

Tips on “How To” make a French Braid

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Choosing Colour

I found the most difficult and most satisfying part of making a French Braid has been choosing the fabric. Find 3-4 fabrics you like best and use them to guide your remaining fabric choices. Either gradually shade colour up or down, go from dark to light, colour to colour or both.

Cutting Braids

Using ‘Jelly Roll’ could work if you want a scrappy appearance and use a contrasting accent fabric to define the braid pattern. Two strips of 40 in jelly roll will give you 10 x 7 ½ in x 2½ in strips; slightly shorter than I use (see below). One fat quarter yields 16 strips 8 ½ in x 2½ in. You need 2 strips in each braid.

Accent Fabric

- Step 1 You will need accent fabric cut 2 ½ in x 20 in.
- Step2 You will need braid fabric cut 8 ½ in x 20 in.
- Step 3 Place above two fabrics RST the length of both fabrics, sew and press seams towards the braid fabric.
- Step 4 Sub cut each accent braid fabric unit into 8 segments 10 ½ in x 2 ½ in.

Triangles

Take the longest side of the unbraided strip and measure ¼ inch shorter than the full length. This is the measurement of the side of the square. Cut the square and then half it diagonally.

Constructing braids

- Step1 Lay an unaccented 2 ½ in x 8 ½ in segment of the first braid fabric right side down on the left short side of the triangle, matching 90 degree angles at the top of the triangle. Pin into place, rotate triangle and sew towards the 90 degree angle. Press towards the braid segment.
- Step 2 Lay an accented 2 ½ in x 10 ½ in segment of the first braid fabric face down on the right short side of the triangle, matching seamlines and top 90 degree angles. Press towards the new segment. Add remaining pieces following step 1 and Step 2.

Reference: “*French Braid Quilts*” Jane Hardy Miller. C T Publishing