



Nancy Young's square pillows on her couch at her Maine cottage.



Isn't this rug pretty? To match **Nancy Young's** braided pillows, she made a rug of squares also.

Class: All-Butted Granny Squares

Instructor: Christine Manges

Dates: Mar 20, 27; Apr 3, 10, 2026

Time: 4 Fridays at 1 pm EST Cost: \$90

Level: Advanced
or RO

Folds: LO

Supplies needed: About 1/2 yard of wool fabric of mixed colors for 6 rows of a square, + usual braiding supplies.

If you plan to make a pillow, you will need 1.5 to 2" thick foam and a way to cut it (electric carving knife works best, but a finely serrated bread knife will do). Batting to cover the foam and optional cotton cover for the batting.

Braided squares are beautiful and tricky. They require absolute adherence a pattern to make them look good. Because they use stacked triple corners, each row must alternate in the placement of loops for lacing the corners.... and no, you can't guess at this: you have to be perfect.

Although these granny squares are great for using up colorful scraps leftover from other braided projects, do try to keep the weights of fabric the same for all strips. If you don't, your squares won't fit together.

An alternative is simply to make one immense all-butted square as a rug in class.



"The 9 Ombres," braided by **Sandra Luckury**, with 9 all-butted squares.

Plan for Class:

Note: the Homework listed here represents the absolute minimum needed to complete the course with one finished square. Make several at the same time for a rug.

Week #1 – Review the plan for the class, supplies needed. Make two versions of 8-loop centers. One is the traditional 8-loop center; the other is the Quickie-8. Begin braiding Row 2. Slide show of different braided squares to inspire you.

Homework: Make at least one 8-loop center and one Quickie-8. Braid Row 2 and 3.

Week #2 – Butting Rows 2 & 3 with the Triangle Butt. Lacing Row 2 onto 1, and Row 3 onto 2. Reviewing the methods for keeping track of the alternating lacing between rows.

Homework: Butt and lace Rows 2 and 3 onto the center of your choice. Send your teacher a photo of your laced Rows 1-3. Braid Rows 4 and 5.

Week #3 – Consider other butting options now that there are 8 loops between corners in Row 4, and 11 loops in Row 5. Continue braiding and lacing. Discuss dark/light patterns in squares and review pattern options.

Homework: Butt Rows 4 & 5 and lace them onto your square, keeping track of alternating lacing patterns. Send your teacher a photo of your laces Rows 4-5 to review. Braid and Butt Row 6.

Week #4 – Lace on Row 6; Instructor will demonstrate lacing on additional squares and discuss options for different lacing patterns. Consider making a pillow with two squares and a boxing band: either two braids on the sides, or a multistrand braid as a boxing band.

Homework: Finish your Square(s). Cover with a damp cloth and press your square(s). Take a photo and send it to your instructor!

Right is a set of braided granny squares. Look carefully and you'll see that they have different Row 1 centers: On the left is a standard 8-Loop Center; on the right is a "Quickie 8."

In class, we'll learn how to make both centers.

