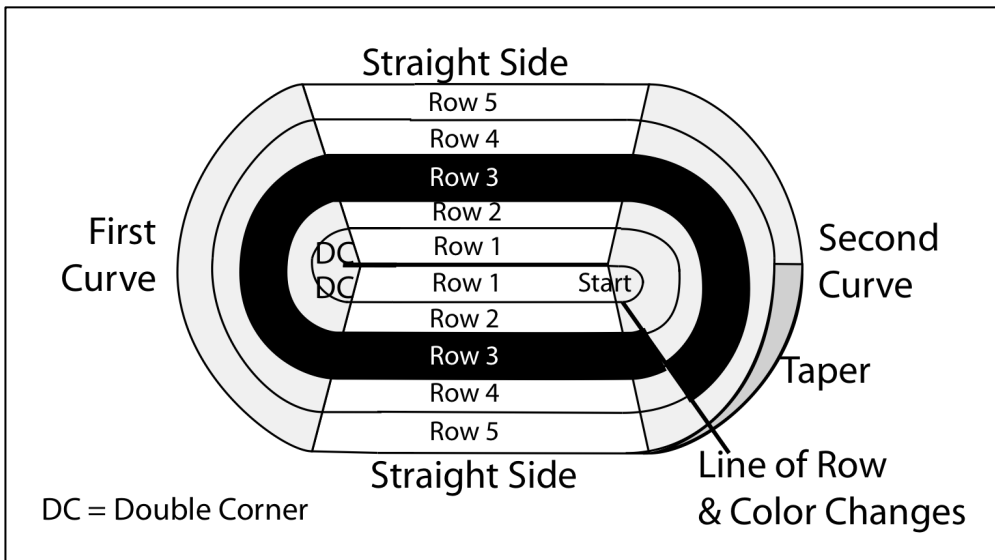


# Changing Colors (Left Opening illustrated)

## A. Changing Colors on an Oval



Look carefully at the diagram left. Notice that the Start, the Line of Row Changes and Color Changes, and the Taper are on the right of the rug. The strong black row is Row 3: notice where it starts and ends.

Color changes are made on the curve with the T-Start.

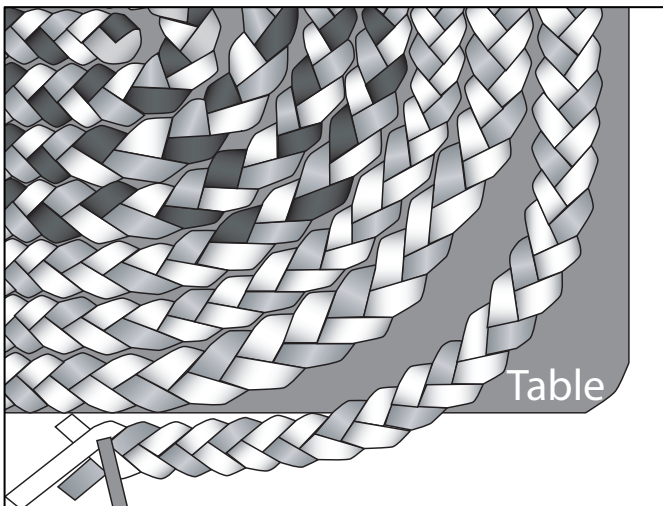
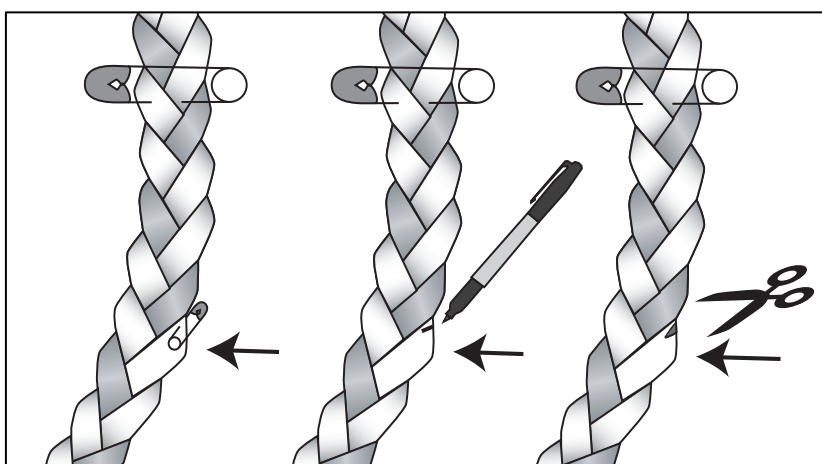


Diagram shows the T-Start in the upper left corner.

