

Norma Sturges's Butt Method #1

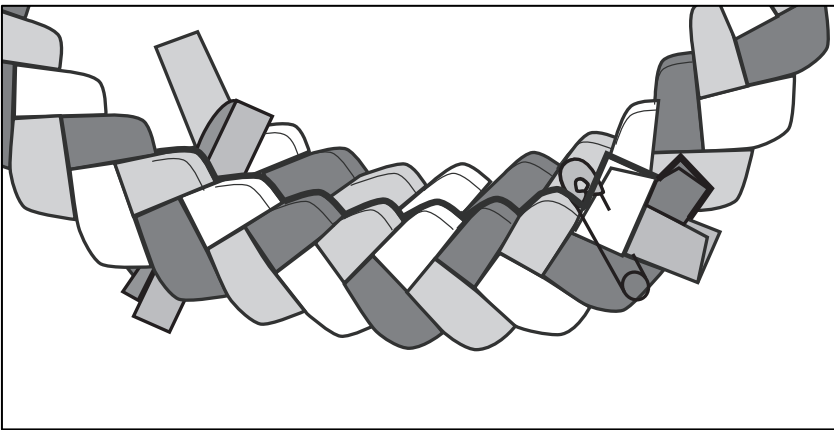
Adapted from The Braided Rug Book by Norma Sturges and Elizabeth Sturges, 2nd edition, Lark Press: 2006.

This method is meant for any braid row except the outermost row. Diagrams are Left Opening.

A. Braid the Row

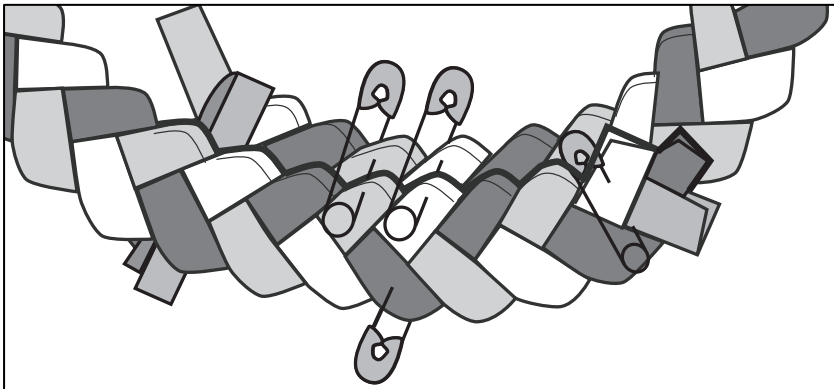
1. Fold each strand as for braiding, and pin.

2. Braid the row, with enough overlap for a butt: about 6 loops. You can either lace it onto the rug — leaving about 6 inches free at the Start, and lacing up to the Start -- or leave it as a free braid. Sturges' directions call for lacing the braid onto the rug, but the butt method can be completed either on or off the rug.



B. Arrange the Braid for Butting

1. Front of the braid is facing up.
2. Folded edges are away from you, or turned toward the center of the rug.
3. Start Braid is in front and closer to you; Finish Braid (with clothespin) is in back and further away from you. The braids should overlap by about 3 to 4 inches.
4. Colors of braid loops are matching up at butt site.



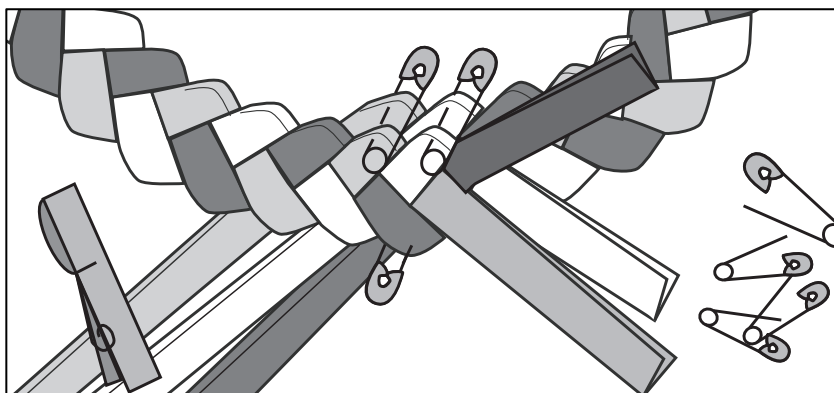
C. Pin the Matching Loops Together with 3 Pins

1. Pin the matching Start and Finish loops together at the Butt Site. Pin two sets on the folded edges side, and one set on the smooth side of the braid.

