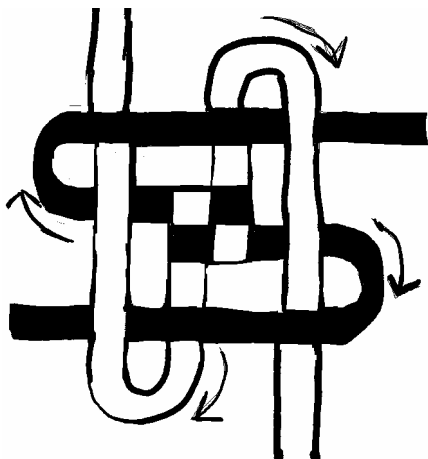


**Start with Scoobie-dou**

**page 4**

There is a current craze among student for making scoobie-dou plaits with coloured plastic strands and you can obtain pictures of the techniques on the internet. The basic knot for these braids is a crown knot and can easily be tied with cords instead. Shiny threads are best avoided as they can slip.

To start the plait you can cross two cords when using two colours or tie a knot with four separate cords of different colours. The diagram



shows the knot tied in a clockwise direction. Tucking in the very last strand locks the whole knot then you should pull all the strands up tight.. A little checked square, in the centre of the diagram, shows the correct appearance of the previous round when all the strands have been tightened. Repeating the moves – the first clockwise and the second anticlockwise will result in a four square cord with opposite sides the

same colour. Tie the knot continuously in the same direction –here clockwise and the colours will spiral and the form will be more rounded.

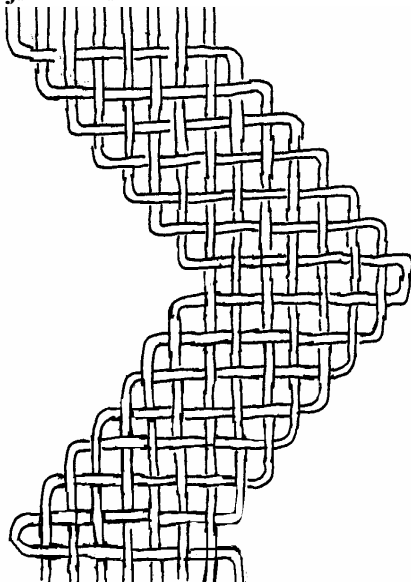
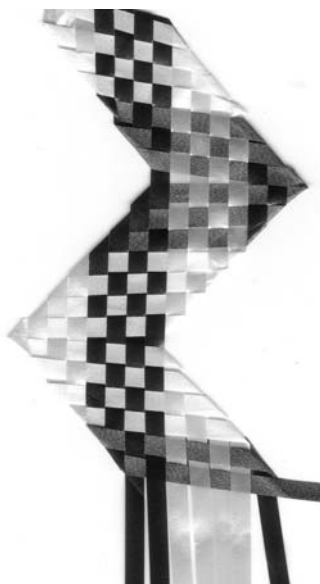
Example by Maureen Jennings



**Welcome to Begin Braiding Issue 3.** the publication that introduces you to the world of braids and bands and associated matters, You may make copies to give to others. Write to the address below if you would like copies of issues 1 and 2.

**Rick Rack Braid or Zigzag Plait**

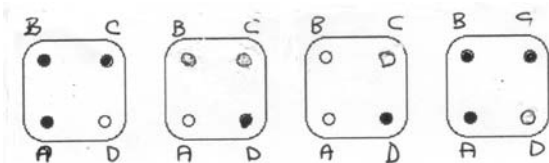
Rick rack is woven from side to side leaving a central strand taking a straight path. Pin the threads down on to a piece of soft board and weave as per the diagram. If you weave with soft threads the edge threads will follow a curvy silhouette round the corners but if you use stiff material the corners will have to be folded over (mitred) to turn the corner and double mitred at the point to make the return journey. The pictured example is woven with florists ribbon with 4 blue ends and 4 white ends and there are 7 steps to the right and then 7 steps to the left repeated and the eighth thread follows the straight path. You can have fun with the type of threads and the colours chosen. Copy the diagram and colour it in and see what effects you will obtain once the threads are pulled up firmly. (Hint alternate colours will give straight lines). You can use thick or thin threads, multiple strands, straw, raffia, and ribbons or rags. Experiment and have fun.

**Diagram 8 threads****Example 8 threads**

**Introducing tablet Weaving**

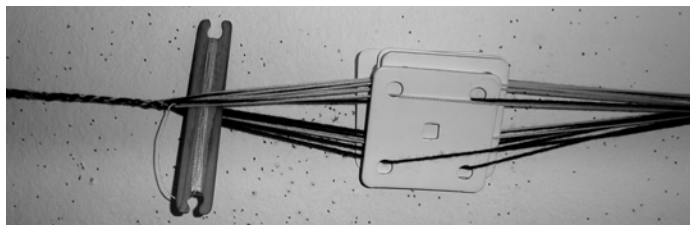
**page 2**

Tablet weaving requires the use of equipment, but you can make the tablets yourself using a pack of playing cards cut to be square. In this example each square tablet is threaded from one side with four threads and assembled as a pack of tablets. One end of the group of threads can be tied to a handy hook and the other end secured to your waist. (or if you are a much interrupted person, the back of your chair) You can obtain very strong bands with tablet weaving useful for handles on bags or luggage straps. The width of the band depends on the number of tablets and the thickness of thread used



Cut a square tablet from each playing card and use a hole punch to pierce 4 holes as

shown above. You can pierce a centre hole as well so you can tie the tablets together when not in use. You can write the letters on the tablets to help you in checking they are all correctly threaded **from one side** and both placed and facing the correct way. When threaded they can face all the same way \\\ or \\\\ be alternate \^/ or grouped like this \// to suit this pattern illustrated below provided by Annelese Hart. Instructions are on page 3.



**Pattern Instruction for a 4 tablet pattern****page3**

L =light thread and D= dark thread

The holes in the tablets can be threaded in the two sequences, three light and one dark thread and three dark one light thread and then placed in the order of the diagram. Wind the longitudinal (warp) threads round the back of chair or round a clothes horse to get an appropriate length. say 2 metres. Use smooth yarns and bright colours

**Thread Pattern**

Tablet            1 2 3 4

Tablet hole D    L.D.D L

Tablet hole C    D L.L.D.

Tablet hole B    D L.L.D.

Tablet hole A    D.L.L.D.

**Thread direction** \ \ / /

Line up the tablets together, remembering to place the same lettered holes side by side. In this instance two tablets face left and two face right. Practise turning the tablets forwards and back again as a group, one quarter turn. Weaving is done by passing a narrow (weft) thread through the space created by the quarter turn from one side to the other side giving the tablets a quarter

turn each time. The weft will only show fleetingly at the side of the work. Wind the weft on a stiff cardboard shuttle and give firm beat after each turn on the threads to compact them.

The colours in the top rear holes lie on the surface producing the pattern. As you work, twist builds up behind the tablets. To eliminate this twist you count the number of directional turns, turning first forward and then in reverse, for a specific number. This will provide alteration in the pattern, which you can study to see which combinations are most attractive.

If you have never heard of this very old technique before, it may seem strange, so you can ask your library to order a book to help you understand it. Card Weaving by Candace Crockett was published by the Interweave Press in 1992. You will also find some information on the internet. Type card Weaving or tablet weaving into your browser.

*Part of a tablet band by Margot Lees*