

Basic Interlinking

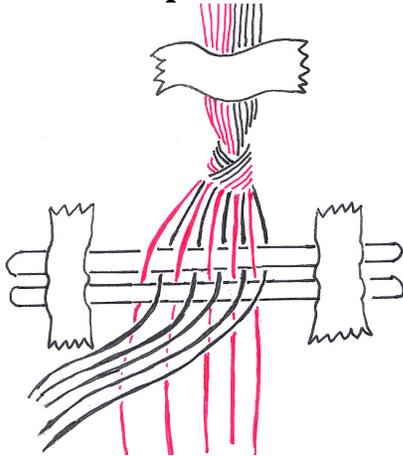
Instructions are for the right-handed.
Left handed people can follow these instructions by looking in the mirror.

Arrange threads around two sticks.

Note that the rightmost thread is 'up'.

You will hold the threads in your left hand. One by one you will move the threads to your right hand. The manner in which you move them is what engages the threads to form cloth.

The Set-Up

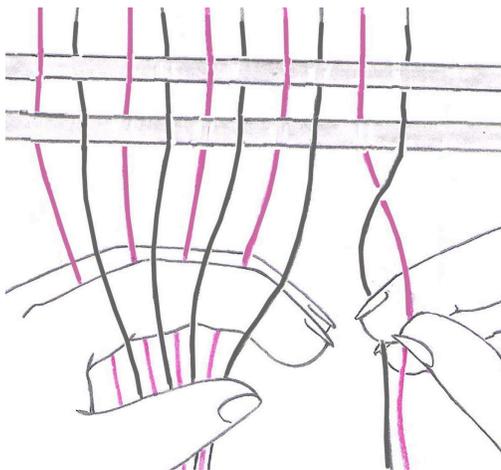


Two different 'grabs' are described:

A **Pinch Grab** uses the thumb and index finger, moving a thread to 'front' position.

A **Scissor Grab** uses the index and middle finger, moving a thread to 'back' position.

The Initial Row



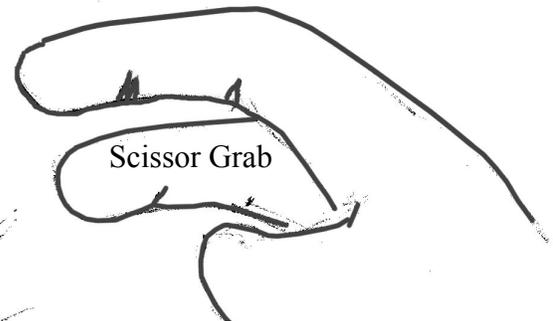
Hold threads in your left hand, the index finger between the two colors of threads.

Pinch grab the first back thread with your right hand.

Scissor grab the first front thread.

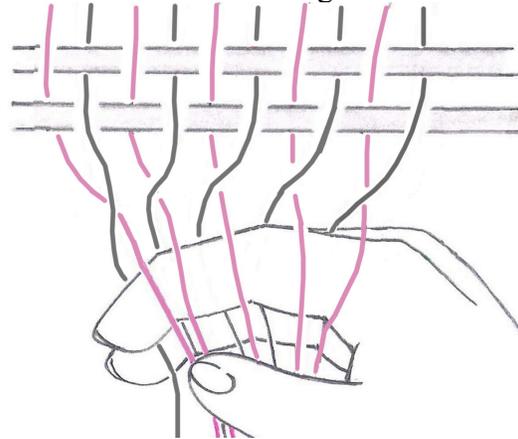
Think "Pinch the bottom, and Scissor the top".

Work your way across the row crossing threads in pairs.



Initial row complete

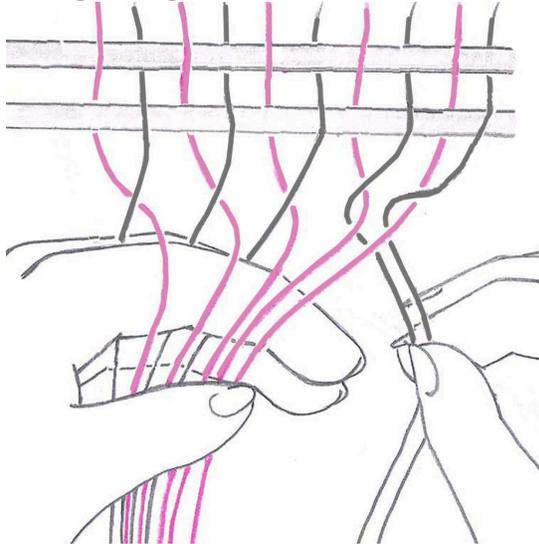
All threads, twisted in pairs, are now located on the right hand.



The Plait Row

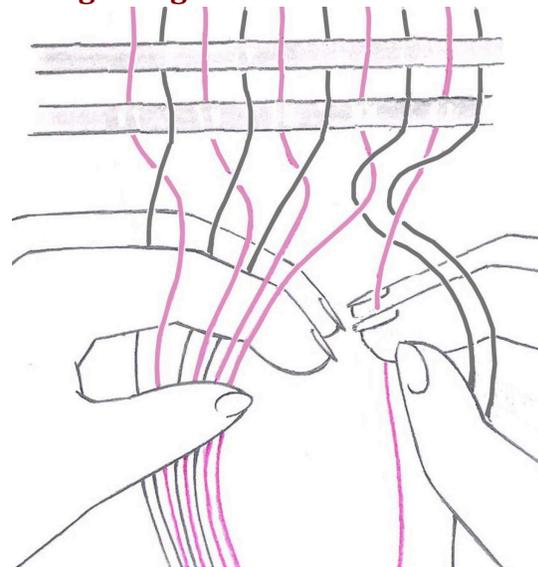
Transfer threads to your left hand again, and work a Plait Row as follows:

1. Right Edge Stitch Part 1



Begin the Plait Row by pinching TWO threads from the back.

