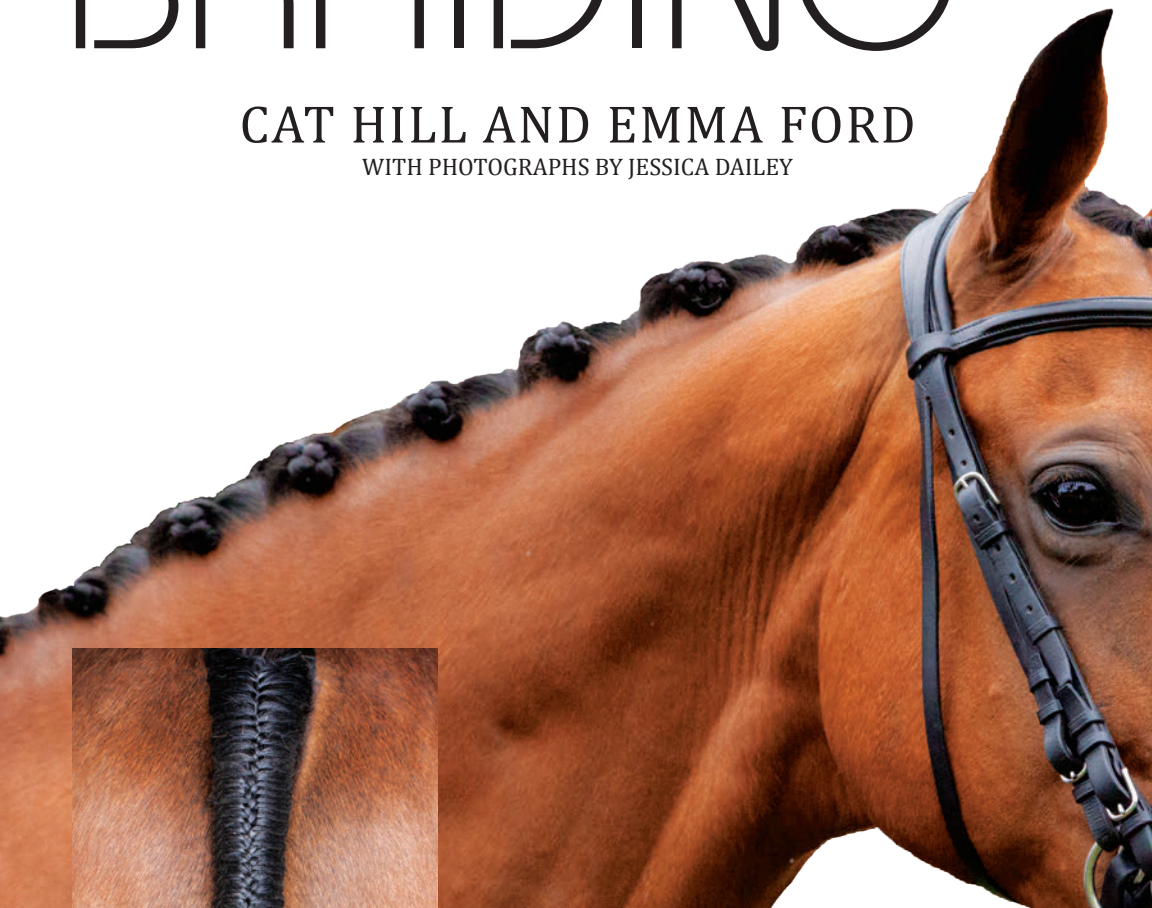


WORLD-CLASS BRAIDING *Manes & Tails*

CAT HILL AND EMMA FORD

WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA DAILEY



A TACK TRUNK REFERENCE GUIDE

Button Braids | Hunter Braids | Running Braids
Pulled and Unpulled Manes | Yarn or Elastics
Step-by-Step Photos | Professional Tips

