

Introduction

The term “butting” means sewing the Start and Finish of a braid together into a complete ring. Butting avoids the stair-step color changes that are often visible on a continuous spiral rug. Although butting requires seams, a butted round appears seamless, because the seams are hidden.

Butting can be used throughout the rug, or a continuous spiral rug can be tapered and then finished with one or two butted rows at its border.

This handout will specifically cover butting ON the rug and without using a ruler: the cutting locations are approximated.

Specific Locations for Butts

Q: Is there anywhere on the rug that is “best” for butting?

A: Butt loops are often a little less perfect than the rest of your braid. The following recommendations help to minimize the visual impact of any imperfections.

1. Curves are better sites for butts than straight portions of a rug... in my opinion. (There are excellent braiders who disagree and always butt on the straight portion of an oval rug).
2. On a round, butt anywhere, but try not to butt directly over your taper.
3. On an oval, butt on the end of a curve, but not over the taper.
4. Do not “stack” the butt sites on top of each other unless you have a reason to do so (e.g.: 4-row pattern laced on all at once). Move the butt locations around the rug.

On the Rug Butting

a) When butting **“on the rug,”** most of the row is already laced onto the rug, and about 6 inches at the Start and Finish remain unlaced. Butting with this method is simply a matter of overlapping the braids and seeing where the loops match up neatly.

Diagram shows the current row mostly laced onto the rug, with about 6 inches at the Start left unlaced. The Finish is placed behind the Start, with an overlap of the unlaced Start 6 inches.



Butt on the Rug Advantages	Butt on the Rug Disadvantages
Most of the skips and increases have already been laced	You might have to remember to lace in one or two skips after the butt is completed
No worries about miscounting or twisting a row that was butted off the rug: you know the row will fit	You have to drag the entire rug over to the sewing machine (if using a sewing machine for butt seams)
No need to count sets	If the loops don't match up properly at the butt site, you may have to unlace a bit and add in a few more skips on a curve.

Annie's Fanny Butt

Created by Anne Morton Caldwell in 2015, the Annie's Fanny butt is an excellent method for hiding seams on both front and back. It requires 7 straight loops for butting. It features a method for sewing the diagonal seams with ends that are cut straight across, making the seams easier to sew, especially by machine.

While any butting method can be used when butting on the rug, this is the one I like best.

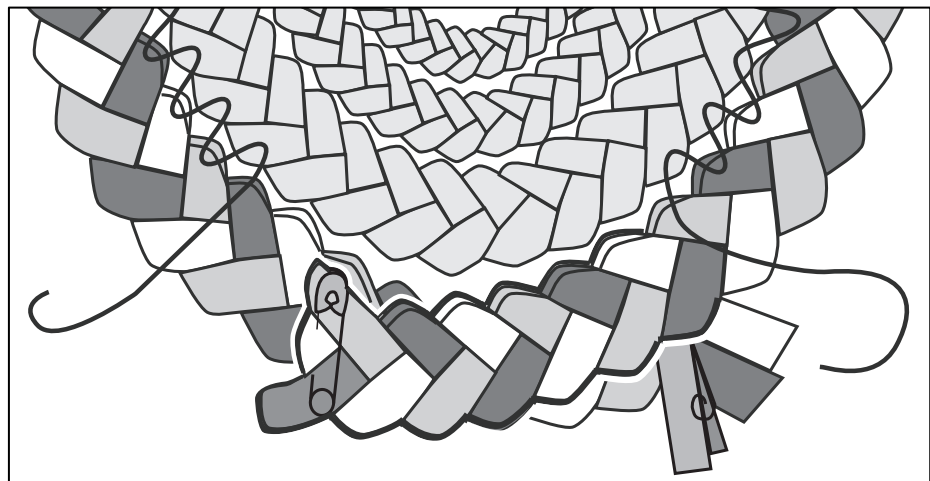
Supplies Needed

- Start Safety Pin
- Finish Clothespin
- Sewing needle
- Thread to match & also to contrast with strands
- Several large & small safety pins
- Scissors with BLUNT TIPS
- Needle-nose pliers or hemostat
- Sharpie marker

Annie's Fanny Advantages	Annie's Fanny Disadvantages
Hides seams very well	Only works for straight braids
Diagonal seams are easy to sew from ends that are cut straight across	Requires <u>7 straight loops</u> for the butt
All work (except re-braiding the Start) is done from the front of the rug	Some hand-sewing required
Works with all weights of fabric	
By sewing two parallel strands together as part of the butt, only one strand is sewn by having to distort the braid.	

