

## **Beginning Rug Braiding: 2' x 3' Oval Rug**

Instructor: Mary Hibbard

### **Class Dates:**

Class 1: October 29, November 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2023

**Cost:** \$80 for 5 sessions (Members get \$5 off with coupon code).

### **Description:**

In this 5- session class you will make a 2' x 3' oval braided rug using wool strips. We'll cover:

- Preparing wool strips for braiding
- Folding your strips
- The anatomy of an oval rug
- Calculating the length of the center braid
- Getting started with a "T" start
- Braiding the "Hairpin Turn"
- Straight braiding
- Lacing your braids
- Adding on wool strips and changing colors
- How to end your rug

Participants will receive a **comprehensive handout**, complete with illustrations, created by Christine Manges, which details each step of creating an oval rug. This is an excellent support and is a useful resource for braiders of all skill levels.

The skills learned in this class will enable you to make an oval rug of any size!

**Video links:** Each class session will be recorded. Links to the class will be posted immediately following each session and will be available to participants for 6 months.

### **Supplies:**

**Fabric:** You'll need 5-6 yards of wool total. If you don't have any that you've been gathering you have two options: You could go to the Dorr Mill website and look at their Dorr wool and Textures selections. You should pick out 4 to 5 wools that you think will look nice together. I just ordered from there and my wool came within 10 days. The other option is to contact the Country Braid House in Tilton, NH (603-286-4511). They have 2' x 3' oval rug kits. They sell just the wool for about \$100. (There are 3 different color options)..They also sell a kit with the wool, braiding clamp, braiding cones (these don't work all that well), braidkin, and spool of lacing thread for about \$139. If you order from them tell them that you'd like/need your wool to all be of similar weight.

In addition to wool you'll need:

- a braidkin and lacing thread (#9 cotton splicing lacing thread like Lox Rite) (available through Halcyon Yarn)
- tapestry needles (one each size 13 and 18)
- a clothes pin (the kind you pinch)

needle nose pliers (no wire cutter) or hemostat (Harbor Freight)  
a few safety pins (small, med and at least one large)

I can put together a kit of those items to send to you for \$23 plus shipping if you don't want to chase everything down.

You will also need:

pins with large heads (about 25) (Jo-Ann's, Hobby Lobby, Walmart)  
basic hand sewing supplies and thread that blends well with your wool  
It helpful to have access to a sewing machine, but not absolutely necessary.

Optional items:

A braiding stand or clamp - to hold the braid while you work on it (Halcyon Yarn)  
Braid aids (facilitate the folding of the wool strip while you braid). There are a few different types available. I am most familiar with and use Braid Aids and Vari-folders. Braid-aids can only be used with 1.5 inch strips of wool. Halcyon Yarn usually carries them. Vari-folders can be used with 1.75 inch strips of wool. They can sometimes be found on ebay, but are expensive compared to the Braid-aids. We will talk about other ways to fold the wool in class.

Please feel free to contact me at [mhibbatd@frontiernet.net](mailto:mhibbatd@frontiernet.net) with any questions.



**Teacher Bio:** Mary Hibbard took her first braiding class 10 years ago at New England Braids in Methuen, MA. Since that time she has attended many Braiding events and taken classes to advance her skills. She is a member of the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild. Mary began teaching beginning rug braiding last year via zoom.