

FINGER LOOP BRAIDING

(August 2020)

HL Deorwine aet Earneleia

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A. Items needed.

1. Yarn
2. Tape measure
3. Scissors
4. C-clamp (To anchor the end of the braid as you work.)
5. Darning Needle (A large one with a large eye and blunt tip about 3 inches long.)

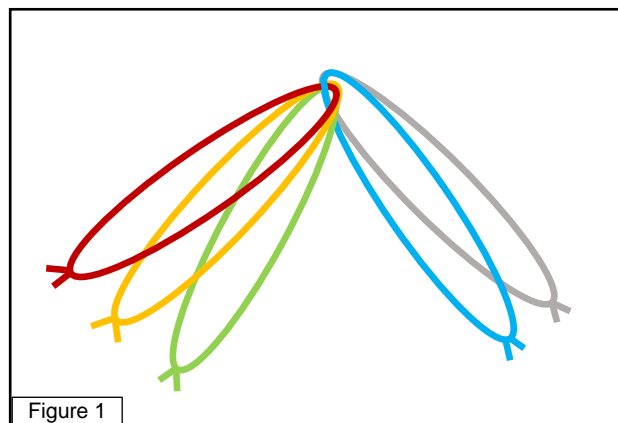
B. Setup.

1. Cut 5 lengths of yarns to the same length. For a short practice braid cut them 3 feet long, so you can make loops about 1-1/2 feet long. For a finished cord 3 feet long cut the yarn 10 feet long, so you can make loops about 5 feet long.

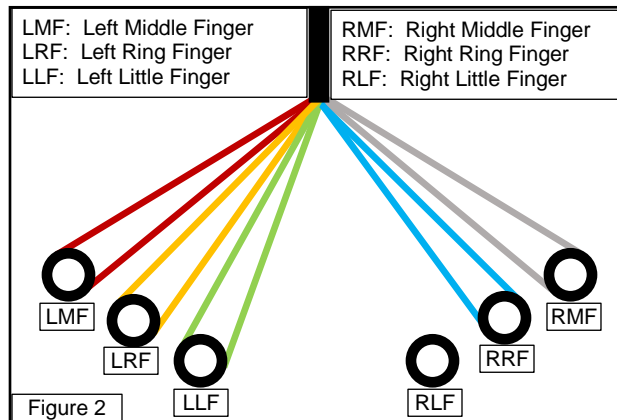
2. Tie 3 lengths of yarn at their ends so the knots will not slip out, to make 3 loops. An overhand knot works and will not slip. Try to make the loops as close to the same length as possible.



3. Insert the other 2 lengths thru the first 3 loops and tie off their ends so the knots will not slip out, to make 2 more loops. Do not insert one of these loops thru the other each other. Try to make the loops as close to the same length as possible. (Figure 1)



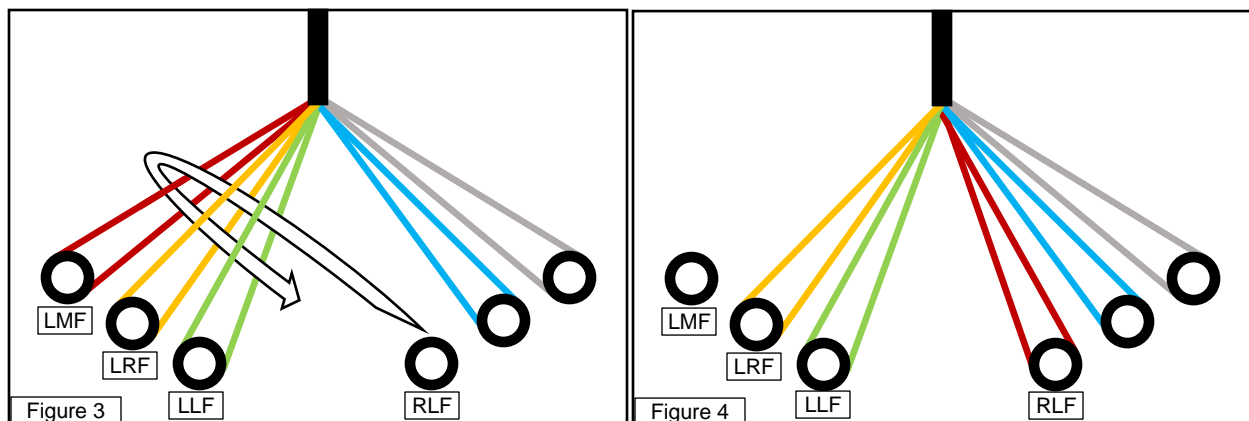
4. Cut a length of yarn about 1 foot long, to make a loop to anchor the end of the braid as you work.
5. Tie off the end of the loop so it will not slip out.
6. Clamp the c-clamp to a table or stable object.
7. Insert the anchor loop through the end of the five loops where they join and slip the 2 ends of the anchor loop over the c-clamp.
8. Put the first 3 loops over the middle, ring and little fingers of the left hand. Put the other 2 loops over middle and ring fingers of the right hand. The palms of both hands should be facing up and in at about a 90-degree angle to each other. (Figure 2)