**1.** Lay the straight side of the rug along a table edge. Lace the braid almost up to the table edge (not shown).

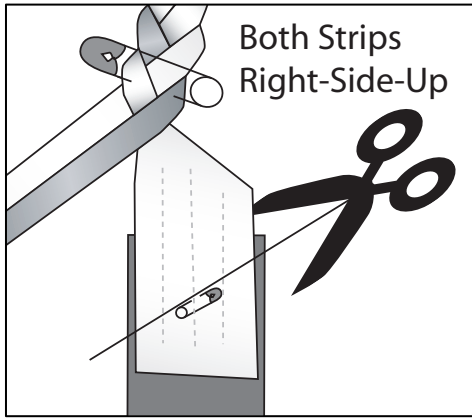
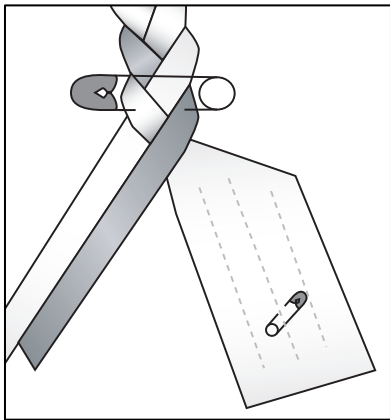
**2.** Where the new braid crosses the edge of the table is where a new color should start on the outside of the braid. Put a pin to mark this loop.

(Note the color change 3 rows earlier in diagram).



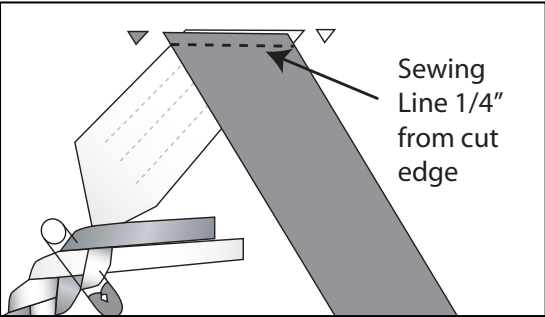
**3.** Put a Securing Pin a few loops above the marked site so that you don't unbraid too far.

**4.** Use any of the methods shown (pin, marker, or snip) to mark the upper part of the chosen loop.



**5.** *Far left:* unbraid back to the Securing Pin; open out the marked strand.

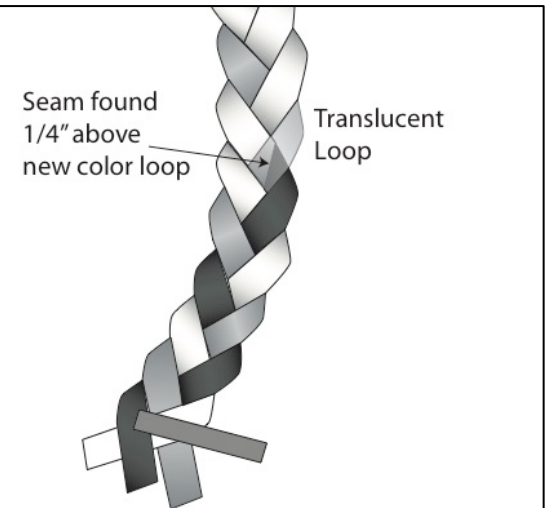
**6.** *Near left:* Lay the new color under the old color. Cut both at a downward diagonal, as shown.



**7.** Flip the new color over to match up right-sides-together with the old color. Notice that the strips are matched at the 1/4" sewing line, NOT at the cut edge.

