

Japanese Card Braiding

Ursula Wohnlich

There are so many fascinating sidelines and off shoots to weaving, both old and new; and many more people would enjoy them if only they knew about them.

Japanese Card Braiding is one of these. It produces a two-coloured, patterned, solid, circular woven "cord". The braid is created using a card as a tool which holds the threads in an organised manner. The numbering on the card indicates the order in which the threads are exchanged to build the braid. These braids can also be made on a *marudai* (braiding stool) and instructions follow for this. *Japanese Card Braiding* is great for beginners as it doesn't require any equipment.

TO MAKE THE CARD

Cut a 10 cm x 10 cm square of stiff cardboard, with a 1 to 2 cm circular hole in the centre. Cut 1cm deep slits around the sides as indicated in diagram 1. Label each slit and star exactly as shown.

YARN REQUIREMENTS

A total of 16 lengths of two colours "A" and "B", length and thickness to suit the project. Cut eight lengths of colour "A" and eight 8 lengths of colour "B".

PREPARATION

Place the 16 yarn lengths into each of the slits as indicated for the chosen pattern (see page 5 for patterns). Place the short ends (approximately 15 cms) towards the centre and the long ends hanging down on all four sides (see diagram 2). Pass the short ends through the hole and hold them together below the card with a clip or rubber band (diagram 3).

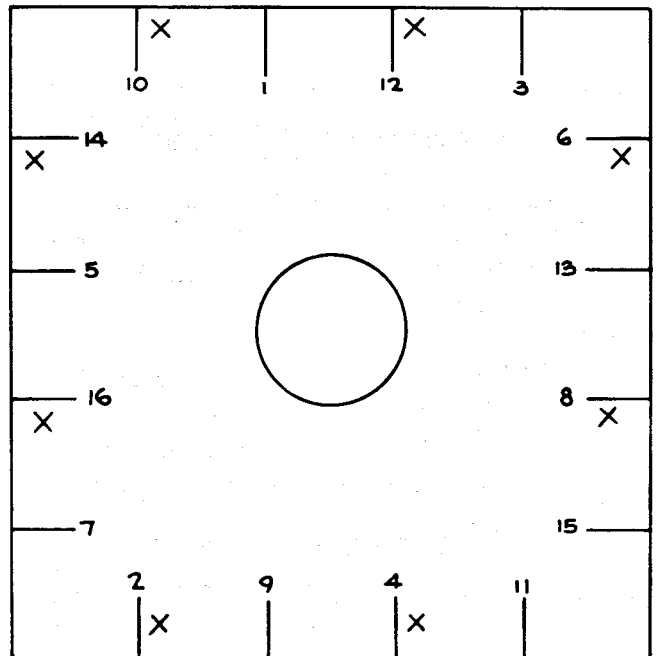


Diagram 1: Braiding card. Not to scale

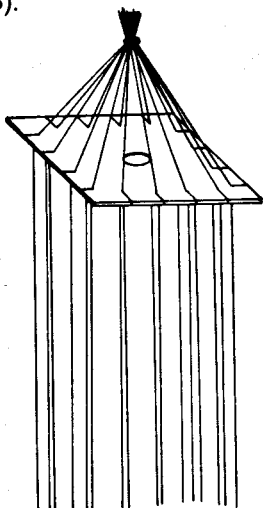


Diagram 2

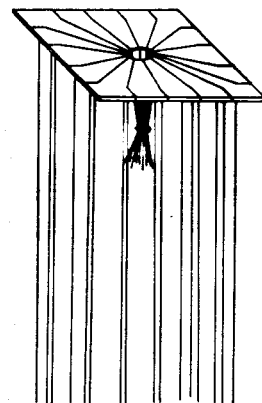


Diagram 3

WORKING METHOD

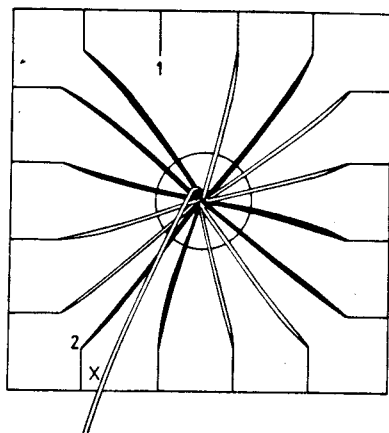


Diagram 4

Take the first pair of yarns (1 and 2) out of their slits and reverse them, making sure they cross on the side marked by the star. For example, remove yarn 1 from its slit and bring it across the card to the star near yarn 2, as seen in diagram 4.