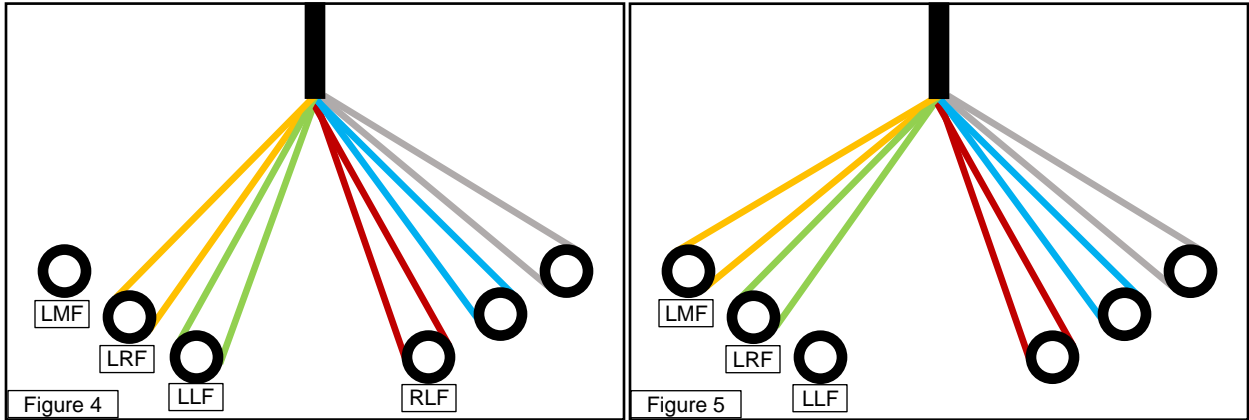
9. Adjust the knots of the loops so they are at the finger end of the loops.
10. The loops should be kept taut as much as possible.
11. After each exchange of loops during the braiding your hands should be moved apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of between 90 degrees and 180 degrees. The higher the angle the tighter the braid will be. Try to use the same angle throughout the braid so the finished braid will be even.

C. Making a square braid.

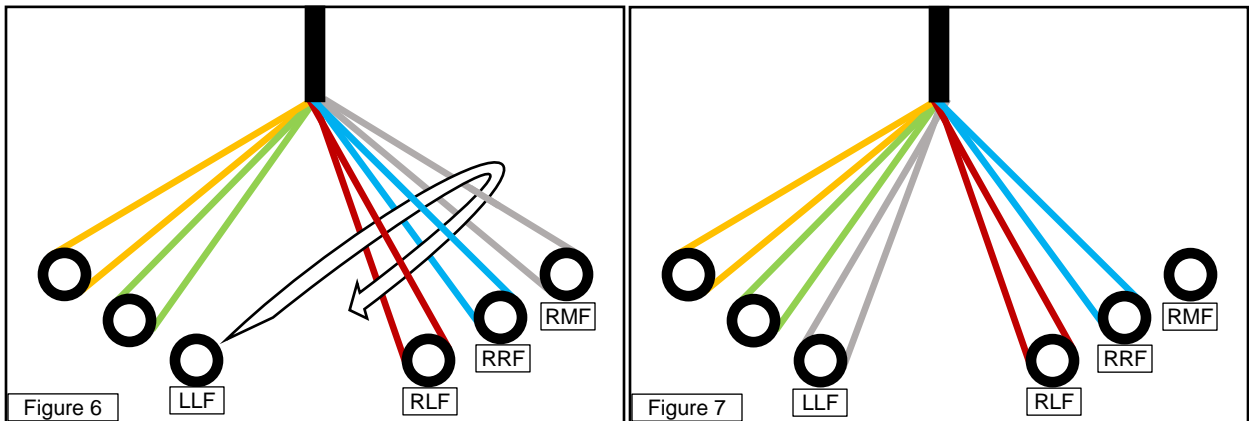
1. Pass the RLF through the middle of the loops on the LLF and the LRF and then over the top of the loop on the LMF. Then hook the top of the loop on the LMF with the RLF and bring the loop that was on the LMF back through the middle of the loops on the LRF and LLF. This will put a twist in the loop that will bind the upper and lower sides of the braid and create a square braid. (Figures 3 and 4)



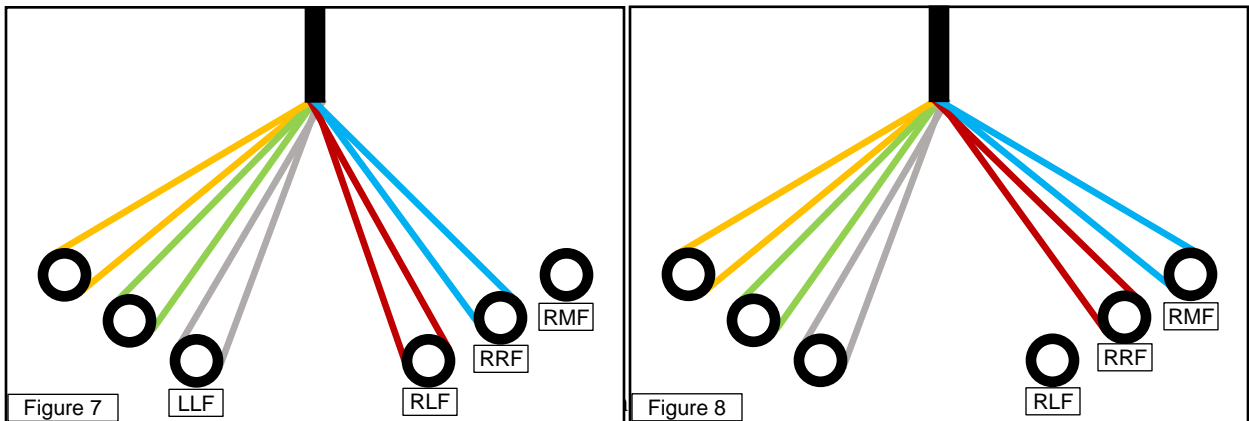
2. Moved your hands apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of around 180 degrees.
3. Move the loop on the LRF to the LMF. Move the loop on the LLF to the LRF. (Figures 4 and 5)