The smooth-side loop should fall *between* the two folded-edges-side loops.

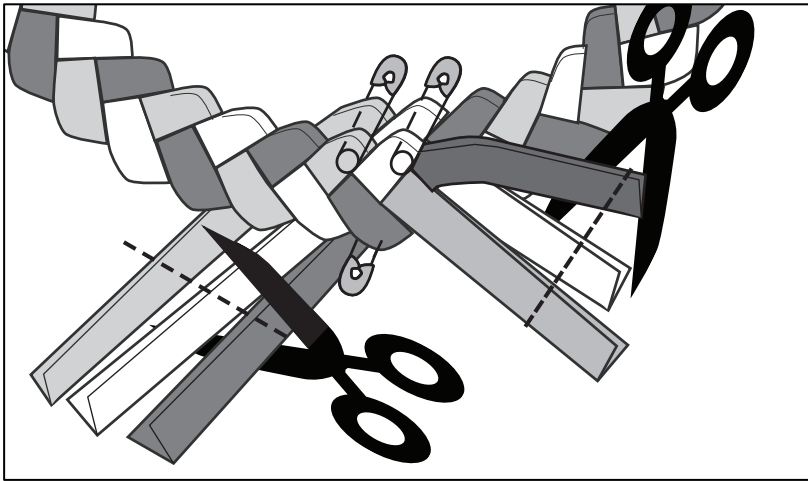
D. Take off Pins and Unbraid

1. Take off all pins EXCEPT the 3 holding the Start and Finish sets together.
2. Take off the Clothespin from the Finish.
3. Unbraid back to the 3 set pins.



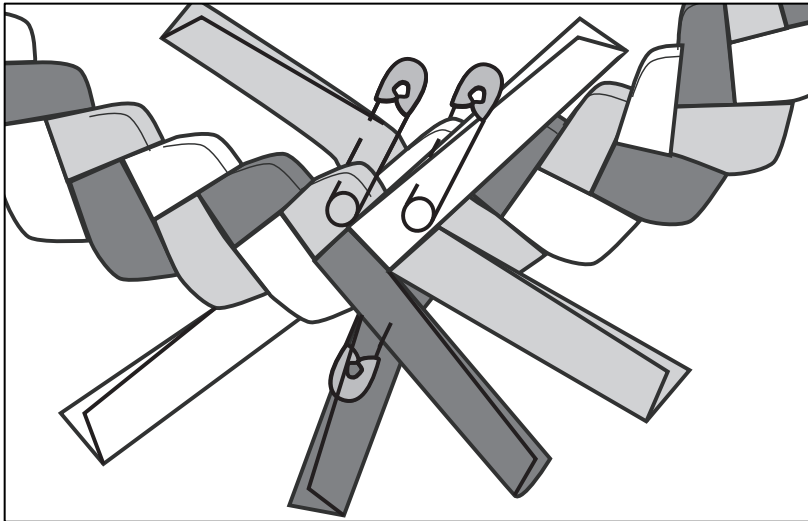
Supplies

- Start Safety Pin
- Finish Clothespin
- 3 large Safety Pins
- Scissors
- Sewing Needle
- Thread to match each strand
- Braidkin



