



Illustration 1
Warp set to begin braiding



Illustration 2
Warp set after Step 1

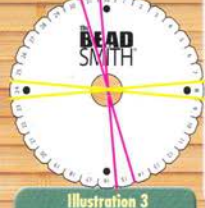


Illustration 3
Warp set after Step 2



Illustration 4
Warp set after quarter turn



Illustration 5
Warp set after repeating Step 1



Illustration 6
Warp set after repeating Step 2



Illustration 7
Warp set after putting next set of warps at the bottom

Instructions for a Simple 8-Warp Braid

Any cord, or group of cords, that are placed in a single notch on the braiding board is referred to as a warp. In this braid the 8 warps are placed onto the board in 4 sets of 2. Notice that one warp is placed into the notches on each side of the positioning dots (see Illustration 1).

Step 1: Pull eight pieces of cord and tie them together at one end in an overhand knot. Holding the board face up, place the knot into the center hole. Spread the cords and place one in each of the notches on each side of the positioning dots (Illustration 1). Turn board over and wind each cord into a no-tangle bobbin. For your first few braids you may want to add a weight to the bottom of the knot in the center to provide some downward tension on the braid. Twenty-five pennies in a plastic bag are a good choice for a weight. The braid will feed downward out of the center hole as you work it.

Step 2: Hold the board so that Dot 32 is at the top. Remove the warp in the bottom left notch and move it across the board and place it in the notch to the left of the 2 existing warps. This will put 3 warps at the top and only one at the bottom (Illustration 2).

Step 3: Since we're working in sets of 2 and there's 3 at the top and just 1 at the bottom, take the warp in the right-hand position at the top and move it across the board and place in the notch to the right of the bottom warp (Illustration 3). Now we're back to 4 sets of 2 but the top and bottom ones are no longer surrounding the dots. This is correct as this braid will "travel" around the board as we continue.

Step 4: Rotate the disk counterclockwise a quarter-turn (90°) so Dot 8 is at the top and Dot 24 is on the bottom, as shown in Illustration 4.

Repeat Steps 2-4: The only difference is that the dot numbers will be different. You're going to move the bottom left warp to the top left; move the top right warp down to the right of the bottom warp; then rotate the disk a quarter-turn counterclockwise, so the next set of warps is at the bottom. You'll notice that the warps will move away from the dots as you braid. Continue to work the braid until you run out of cord. It's possible, especially if you're using different weight textiles, that one cord will be used up more quickly than the others.

Tips for Successful Braids

- For most jewelry projects, pull 3" of each of the 8 cords for every 1" of braid you want to make.
- Use your left hand to move the left hand warps and right hand to move the right hand warps.
- Use a 25 penny weight to help you get started, weight can be removed if it becomes cumbersome as you braid.
- Be sure to set each warp firmly into the notch.
- When you want to take a break, leave 3 warps at the top. When you return you'll know to put the 3 at the top to begin braiding again.

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Jewelry designs and instructions by Anne Dilker. For more techniques and useful information about Kumihimo braids for jewelry design, see Anne's book "Braiding for Beaders" (BeadSmith Item #BK1953)



Instructions for a 16-Warp Braid

This is the same braid structure as the eight warp braid. It's best if you make a few of those before trying this one. Working this braid with fine textiles, such as S-Lon #18 cord will produce a braid that's about 4mm in diameter.



Illustration 1
Warp set to begin braiding



Illustration 2
Warp set after Step 2

4mm 

Step 1: Pull 16 pieces of cord and tie them together at one end in an overhand knot. Holding the board face up, place the knot into the center hole. Spread the cords and place one in each of the two notches to either side of the positioning dots. Then place the other 8 warps in sets of 2 in between the first 4 sets. When you finish, there should be two empty slots between each set of 2 warps. Turn the board over and wind each cord into a no-tangle bobbin. For your first few braids you may want to add a weight to the bottom of the knot in the center to provide some downward tension on the braid. Twenty-five pennies in a plastic bag are a good choice for a weight. The braid will feed downward out of the center hole as you work it.

