braid. Here, the dark loops match up.

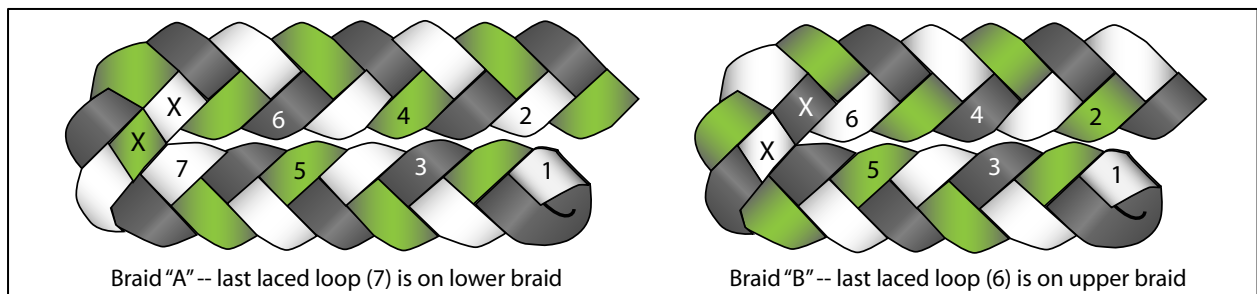**X** – Crossover loop of the double corners, or the "left" in Right, right, left.

3. **Make an Anchor Loop**

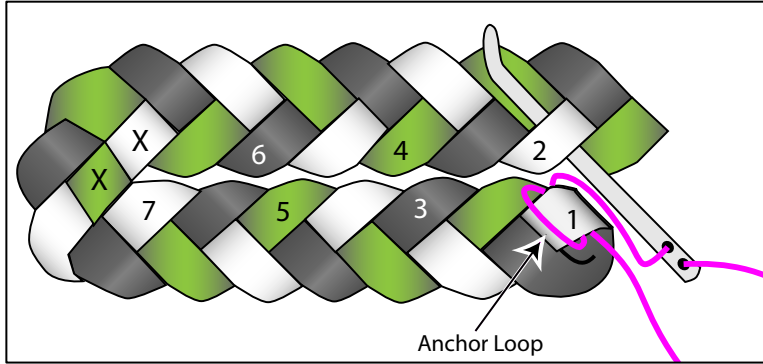An anchor loop made by lacing through the same loop twice.

Top diagram shows driving the lacing needle under the inner loop of the T-Start.

Bottom diagram shows going through the same loop a second time.

***Position the anchor loop along the center of the braid loop so that you don't forget that it's there: you'll need to unlace the anchor loop before tying a knot in the lacing thread.

Braid "A" -- last laced loop (7) is on lower braid

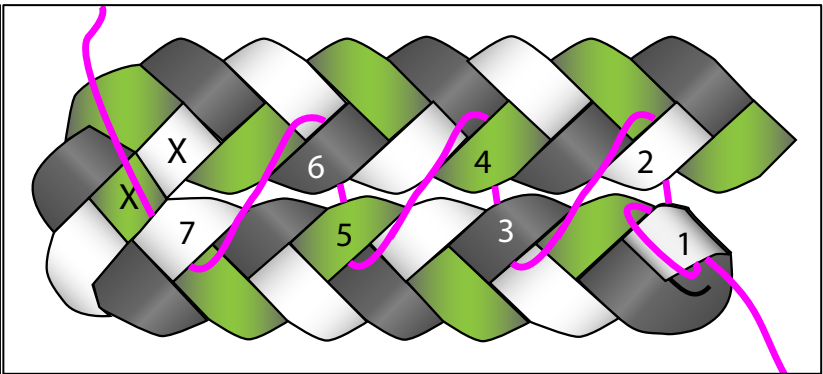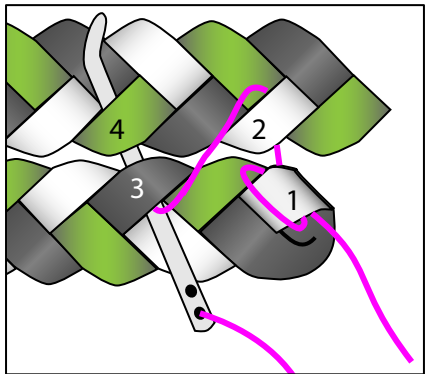Braid "B" -- last laced loop (6) is on upper braid

