

L-M BRIC News

ILLUSTRATED INSTRUCTION SERIES No. 8
 FOR FINGER-HELD LOOP-MANIPULATION BRAIDING

Twin Flat Braids with a Twill Pattern

The Tollemache book gives the method of producing a double width braid by connecting two braids made side by side by two braiders (duo-braiding). The method is applied to 5-loop 2-ridge twin flat braids, 5-loop 4-ridge tubular braid (square braid), and 7-loop twin 4-ridge 2/1/1/2 flat braids among others. The method produces twin 4-ridge flat braids, 8-ridge double-square braid and twin 8-ridge flat braids. The first braid is known in *Kumihimo* as *shiguchi* and the second as *Mitake-kumi*.

The book also has instructions for making the covert and compound braids of the former two braids, but not for the third.

In the *Serene*, the methods of covert and compound braid making are applied to all three as well as the following two;

- 1) 14-loop twin 8-ridge flat braids (duo braiding)
- 2) 12-loop twin 6-ridge twill flat braids (duo braiding)



Photo 1. Top Twin 7-loop 4-ridge flat braids with a 2/1/1/2 pattern. 6 bi-color loops and 1 plain navy loop. Bottom Viceray=twin 12-loop 6-ridge flat braids with 2/1/2/3/1/2 pattern. 6 bi-color loops green/white 6, green/purple 2 and green/yellow 1. (Swatches and photo by M. Kinoshita)

Here we give instructions for only one of the braiders (usually one on the left side) of the duo-procedures for

making the above twin braids 1 and 2.

About the instructions for making covert and compound braids, please refer to

INTRODUCTION: SECTION II of

ILLUSTRATED INSTRUCTION SERIES FOR F-H L-M BRAIDING

The fingers have been assigned the letters and numbers;

Left index, middle, ring and small fingers = L1, L2, L3, L4.

Right index, middle, ring and small fingers = R1, R2, R3 R4.

We assign to the loops on the fingers the same but small letters and same numbers.

Where two loops are mounted on one finger, the loop closer to the root of the finger gets an additional number -1, and the other -2.

7-loop 4-ridge twin flat braids with a 2/1/1/2 pattern (Fig. 1)

Number of loops: 7

Initial allocation of the loops:
2 each to L1 and L2, 1 each to L3, R2, R3. The two loops on L1 and L2 are l1-1, l1-2. l2-1, l2-2 respectively.

Step 1: R1 goes through r2, r3 and takes l2-2 by scooping its upper shank. ('O' transfer. Now l2-2 has become r1)

Step 2: R2 takes l1-2 by scooping its upper shank. ('O' transfer. Now l1-2 has become r2-2.)

Step 3: R1 takes l3 by scooping its upper shank. ('O' transfer. Now l3 has become r1-2.)

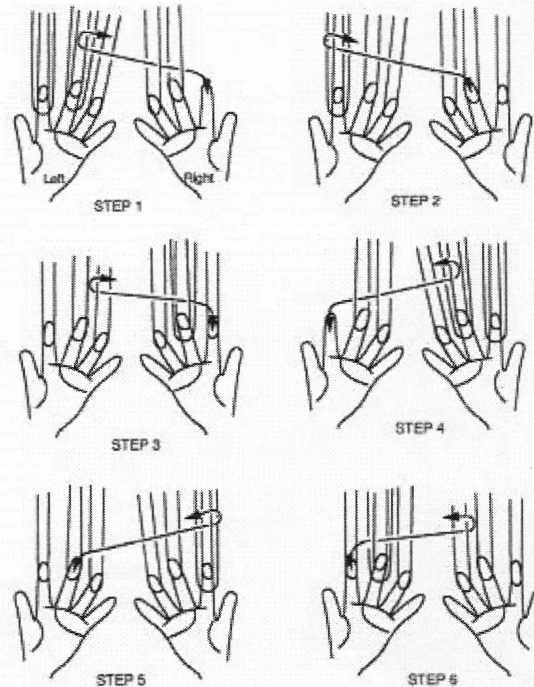


Fig. 1

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Now the loops have been transferred to the other hand in the mirror-image of the initial arrangement.

Steps 4 to 6: work in the mirror image movements of steps 1 to 3.

Step 4: L1 goes through l2, l3 and takes r2-2 by scooping its upper shank. ('O' transfer. Now r2-2 has become l1)

Step 5: L2 takes r1-2 by scooping its upper shank. ('O' transfer. Now r1-2 has become l2-2.)