Step 2: Just as you did in the 8 warp braid, you're going to start with Dot 32 at the top. Again, you'll be working in sets of 2 and the warps will travel around the board. First, take the bottom left warp and move it to the notch just to the left of the top 2 warps. Then move the right most warp in the top set of 3 to the right side of the single warp at the bottom. For this braid, you rotate the board counter-clockwise just to the next set of warps, making an eighth turn (45°) instead of a quarter turn (90°). Number 4 will now be at the top. Notice in Illustration 2 that the pink warps have moved away from the dots, and the board has been rotated to begin the sequence again.

Repeat Step 2: The only difference is that the dot numbers will be different. Again, you're going to move the bottom left warp to the top left; move the top right warp down to the right of the bottom warp; then rotate the disk an eighth-turn counterclockwise. Continue to work the braid until you run out of cord. It's possible, especially if you're using different weight textiles, that one cord will be used up more quickly than the others.

NOTES: 1) The braiding sequence (keeping the left on the left and the right on the right) of both the 8 and 16 warp braids on this instruction sheet will always produce a braid with a spiral structure. 2) The look of your braid will be impacted by the placement of colors within the warp set-up. More information about this can be found in the book *Braiding for Beaders* by Anne Dilker.

Ivy Leaf Necklace

You'll need:

- Eight 20" pcs. of 2mm Rattail™ (#1 lightweight) in Camel, Coffee, Dark Green, Emerald, Gold, Navy Blue, Purple, & Royal Blue (one piece per color)
- Sixteen 8mm Smooth Druk Czech Glass beads.
- 3 dozen 3mm Faceted Fire-Polished Round Czech Glass beads. Colors from BeadSmith's exclusive Heavy Metal Mix
- Four Anti-tarnish Brass 15mm Hollow beads
- Two Anti-tarnish Brass 12 x 8mm End Caps
- One Anti-tarnish Brass 9.5 x 5mm Pendant Slide
- One Anti-tarnish Brass 24 x 27 Leaf Pendant
- One Anti-tarnish Brass Leaf Toggle Ring and Bar
- One 5mm or larger Jump Ring in Gold color
- 2mm Crimp Beads (at least 4) in Gold color
- .012" diameter Flex-rite Brass beading wire



In this project you will use eight 20" warps, one of each color of Rattail. Follow the instructions to make an 8-warp braid. For this particular braid, you can set up the colors in any order — the illustration above is just an example. Once you've finished the braid, remove it from the board and relax the tension by stretching it and running your hand from the bottom to the top. Tie a knot in the open end to hold the braid in place until you're ready to finish it by whipping it closed and adding the end caps.

Whip both ends of the braid to form a 7" section (see whipping instructions). Slip the pendant slide onto the braid, then glue both end caps into place. Crimp one end of a piece of flex wire onto each end cap. For both wires, from end cap to clasp (in random color order), string the following: druk, 3mm, druk, 3mm, 15mm brass, 3mm, druk, 3mm, druk, 3mm, 15mm brass, 3mm, druk, 3mm, druk, 3mm, druk, 3mm, druk, nine 3mm, crimp bead. Put the end of the wire through the ring on the toggle piece and close the crimp. Lastly, attach the Leaf Pendant to the pendant slide with the jump ring.



Whipping & Finishing Braid Ends

Here's how to keep braids from unravelling when they're cut:

- 1) WRAP a piece of thread (S-Lon size D works well) around the end of the braid 2 or 3 times, leaving a small gap between the whip and the braid knot. Then tie the thread off tightly with a square KNOT. Or, you can first knot the end of the thread and sew the thread *through* the braid before wrapping and knotting. Remember to keep the whip area small and tight.
- 2) TRIM the thread ends close to the knot so they won't stick out, then CUT the braid close to the whip.
- 3) When the braid is ready to be finished, GLUE an end cap into place so that it covers over the whip thread.