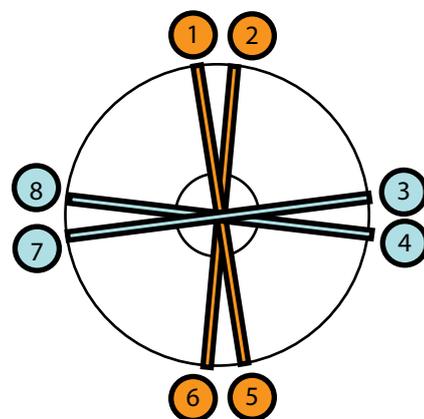


How to; - Kongo Gumi (Round Braid)

Kongo Gumi is the name for a basic simple round braid, commonly the 'starter' braid that often first introduces people to Kumihimo (Japanese Braiding). This braid can be done using a foam or cardboard disc, or on a Marudai - the traditional Japanese braiding stool.

Braiding Moves

Threads always move in pairs (on a Marudai both hands move at once). Two moves make a single 'stitch'.

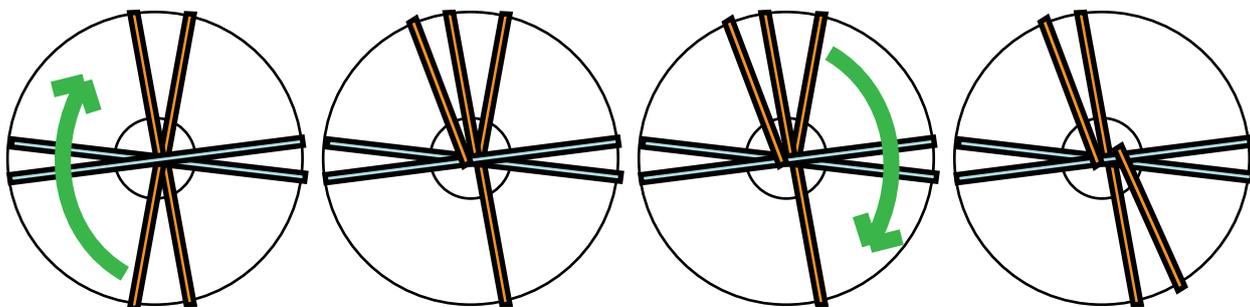


Step 1

Hold the disk with one set of thread pairs running north to south. Take the bottom left hand thread - of the south pair - out of its slot (thread 6 in the diagram), and move it straight up to sit into the slot next to the top left thread (to the LEFT of thread 1). Take the top right thread (thread 2) out of its slot and move it down into the slot next to the bottom right thread (to the RIGHT of thread 5).

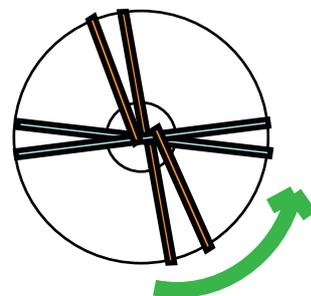
Step 2

Turn the disk anticlockwise so that you now have the next pair of threads at the north and south positions.



Repeat

That is it - just keep repeating these two moves - one up, one down and turn - until your braid is the length you would like. Left thread is moved with the left hand, and stays on the left hand side of the disk - Right thread is moved with the right hand and stays on the right hand side of the disk.

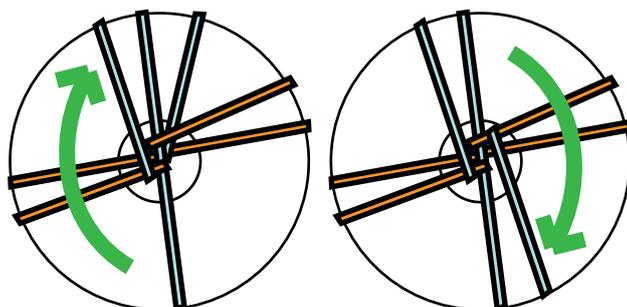


Remember - left up, right down, turn, and you should be on a roll!

** It can help for speed and consistency, if you use your left hand to move the left thread and your right hand to move the right thread.**

Patterns

Patterns on the braid can be created by using different colours and types or textures of thread and arranging them differently at the start.



Suppliers

You don't need many supplies for braiding - you can braid with any threads (although some are easier to use than others). Braiding disks can be found in most craft stores or make your own from cardboard. These websites are good starting places. www.beadsdirect.co.uk - www.gjbeads.co.uk www.spoiltrottenbeads.co.uk - www.totallybeads.co.uk - www.thecrystalphoenix.co.uk