

Braiding & Butting an Even-Numbered Multistrand Border via Zoom

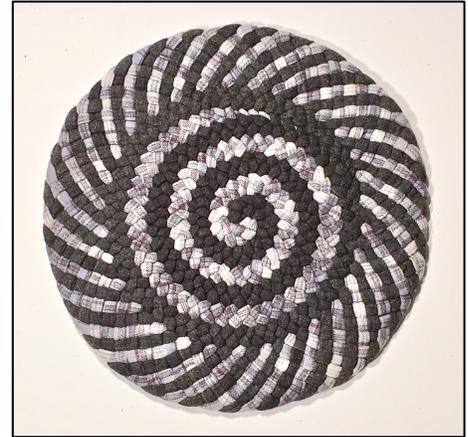
Instructor: Christine Manges

Dates: Two Fridays, Oct 21 & 28 at 1 pm EST over Zoom

Description:

In this 2-session class, learn how to braid and butt an even-numbered multistrand border for a round or oval rug. Braid with 4, 6, 8, or 10 strands and butt them using the "Diagonal Butt" method.

Even-numbered multistrand braids have several differences from odd-numbered multistrands, both in braiding and in lacing them onto a rug. Different patterns can be achieved (diagonal stripes, for example, is only possible with an even number of strands... and can slant in either direction depending on how the Start is arranged). Luckily, the Diagonal Butt is actually easier to do with even strand numbers!



Cost: \$35 for 2 sessions (Members get \$5 off with coupon). All classes recorded and available for personal use for 6 months.

Prerequisite: Must have braided a 3-strand rug prior to this course

Session 1, Sept 30: Arrange the strands at the Start to yield your choice of patterns. Two methods for starting the MS braid for a Butt will be shown. The weaving method will be demonstrated for making the braid. Lacing the MS braid to a 3-strand center will be shown and calculating the spacing for the motifs will be demonstrated.

Session 2, Oct 7: Butting the Even-Numbered Multistrand either "on the rug" or "off the rug" will be demonstrated, for two different numbers of strands. The Diagonal Butt method will be used.

Supplies:

- Multistrand Braid Stand (see next page), OR a large heavy book on a table, OR a Rug Hooking frame clamped to a table
- 5" long, toothed duckbill clips – see photos below from Amazon – you need 3 to 5 depending on the size of your braid
- A braid-aid for each strand OR pre-press strand edges to the center and roll up around a rubber band. Braid-master braid-aids available from Halcyon Yarn: https://halcyonyarn.com/rug-making/equipment/braid_aids
- Depending on which Start you choose, you either need a lot of safety pins OR two shims or paint sticks (thin boards ~1-2" wide) with double-stick tape or sticky Velcro and 2 heavy-duty binder clips
- Other regular 3-strand braiding supplies: lacing cord, lacing needle, needle and thread or sewing machine, scissors, hemostat* or needle-nosed pliers; many safety pins. (If you choose to make a wide braid – more than 11 strands – it is best to purchase an 8" hemostat for this butt method).
- Fabrics for the braid: If you can loosely wrap each strand loosely TWICE around the perimeter of the rug that you're going to lace the braid onto, then you will have enough length.



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Note: the Braid Masters shown above right accommodate a 1.5" wide strip. They work best with 14-18 oz/yd fabric, or Dorr Mill fabric washed in warm with light agitation. If you wish to work with wider strips, I recommend either using Vari-Folders, or pre-pressing your strip edges to the center and rolling them up. (Vari-Folders are larger braid-aids available on eBay).



Photos above show a hinged multistrand braid stand in use. I like mine tall: 40 inches for the central column. It helps to leave 1/4 inch of air between the top two planks so that the braid is gripped all the way across. Plans for a Multistrand Braid Stand available from Donna McKeever at pdmckeeper4@aol.com.



Teacher Bio: Christine Manges has been braiding rugs since 2006. She co-authored the book, Combining Rug Hooking and Braiding: Basics, Borders, and Beyond with Kris McDermet and Dianne Tobias in 2011. She has been teaching rug braiding in person since 2009 and online since the pandemic. Currently, she is serving as the Education Chair and President of the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild.