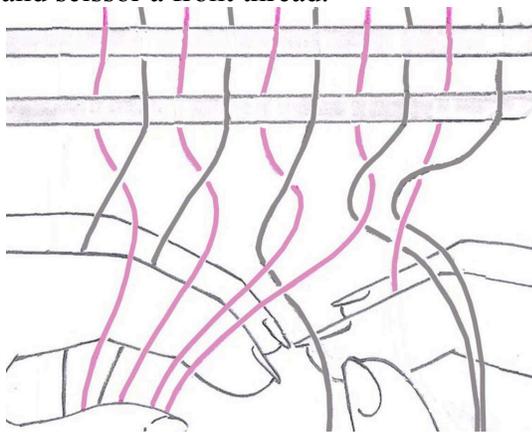
2. Right Edge Stitch Part 2



Finish the edge stitch by 'scissoring' one front thread.

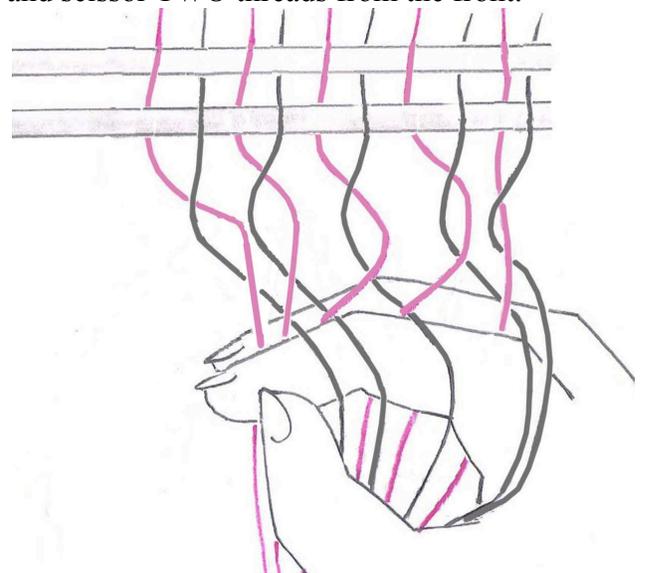
3. Work your way across the row using 'Plain Stitches':

Pinch a back thread and scissor a front thread.



4. The Left Edge Stitch:

Pinch one thread from the back and scissor TWO threads from the front.



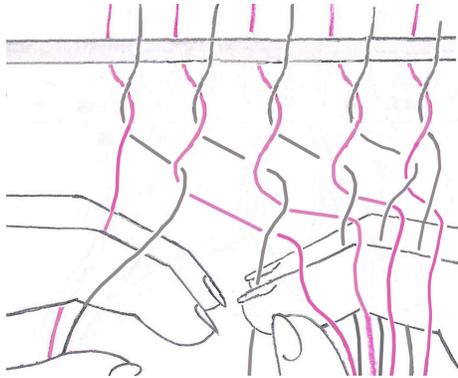
Plaiting means braiding.

Pairs are offset in this row.

Think of the Plait Row as the row that makes it all happen.

The Overplait Row

Transfer threads to your left hand again.
Work a row of **Plain Stitches**:
Pinch one, scissor one, all across the row.



Now alternate between
Plait Row
and
Overplait Row.

This gives you a structure that
looks like chain link fence and
has great elasticity.

Notes:

The Initial Row: threads cross over (or under) ONE thread.
This is the 'setup' row.

Plait Row: Threads cross over (or under) TWO threads
Begins with a 3-thread edge stitch
Ends with a 3-thread edge stitch
Plain stitches in-between

This is the row that makes the braid happen
Plaiting = Braiding

Overplait Row: Threads cross over (or under) TWO threads
Plain stitches all across the row

This is the row that follows the Plait row, returning things to 'normal'.

Think of these movements as 'stitches'. Each stitch has two parts: a pinch part, and a scissor part. Failure to complete a 'stitch' (looking away mid-stitch) invites errors.

It is important to keep threads in order. Hold the threads well separated in your left hand to prevent 'queue jumping' among the threads.

To tighten the structure hold the loose ends in one hand, and press a stick in the shed up and into the cloth. Typically a weaver will do this after every row.

Cloth created in this manner has a tendency to curl. This is because you are adding twist. The curling is temporary, goes away with time. You can hasten its departure by blocking (wash and then lay flat to dry).



If your threads are long enough you will notice that you are really creating two bits of cloth:

One above your hand
and

A second beneath your hands.

Working in a 'free-end braiding' style, the bit below your hands is a untangle (called the false weave) and must be un-done every couple of rows.

In sprang you work on a frame. This second bit of cloth is considered a bonus. is packed carefully at the completion of each row, to form a mirror-image of the work at the top.

This exercise is intended to help you understand the general concept of the two-for-one that is sprang and one of the basic stitches in particular.

The piece is a 'nothing' piece.

Should you really really need to finish it, then untangle the false weave, by gently pulling on threads, one by one, to extract them from the tangle.

When you've finished braiding the piece, tie the threads together in a knot.

Remove the sticks from the top, and adjust the knot at the top.

The piece will twist around.

Weavers have a saying, "It's not finished until it's wet-finished."

This means that you must wash the cloth before considering the job done.

Immerse in water to wash (add soap if you wish), and block by laying flat to dry.

This way your piece will lose the urge to curl.

This tutorial is brought to you by
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