

More Information and Class Prep for 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 (Member 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 increase to create a pleasing oval shape
- 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 or mat 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 one year.

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 look at their Textures selections. (Avoid their coat weight, melton and flannel wools.) You should pick out 4 to 5 wools that you think will look nice together. The other option is to go to the Wool Studio website. They have lovely wools very suitable for braiding. You can also use recycled wool clothing, skirts and slacks work best. You're looking for wool that has some "body" to it, not thin suiting material. It is getting harder to find 100% wool clothing, but items with a wool content of at least 80% will work.

In addition to wool you'll need:

- a braidkin for lacing the rug
- lacing thread (#9 cotton splicing lacing thread like Lox Rite) This lacing thread comes in 3 colors: natural, black and dark brown. Purchase the color that will blend best with your wool. A ½ pound spool contains 287 yards which is plenty for a 2'x3' rug.
- 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)

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
sharp scissors
6" or 12" ruler

It's helpful to have access to a sewing machine, but not absolutely necessary.

We'll talk about what each of these items is used for in our first class.

Tools:

A braiding stand or clamp - to hold the braid while you work on it. There are two types available. One clamps on to your table and the other is a floor stand. The Verna Cox table clamp will work on a regular wooden table. It won't fit the plastic banquet tables. If you need a clamp for the thick banquet table contact Peggyann Watts: pwatts@stny.rr.com. The floor stand is nice to work with because it is portable and if there isn't a table handy you can still sit and braid. I like using mine in the living room so I can sit in a comfortable chair, catch the news and keep braiding.

Braid Masters (facilitate the folding of the wool strip while you braid).

Below is a list of suppliers where you'll be able to find wool and other braiding supplies. Some prices vary from site to site. I did not check out their shipping charges. The Country Braid House has a n "Accessory Kit for Braiding Rugs" that includes "How to Make an Oval Braided Rug" instruction booklet, Braid Masters, Braid-Kin lacing needle, **wooden braid stand**, splicing needles and a small lacing thread that sells for \$74.95. DO NOT buy the wool rug kit they sell for a 2'x3' rug. The wool is of such varying weights and is not suitable for a beginning braider.

Suppliers:

United States

<https://dorrmillstore.com/>

<https://www.thewoolstudio.com/>

<https://www.halcyonyarn.com/>

<https://mainethread.com/>

<https://countrybraidhouse.com/>

Canada

Wool is available from <https://martinalesar.com/>

Other braiding supplies contact Yvonne Iten-Scott: itenscott@aim.com

Before the First Class:

- Gather your wool and supplies.
- If you are using recycled wool clothing or Dorr wool yardage wash and dry your wool. Wash in hot water on high agitation.
- Deconstruct clothing if applicable.
- Tear or cut one 1.5 inch strip from each of you wools. Do not cut all of your wool into strips at this time. We'll do a sample braid to determine if that strip width will work with your wool. We'll also do some color planning with snippets of each of your colors.
- Print the handout which will be sent one week before the class.

Don't hesitate to contact me at mhibbard@frontiernet.net with any questions.