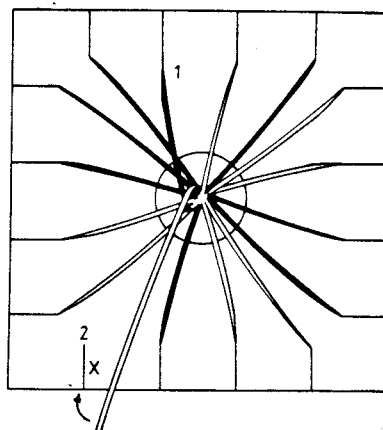


Diagram 5

Take yarn 2 and place it in slit 1, place yarn taken earlier from slit 1 into slit 2 as seen in diagram 5. Now repeat for the pair 3 and 4, then 5 and 6, 7 and 8, etc. until 15 and 16, then start again with 1 and 2, 3 and 4 and so on. Each round of 16 yarns makes one pattern repeat.

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JAPANESE BRAIDING PATTERNS

CHEVRON:

Colour A in 1,4,6,7,11,12,13,16.
Colour B in others

PEBBLES:

Colour A in 1,2,3,4,13,14,15,16.
Colour B in others

LOVERS KNOT:

Colour A in 1,2,3,4,5,8,10,11.
Colour B in others

PLAIN STRIPES:

Colour A in 1,2,3,4,9,10,11,12.
Colour B in others

DIAMONDS:

Colour A in 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,12.
Colour B in others

WANDERING VINE:

Colour A in 1,2,4,5,8,10,11,14.
Colour B in others

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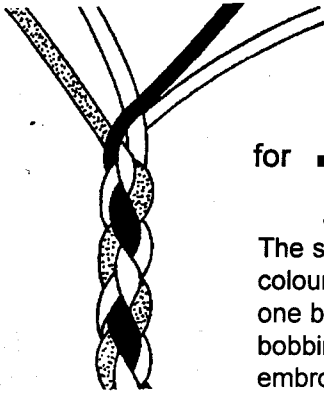
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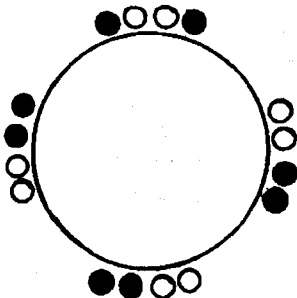
Marudai Instructions



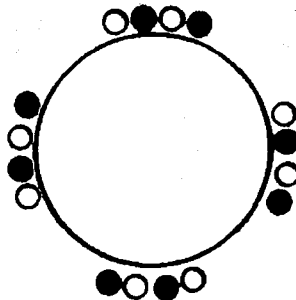
for Japanese Card Braids

Japanese card braiding can also be done on a marudai or braiding stool. The set up for each pattern is shown below, using 16 bobbins. Only two colours are used although several shades of a colour can be combined on the one bobbin to create more depth and interest in the braid. I used 16 x 70g bobbins and a 560g counterweight. Each bobbin held three complete strands of embroidery thread. For further information on how to use the marudai see *The Big Book of Sling and Rope Braids* by Rodrick Owen or *Kumihimo* by Catherine Martin.

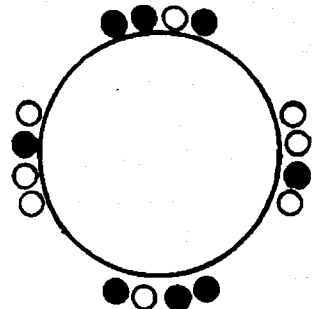
PATTERN SET UP:



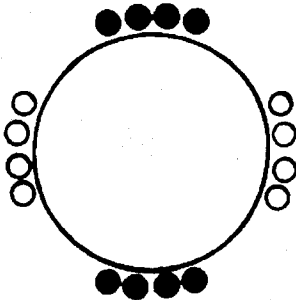
Chevron



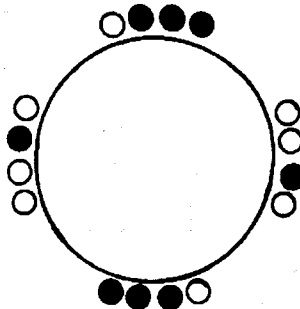
Pebbles



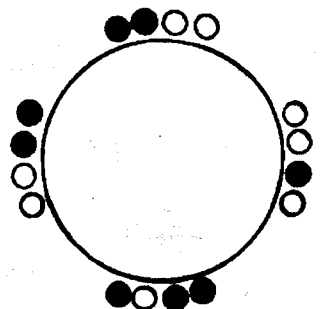
Lover's knot



Plain stripes



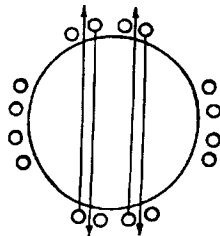
Diamonds



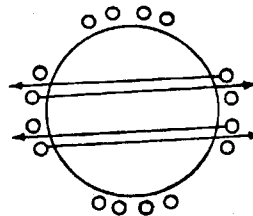
Wandering vine

WORKING METHOD:

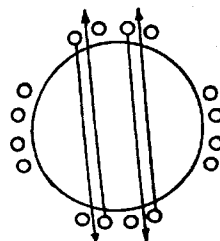
STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