4. **Review the Plan:** Above diagram shows, working from right to left, the numbered plan for lacing loops. Note that the loops are laced in sets of two (1-2), (3-4), etc, but you may end up lacing only a single loop before the double corners (see left, loop #7). When lacing, note that *on each braid*, every other loop is skipped. You will stop lacing when the next loop you go under would be a crossover loop.
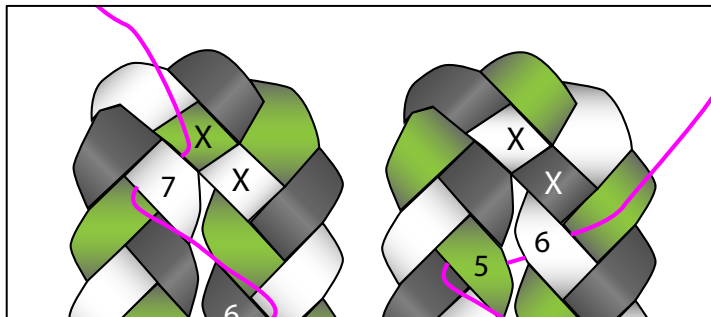
5. **Lace Loop #2** on the upper braid, as shown.

**Make sure to march the Matching Diagonal Loops down the braid – here, they are matching dark loops – so that you identify the correct loop as #2.
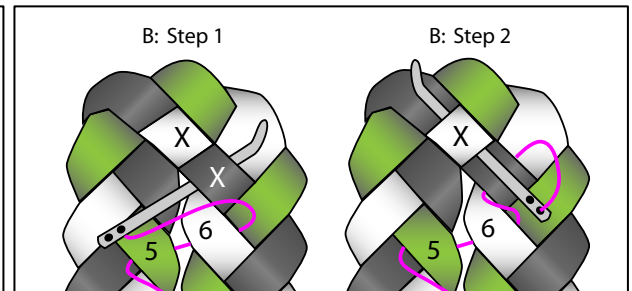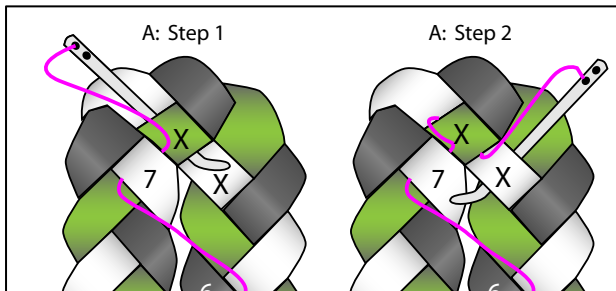
Anchor Loop

6. When you come out of Loop #2, **follow the diagonal** of the matching loops down and to the left. This diagonal will show you where to **begin lacing the (3-4) set of loops**. To check: the next loop to go under should be *two loops to the left* of the last laced loop – on both the upper and lower braids.

7. **Repeat Step #6** until your next laced loop would go under a crossover loop.

8. **Turn the braid** so that the double corners are at 12:00 (away from you) and the T-Start is at 6:00 (close to you).
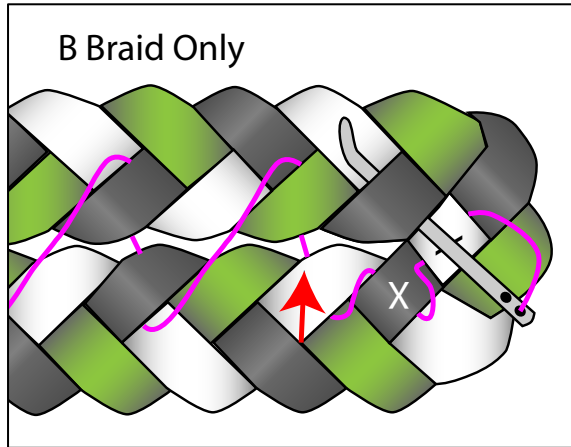
Diagram left: The last laced loop could end up coming out of a loop on either the:
- **left/lower braid – see 9A below**
- **right/upper braid – see 9B below**

