



## Braiding Borders with Straight Strips

### Introduction & Samples

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Okay, braid fans, you can now branch out into **every** colour of the rainbow and vary the width of your braids as well, simply by using straight strips of paper for braiding.

The narrow strips used for these samples were made with a paper shredder, but you can obviously produce straight strips in a variety of ways – such as the 12" template straight edge.

You can also try combining wide and narrow strips in the same braid to obtain a 'plaid' effect if you want. The edges of these borders are straight, rather than 'toothed' like a zigzag braids.

You can even 'turn corners' with the braids! There are so many possibilities - braided corners for a page, braid-edged journal boxes, braided photograph mats or perhaps even block-style capital letters.

You will have to join strips to extend the finished length of your braid – which can be tailored to fit any size page. Lengthen a strip as many times required by splicing on a new strip (of the same colour and width). For best results, conceal the join behind another strip.

#### Other pages in the series show:

- Page 2 – Braiding Different Width Borders (3, 4 and 5 strips)
- Page 3 – Starting and Braiding a 7-Strip Braid
- Page 4 – Turning the Corner

#### Samples:

3-part braid



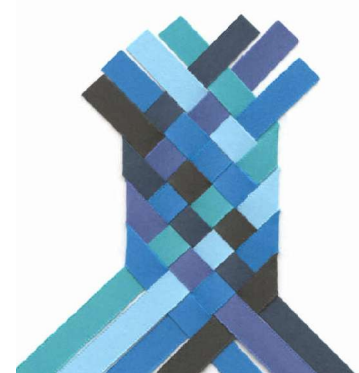
4-part braid



5 part braid



7-part braid



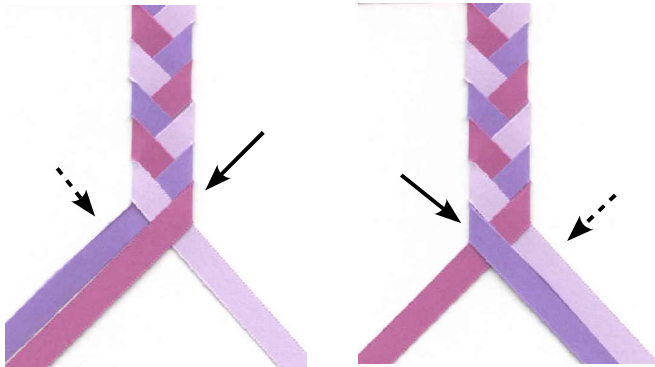
# Braiding Borders with Straight Strips

## Braiding Different Width Borders (3, 4 and 5 strips)

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The process for braiding is relatively the same no matter how many strips are involved. Initially, align half of the strips at right angles to the other half, and interweave where they overlap. Weaving a strip involves folding it back at a 90-degree angle so it lies exactly alongside the previous strip woven (on that side). Care must be taken to ensure the folds are truly 90-degrees, and that the strips are kept as close as possible. Once a strip has been folded, just 'over-and-under' weave it into place.

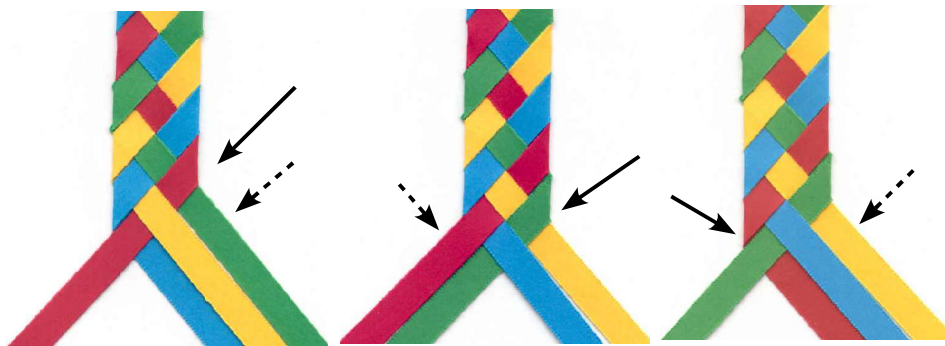


**3-Strip Braids** - these are the simplest and will be familiar to anyone who has braided hair. The 'top' strip on the side with two is just folded over the the strip beside it so it lies alongside the opposite strip.

In all illustrations:

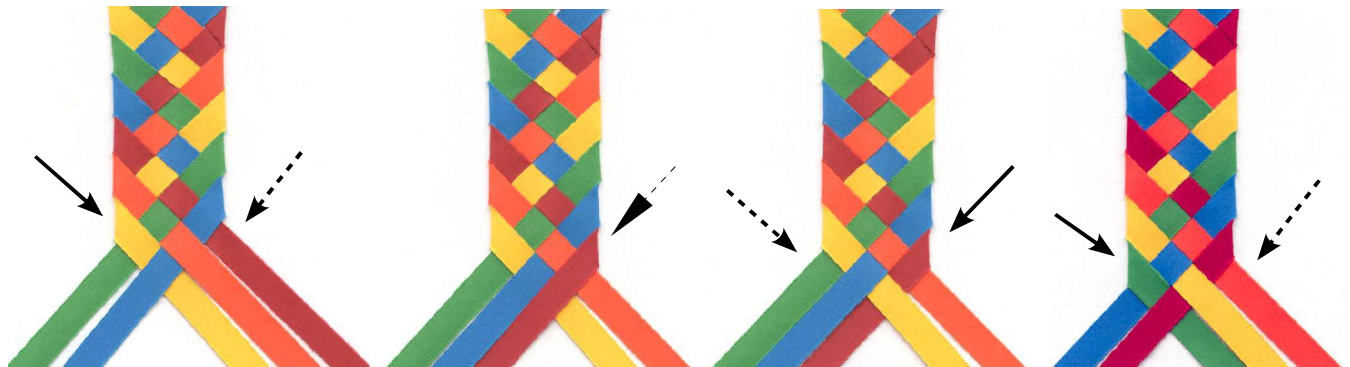
The solid arrows show the last strip 'woven'.