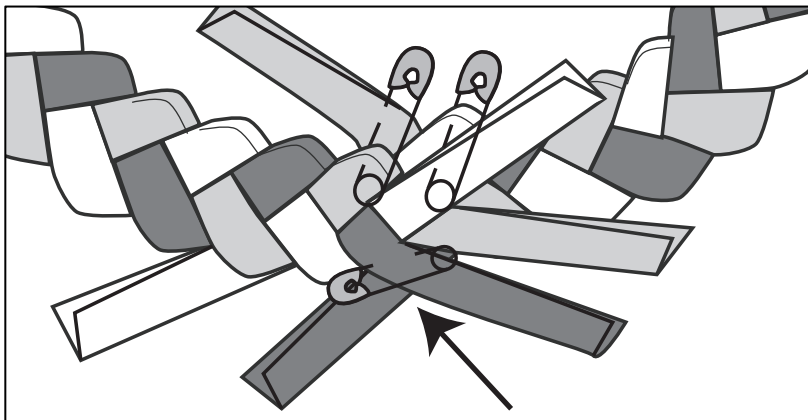
E. Cut off the Excess Length

1. Cut all ends so that they have about 2" of length beyond the pins.



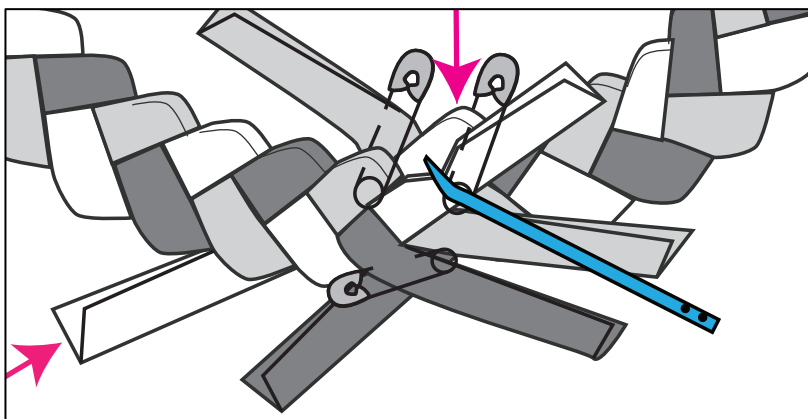
F. Un-Braided Ends Should Look Like This.

1. Both of the smooth-side ends are free in an "X."
2. Both sets of folded-edges-side ends have one end free (at the top) and one end still within the braid (toward the bottom).



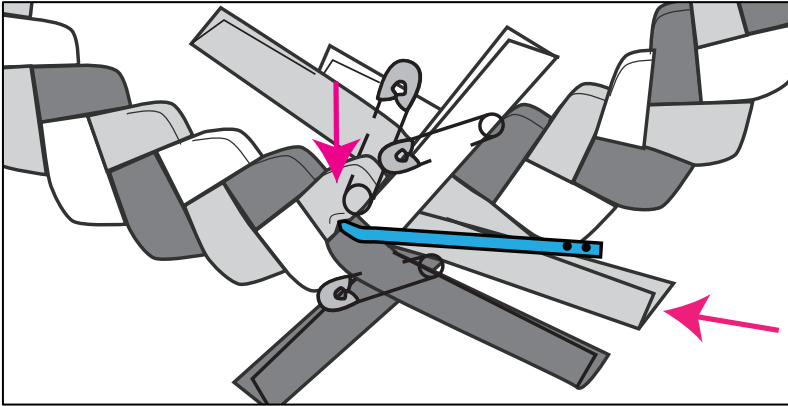
G. Pin the Outside Set:

1. On the smooth-side of the braid, make sure the strips are folded as for braiding.
2. Unpin, and cross the front loop over the back loop. Snug the ends up close to the braid, removing any fullness, and re-pin firmly, parallel with the braid.



