

# Braiding



## Setting Up

You need a copy of the square at the bottom of the page, made out of stiff cardboard. The numbered slots should be cut neatly and the hole in the middle cut out.

Cut 4 x lengths each of colour 'A' and Colour 'B'. (About one arms length or 50 cm is fine)

Cut 1 x extra length of either colour roughly 30cm. Take the bundle 8 longer pieces and tie them in the middle with the extra piece. Use the knot shown in the illustration. This is called a *larkshead* knot.



## Threading the Card

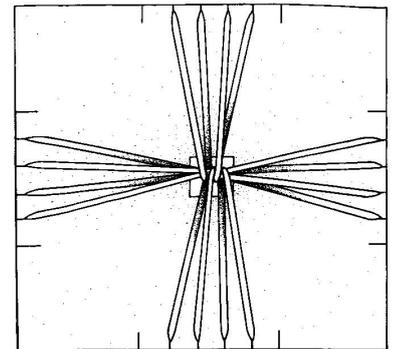
Thread the larkshead knot down through the centre hole in the card so that the 8 cut ends lie neatly over the numbers. 2 of each colour on each side.

Thread colours 'A' and 'B' under a slight tension (pulling against the larkshead) into the slot numbers shown below:

Thread colour 'A' into slots 2,3,10, 11,14,15,22,23.

Thread colour 'B' into slots 4,5,8,9,16,17,20,21.

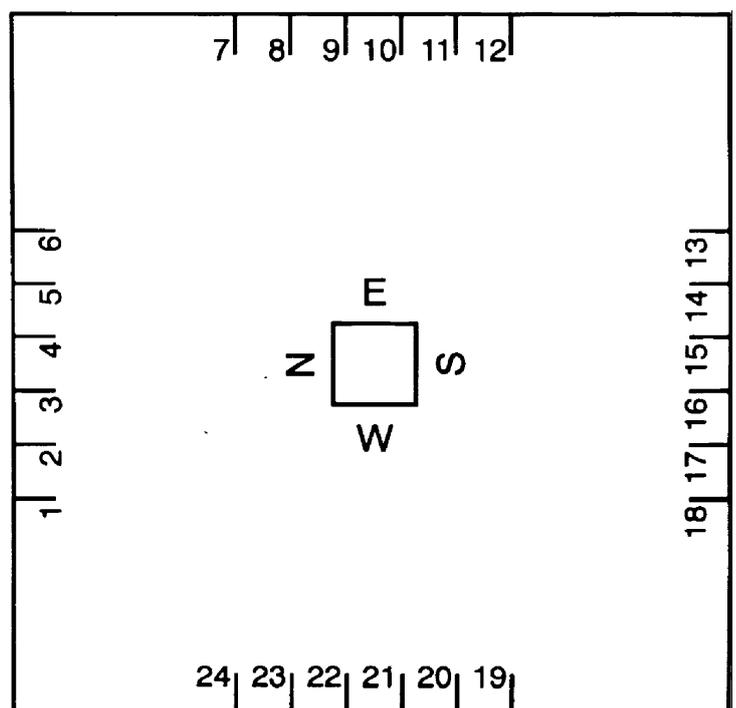
The card is now ready to work the braid.



## Working the Braid

You are now going to swap over the braid from pairs of opposite slots. First you move one piece out of the way then you do the swap.

Then you move on to another pair.



## Working the Braid Continued

The first swap is slots 3 and 17.

Move 3 into 1, then move 17 into 3, then move 1 into 17.

This can be written:

$3 \rightarrow 1, 17 \rightarrow 3, 1 \rightarrow 17$

The next swap is 5 and 15.

We do this:

$5 \rightarrow 6, 15 \rightarrow 5, 6 \rightarrow 15$

Then swap 8 and 22.

We do this:

$8 \rightarrow 7, 22 \rightarrow 8, 7 \rightarrow 22$

Then swap 10 and 20.

We do this:

$10 \rightarrow 12, 20 \rightarrow 10, 12 \rightarrow 20$

Then swap 2 and 16.

We do this:

$2 \rightarrow 1, 16 \rightarrow 2, 1 \rightarrow 16$

Then swap 4 and 14.

We do this:

$4 \rightarrow 6, 14 \rightarrow 4, 6 \rightarrow 14$

Then swap 9 and 23.

We do this:

$9 \rightarrow 7, 23 \rightarrow 9, 7 \rightarrow 23$

Finally swap 11 and 21.

We do this:

$11 \rightarrow 12, 21 \rightarrow 11, 12 \rightarrow 21$

You will quickly get into the rhythm ! Your braid will appear emerging out of the hole. You should begin to see the braid after about 4 times through. Good luck !

Notice that when you have done this procedure for a second time, the threads will have returned to their original position.

So, keep repeating this pattern:

$3 \rightarrow 1, 17 \rightarrow 3, 1 \rightarrow 17$

$5 \rightarrow 6, 15 \rightarrow 5, 6 \rightarrow 15$

$8 \rightarrow 7, 22 \rightarrow 8, 7 \rightarrow 22$

$10 \rightarrow 12, 20 \rightarrow 10, 12 \rightarrow 20$

$2 \rightarrow 1, 16 \rightarrow 2, 1 \rightarrow 16$

$4 \rightarrow 6, 14 \rightarrow 4, 6 \rightarrow 14$

$9 \rightarrow 7, 23 \rightarrow 9, 7 \rightarrow 23$

$11 \rightarrow 12, 21 \rightarrow 11, 12 \rightarrow 21$

Reference: *Braids: 250 Patterns from Japan, Peru and Beyond*, Roderick Owen, Interweave Press, 1995.