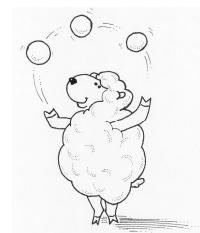


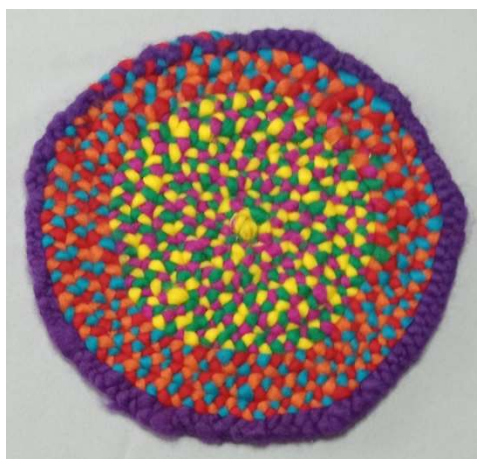
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Sliver Braiding

Round Hot Pad or Small Chair Pad



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Material from Marble Meadows:

One Ashford sliver pack (3.5 ounce)

Braiding starter: 20 feet of upholstery thread, upholstery needle with large eye and blunt point.

Materials needed: Warm soapy water, rag or worn wash cloth, clip, weight (something heavy with a flat bottom), 3 reclosable bags, and scissors.



Start with 3 colors. Roll out each color long strands. Pull apart the strands into 3 equally wide long strips. This doesn't have to be exact, but go slowly and try to make each strip as even as possible.



Each color is going to be connected into one long strip. Tease apart about 3 inches (7 cm) of two strips of one color, overlap the teased ends. Place wool on a rough wash cloth or rag. Wet the ends with soap and warm water and roll in one direction with the palm of your hand. Do the same for the third strip of this color. Coil the strip and put into recloseable bag with one end sticking out. Make longer strips out of the other two colors and put into bags. Bagging will help with braiding and reduce tangles.



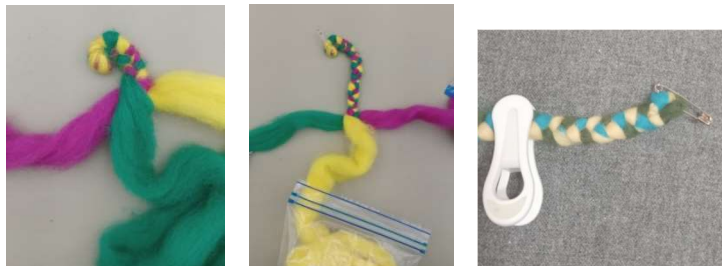
Making the "T". Tease apart two end of different colors and overlap. This is the same as when the short strips were being combined into one long one. Wet the overlap with warm soapy water. With the palm of your hand roll in one direction until the two strips stay together. With the third color, place at a right angle at the middle of the overlap with 4 inches (10cm) of the third strip above the jointed strips. Fold the 4 inches (10 cm) over to make a "T". Wet and roll the overlap in one direction keeping the "T" shape.



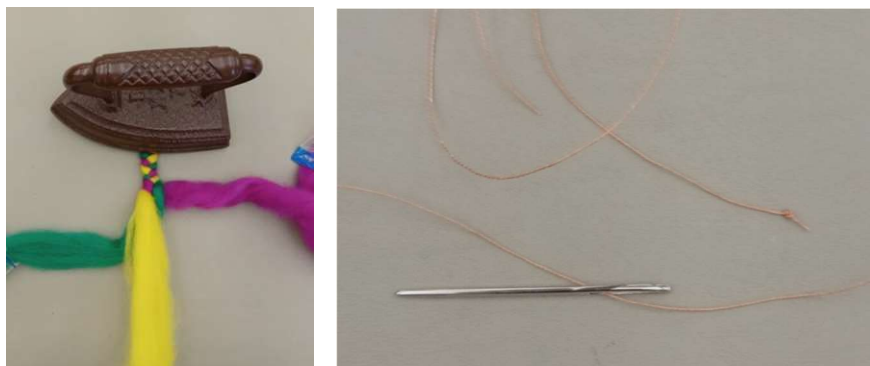
Finished "T"

The braiding is started with 6 crossover braids. Bring the right strip over the middle strip, then bring the right strip over the middle strip, then bring the left strip over the middle. This is one crossover braid. Do 5 more. This will be the start of a spiral. Continue with regular braiding. Bring the right strip over the center strip. Then, bring

the left strip over the center. Continue braiding: right over the middle and left over the middle. Keep the braid tight. Only work on one side. To keep track of which side you are working on, put a safety pin in the "T".



If you need to let go of the braid, clip the end so it doesn't unravel. Put a weight at the start of your braid. This keeps the working braid taut and will make your braid more even. Continue braiding.