The dotted arrows show the next strip to fold.



**4 Strip Braids** – even numbered braids weave slightly differently. Each strip starts on the same side – weave the next strip across and then fold it back behind the following strip after it has been woven across.

**5 Strip Braids** (below) - The top strip of three (#1) is the next one to be folded (#2) and woven (#3) over and under the other two strips on that side. Then you switch to the other side and fold and weave (#4) the stop strip of the three in exactly the same manner. Keep alternating sides until complete.



# Braiding Borders with Straight Strips

## Turning the Corner

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Looking at the last 4-strip braid example from page 2 (left) , we'll see what steps to follow to 'turn the corner' and continue the braid at right angles.

'Turning a corner' can be done several times – just keep adding strips to make the braid as long as necessary.

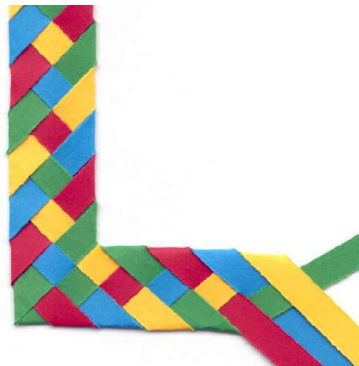
You could make a box for journalling or matting, or just for a decorative element to place at the corner of a page.



First, have all the strips 'leaning' in the direction you want to 'turn' – in this case, our braid is long enough, and we want to begin to braid to the right (arrow), instead of continuing down.

**Step One** – we have to bend the green strip once more to align with all the others.

Then, the green strip is folded once more, to point exactly 180-degrees to its original direction. It is still 90 degrees to the other strips. Weave it through the other strips as usual.



At this point, braiding can continue on in the 'normal' fashion but in the new direction.

After the green strip is woven in, the next strip woven is red. After weaving the red across, remember to fold the green strip it.

Then proceed to weave the blue strip and then yellow, etc. The example to the left shows the braid after several strips have been worked. The last one done was the green one. Red will be the next one to weave.

### Notes:

- Keep your strips parallel and snugged up close to each other for best results. Care must be taken or the braid edges will not remain straight. Precision will ensure a corner is **truly** square, not just 'square-ish'. If you aren't sure, check against a ruler or other straight/square edge.
- Lengthen a strip as many times required by splicing on a new strip (of the same colour and width). For best results, hide the join behind another strip.
  - For the 5-braid sample, 12" strips of paper will complete a braid about 6.5" long before needing extending.

# Braiding Borders with Straight Strips

## Starting and Braiding a 7- Strip Braid

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*the completed 7-strip braid*

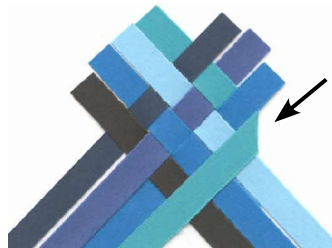
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These instructions can be extended to making braids using any number of strips. Just vary the initial configuration as required. For the initial step, align half the strips at right angles to the other strips and interweave them where they overlap. Follow the arrows showing the strip you work at each step.

**Step 1** – interweave strips



**Step 2** – fold over 'top' strip

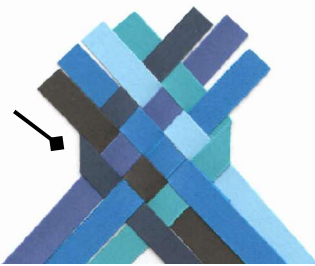


**Step 3** - interweave 1st strip



At this point, odd numbered and even numbered strips are worked a bit differently, Odd-numbered braids have their strips woven from alternating sides (like the 3-braid you do to hair). Even numbered braids can have their strips consistently be worked from the same side.

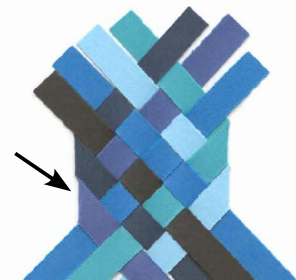
**Step 4** – fold, weave next top strip



**Step 5** - work 3rd strip

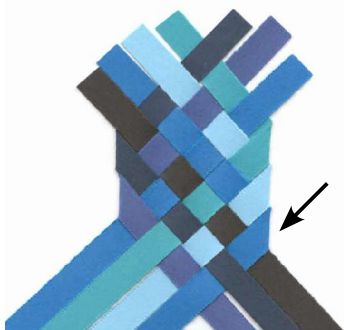


**Step 6** – work 4th strip

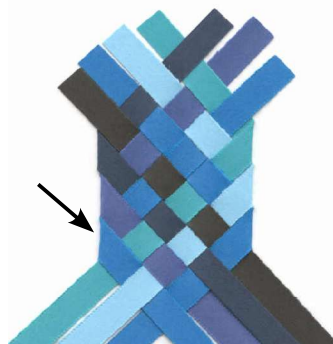


Keep your strips parallel and snuggled up close to each other for best results. Care must be taken or the braid edges will not remain straight. Just keep braiding from opposite sides until the border is done.

**Step 7** – work 5th strip



**Step 8** - and the 6th one



**Step 7** – and the 7th strip