1. Position the braids:

- a. The fronts are facing forward.
- b. Open folded edges are upward and Right Opening.
- c. Start braid is to the right and the Finish braid to the left.
- d. Lay the Start on top of the Finish, matching loops.

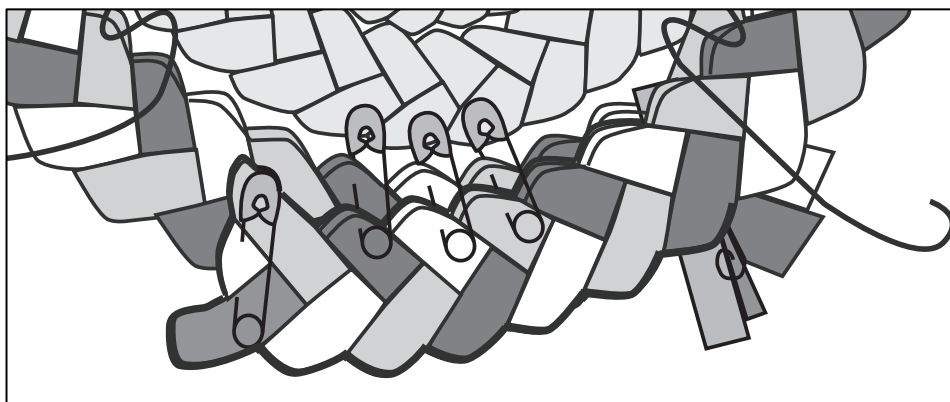


See if the loop colors match at the butt site. If they do not match, then it is better to work in an increase (skip) than to pull the braid too tight. Unlace a bit if needed to work in an extra increase or two.

If the ORDER of colors is incorrect – Blue White Gray in one braid, and Blue Gray White in the other – then you have made an accidental double corner in the straight braid. Carefully walk your fingers along the whole braid until you find the double corner.

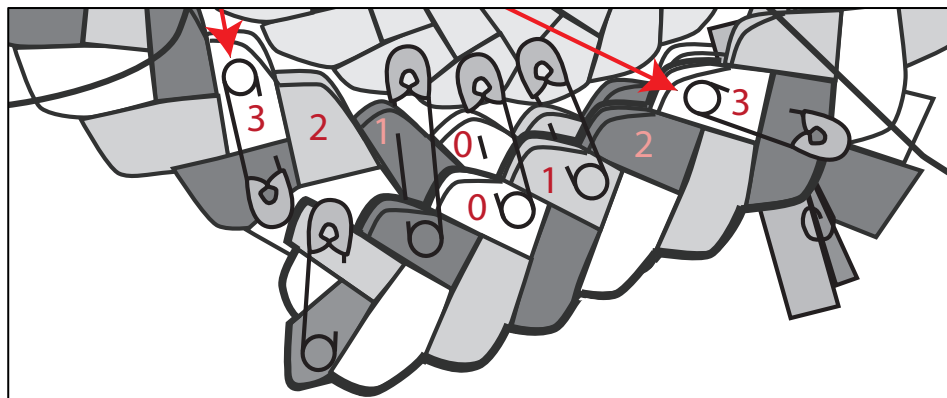
2. Place large safety pins through the 3 Matching Loops that will be butted together. These are the “Matching Loop pins.”

Pin the front, Start loops far off to the right, and pin the back, Finish loops anywhere.



Don't choose the loops in the Start pin. If you can, choose a “stand-out” strand as the center of the 3 Matching Loops – one that is darker, or lighter, or a bright color, if possible. Here, the center loops are white.