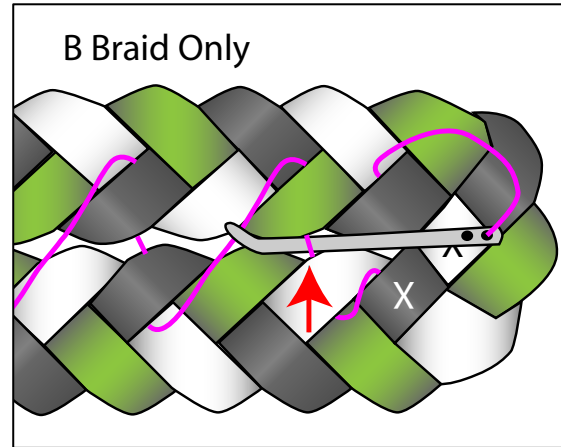A: Step 1   A: Step 2

B: Step 1   B: Step 2

9. **Lace under the two crossover loops**. 9A is above left; 9B is above right.

10. **Turn the braid again**: double corners are off to the right; Start is off to the left. The braid is upside-down from how you started lacing, and your tail of lacing thread is off to the right.

11. **"B" Braid only:** follow the next 2 diagrams and steps.
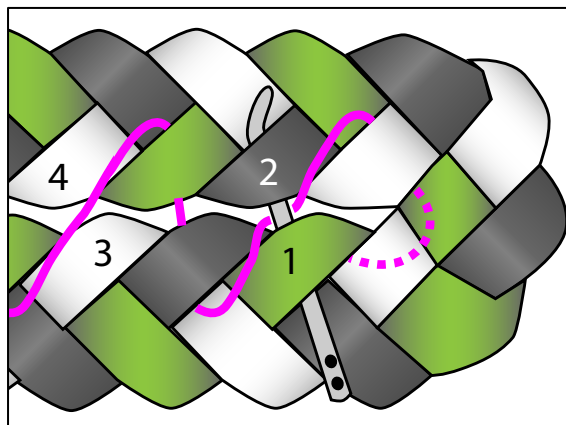

| B Braid Only | B Braid Only |

Step (1) Lace under the next loop on the upper braid: the inner loop that is next to the just-laced crossover loop. (Notice red arrow: you will go under this piece of lacing thread in the next step).

Step (2) Follow down along the diagonal created by the matching-color loops. Separate the braids slightly, and go under the lacing thread that crosses between the braids. See red arrow.
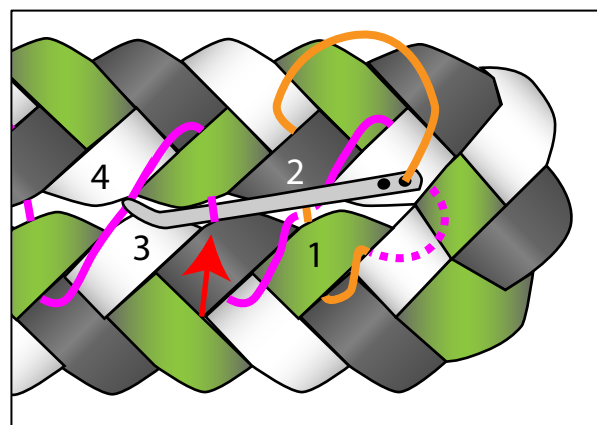
❧ NOW both braids will be treated identically from here onward ❧

12. **Alternate between the two steps below** to get back to the Start.

Step A: Lace under the next lower loop, OVER the crossing lacing thread, and under the next upper loop.

Note that you are tucking the crossing thread downward as you lace under two loops.

