L-M BRIC News Illustrated Instruction Series No. 4 2002© Revised 2006
L-M Braiding Research & Information Center / Masako Kinoshita
5 Winthrop Place, Ithaca, NY 14850 U. S. A.
Phone & Fax 607-257-0886 e-mail mkinoshi@twcny.rr.com

L-M BRIC News

ILLUSTRATED INSTRUCTION SERIES No. 4

FOR FINGER-HELD LOOP-MANIPULATION BRAIDING

L-M Braiding as Lace-Making Techniques

Three out of the four l-m lace-making procedures in series No. 3 are worked out with a three-worker collaboration. Although one of the three has come from Germany (the other two from England), all three follow essentially the same formula; the basic procedures used by the three workers are limited to only two kinds; one for twin 2-ridge flat braids and the other for four-ridge flat braids. The lace, the end product, consists of 30 elements which is constructed in two-layers using15 loops with each worker using five loops.

Five-element 2-ridge flat braids form the web of the lace. Three-element version of this braid is commonly known as a "pigtail" braid and used for braiding the hair.

In contrast, one person can fashion 16-element Lace Maskel using 8 loops. In this lace, 4-element pigtail braids made using two loops form the web. The procedure to make it is not included in this series. You will find it as well as a 16-loop two-person version in the 15th-century English records such as The Tollemache Book of Secrets.

The basic two procedures used for making Katheren Wheele, etc. :

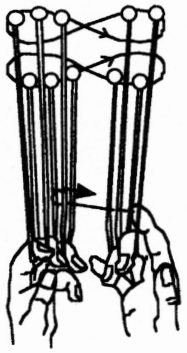
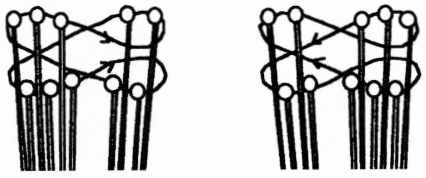


Fig. 4
L-M BRIC News © 2001

Twin 2-ridge flat braids. (Fig. 4)
The twins are made in two layers on top of the other.

Initial allotment	a	b	c	c	b	a
Step 1	–	–	opn	thr	thr	OP
Step 2	OP	thr	thr	opn	–	–

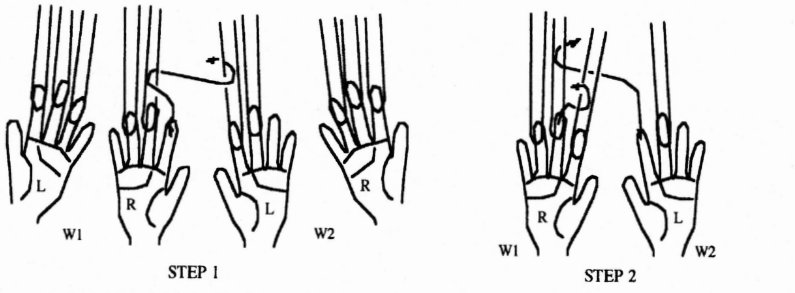
Four-ridge flat braid with a twill pattern. (Fig. 5)



In this procedure, superimposed twins are connected at the right selvage.

Initial allotment	a	b	c	c	b	a
Step 1	–	–	cr	thr	thr	OP
Step 2	OP	thr	thr	opn	–	–

Procedure for connecting the neiboring loops, Rb(W1) and La(W2) (Fig. 6)



We call three workers **W1, W2, W3** from the left.

The Katheren Wheele and **Das Lindwurm Portlein**

+ 1: W1, W2 and W3 each respectively have red, white and green loops.

All three hold three loops on the left hand and two loops on the right.

W1 and W2 always braid using the procedure for twin 2-ridge flat braid while W3 braids uinsg that for 4-ridge flat braid.

+ 2: W1 and W2 each braids repeating 5 times, W3 repeating 5 or 7 times.

+ 3: W1 and W2 each braids 2 steps and then exchange the neighboring loops (Fig 6).

After 5 repeat, W1 has white loops and W2 red loops.

+ 4: All three work as +2. W1 and W3 repeat 4 times, W2 3 times.

+ 5: W2 and W3 each braids and exchange the neighboring loops as +3.

After 5 repeats, W2 has green loops and W3 red loops.

+ 6: W1 and W3 each work 4 repeats and W2 3 repeats.

+7: Repeat from step +3 (The color of the loops that each braider holds may not be the same as stated.)

While W1 and W2, or W2 and W3 are involved in the loop exchange procedure, W3, or W1 who is not involved in the exchange does not braid.

<>The number of the repeat given above for each worker may not necessarily results well proportioned lace fabric. You may need to experiment a few times to produce a satisfactory result.

.