

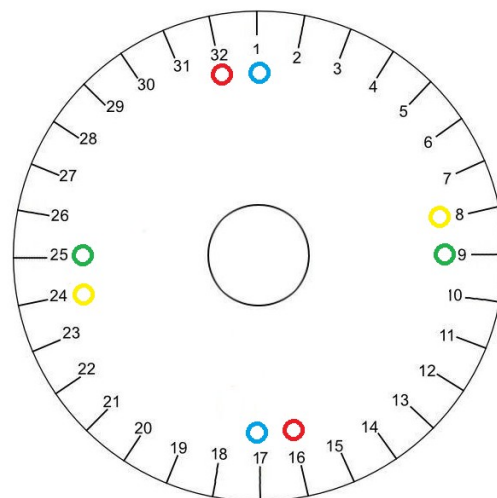
Variations using a Kumihimo disc

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Foam or cardboard discs for kumihimo can currently be purchased in friendship braid making kits, which are available from craft shops or even Kmart. These are a cheap and portable method of starting to make kumihimo braids.

The easiest type of braid using these discs is a spiral pattern, and by using combinations of colours you can create a wide variety of braids with just one pattern.

Start by setting up the disc with eight threads, as shown in the diagram on the right.



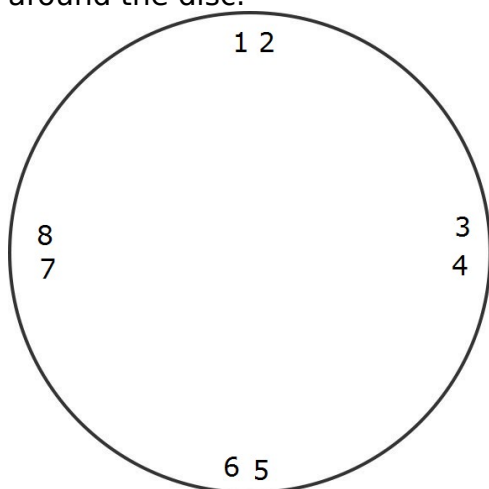
1. Move the thread in position 1 to 15.
2. Move the thread in position 17 to 31.
3. Move 25 to 7.
4. Move 9 to 23.

See how the pairs of threads have all moved around one place?

Now we repeat that sequence again.

5. Move 32 to 14.
6. Move 16 to 30.
7. Move 24 to 6.
8. Move 8 to 22.

Repeat this sequence of moves until the cord is long enough. You'll notice that the threads move around the disc.



To plan your design, I'm a big fan of Jacqueline Carey's methods. I thoroughly recommend all her books (she has several on kumihimo, and one on Elizabethan sweet bags). <https://www.careycompany.com/books>

Number your threads 1-8 using the diagram on the left. Now refer to the diagram below. This is a flat version showing what the cord would look like if it was opened out. The numbers correspond to the threads, so you can colour them in and see what your cord will look like when finished.

1		3		2		4	
7	8	6	1	8	3	1	2
2	5	4	7	5	6	7	8
8	3	2	2	5	4	7	5
8	1	8	3	3	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	6	7	8	3
5	4	5	5	7	7	6	6
3	2	4	4	4	5	5	6
3	1	3	3	2	2	3	4
6	7	8	6	1	8	3	1
4	7	5	6	7	8	6	1
4	2	4	4	5	5	6	7
1	8	3	2	2	4	4	7
1	8	1	3	3	3	2	2

Once you understand how to use the diagrams, this is an effective method to plan cords!
 The simplest pattern is a spiral, with half the threads in each colour.

1		3		2		4	
7	8	6	1	8	3	1	2
	5		7		6		8
2	3	4	2	5	4	7	5
8		1	8	3		2	
	6				1		3
5	4	7	5	6	7	8	6
3		2	5	4		5	
	1		3		2		4
6	7	8	6	1	8	3	
4		5		7		6	1
	2		4		5		7
1		3		2		4	
	8		1		3		2

This design takes the blue and white spiral, and changes half the blue threads to red.

1		3		2		4	
7	8	6	1	8	3	1	2
	5		7		6		8
2	3	4	2	5	4	7	5
8		1	8	3		2	
	6				1		3
5	4	7	5	6	7	8	6
3		2	5	4		5	
	1		3		2		4
6	7	8	6	1	8	3	
4		5		7		6	1
	2		4		5		7
1		3		2		4	
	8		1		3		2

This design is mostly white with spots of red and blue.

1		3		2		4	
7	8	6	1	8	3	1	2
	5		7		6		8
2	3	4	2	5	4	7	5
8		1	8	3		2	
	6				1		3
5	4	7	5	6	7	8	6
3		2	5	4		5	
	1		3		2		4
6	7	8	6	1	8	3	
4		5		7		6	1
	2		4		5		7
1		3		2		4	
	8		1		3		2