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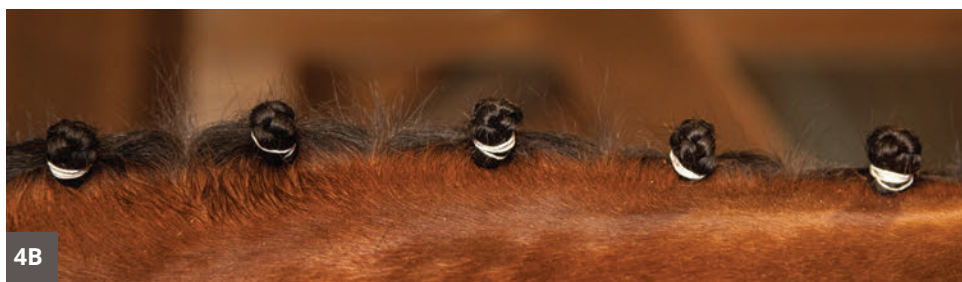
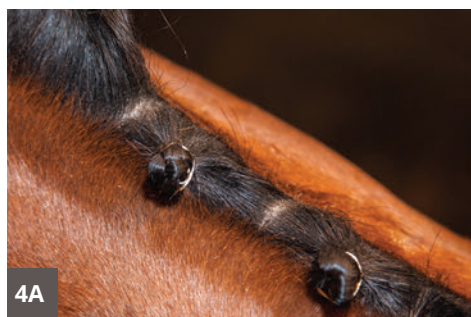
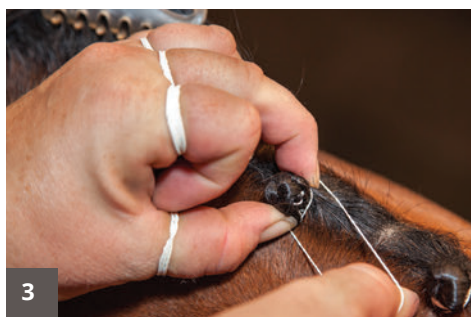
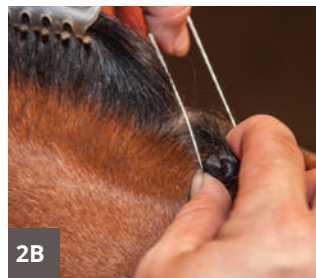
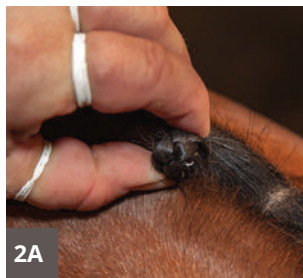
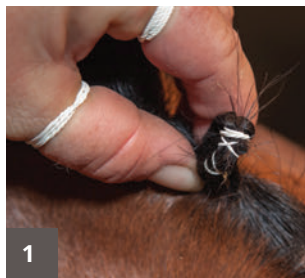
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◆ Finishing Braids with Rubber Bands

This form of braiding is a great way to learn and for more experienced braiders, it's a quick and efficient method. Follow the steps for "Using Rubber Bands" to braid using a rubber band.



1 Fold the tip under toward the crest of the neck.

3 For extra security, place a second rubber band around the button.

2 A & B Fold in half again and place a rubber band around the entire button.

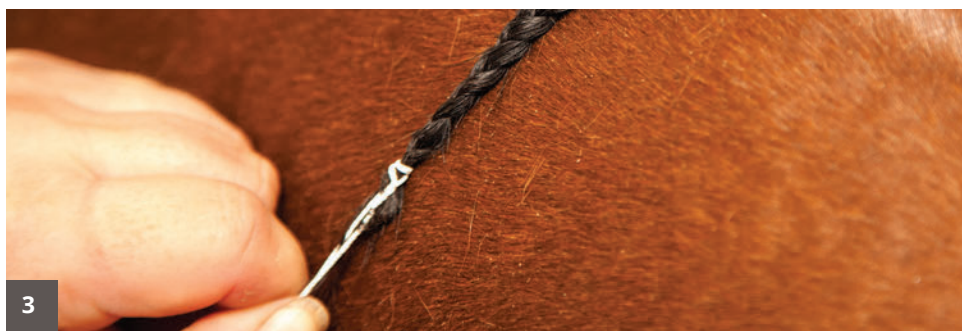
4 A & B They can look quite professional when done correctly.