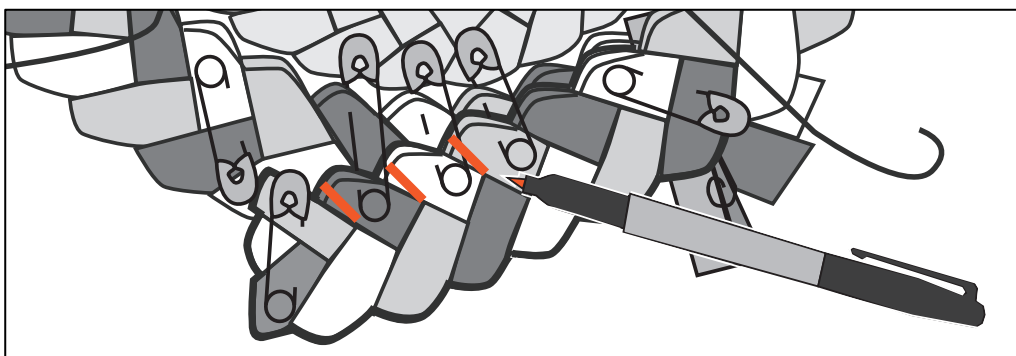
3. Place Stopper Pins: these two large safety pins prevent you from unbraiding further than you have to, and help arrange the strands properly for sewing the first two strands together.



The **Start Braid's Stopper Pin** is placed **3 loops to the right** of the center Matching Pin or “zero.” The **Finish Braid's Stopper Pin** is placed **3 loops to the left** of the center Matching Pin. The pinned loops should be the same color as the center Matching set. Start counting from the center loop, starting with zero.

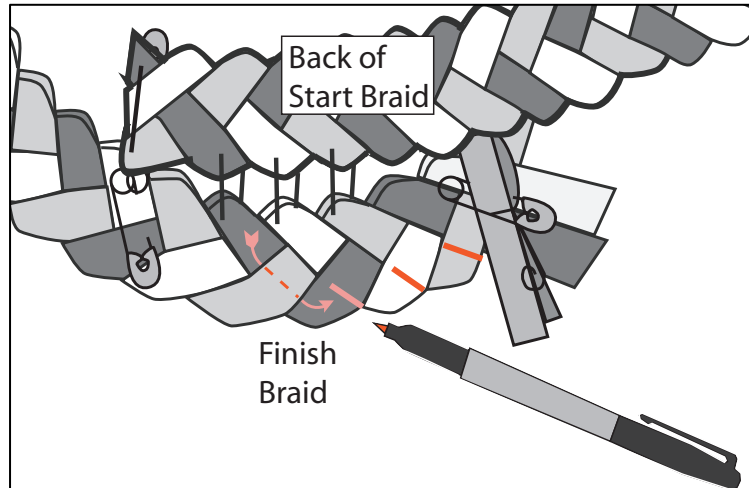
Stab down through the 3rd loop to the left and come up in the next loop braided. The Stopper Pin should catch all three strands securely. Repeat for Stopper off to right.

4. Use a marker to mark each pinned loop on the Start Braid far off to the left, as shown.

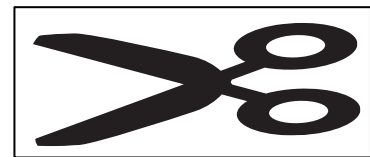


5. Marking the Finish Braid: The Start braid has been turned upward so that the Finish Braid is visible. Matching Pins are seen between the braids.

Find the 3 pinned loops on the Finish Braid, and follow each strand down to the right to the next loop where each color is braided. Mark each of the strands across the center of the loop.