4. Pass the LLF through the middle of the loops on the RLF and the RRF and then over the top of the loop on the RMF. Then hook the top of the loop on the RMF with the LLF and bring the loop that was on the RMF back through the middle of the loops on the RRF and RLF. This will put a twist in the loop that will bind the upper and lower sides of the braid and create a square braid. (Figures 6 and 7)



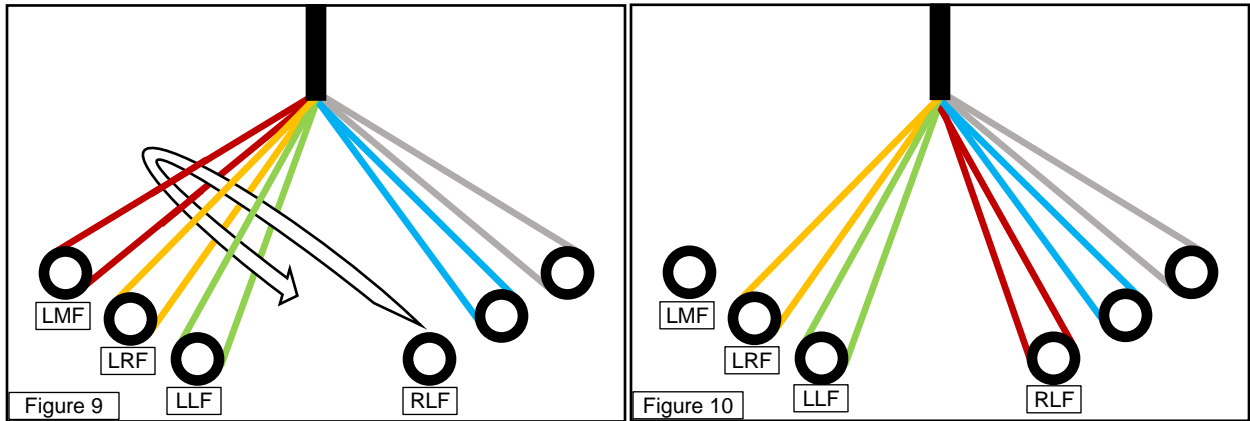
5. Moved your hands apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of around 180 degrees.
6. Move the loop on the RRF to the RMF. Move the loop on the RLF to the RRF. (Figures 7 and 8)



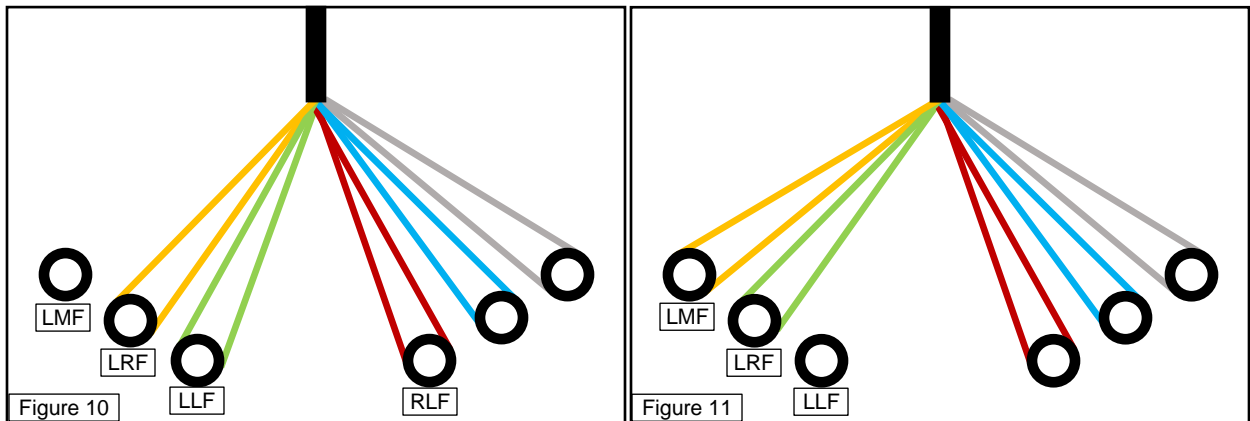
7. Return to para C-1 and repeat till you have the length of braid that you want.