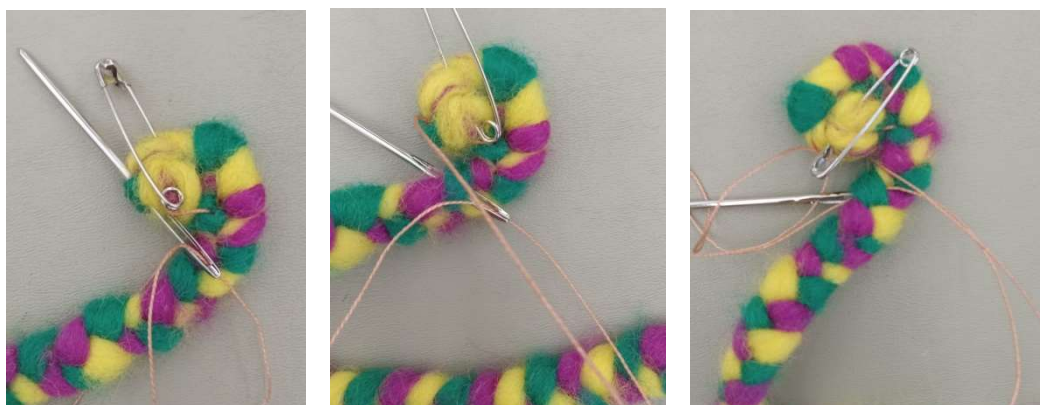


After the braid is several yards or meters long, you can start sewing. Secure the end of the braid with clip. Cut a 5 foot or 1.5 meters of thread and knot one end. Thread the other end through tapestry needle. Work should be done on a flat surface to keep the braid flat.

Sew the needle left to right through the inner loop on the fourth crossover. Go to the end of the "T" and sew through that. Return to the same loop as before and sew through it again. Pull the thread snugly making sure that the know stays hidden under the first loop.

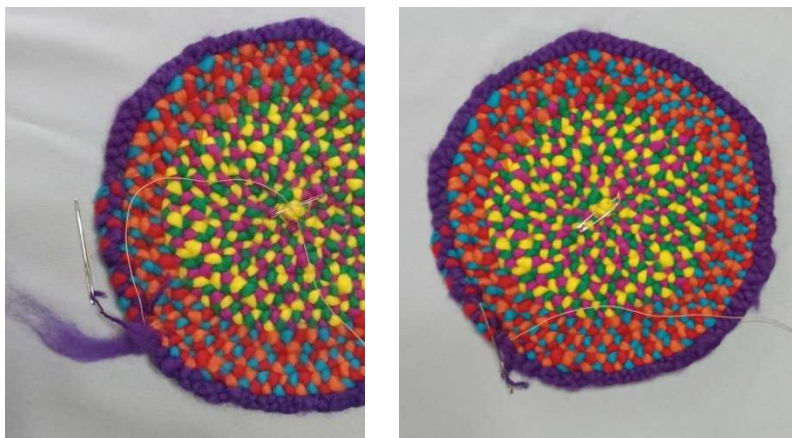


Start coiling the project around in a spiral. Bring the needle to the opposite side and sew through that loop left to right. Continue sewing left to right from one side of the coil to the loop on the other side of the coil. Keep working on one side and on a flat surface. In order to keep the project flat loops need to be skipped. More loops will be skipped on the outer side.



This picture is to show stitching for instructional purposes. Pull thread tight after each stitch.

Continue until the project is until there is only about 3 to 4 inches of roving remaining. Thin one strip by pulling out wool. This should reduce the strip in diameter. Wet this strip and roll until it is small enough to thread through the needle. Hide this strip by sewing through previous loops. Do the same to the other strips. The thread is also sewn through and hidden in other loops.



Addendum:

Weight to hold the braid: You can use many objects as a weight – Jug of vinegar, coffee can, can filled with weights, barbells, cast iron skillet. Look around for something at your house.



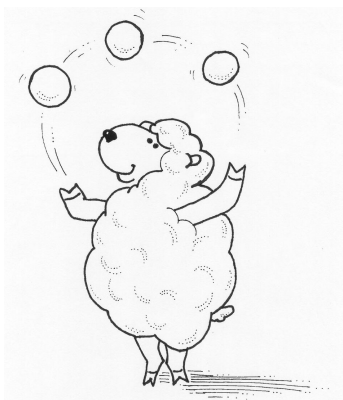
Attaching more strips: Overlap ends of the old and new strips by 5 inches (12 cm). Wet the overlap with warm sudsy water and roll in one direction until the ends stick together.

Adding more lacing with a square knot: Left (yellow) lace goes over and under the right-hand lace. Next, the left lace goes over and under the right lace. Grab the ends and pull tight.



Fixing a hot pad that is not flat: Wet the hot pad with warm water. Place on a flat surface and put a board on top that covers the pad. Put your weight on top of the board and leave it there for about a day.

The difference between roving and slivers: Most people think of slivers as a small pointy piece of wood that gets stuck in your finger. As it turns out *sliver* can also mean a bundle of long fibers. Roving which is a more familiar term is a bundle of long fibers that have a twist.



Marblemeadows.com
Cotswold sheep, roving, and needle felted creations