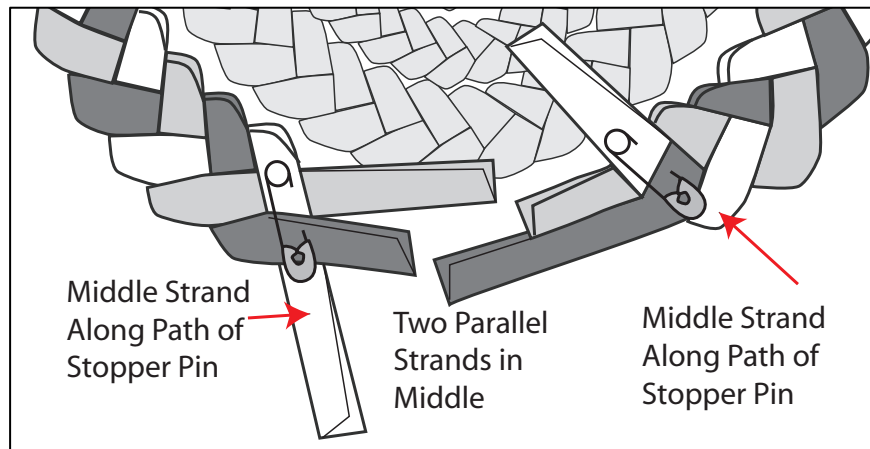
6. Using blunt-tipped scissors, work one blade under each marker-lined loop and cut through the loop along the line. Be careful not to catch any of the safety pins between the scissor blades. Remove the Start and Finish braid remnants.



7. Unbraid back to the Stopper Pins.

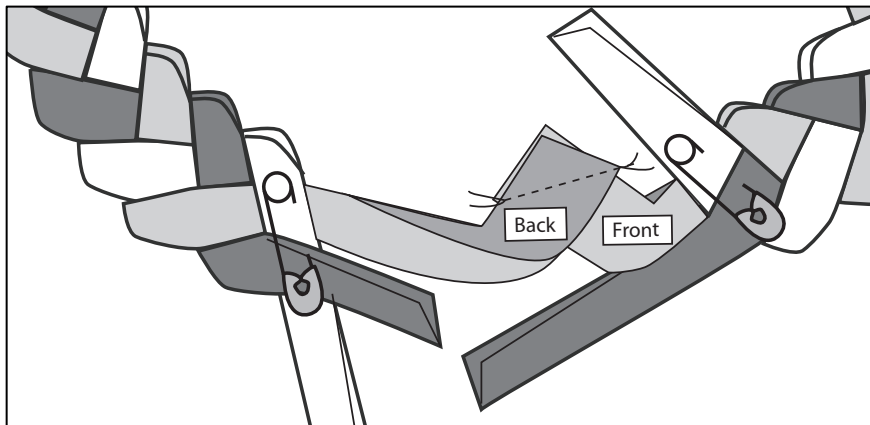
The Middle strand points upward on the right & downward on the left. It is parallel to the Stopper Pin on both braids.

The two remaining strands match across the center: a long upper Start (left side) end matches up with a short Finish end; a short lower Start end matches up with a long Finish end.



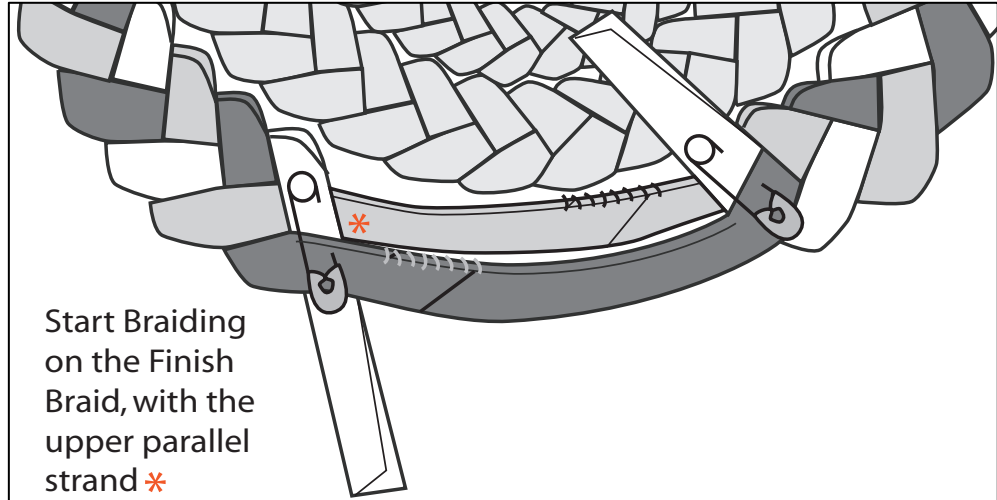
If you don't have two parallel strands across the center that are of roughly equal total length, then you have done something wrong.