D. Making separate upper and lower braids.

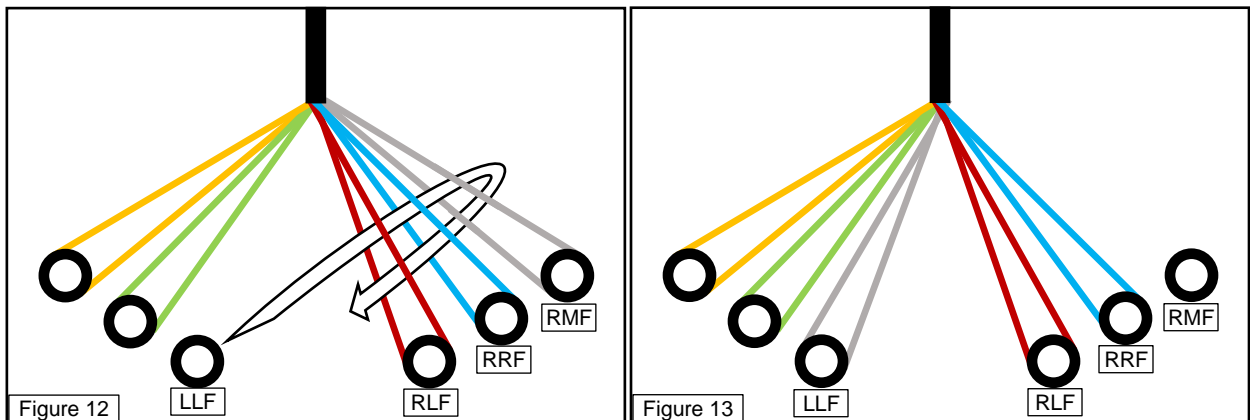
1. Pass the RLF through the middle of the loops on the LLF and the LRF and the LMF. Then hook the bottom of the loop on the LMF with the RLF and bring the loop that was on the LMF back through the middle of the loops on the LRF and LLF. This will transfer the loop without putting a twist in it and will lead to 2 separate braids. (Figures 9 and 10)



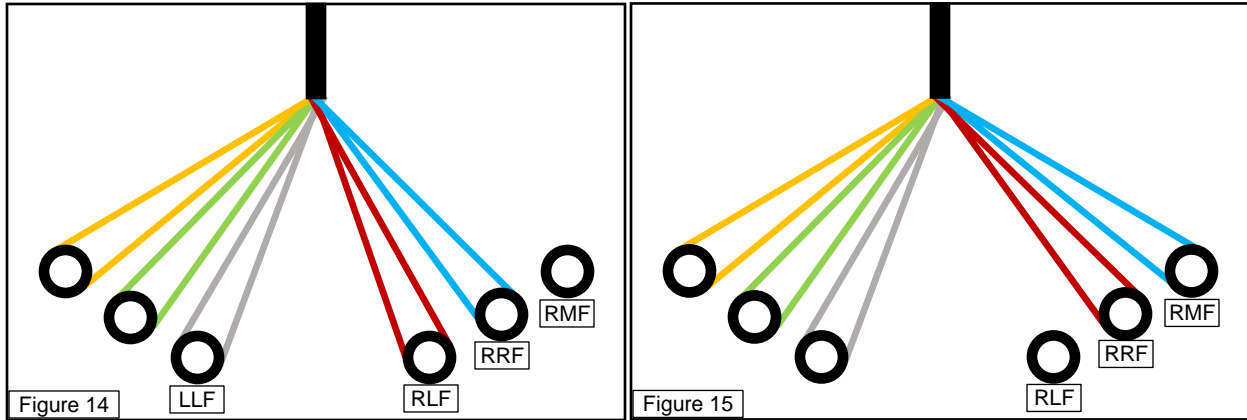
2. Moved your hands apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of around 180 degrees.
3. Move the loop on the LRF to the LMF. Move the loop on the LLF to the LRF. (Figures 10 and 11)



4. Pass the LLF through the middle of the loops on the RLF and the RRF and the RMF. Then hook the bottom of the loop on the RMF with the LLF and bring the loop that was on the RMF back through the middle of the loops on the RRF and RLF. This will transfer the loop without putting a twist in it and will lead to 2 separate braids. (Figures 12 and 13)



5. Moved your hands apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of around 180 degrees.
6. Move the loop on the RRF to the RMF. Move the loop on the RLF to the RRF. (Figures 14 and 15)



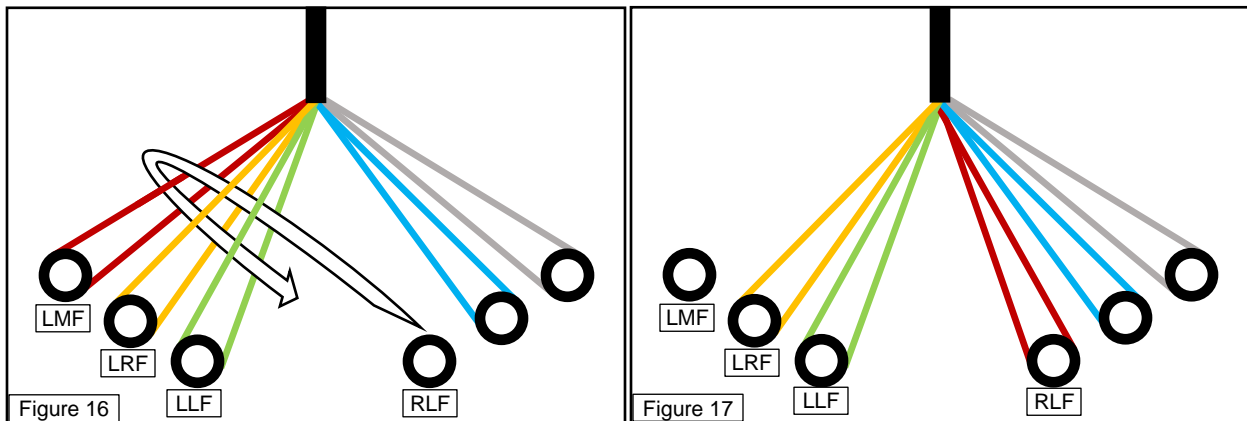
7. Return to para D-1 and repeat till you have the length of braid that you want.

