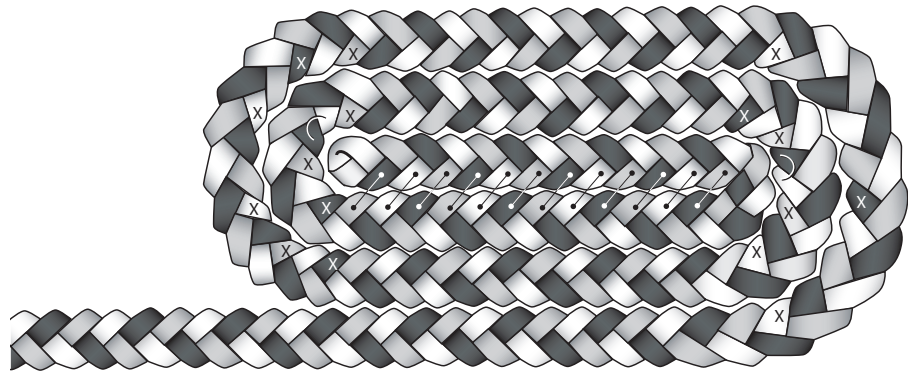


Dot Pattern across the Center Line of an Oval Rug

Demo by Christine
Manges for the Valley
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The dot pattern is one of my favorites across the center line of an oval or rectangular rug. When executed properly, the pattern continues perfectly across the e-laced or shoe-laced center line of the rug. I think the dot pattern gives a beautiful and professional look to a rug – as does a perfectly made slash pattern across the center of a rug, or a diamond pattern.

While the diagrams below show three different colors for the strands so that you can keep track of what's happening with each strand, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you make your dot pattern with the same color for the two background strands. If you don't, there is a high risk of choosing a second color that accidentally shifts the contrast "dot" to the wrong color, and then the pattern won't be correct across the center.

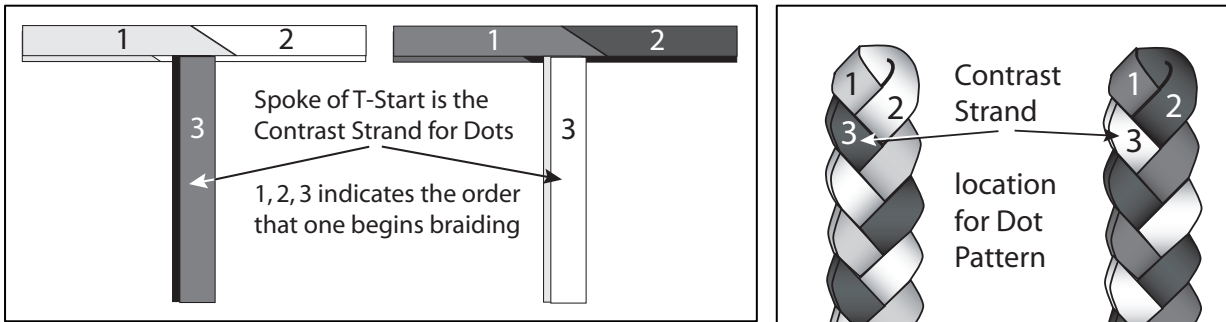
Choose ONE background color for strands #1 and #2 in the diagrams below, and a sharply contrasting strand for #3. Although the diagrams show a seam between Strand 1 and Strand 2, there is no need for one if you are using the same color for the crosspiece of the T-Start. Strand 3, the contrast strand, will be the spoke of the T-Start.



Photo left shows a rug with a dot pattern across the center line.

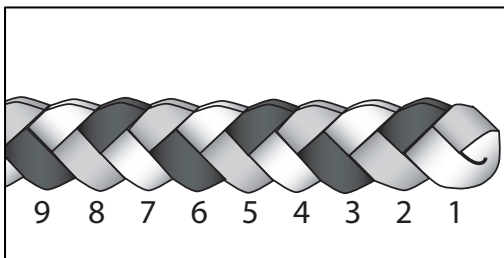
The dot pattern is lost on the curves, but resumes on each side.

Make T-Start



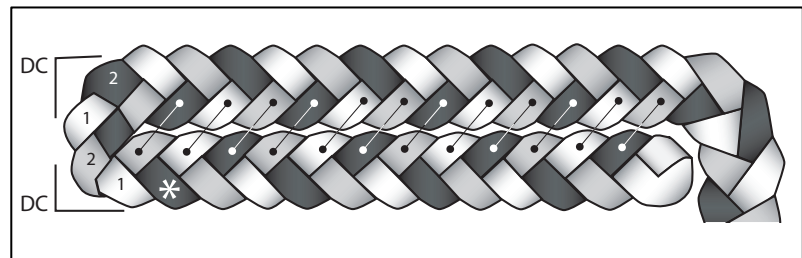
1. Left diagram shows the contrast strand location: the spoke of the T-Start.
2. Right Diagram shows the arrangement of strands at the braided T-Start.

Count Loops



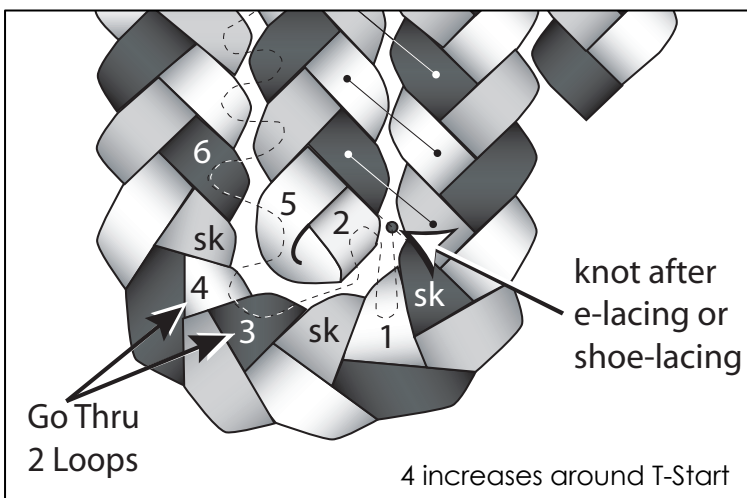
3. Diagram shows how to count loops on the straight braid, which must be a multiple of 3.