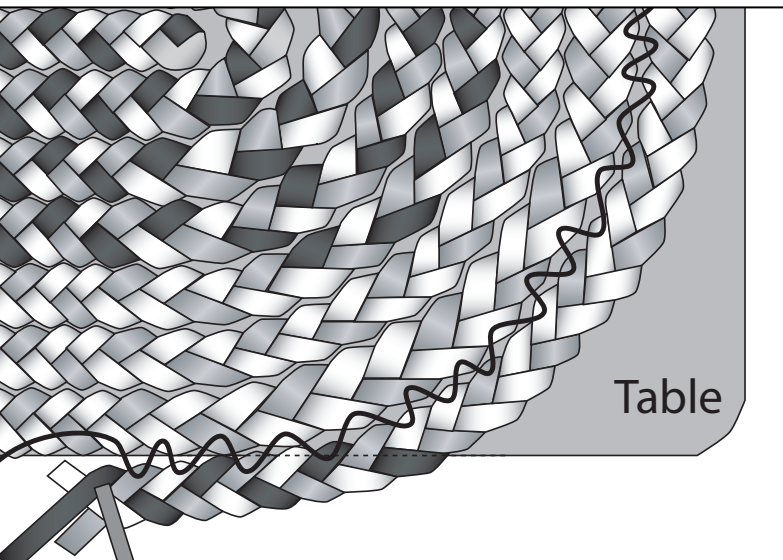
Sew: forward, reverse, forward on the sewing machine, and trim to 1/8".

OR, sew by hand with a back stitch.



**8.** Re-braid; remove Securing Pin.

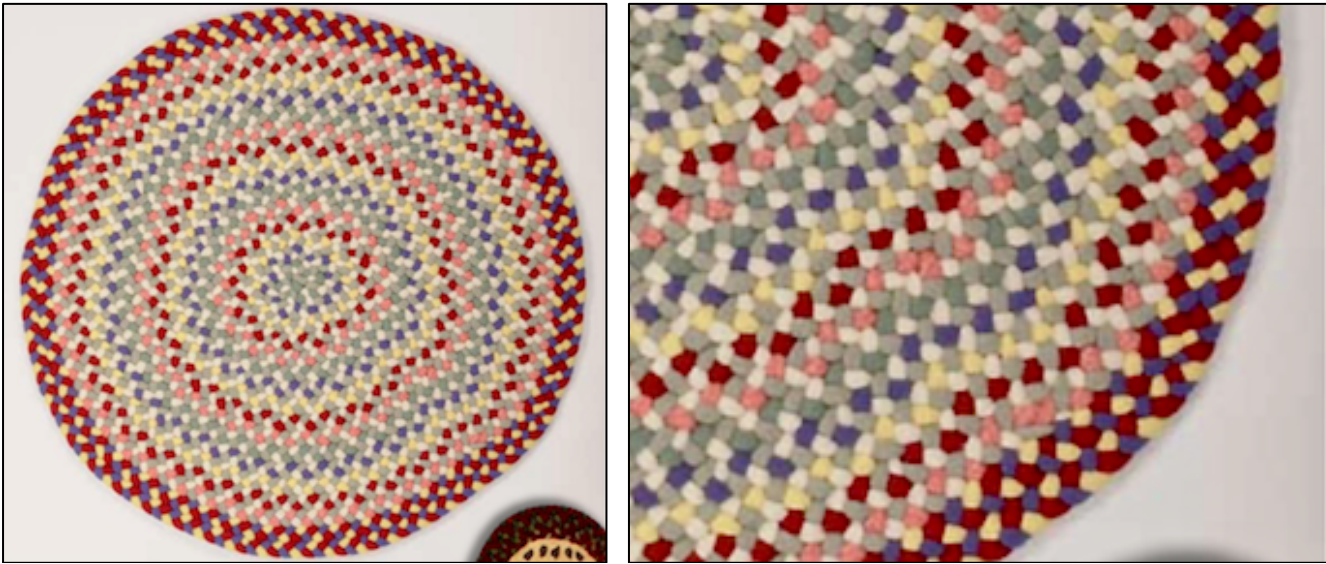
The seam – seen through a translucent loop – now falls 1/4" above where you originally marked the loop, and is hidden by the overlying loop.



**9.** The new color, laced onto the oval's lower right curve.

## B. Changing Colors on a Round

The best example I've ever seen of changing colors and making it look.... almost... like a new row on a round was Loretta Zvarick's rug below.



Above: Loretta Zvarick's continuous round with careful color changes. Note in close-up view that a new color is introduced on the outside of the first row, and finishes on the inside of that row, right next to where it started. It makes a straight line of 4 loops, but is about as perfect as you can get.

Even with her skill, though, it's really hard to make a color change on a round and have it perfectly hidden, especially close to the center. Rows out at the edge of a large oval are pretty easy but color changes on inner rows are difficult to hide.