E. Making a loop in a braid.

1. Perform the steps in para C. till you have the length of square braid that you want.
2. To start the loop, perform the steps in para D. and repeat till you have the length of loop that you want.
3. To close the loop, perform the steps in para C. and repeat till you have the length of square braid that you want.

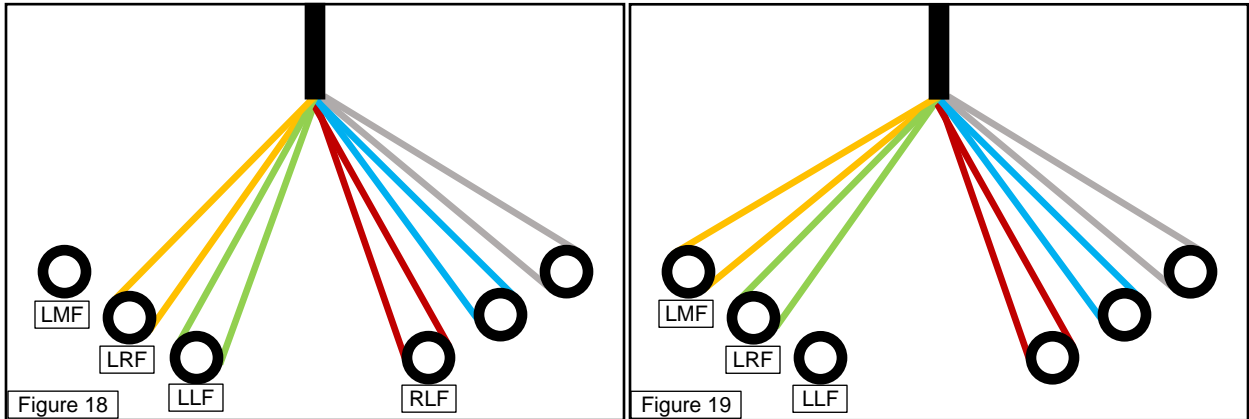
F. Making a flat braid.

1. Pass the RLF through the middle of the loops on the LLF and the LRF and then over the top of the loop on the LMF. Then hook the top of the loop on the LMF with the RLF and bring the loop that was on the LMF back through the middle of the loops on the RRF and LLF. This will put a twist in the loop that will bind the upper and lower sides of the braid on the left side of the braid. (Figures 16 and 17)