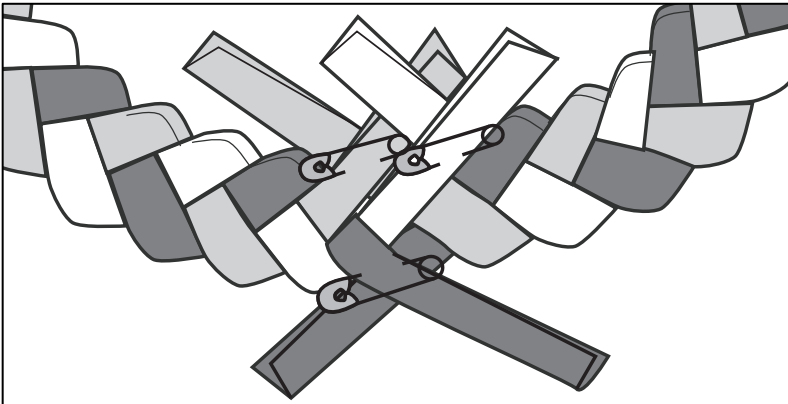
H. Folded Edges Set, on Right

1. Use a braidkin (blue) to pull out the back loop so that both ends are free on the folded edges side. Pink arrows indicate the loop to pull out (top) and the end that will pull free (left).
2. Cross the front loop over the back loop, unpin, remove any fullness, and re-pin close to the braid...just as you did with the smooth-edge set.

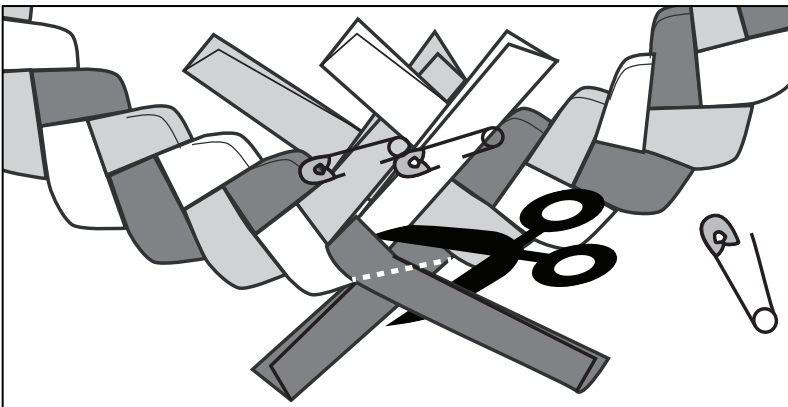


I. Folded Edges Set, on Left

1. use a braidkin to pull out the front loop and cross it snugly over the loop in back. Unpin and re-pin the set close to the braid.

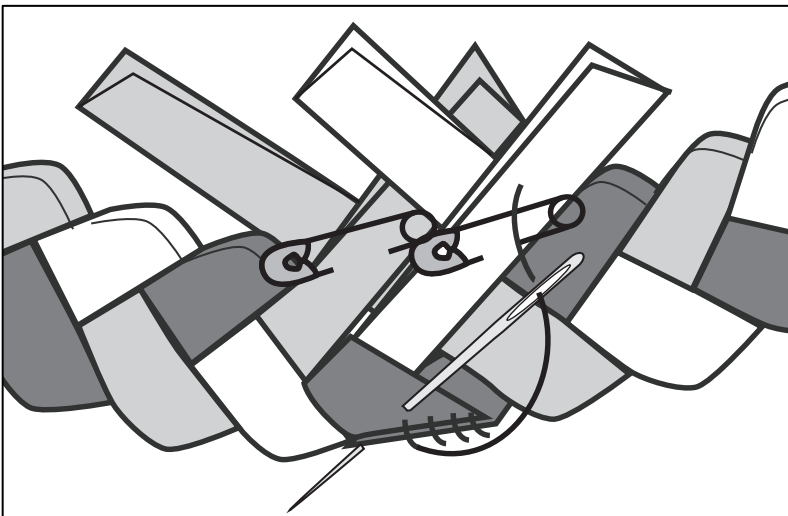


J. What the Pinned Loops should Look Like



K. Cut the Smooth Edge Set

1. Thread a needle with thread to match the smooth-edged set, and knot the ends, so that it is ready for stitching.
2. Working with the smooth edge set, carefully unpin, and cut both ends close to the braid. Keep a firm hold on the braid so that the ends don't move from position.



L. Sew the Cut Edges

1. Overcast the cut ends with matching thread. The stitches will be hidden on the side of the braid.

M. Repeat for Folded Edges Sets

1. Repeat steps K and L for the folded edges sets of strands.
2. Lace the braid onto the rug! Done!