8. Arrange the ends as shown for sewing the parallel strands, right-sides-together, with a diagonal seam. Trim off triangle seam allowance. Re-fold as for braiding, and tack the folds together over seam region with a few stitches of matching thread. Repeat for the second parallel strand (Dark, in diagram).



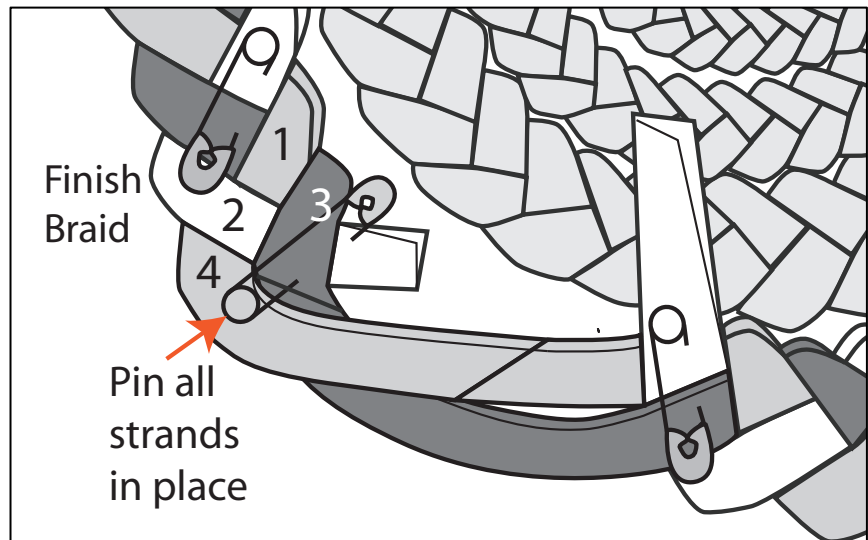
9. Diagram shows the two parallel strands with folds tacked closed over the seams.

Start braiding on the Finish with the * strand.



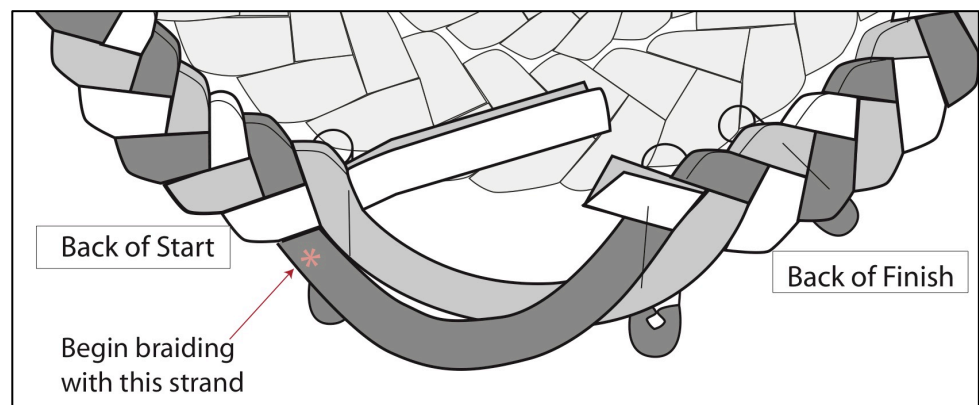
10. On the Finish Side (braid on the left), begin braiding with the strand on the *right* (See "1" in diagram). Braid until the short end has moved from the left side to the right side of the braid: with two loops over top of it (3, 4).