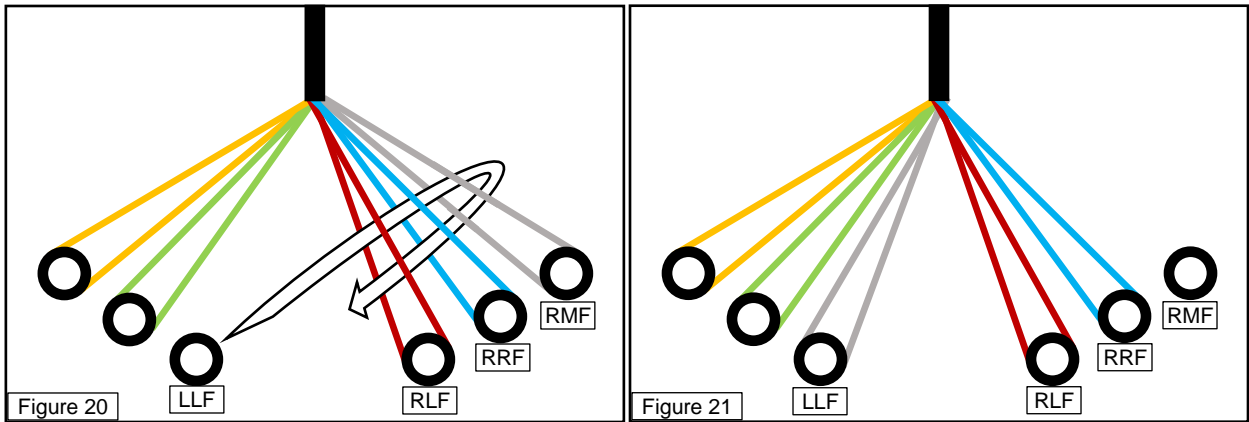


2. Moved your hands apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of around 90 degrees.

3. Move the loop on the LRF to the LMF. Move the loop on the LLF to the LRF. (Figures 18 and 19)

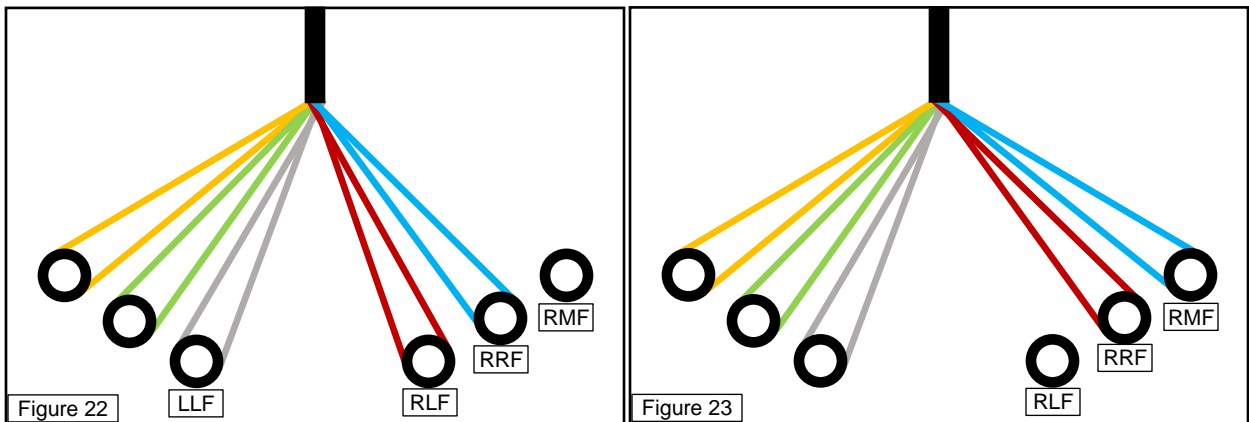


4. Pass the LLF through the middle of the loops on the RLF and the RRF and the RMF. Then hook the bottom of the loop on the RMF with the LLF and bring the loop that was on the RMF back through the middle of the loops on the RRF and RLF. This will transfer the loop without putting a twist in it, so the right side of the braid will not be joined. (Figures 20 and 21)



5. Moved your hands apart till the loops on the hands are at an angle of around 90 degrees.

6. Move the loop on the RRF to the RMF. Move the loop on the RLF to the RRF. (Figures 22 and 23)



7. Return to para F-1 and repeat till you have the length of braid that you want.

8. As you braid you can check to see if you have made a mistake. The left side of the braid should be joined, and right side should not be joined forming a C cross section.

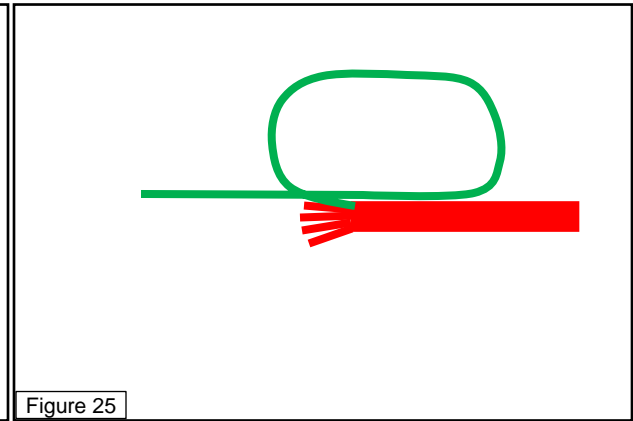
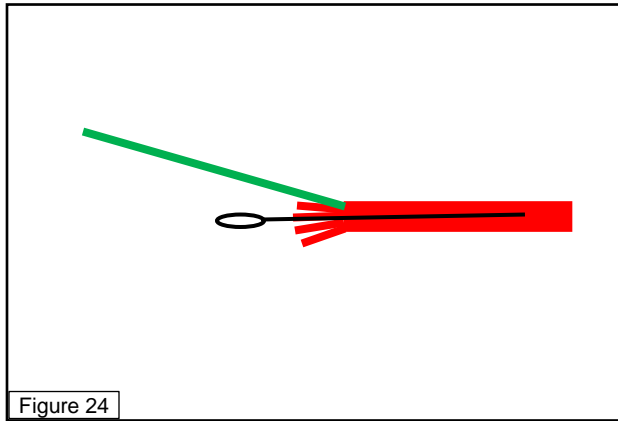
9. After you are done, and the ends is tied off. You flatted the braid by holding the braid in your hands so the side that is not joined faces up, forming U cross section, and pulling the 2 sides of the braid apart. You repeat this process along the length of the braid until it lies flat and the width of the braid is uniform. You should not pull the loops to tight while making the braid. If the braid is is to tight it will be harder to flatten the braid.

G. Tying off the ends of the braid.

1. Method 1.

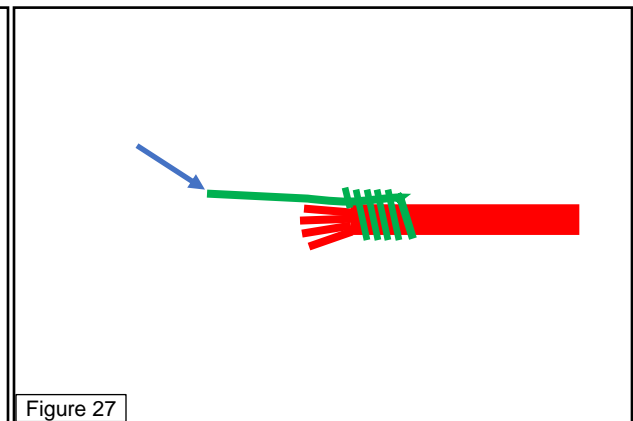
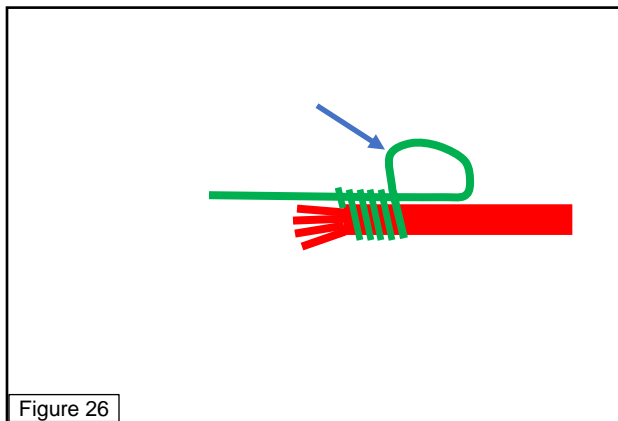
a. Leave at least 8 inches of loops left after you stop braiding so you will have enough yarn left to do the whipping. Separate 1 strand of yarn to use as the whipping for the end of the braid and cut the other strands of yarn short at just over 1/2 inch. (Figure 24)

b. Inserting a darning needle down the center of the braid to stiffen the end will help while whipping the end of the braid. (Figure 24)