My recommendations:

1. Change only one color at a time in a row on a round (unless there's a good reason, like a Delsie spiral).
2. Make the color changes "spiral," so that one color change does not stack up on top of another one in a perfect line out to the edge of the rug. Make the first one at 1:00, the second one at 3:00, the third one at 5:00.... Obviously in Loretta's rug this wouldn't have worked because she needed her single-strands to start and finish at the same spot. But in most of our round rugs, this strategy works.
3. Plaids of the old and new color help within a strand can ease the visual transition – see chair pad, below.



Chair Pad left is continuously braided until the outer row, which is butted. Strand colors are a solid gray, a gray and red plaid, and a bright red. Having the gray and red plaid makes the strand colors "related" enough that color changes are pretty subtle.

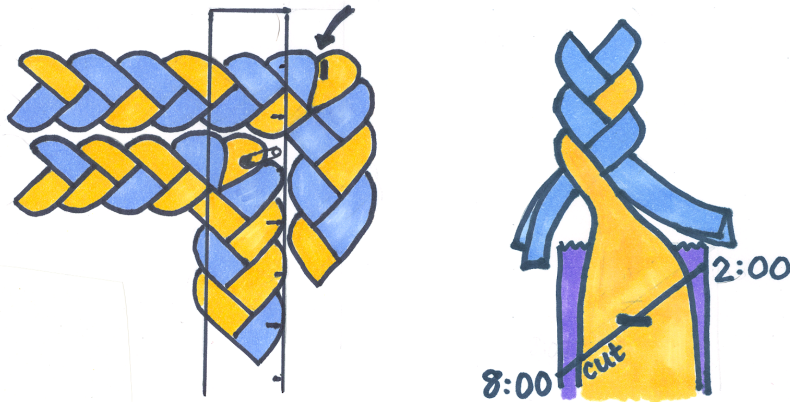


### C. Changing Colors on a Continuous Square or Rectangle

Color changes on cornered shapes are easy. You can fool the eye into believing that a new row starts and ends at the corner. Many continuous squares are thought to be all-butted, because the color changes are so perfect. Barbara North makes beautiful continuous square rugs that look butted. It's even easy to change more than one color at once.

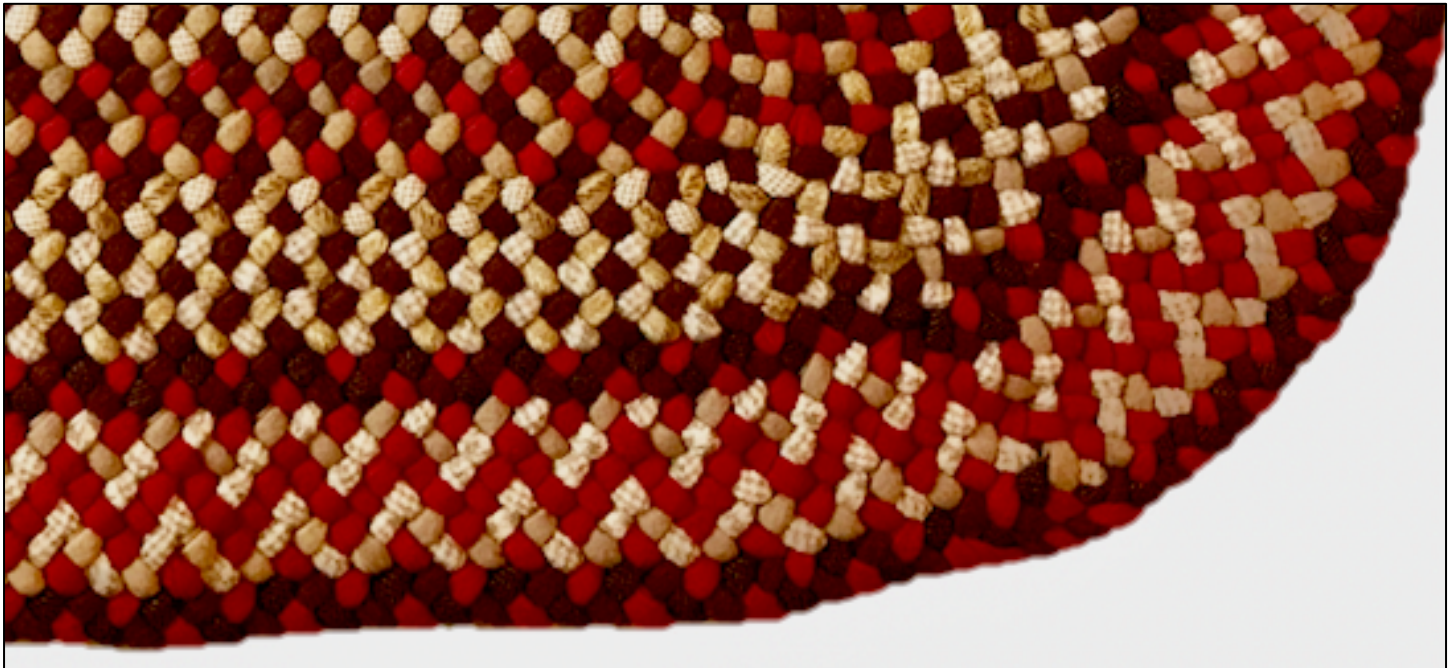
Procedure: Braid past the corner where you want the new color to begin (usually the corner next to the T-Start). Lay a ruler across the rug so that it lines up with the next side – see diagram below left.

