

10-loop Spiral Braid

Loop Braiding Tutorial

by Ingrid Crickmore

for the Braids and Bands on-line discussion group of the Braid Society

Part 5: 10-Loop Spiral Braid

The 10-loop Spiral braid is an extension of the classic 8-loop Spiral.

It makes an even more defined spiral pattern, and a heftier braid, and once you are used to its sequence of moves, it is almost as fast to braid as the 8-loop Spiral.

The 10-loop version requires using thumbs as well as fingers. (If you visit my loop braiding blog* you'll find out that I'm a big fan of using thumbs in loop braiding!)

In the 10-loop Spiral braid, the thumb behaves essentially just like any of the fingers.

The following pairs of fingers are loop-exchange partners:

Right thumb and Left little finger

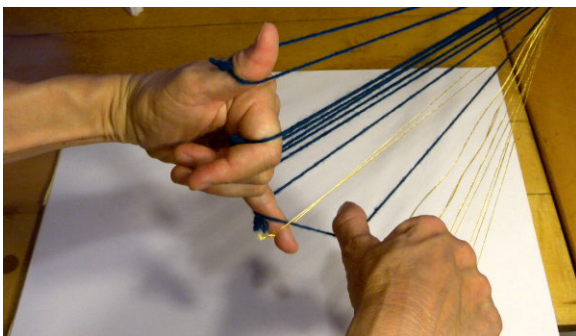
Right index and Left ring finger

Right and Left middle fingers

Right ring finger and Left index

Right little finger and Left thumb

Below I show one way the thumb can pull the opposite hand's little-finger loop through (sorry—I only have a right-handed photo for this). I usually do this slightly differently than I show below—I tend to grab the loop with the *back* of my thumb, on the nail. That works if you have an arch in your thumb.



It doesn't matter how your thumb takes the other loop, as long as it comes through. It also doesn't really matter whether the taken loop gets a turn or not. Just find a workable way to pull the loop through, using the thumb, such that the loop ends up on the thumb.



Sequence of moves for the 10-loop Spiral Braid:

1. Right thumb and Left little finger exchange loops*.

-----TIGHTEN LOOPS-----

2. Right index finger and Left ring finger exchange loops*.

-----TIGHTEN LOOPS-----

3. Right and Left middle fingers exchange loops*

-----TIGHTEN LOOPS-----

4. Right ring finger and Left index finger exchange loops*

-----TIGHTEN LOOPS-----

4. Right little finger and Left thumb exchange loops*

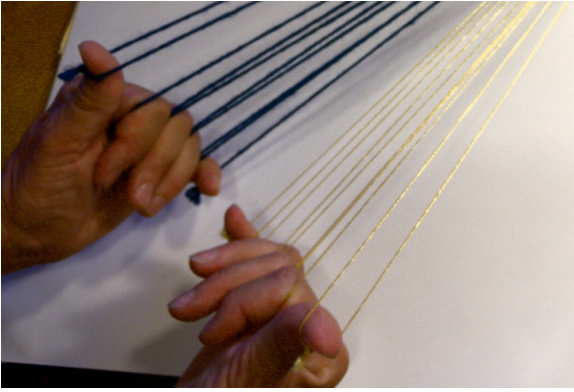
-----TIGHTEN LOOPS-----

REPEAT, starting at step 1

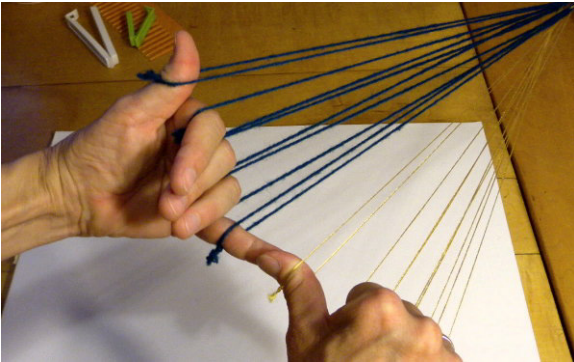
*Exchange loops by pulling one through the other, as in the 2-Loop Braid.
Right-handers pull left-to-right; Left-handers pull right-to-left

The photos below illustrate the sequence of moves:

(I am using 2 very different types of yarn, a thick woolen knitting yarn and a thin shiny rayon thread, a little thinner than embroidery floss.)

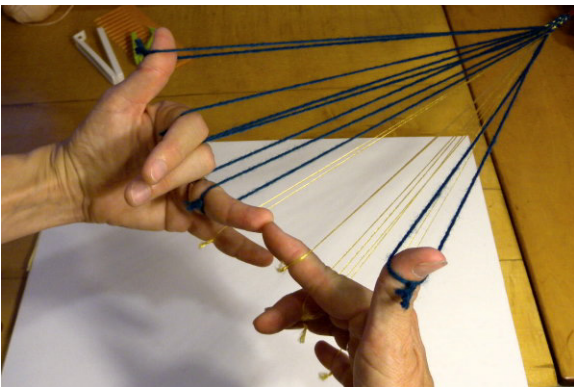


Initial loop set-up.



