

Baby Turtle Pattern

By Pam Rowan

Left Opening

These adorable baby turtles are easy to make. The colorful "shell" is a braided 9-loop center, and the base is cut from heavy black wool using the enclosed pattern.

Instructions by Karen Levendusky & Christine Manges

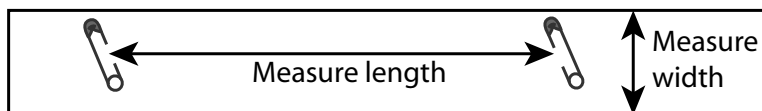


Supplies

- 3 strips of fabric for turtle shell
- heavy black wool for turtle base
- fabric glue for gluing shell onto turtle base (or: stitch in place)
- Safety pins, large and small
- Needle & thread to match fabrics
- Lacing cord, lacing needle
- Scissors, ruler
- clothespin
- optional: sewing machine
- embellishments: small buttons or beads for eyes; strip of wool for neck bow

Making a 9-Loop Center for the Shell

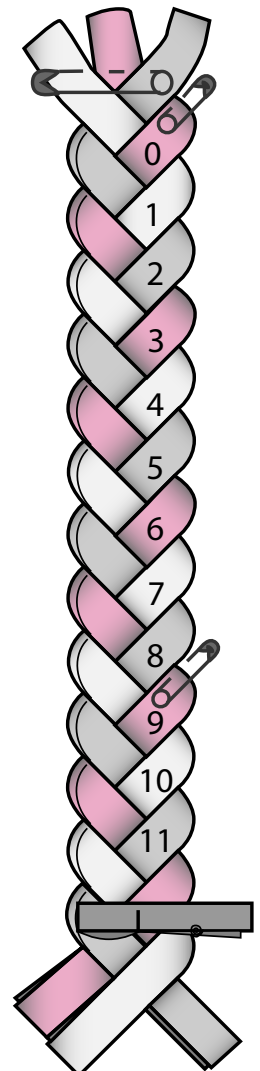
1. Place 3 strands folded as for braiding on a safety pin. Braid about 12 loops and clamp with a clothespin. (See diagram right).
2. Start counting loops AFTER the loops in the Start Pin. Pin loop 0 and loop 9 at the upper outer part of the loop, just where it comes out from under the prior loop. Catch only 1 layer. The strand should be the same color at loop 0 and loop 9. (See diagram right).
3. Unbraid completely. Lay the pinned strip out flat.

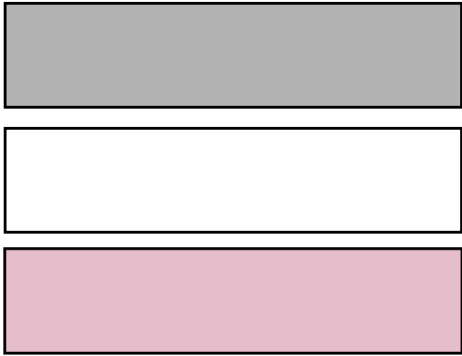


4. Make two measurements: the length between the pins, and the width of the strip.

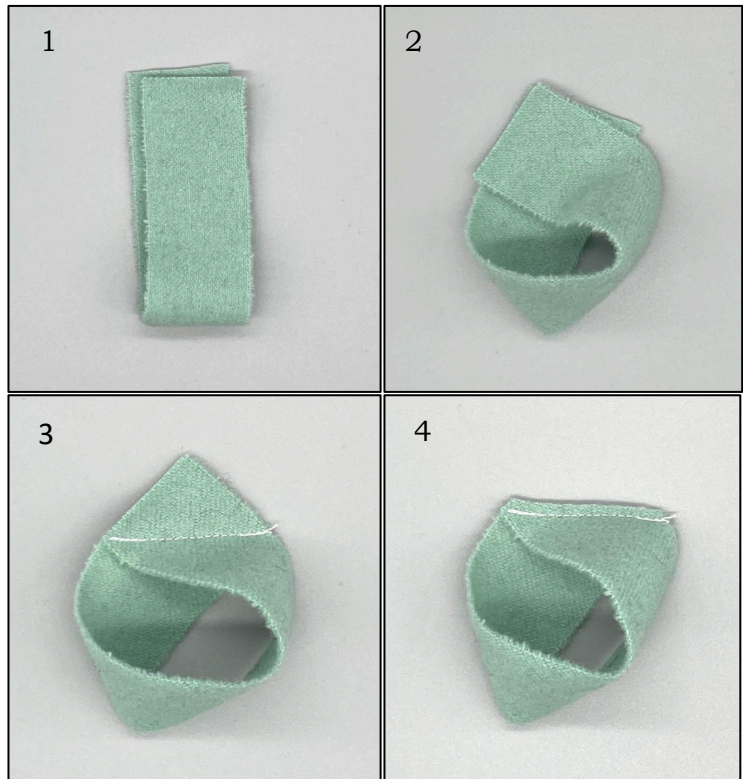
Length between pins: _____ Width of strip: _____

and add the length and width together: _____.