Whatever sticks out beyond the edge of the ruler is perceived as the next butted row. Mark the strand where you want to make a color change, and unbraid back to the mark. Follow the procedures in the first 2 pages to make a color change.



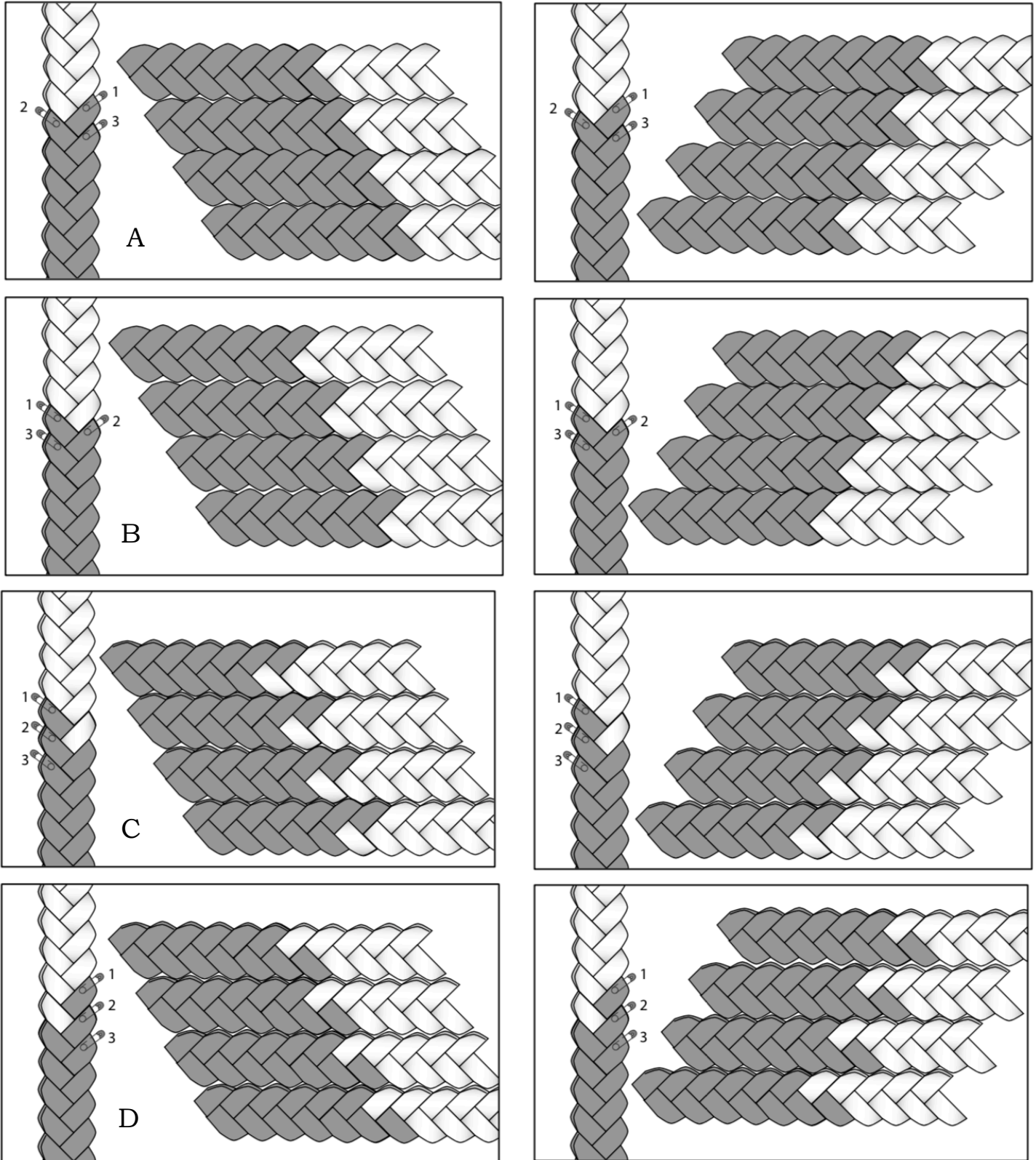
### D. Changing more than one color

The more colors you change at