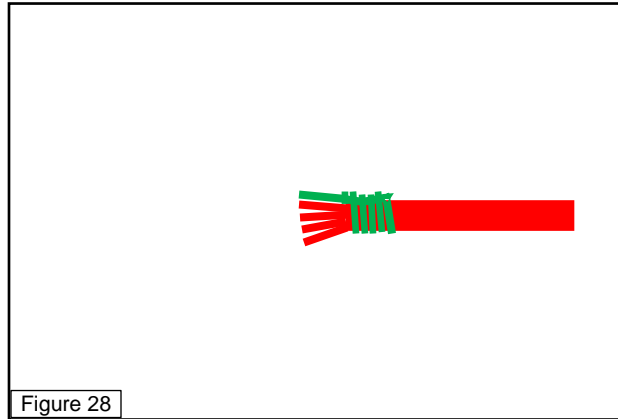
c. Use the long stand of yarn make a loop. (Figure 25)

d. Grab the end of loop closest to the end of the braid and wrap it tightly around the end of the braid 4 or 5 times. (Figure 26)



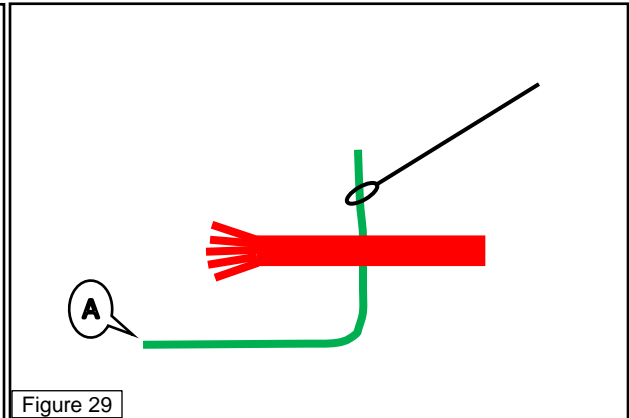
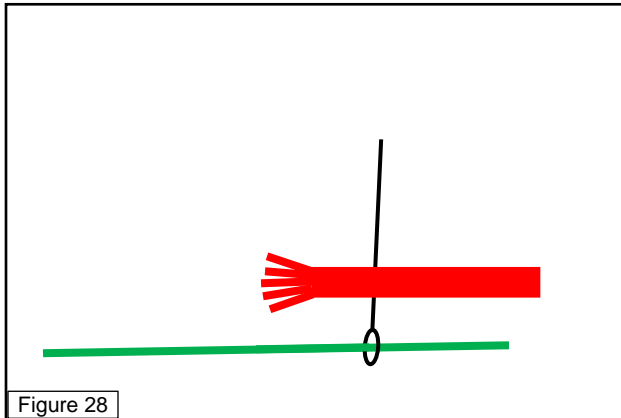
e. Pull on the end of the strand of yarn used to make the whipping to tighten the whipping. Remove the needle and pull the end of the strand of yarn again to tighten the whipping. (Figure 27)

f. Cut off the ends of the strands of yarn at about 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch past the end of the whipping to even them up. (Figure 28)



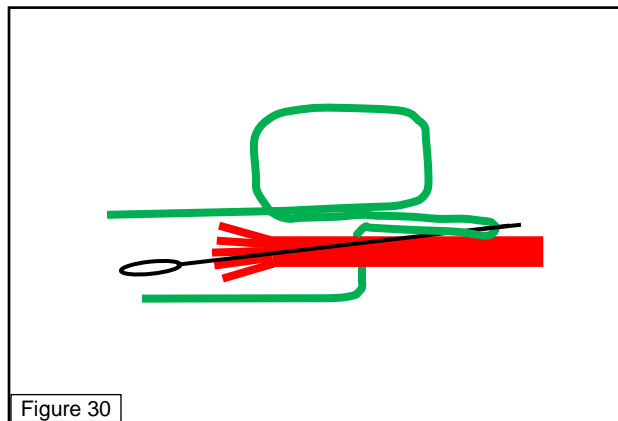
2. Method 2.

a. Cut a length of yarn about a foot long and thread it through the eye of a darning needle. Pull the needle and yarn through the braid about 3/4" from the end of the braid. Leave the end of the yarn (A) just long enough so that it extends just past the end of braid. (Figures 28 and 29)