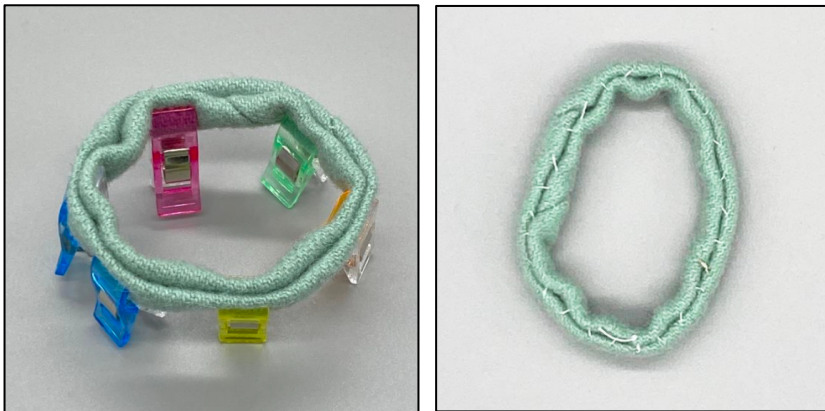


5. Cut three strips that are the length of the added-together measurement from step #4, with ends that are straight across.

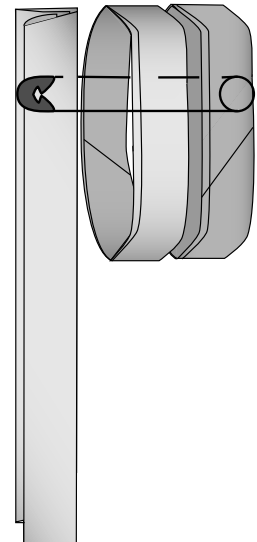


6. Take ONE of the strips, and sew its ends right-sides-together on the diagonal by following these steps: (1) Fold in half with right sides together. (2) Rotate the front strip 90° to the left, so that it looks like your normal diagonal for sewing on more braiding strips. (3) Sew on the diagonal from corner to corner. (4) Trim off the triangular seam allowance.

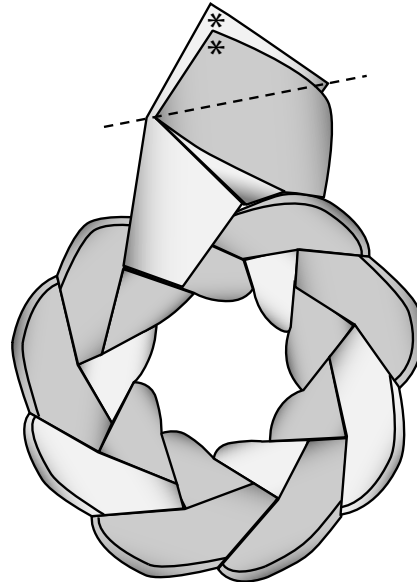
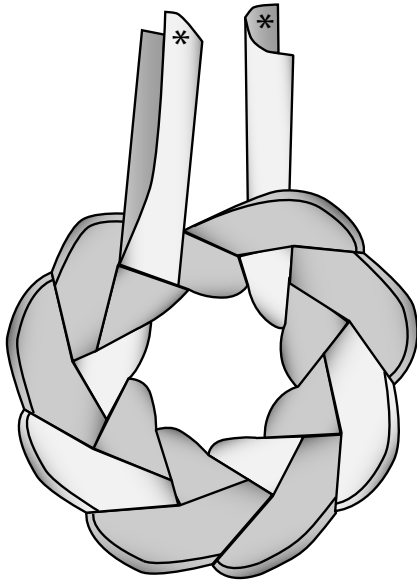
7. Repeat step 6 with ONE additional strand, leaving one strip unsewn.



8. Fold the raw edges of the two sewn strips inward, and stitch the folds closed all the way around both rings, which are also called “bracelets.”



9. Put the 2 bracelets and 1 unsewn strand onto a Start safety pin, with folded edges on the left. Start braiding with the long strip. Then tightly braid the 3 strands together, moving the tail of the unsewn strand through the “bracelets” to make the braid.



10. When there are 8 loops on the outside braided, then the ends will meet to make the 9th loop. Pull firmly on either end (remove Start Pin) to get enough length to sew the ends together on the diagonal. Remember to match right sides together.

11. Make the lengths equal, then turn the strip in your right hand 90° to the left. Sew. Trim off the triangular seam allowance to 1/8". Re-fold the strand.

12. Turn folded edges to the outside. Use hemostats to move the strands so that loops are the same size and seams are hidden.

13. Lacing: Run lacing thread through the 9 smooth edge loops, make the first “throw” of a knot and pull tightly. If the center hole closes up, tie the knot. The folded edges side should be on the outside of the 9-loop center, so that they can be glued (or stitched) onto the turtle base.

14. If the center hole doesn’t close up, try Pam’s tip: steam the 9-loop center with the steam from an iron. When the braids are wet with steam, you should be able to pull the lacing cord tighter and tie a knot. Bury the lacing cord under loops, and trim.

15. Use the pattern on the next page to cut out a turtle base. Adjust the size as needed to fit the size of your turtle shell. If your black wool isn’t heavy enough, cut two and blanket-stitch or machine-sew them together.

16. Glue the shell onto the turtle base, or use black thread to stitch the shell onto the turtle base.

17. Embellish the baby turtle as desired! Tie a bow with a 1/4" strip around its neck, stitch on button or bead eyes, attach red string to hang as an ornament.

