

# Braided Wreath – Taper in, Taper out Method, Left Opening

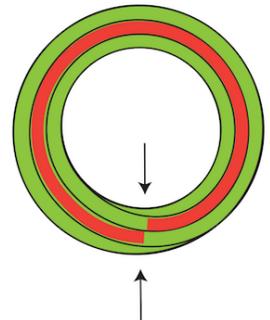
Wreath photos by Marlene Breitenbach; instructions by Christine Manges

These wreaths are not butted. The braid is started with a narrow, twisted taper, and finished with a narrow taper in the same spot after 3 rows of braid. Color changes occur at the taper site also. A pretty bow covers the tapers and color changes.



## Supplies

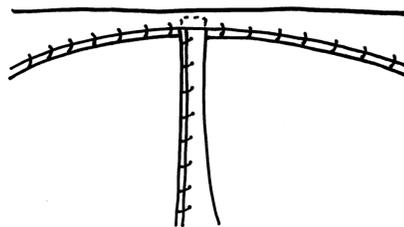
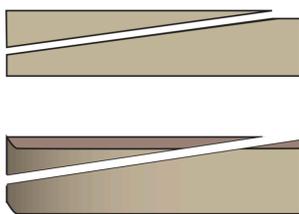
- Wool fabrics
- 12" wire wreath
- needle & thread
- flower-head straight pins (optional, but helpful)
- Lacing needle
- Lacing cord
- safety pins



## Directions:

1. Begin with very narrow T-Start (method 1) or a Twisted T-Start (method 2).

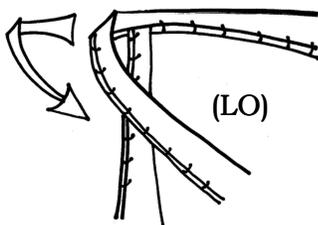
a. Method 1: Get two strips of fabric for a T-Start: one will be the spoke, the other the crosspiece. See diagram below left. *Top*: cut a long skinny triangle from the spoke. *Bottom*: Fold the crosspiece in half, and cut a long skinny triangle from both folds so that it is narrowed to 5/8" in the center.



*Right diagram* shows stitching the spoke into the center of the crosspiece, and stitching the narrow folds closed on all three strands.

**(LO)**: Spoke folds face left, as shown.

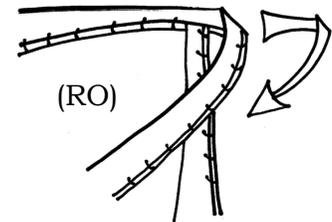
**(RO)**: Spoke folds face right.



*Left diagram (LO)*: shows flipping the Left Strand so that all folds are now on the left.

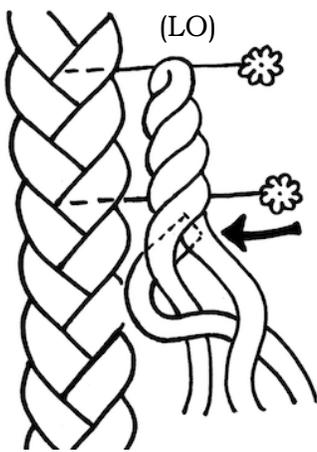
*Right diagram (RO)*: Flip the Right Strand so that all folds are now on the right.

Begin braiding.

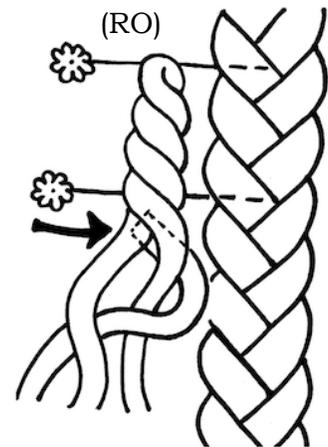


b. Method 2: The twisted T-Start begins by cutting the strands as above, sewing the spoke into the crosspiece, and stitching folds together on all 3 strands. The difference is that the braid begins with a twist.

**(LO)**: (*diagram next page, left*) Take the left strand of the T, fold it in half about 4" away from the spoke, and use a pin to hold the fold in place against a random piece of braid. Twist the strands, pulling forward from the right and diving backward on the left. It works best when the spoke ends up behind the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> twist (see arrow).



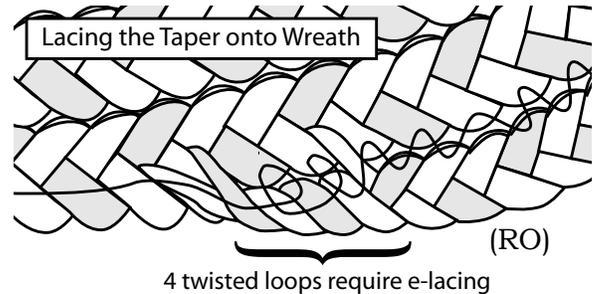
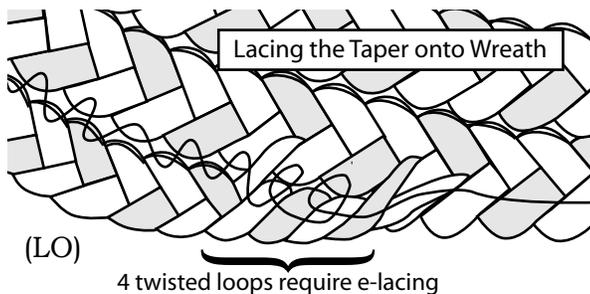
**(RO):** (diagram right) Take the right strand of the T, fold it in half about 4" away from the spoke, and use a pin to hold the fold in place against a random piece of braid. Twist the strands, pulling forward from the left and diving backward on the right. It works best when the spoke ends up behind the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> twist (see arrow).



This is fiddly: you'll have to play with it. When it looks good, begin braiding, using safety pins to stab through the twisted loops and hold them in place against each other – so they don't untwist.

2. Braid Row 1: Hold braid against the inner wire row to see if you have enough loops to braid around it.

3. Braid Row 2: Make a color change over top of the taper if desired. Lace Row 2 onto Row 1, using e-lacing or stab-lacing to lace over the tapered Start. Make increases as needed.



4. Braid Row 3: Make another color change if desired. Braid and lace (making increases as needed to keep the circle flat) until you are over the taper Start, then taper the braid to end it. Narrow the strips, bury one inner strand, twist the remaining 2 strands 4 or 5 times, then bury those strands in the braid above. Hemostats or needle- nose pliers help to bury strands.

5. Lace the braids to the wire wreath. Lace every other loop on the inner row to the wreath's inner wire, then knot and bury the ends. Repeat for the outer row.

*Right:* the inner and outer rows of braid, laced every other loop to the inner and outer rows of wire.



6. Bow: See photos on prior page. You need a fairly large bow! It will cover over the tapers and the color changes. Experiment!

**Q:** Can I make this wreath with 3 butted braids?

**A:** Yes. Hold the braids against the wreath for size before you butt and lace them. Here are my loop counts – yours may be different.

Row	Colors	Loops/Sets	Increases when lacing to prior row	Finished diameter
1	Green, green, & green plaid	54 loops/18 sets	--	9.5"
2	Red, green, & green plaid	63 loops/21 sets	9 (increase every 6 <sup>th</sup> loop on Row 1)	11"
3	Green, green, & green plaid	75 loops/25 sets	12 (increase <i>about</i> every 5 <sup>th</sup> loop on Row 2)	12.5"