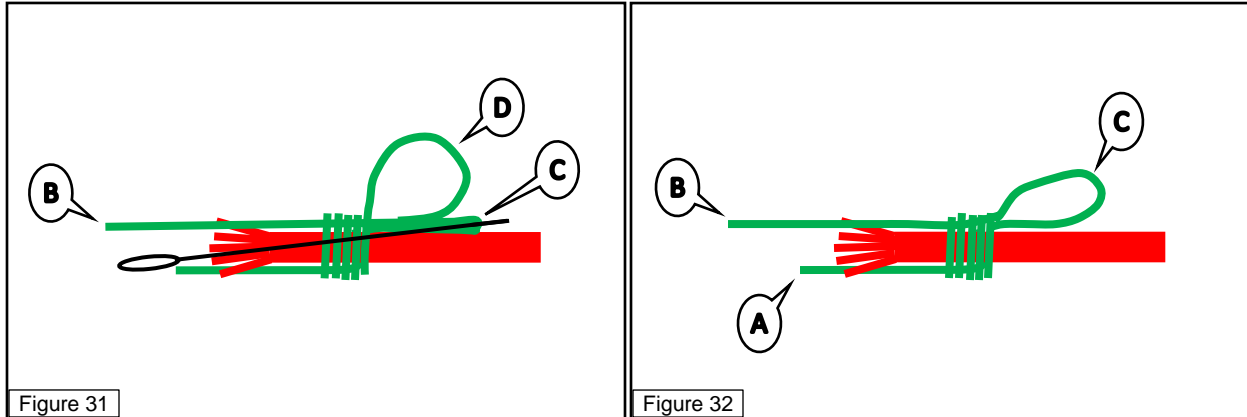
b. Remove the needle from the yarn and insert it through the center of the braid so that it emerges from the braid about an inch past where the yarn passes through the braid. (Figure 30)

c. Loop the yarn around the pointed end of the needle and form a loop with the yarn. (Figure 30)



d. Grab the end of loop closest to the end of the braid and wrap it tightly around the end of the braid 4 or 5 times. The whipping should cover the spot where the yarn passes through the braid. (Figure 31)

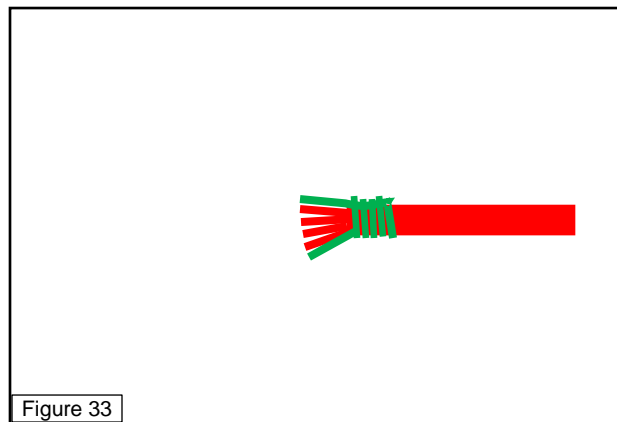
e. Pull on the end of the strand of yarn (B) to tighten the whipping and remove loop (D). Remove the needle. (Figure 31)



f. Insert finger in the loop of yarn (C) and pull on the loop and end of the strand of yarn (B) to tighten the whipping. Be careful not to pull the other end of the strand of yarn (A) through the whipping. (Figure 32)

g. Pull on the end of the strand of yarn (A) to remove the loop (C). (Figure 32)

h. Cut off the ends of the strands of yarn at about 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch past the end of the whipping to even them up. (Figure 33)



3. These methods will anchor the whipping to the end of the braid. If you use a normal whipping with a separate piece of yarn it could slip of the end of the braid.

H. Making a 5 loop braids with 2 colors on the same loop.

1. Cut 9 lengths of yarn the same length. To make a braid 3 feet long, they should be at least 5 feet long. Cut one length of yarn 1 foot longer than the others to be used to make the whipping at the start of the braid when the braid is finished.

2. Tie two lengths yarn together at one end. Repeat for with the other lengths of yarn to make five loops. An overhand knot will work good for this.

3. Arrange the loops of yarn so the knot is at the end of the loop where they will be looped over the fingers.

4. Except for the length of yarn that is a foot longer than the others trim the ends of the yarns at the starting end to make them even. You want the loops to be as close to the same length as possible.
5. Temporarily tie the starting end to an anchor.
6. Follow the instructions above to make the kind of braid you want.
7. When you get the desired length, follow the instructions in section G to tie off the end.
8. Remove the starting end from the anchor and untie the starting end. Following the instructions in section G to tie off the starting end.

I. Error correction and tips.

1. Dropping a loop off the finger. Except for the last loop you transferred, the loops do not have a twist in them. So, when you pick the loop back up ensure that the loop does not have a twist in it when you put it back on the finger. For the last loop that you transferred it may have a twist in it, depending on the type of braid you are making. So, when you pick that loop back up you may have to put a twist in it when you put it back on the finger.
2. Backing up when find you have made a mistake. Perform the reverse of the steps used to make the braid till you reach the error.
3. When you want to stop in the middle of a project you can put the end each loop over the prong of a large comb and then put a large rubber over end of the prongs to keep the loops from falling off.

J. References.

1. Society for Creative Anachronism, Complete Anachronist #108, Fingerloop Braids.
Website: <https://fingerloop.org/>
2. Loopbraider Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_ahaKgDtcBGOctMYbpNaJQ
3. Loop Braiding Website: <https://loopbraider.com/>
4. Fingerloop Braids (Excerpts from Medieval Manuscripts): <http://silkewerk.com/braids/>
5. Known World Loop Manipulation Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KnownWorldLoopManipulation/>
6. Finger Loop Braiding Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/130280887163825/>

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