Step B: Follow down along the diagonal created by the matching-color loops.

Separate the braids slightly, and go under the lacing thread that crosses between the braids. See red arrow.

Note that you are pulling the crossing thread upward to be hidden within the braids.
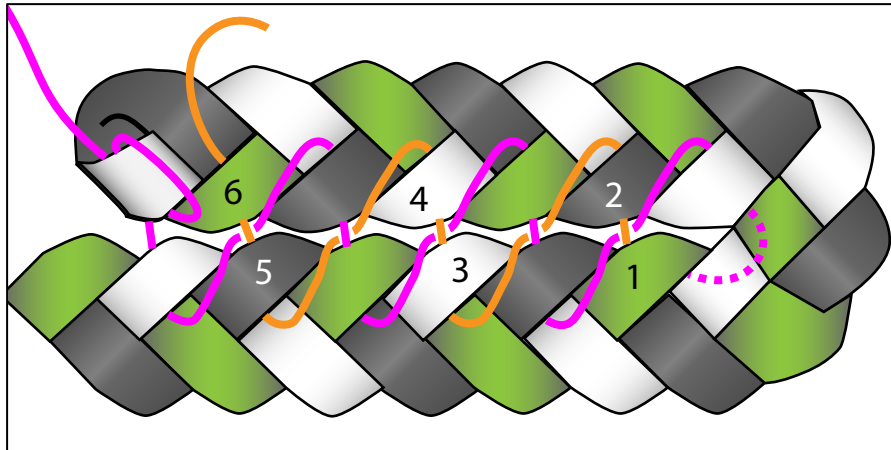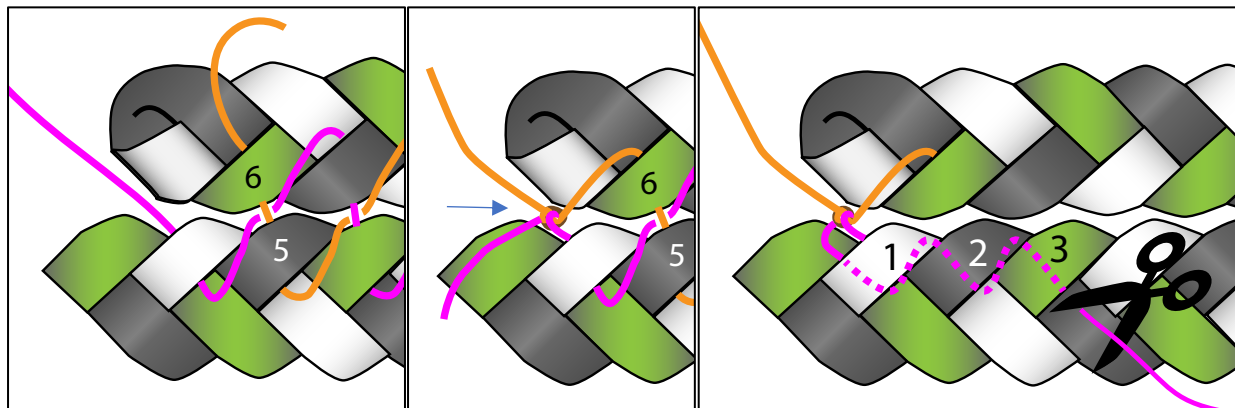
Diagram left shows what the lacing pattern will look like. Note that the "return" lacing is shown in orange.

The threads are seen to cross in the center. The crossing threads tuck the overlying threads downward, and pull the underlying threads upward, where they are hidden within the braid.

13. **STOP lacing when you are next to the anchor loop** – see loop #6 above.

14. **Remove the anchor loop**, and pull the lacing thread out of the T-start loop completely, so that the Start End of the lacing thread is found in between the two braids.

15. Tighten any loose or visible lacing thread, then **Tie the Start End and the Finish End** of the lacing thread together in a square knot. (Right over left, left over right).

16. Continue lacing with the longest end. Bury the shorter end under three loops, and cut.