

Working With Ties

I. Select Materials:

This can be an assortment of all ties or ties and a mix of other fabrics. A braid with two strands of ties and one strand of wool/other fabric can draw more attention to the ties and accent the pattern.

II. Preparing the Ties:

The easy way to use a tie is to cut off only the “skinny” portion. Take the narrow end fold it back on the tie until the tie starts becoming wider than the end. Cut it at this point.



The economical way to use a tie is to cut off the tie about where the tie becomes roughly twice as wide as the narrow end. Then pull back the silk, trim the interfacing to the width of the narrow portion, trim off some of the extra fabric, and fold everything back into place. This lengthens the usable portion of the tie. Whether it is based into place or merely folded, depends on each braider’s preference. [See “Illustrations For Extending the Usable Tie”]



III. Starts:

Either the enclosed end or “t” start can be used. For a circle basket, I prefer the enclosed end start. If you are working with ties and other fabrics, it works best to start with other fabric in the middle of the two strands of ties.

IV. Braiding the Ties

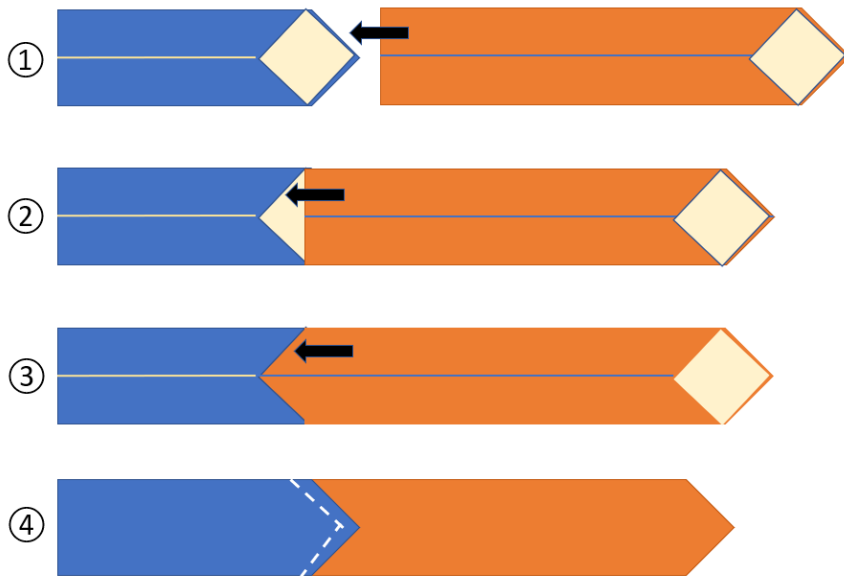
Once started, ties only require folding in half as you braid. All of the edges are finished. Because the ties typically change width over the length of the tie, they have a tendency to tweak. Thickness can sometimes be adjusted by removing some of the interfacing.

V. Joining the Ties

To add a new tie to a strand,

1-3) Tuck the unfinished end of the tie being added into the finished tie end of the existing strand. [Image shows ties from the bottom.]

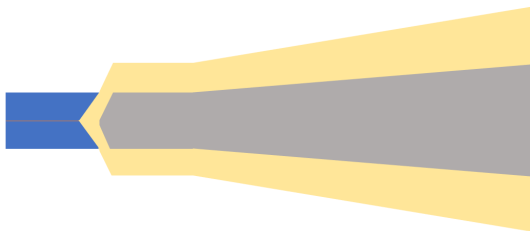
4) Sew along the edge of the top of the existing tie. [Image shows ties from the top.]



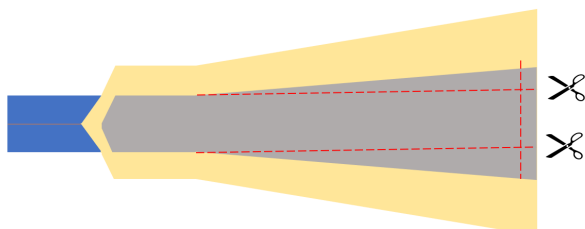
NOTE: Cutting off the interfacing in the new tie about 3/4 inch from the unfinished end of the tie will reduce the bulk where the ties are joined.

Illustrations For Extending the Usable Tie:

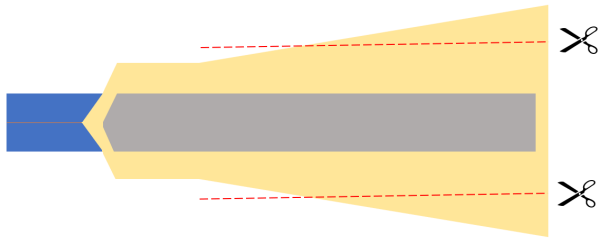
Open the tie -



Trim the lining -



Trim the fabric -



Fold -



Sources For Ties

Generally ties for braiding can be obtained from the same sources as any recycled fabric.

- ◆ Family closets (presumably with permission)
- ◆ Yard sales
- ◆ Estate sales
- ◆ Thrift shops (Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc.)
- ◆ Consignment shops (generally more expensive)

Additional Resources:

Young, Nancy. *Braid On: A Manual For Experienced Rug Braiders Who Want More....* (Winthrop, ME: Nancy Young, 2007) at 27.

Nancy Young Newsletter, Issue 9 (May 1994) at 5.

Of Interest:

"Instructions for Braiding a Rug Using Ties," *Smart Sewing Magazine*, 11th edition (1955) (posted to Pinterest at <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/51369251973145951/> ; magazine cover posted at <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/348817933608983168/>).