once, the more likely it is that your color change will create a visual stair-step.



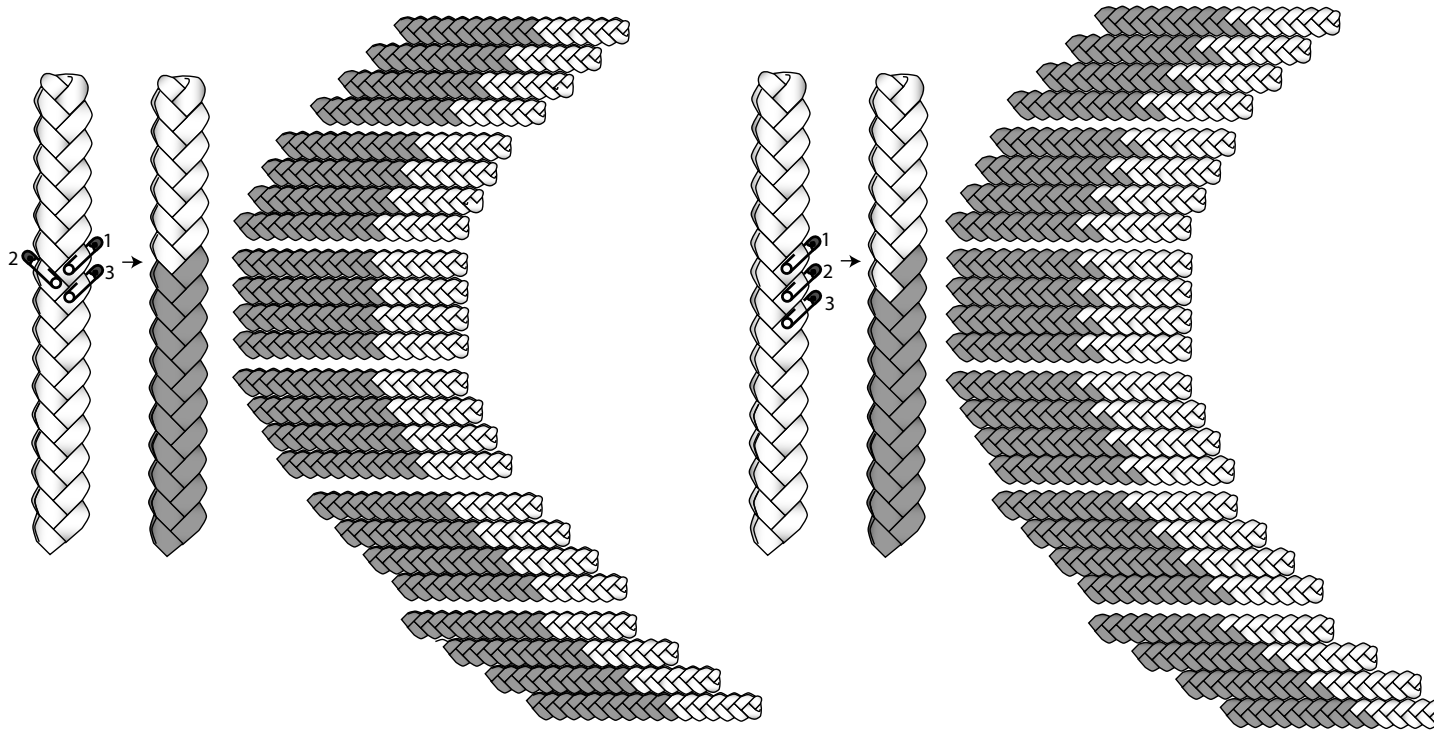
Example above shows changing 2 colors at once on an oval – see the dark line before the zigzag, where a dark brown and a bright orange are introduced. Despite my best efforts, there's still a jog in the line at this point.