Step 6: L1 takes r3 by scooping its upper shank. ('O' transfer. Now r3 has become l1-2.)

Now the loops have returned to the left hand in the original arrangement.

Repeat steps 1-6.

If both l2-2 for step 1 and r2-2 for step 4 is 'C' transferred, you get a tubular braid.

If only one of l2-2 and r2-2 is 'C' transferred, you get a double-width flat braid.

Lace Covert Viceray = 12-loop 6-ridge twin flat braids with a twill/plain mix pattern (Duo braiding) (Fig. 2)

This braid seems to be Lady Serene's creation. In this procedure, each braider constructs twin 3-ridge flat braids, one in the mirror image of the other. The section performed by one braider, however, has not been recorded as an independent entry. The reason might have been that the asymmetric procedure produced thin twin braids that unattractively corkscrew. The original instruction is poorly described with a major mixup and was difficult to resolve. At the end, however, collaborated analysis of J. Boutrup and N. Speier worked out.

The procedure has a transfer that we have never encountered in the records so far known.

Here, we give the instruction for one of the duo braiders. The braider on the other side works in the mirror image. It doesn't matter which side one sits in relation to the other.

6-loop 3-ridge twin flat braids with a 2/1/2 pattern

Loops: 6 bi-color loops, example: bottom, all green; top, 3 white, 2 purple, 1 yellow.

Initial arrangement:
L2, L3, L4; top pyp
R2, R3, R4; top www

Step 1: Transfer R4 to l4 'open'. (Now l4 is l4-1, r4 is l4-2)

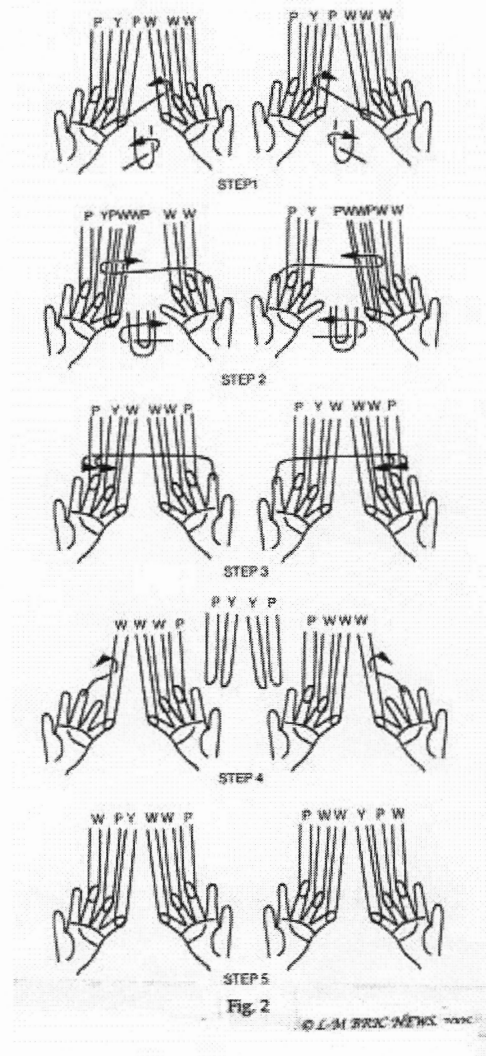
Step 2: R1 goes through r2, r3, over l4-2 and takes l4-1 by scooping the top shank. (l1-1 has been transferred going around the outside of l4-2 and through the inside of r3, r2 to R1.)

Shift down r3, r2, r1.

Step 3: R1 goes through l4 and takes l3 and l2, being careful not disturb their sequential order. Here, the numbers l2 and l3 do not change because this is a temporary measure

Shift l4 up to l2.

Step 4: Mount the two loops temporarily held on R1; l2 on L3, l3 on L4.



Repeat steps 1-4.

The other braider works in the mirror image of above procedure.

Variations of Covert Viceray

12-loop 6-ridge twin flat braids

Every 4 steps, two braiders exchange closest neighbor loops, r2 and l2.

12-loop 6-ridge covert braid.

After connecting the inner ridges, they exchange the two farthest ridges, R2 and L2

To make a compound braid.

After braiding several inches of covert braiding, turn all loops one by one to bring the bottom shanks to the top. Continue repeating steps 1-4.

Turn the loops every several inches or every pattern repeat

While the methods to make covert and compound braids explained here are for the F-H L-M, the idea of such braids may be carried over to H-H L-M. The 4-step construction principle of the H-H procedures are not the same, however.