

Braiding compared with some other techniques for narrow wares

	Braiding	Fingerloop braiding	Lucet	Tabletweaving
Materials	+ almost anything threadlike	- need to be smooth and tolerate pulling	+/- with good technique almost anything goes, but need to tolerate pulling; lucet size defines max diameter of the thread	- for warp only tightly spun, durable and fairly smooth thread; not so picky with weft
Takeup	+ only 5-10% loss in length	+ only 10% loss in length	- takeup ratio 1:10, 1 meter of thread gives roughly 10 cm of braid	- 4xlength needed per tablet, takeup 10%; a lot goes into thickness, not width
Tools	+ none needed, except scissors/knife; yarn bobbins optional	+ none needed, except scissors/knife	- lucet, maybe also pickup stick	- tablets mandatory, loom, beater, shuttle help
Skills	+ very basic	+ very easy to intermediate, nimble fingers are an asset on higher	+/- takes longer to learn and pick up speed, after that very easy	- multiple skills needed to get to weaving at all
Length	+ almost unlimited	- with one worker very limited, scope wider if a second worker tightens the braid	+ almost unlimited	o somewhat limited depending on tools in use
Speed	- slow, especially when round	+ faster than plain braiding	+ speedy	+/- depends on the setup and weaving techniques
Patterns	+/- limited variation, easy to control	+/- more variation than in braiding, harder to understand and control	- limited (esp. in period techniques); flat requires extra effort	+ very wide range available - round braid only with extra effort
Transportability	+ easy to stuff into a bag and continue later	- difficult to pick up in the middle, not very transportable	+ transportable, doesn't get easily messed up if loops stay on lucet	+/- easily transportable in a loom, otherwise may get tangled
	- usually needs to be fastened on something	- has to be fastened onto a point that takes pulling	+ no special requirements for location	+/- with loom doesn't have any requirements, otherwise has to have a good fixed point to hang the warp onto and a belt to fasten