E-lace or Shoe-Lace the Center



4. Diagram shows the asterisked contrast strand location before beginning the 2-DC turn: the last outside (smooth edges side) loop before braiding the first double corner.

5. In the last diagram, note how the arrangement of loops across the center line. Find a lower braid contrast loop next to the center line. The upper braid's contrast loop must be one diagonal set to its right. E-lace or shoe-lace as you prefer.

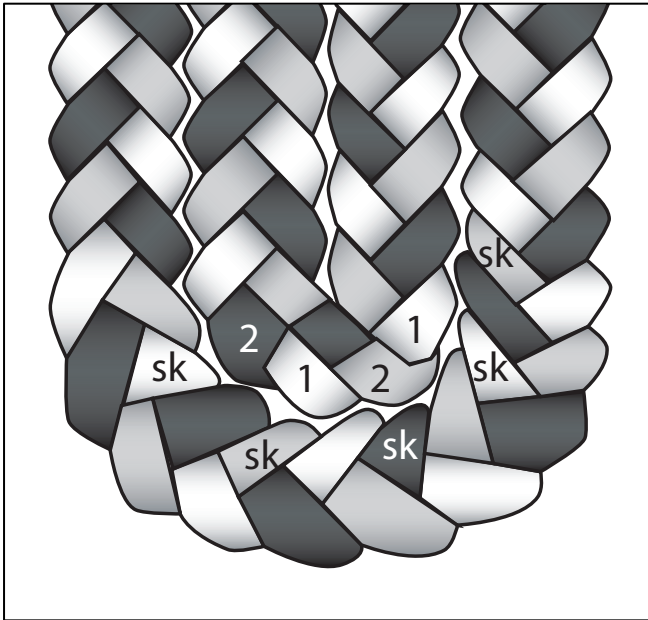


Lace around T-Start Curve

6. Left Diagram shows how to lace around the T-Start, making 4 increases by skipping 3 loops and going through 2 loops, once.

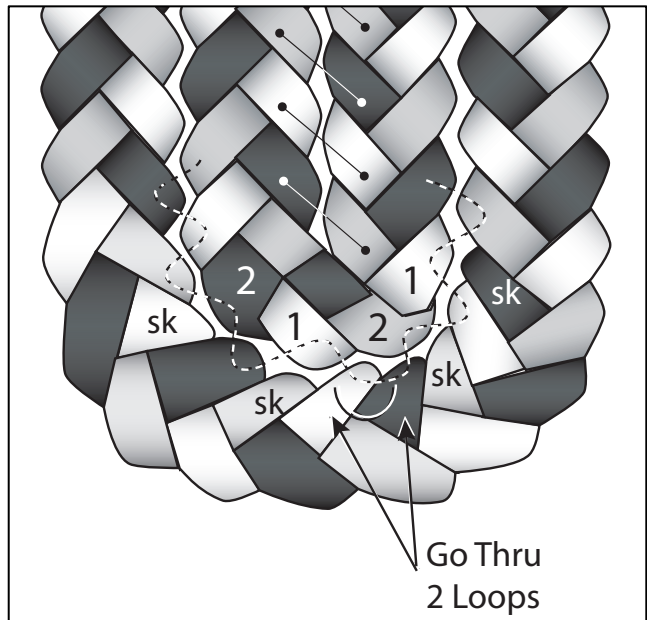
After the T-Start Curve, lace regularly along the next side, making sure that the dot pattern resumes.

Lace around 2-DC Curve: Two Options



5 increases by skipping 5 times around 2-DC turn

Diagram above shows how to lace around 2-DC curve with **5 skipped loops**. The first skip occurs in the new braid just *before* lacing the first DC loop (1), and the next 4 skips occur just *after* lacing each of the 4 double corner loops (1,2, 1,2).



5 increases by skipping 4 times and making one "Go Thru 2 Loops" around 2-DC turn

Diagram above shows how to lace around the 2-DC curve with **4 skipped loops + one "Go Thru 2 Loops."** After lacing the 2nd loop of the first DC, skip a new braid loop, then lace through the next 2 new braid loops, then lace through the 1st loop of the 2nd DC.

I like the 2nd method because it centers the skips more evenly along both sides of the 2-DC curve... but either method works fine.

After these first two curves, the dot pattern is maintained if you simply insist on making increases in loop count that are a multiple of 3: 6 and 6 in one row, and 3 and 3 in the next row. See the table below.

Note: the First Curve within each row is the 2-DC Curve. The 2nd Curve within each row is the curve around the T-Start.

Row	First Side	First Curve (2-DC)	Second Side	Second Curve
1	Braid T-Start + multiple of 3 loops	2 Double Corners	Braid regularly, & e-lace or shoe-lace	4 increases around T
2	Lace	5 increases	Lace	6 increases
3		3 increases		3 increases
4		6 increases		6 increases
5		3 increases		3 increases
6		6 increases		6 increases

Note: the increases that don't follow the standard pattern of "3/3 & 6/6" are shown in bold text.