

Fill-Gap Braid

with 10 strands

This plait or braid is worked using the technique known as Fill-the-Gap which is used in the country craft of straw plaiting.

The eleven sided card holds the threads in the correct position and enables an even tension to be maintained.

Instructions are given for a second plait and grids are provided to help you design your own plaits.

To make your plait

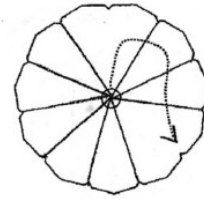
Put the knotted threads through the centre of the card and spread out the threads putting one in each of ten of the notches, leaving one notch empty.

The card should be held in the left hand, with the fingers underneath and the first two either side of the knot. The thumb

should be on top and held lightly over the centre hole.

With the gap at the 4-5 o'clock position as in fig 1, ease the fourth thread (12 o'clock position) out of its notch and, jumping over three threads, place it in the notch in the gap, lifting your thumb momentarily as the thread is repositioned.

Fig 1



Rotate the card clockwise four positions until the new gap is at the 4-5 o'clock position, as in figs 2 and 3.

Fig 2

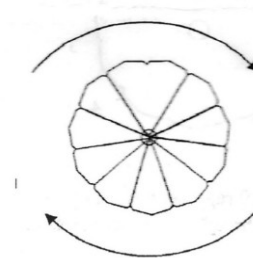
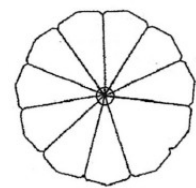


Fig 3



Repeat moving the thread and rotating the card until the plait is the required length. Remove the plait from the card and whip the end or simply tie a knot to finish it off.

Tension

It is important to keep an even tension. A good indication is if the crossing point of the threads is always central to the hole. If you are using ribbon yarn it is better to keep it flat rather than twisted.

If you require a softer, looser plait this may be achieved by hanging a weight from the knot. The weight could take the form of nuts, washers or a film canister containing coins.