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◆ Removing Rubber Bands

Leaving a mane braided with rubber bands overnight is not ideal: some horses find the bands “pull” too much on their crest and try to rub them out.

- 1** Put your thumb and forefinger on the top and bottom of the braid.
- 2** Pull the braid toward you and it will unfold.
- 3** Remove the bands.



◆ Finishing Simple Sewn-In Button Braids

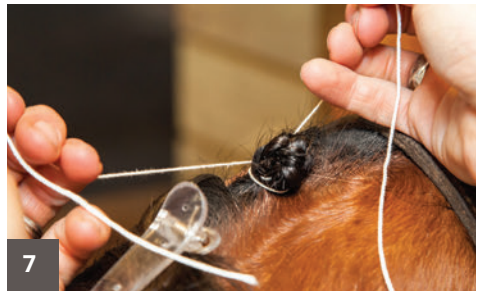
This form of braiding is the classic hunt braid, and for good reason. It is very customizable and will stay tight no matter what the weather or activity. Use cotton crochet thread or waxed-cotton braiding thread in the braid. Nylon crochet thread is hard to knot.



- 1** Thread both hanging ends through the eye of a large-eye, blunt yarn needle.

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Finishing Simple Sewn-In Button Braids (Cont.)



2 Push the needle through the center of the braid.

3 Pull up on the string until the braid folds in half.

4 Holding the needle in your hand, split the thread and put one strand on either side of the braid.

5 Roll the braid up and push your needle through the lowest point of the "roll."

6 Pull up on the thread until quite tight, removing the needle.

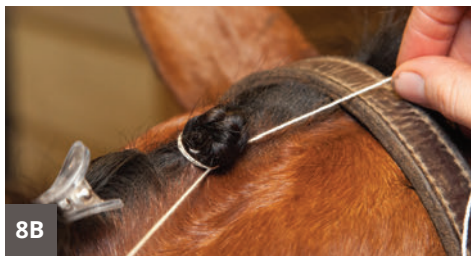
7 Split the strands again, and wrap the outside of the braid.

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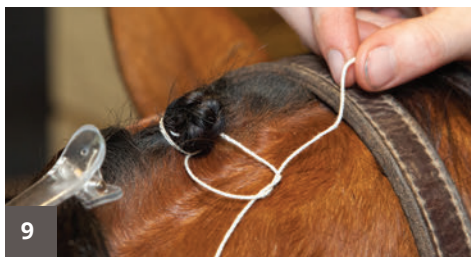
Finishing Simple Sewn-In Button Braids (Cont.)



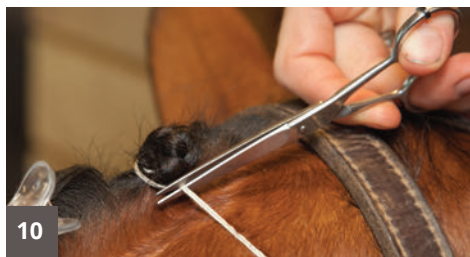
8A



8B



9



10



11

pro tip

When doing button braids, the thicker the mane, the narrower the selection of hair you should take for each braid. This will be easier to fold up in order to create the button braid. If you want large button braids for a dressage horse, know that a longer-length mane makes a thick button easier to fold up.

8 A & B Cross the thread twice then pull tight.

9 Cross the thread once more to secure the knot.

10 Cut the ends close to the neck.

11 Finished sewn-in button braids.

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◆ Removing Sewn-In Button Braids

1 A & B To remove, simply cut the knot at the bottom of the button. Pull the braid down...

2 A & B ...and cut the knot at the end of the braid.

3 When a horse's braids have been removed, the mane will look as if it's had a bad perm! It is not a good idea to leave a horse's mane like this for

any length of time. Do not assume the mane will just flatten on its own; if the braids were sewn in, it can take several days for the mane to "un-crimp." Prior to undoing your braids, simply take a damp sponge and wet the mane. This will make removing the braids faster and will help to smooth the mane down. Once the braids are pulled out, run the sponge over it again and use a fine-toothed comb to smooth it out.

