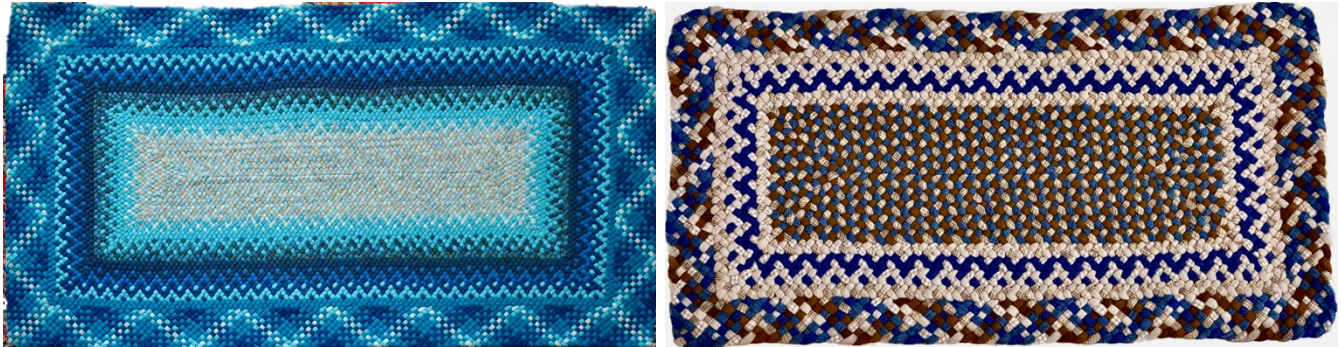


More Info: Continuous Rectangle with Multistrand Border

Instructor: Christine Manges

March 22, 29, April 12, 26, and May 10, 2024

Classes online over Zoom at 1 pm EST on Fridays



Above left: Continuous Rectangle with 13-Strand border, made by Christine Manges. Above right: Continuous Rectangle with 8-Strand border, made by Karen Levendusky.

In this class, we will braid a continuous rectangle and end it bluntly after your chosen number of rows. A butted multistrand border will be added.

Skills to Learn for the Continuous Rectangle:

- Creating a pattern across the center line of a rectangle (*see “dot” pattern in Karen’s rug above right, which beautifully displays a consistent pattern across the center line*).
- Changing colors at corners
- Adding Arrowhead, Zigzag, and Diamond Patterns to a rectangle, and seeing what the consequences are to the designs at the corners
- Maintaining Corner Alternation to keep corners square, using colored pins
- Accurately counting loops between corners
- Making a Blunt Ending at a corner.

Skills to Learn for the Multistrand Braid:

- Anchor Strand Start
- Braiding an ODD number of Strands
- Tightening up the braid
- Checking the pattern with a Braid Mantra
- Lacing Multistrand loops onto 3-strand loops
- Braiding 90° Corners
- Accurately placing corners to keep motifs equally distributed on opposite sides (*in above left rug, note that there are 3 triangular motifs along the inside of each short side, and 6 triangular motifs along the long sides*).
- Butting via Diagonal Multistrand Butt (Odd Number of Strands)

Folds: Class is open to left and right opening braiders. Handouts for right opening braiders will only show lacing patterns from the front of the rug, and all technique demonstrations will be with left opening braids.

Fabric Requirements: Please obtain colors of your choice that are in a range of values from dark to light. The dark-light contrast is necessary for the patterns (arrowhead, zigzag, and/or diamond, and the multistrand motif you choose) to show up. These patterns will show up best with solid or almost-solid fabrics, but plaids and textures are welcome for the other parts of the rug.

Fabric Quantity: The ballpark estimate is to multiply the desired length by the desired width in **feet**, and the number will give you the required number of **yards** to braid this rug. In my experience, this estimate is larger than necessary.

Ex: I want to braid a long rectangle for my hallway, which is 4 feet wide and 12 feet long. Assuming I want about 6" clearance on all sides of the rug, I'll want a rug that is 3 feet by 11 feet. $3 \times 11 = 33$ yards of fabric. (This is an overestimate, but gives you an idea).

Ex: I want to braid a rug that is the smallest I can make it just to learn the techniques. Finished size 2 feet by 3 feet. $2 \times 3 = 6$ yards of fabric (5 is probably enough).

Supplies: Rectangle – usual braiding supplies, plus colored safety pins.

****DO NOT** get the cheap colored safety pins that are *painted*: they are extremely difficult to stab through fabric. It is best to get “anodized” metallic safety pins, such as from Factory Direct Crafts in a pack of 53, or search for “Darice” colored safety pins on Amazon. While these pins are flimsy, they are only needed for marking positions on braids.

OR, use red nail polish on the heads of some silver pins.



Supplies: Multistrand

- Multistrand Braid Stand or Multistrand Table Clamp (plans provided upon class sign-up)
- Four 5" metal toothed “beak” or “duckbill” hair clips (order from Amazon)
- 5 to 6" straight hemostat (order from Harbor Freight Tools or Quilting supplier)
- Optional: Master-Braider braid-aids*, or other braid-aids of your choice; one braid-aid for each multistrand stand. Available from Country Braid House or Halcyon Yarn.

*Comment: It is not possible to finger-fold while braiding a multistrand braid. You must either pre-fold your strips by pressing or stitching them, or else use braid-aids to fold your strips.