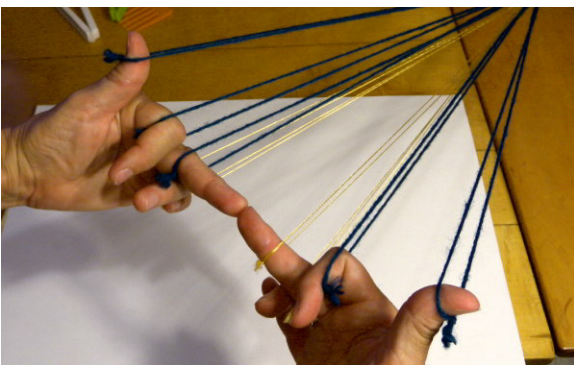
R thumb and L little finger exchange

---tighten loops---



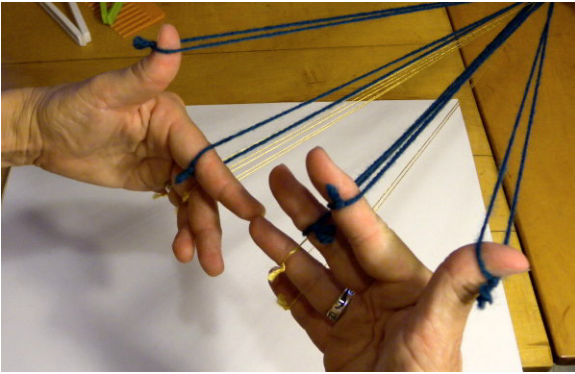
R index and L ring finger exchange

---tighten loops---



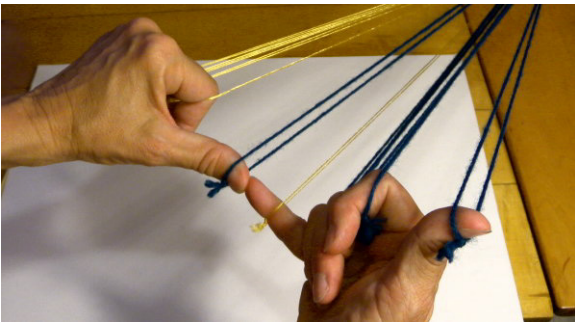
R and L middle fingers exchange their loops

---tighten loops---



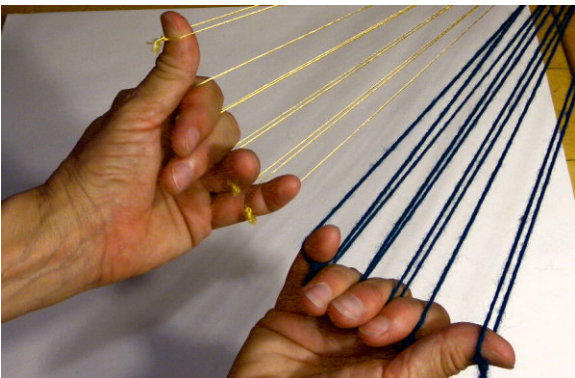
R ring L index finger exchange

---tighten loops---

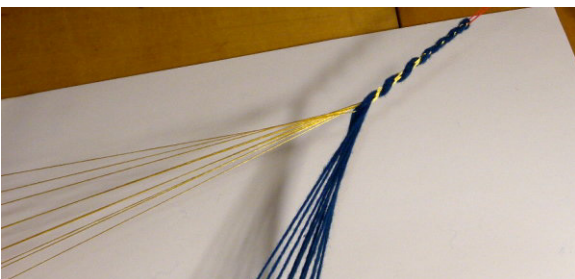


R little and L thumb exchange

---tighten loops---



End of braiding cycle—all colors have switched hands.



Square braid loop/buttonhole start.
Thick-thin Spiral-pattern braid—this is a nice effect with any of the Spiral braids.

Since each half of the 10-loop spiral has an uneven number of loops, you can't make a loop / buttonhole using mini-spiral braids. Instead, divide the braid by braiding two 5-loop square braids, then join them back into a Spiral braid to close the opening.
(My blog ^{**} has a video tutorial for the 5-loop square braid.)

At the end of this braid, I put half the loops on a holder (large-toothed comb, with a rubber band stretched around it to keep the loops from slipping off) and braided each half as a divided 5-loop square braid. I could have chosen to cut the ends of the loops so the divided braids could be 4 separate braidlets, but I liked the way they looked tied together in pairs.



© 2011 Ingrid Crickmore

This document may be freely shared in whole or in part, if I am credited, and as long as it is not sold or used in fee-based workshops without my permission.

* <http://loopbraider.wordpress.com/>