**Changing 3 Colors at Once** – different patterns result.

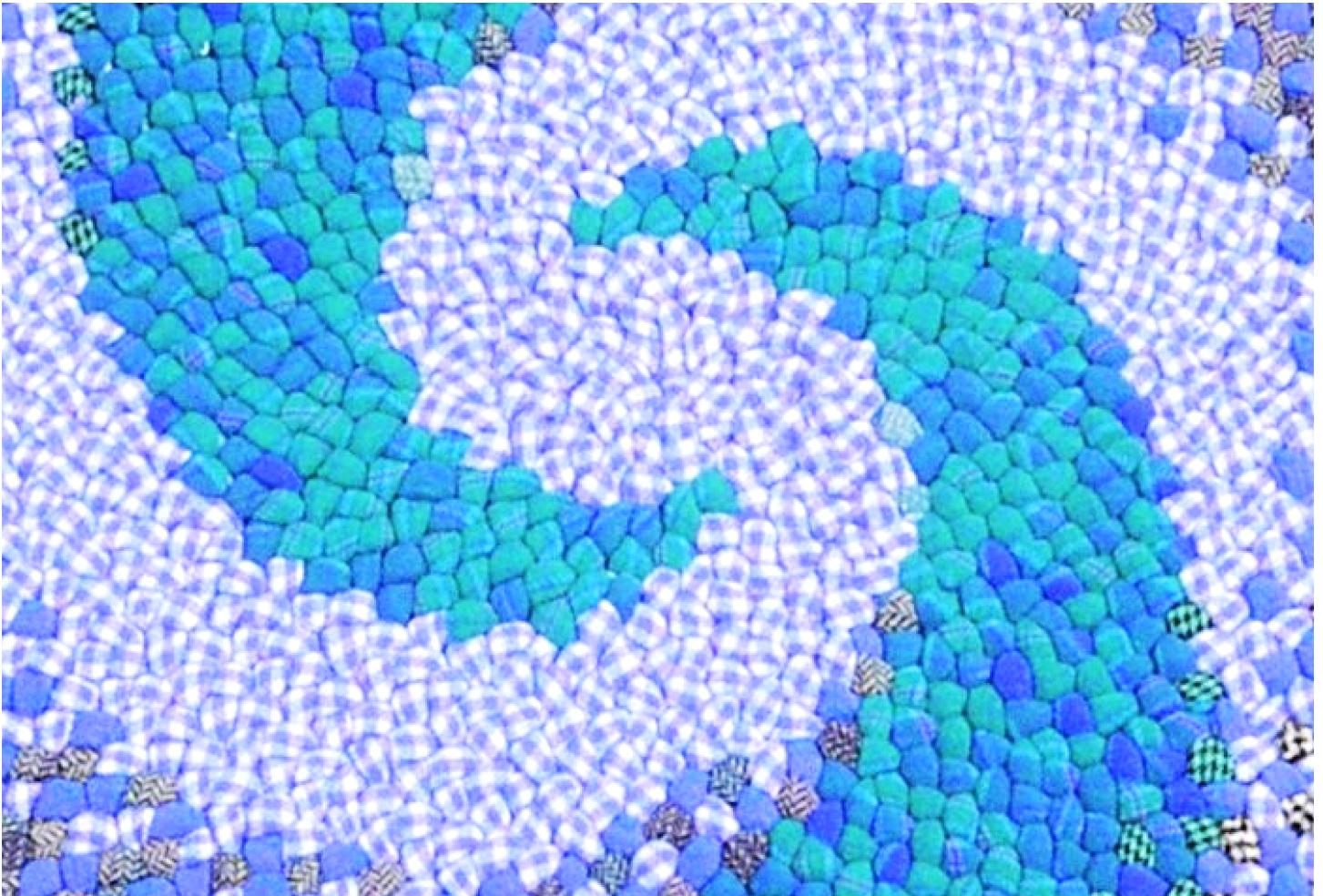


Above are sample ways to change colors for a pinwheel, labelled A - D. The diagrams within a row show the same color changes, but the braids are arranged differently to yield different diagonals – some with “teeth,” and some smoother.





Above diagram shows only two different patterns of color changes, but then arranges a set of 4 braids in different staggering patterns. See which stagger-patterns you can find in some of the pinwheels for Show & Tell!



Look carefully and see what pattern of color change Delsie used to introduce her two green swirls.