

Additional Tips for using the Braid Template

1. When you are building your braid, build from the bottom up. Don't worry about the uneven ends, you will trim the bottom and top once you have the length you need.
2. Press gently; with the bias edges you can stretch the braid out of shape if you press too hard. You can use some spray starch, such as Best Press to tame those bias edges.
3. Once you have your braid the length you need, trim the edges to the width you need. Try to trim an even amount off each side. That is why this technique is so forgiving- we trim at the end to the size we need!
4. The length of the braid pieces you cut determines the width of the braid you sew. Braid pieces cut at 6 1/2" long will create a braid that is about 7" wide- regardless if you use 1 1/2" wide pieces or 2 1/2" wide pieces. See the table below for some sizes.
5. The width of your braid pieces that you cut will determine the length of the braid piece you sew. It takes more 1 1/2" pieces to make a braid the same length as one made with 2 1/2" pieces.

Length of Braid Piece using 2 1/2" wide strips	Number you can cut from a 40" fabric strip	Approximate width of braid	Good size to trim to for width of braid
6"	6 or 7	6 3/8"	6"
6 1/2"	6	7"	6 3/4" or 6 1/2"
7"	6	7 3/4"	7 1/2"
7 1/2"	5	8 1/2"	8 1/4" or 8"
8"	5	9 1/4"	9"
8 1/2"	5	9 3/4"	9 1/2"

Adding Squares

If you want, you can add squares to the braid for a different look. First cut your squares the same width as your braid pieces. For example, if you are cutting your braid pieces 2 1/2" wide, then cut 2 1/2" squares.

Add the squares to the pieces on the left side of the braid.

A braid with 6" long braid pieces using contrast squares will end up about 7 3/4" wide.

You can cut your squares out of one fabric, a couple of fabrics or make them scrappy.

Happy Quilting!