Pin all strands in place, as shown.



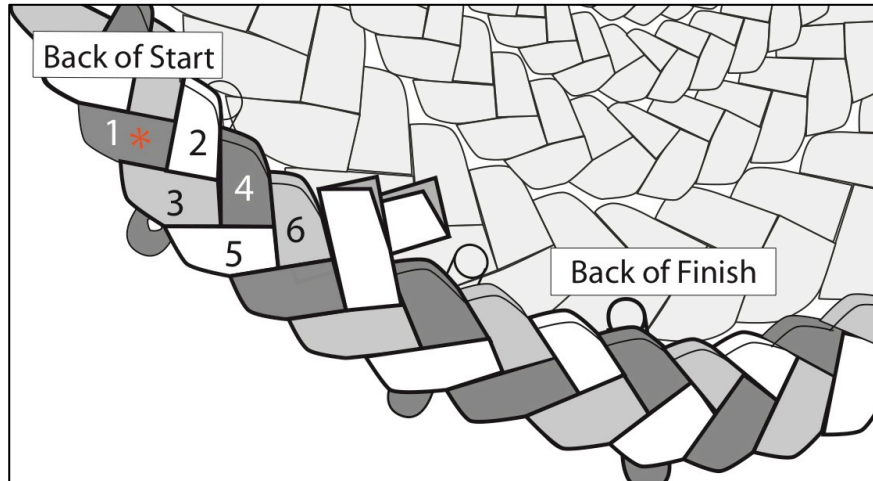
Note: The Start braid (off to the right) cannot be re-braided from the front. The Start braid must be turned over to the back, and then you can re-braid. It is best to turn *the entire rug over to the back* so that a common mistake during butting is avoided. However, if the rug is big, then just turn the butt portion over for braiding the Start.

11. Turn the entire rug over, and begin braiding from the Start Stopper Pin, making sure folded edges are to the right. Re-braid firmly but not terribly tightly.



Note in diagram that the BACKS of the braids are now facing forward. All pins are on the other side of the braid.

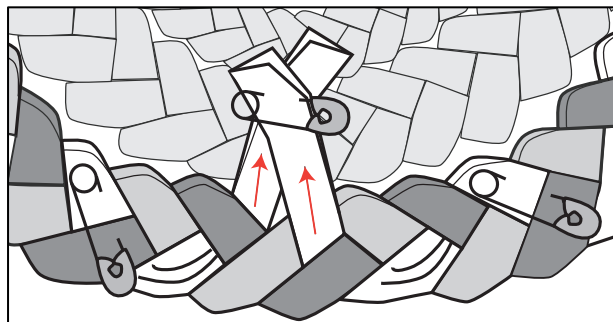
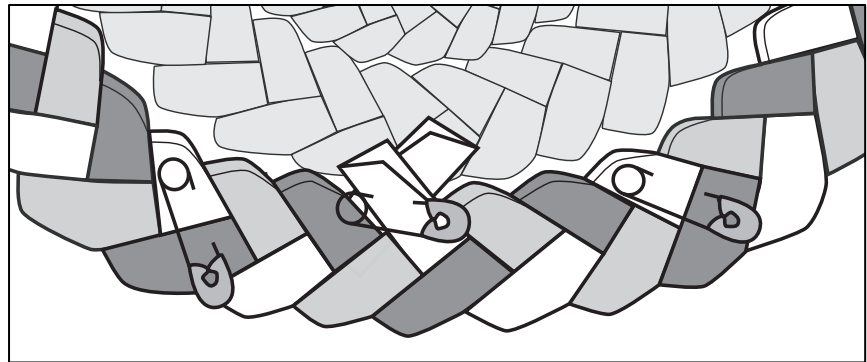
12. Start braiding with the upper parallel strand (see **red asterisk** in diagram). Braid 5 loops to get the Start end to match up with the Finish end. (The 6th loop almost braids itself). PIN THE ENDS TOGETHER, then turn everything back to the front.



**If your Start and Finish ends aren't matching up, see page 7.

**REMEMBER that there is a pin holding the Finish end in place – remove it once the ends are pinned together and you have flipped back to the front of the braid.

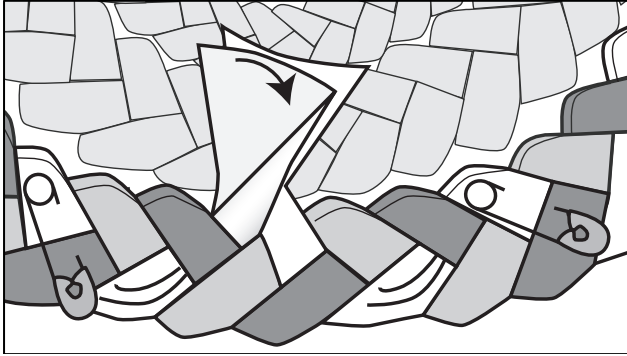
13. Diagram shows the braid flipped back to the front. The Stopper pins are off to either side, and the two ends are pinned together. Folded edges are upward.



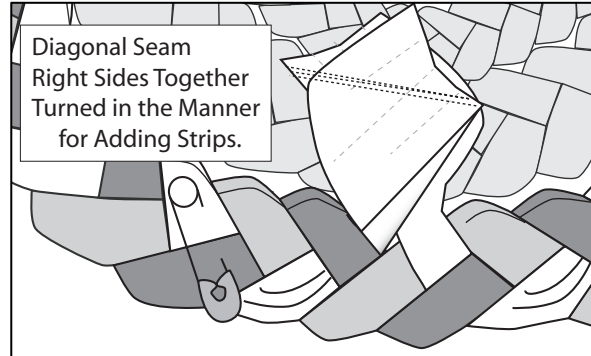
14. Pull on the ends to get some length. Keep the ends pinned together while you are pulling. Notice that the braid becomes distorted while you are pulling.



15. Take off the pin holding the ends together. Make the ends equal in length. The folds should face outward on both ends.



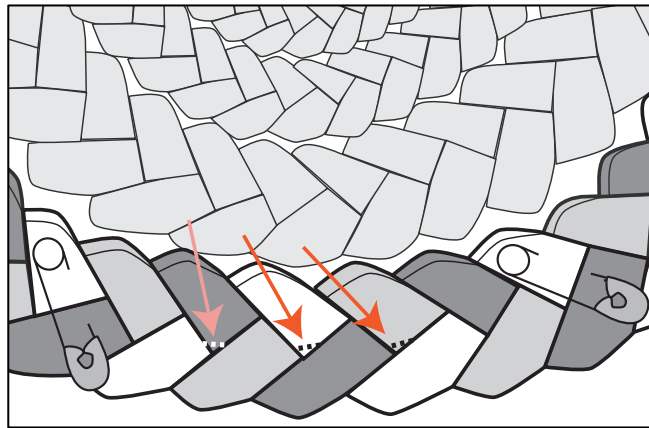
16. Take the end in your left hand and turn it 90 degrees to the right. This turn will make the strands look like when you sew on more length to strips.



17. Diagram shows sewing a diagonal seam across the ends, with right sides together. Sew the seam and trim off the triangular seam allowances. Refold as for braiding.



18. Tack the folds together over the seam with matching thread.



19. Work the pulled-out length back into the braid. Use a hemostat or pliers to make your loops equal. Remove the Stopper Pins. Arrows point to the butt seams, which should be hidden by the next loop braided

20. Finish lacing the braid onto the rug, and knot the ends. Bury the ends under 3 loops, and cut. DONE!!

Most Common Re-Braiding Mistake

A common mistake is that, when you turn the braid over to the back so that you can re-braid from the Start end, you don't flip the entire braid

over. So you are looking at the back of the Start and the front of the Finish, and the short ends simply will never match.

Turn the Finish so that the back is facing up, following the direction of the arrow. The strands will naturally match up for sewing. Next time check that the folds are on the same side, and the Stopper pins are both on the same side of the braid.

