BALTIC BRAIDS

ALEKS BYRD

THE BASICS:

Knitted braids are made up of 2-3 rows worked over an even number of stitches.

Braids are mostly worked on items knitted in the round.

Floats (when yarn is carried across 1+ stitches) are created on the right side and are twisted to create the look of a braid and the direction that it leans or points in.
The manner in which the float yarn is twisted (under or over) determines the direction.

UNDER followed by **OVER** - right leaning
OVER followed by **UNDER** - left leaning

Knitted braids can be worked in 1 or more colours. Most commonly worked in two colours.

TWISTED BRAID [ESTONIAN]

This braid is the foundation that all other braid styles are built from.

It can be created over 1-2 rows/ rounds depending on the look you want.

Rnd 1: With both yarns held to front throughout, purl alternating colours bringing the yarn to purl **OVER** the other colour.

Rnd 2: With both yarns held to front throughout, purl following the colour pattern established in rnd 1 bringing the yarn to purl **UNDER** the other colour.

KIHNU VITS / KIHNU BRAID [ESTONIAN]

This braid is from the small Estonian island Kihnu.

These braids are often stacked with a knit row in the main / background colour between each braid.

It is created over 2 rows / rounds.

Rnd 1: knit alternating colours.

Rnd 2: With both yarns held to front throughout, purl in the opposite colour of the stitch bringing the yarn to purl **OVER** the other colour.

LATVIAN BRAID [LATVIAN]

Very similar to the Estonian twisted braid. This braid is worked over 3 rows / rounds.

Rnd 1 (set up): knit alternating colours

LEFT
Rnd 2:With both yarns held to front throughout, purl in established colours from rnd 1 bringing the yarn to purl **OVER** the other colour.

Rnd 3: With both yarns held to front throughout, purl in established colours from previous rnds bringing the yarn to purl **UNDER** the other colour.

RIGHT
Rnd 2:With both yarns held to front throughout, purl in established colours from rnd 1 bringing the yarn to purl **UNDER** the other colour.

Rnd 3: With both yarns held to front throughout, purl in established colours from previous rnds bringing the yarn to purl **OVER** the other colour.

DIRECTIONS

Using 4mm / US 6 needles with MC, CO 40 sts. Join in the rnd and PM for BOR.

Rnds 1-2: work 1x1 rib as follows: [k1, p1] repeat [-] to end.

Rnds 3 - 4: k to end.

Follow chart or written instructions.

WRITTEN

TWISTED BRAID
Rnd 1: Join CC. With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with MC bringing MC **OVER** CC, p1 with CC bringing CC **OVER** MC], repeat [-] to end.

Rnds 2 - 3: With MC only, k to end.

Rnd 4: repeat rnd 1.

Rnd 5: With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with MC bringing MC **UNDER** CC, p1 with CC bringing CC **UNDER** MC], repeat [-] to end.

Rnds 6 - 8: With MC only, k to end.

KIHNU VITS / KIHNU BRAID

Rnd 9: [k1 with MC, k1 with CC], repeat [-] to end.

Rnd 10: With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with CC bringing CC **OVER** MC, p1 with MC bringing MC **OVER** CC], repeat [-] to end.

Rnds 11 - 13: With MC only, k to end.

LATVIAN BRAID

Rnd 14 (set up): [k1 with MC, k1 with CC], repeat [-] to end.

LEFT
Rnd 15: With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with MC bringing MC **OVER** CC, p1 with CC bringing CC **OVER** MC], repeat [-] to end

Rnd 16: With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with MC bringing MC **UNDER** CC, p1 with CC bringing CC **UNDER** MC], repeat [-] to end

Rnds 17-19: with MC only, k to end.

RIGHT
Rnd 20: repeat rnd 14

Rnd 21: With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with MC bringing MC **UNDER** CC, p1 with CC bringing CC **UNDER** MC], repeat [-] to end

Rnd 22: With both MC and CC held to front throughout, [p1 with MC bringing MC **OVER** CC, p1 with CC bringing CC **OVER** MC], repeat [-] to end. Break CC.

Rnds 23-24: with MC only, k to end.

Rnds 24-25: work 1x1 rib as follows: [k1, p1], repeat [-] to end.

BO in rib pattern.

ABBREVIATIONS

BO - bind off
BOR - beginning of round
CC - contrast colour
CO - cast on
k - knit
MC - main colour
p - purl
PM - place marker
rnd(s) - round(s)
st(s) - stitch(es)
[-] - repeat everything between [ ]

CHART

CHART KEY

☐	knit
☐	MC
◼	CC
🟥	repeat
🟦	Twisted Braid
🟪	Kihnu Vits / Kihnu Braid
🟩	Latvian Braid
⟍•	purl bringing / twisting yarn OVER
⟋•	purl bringing / twisting yarn UNDER

Chart rows (columns 2 and 1), read bottom to top:

Row	Col 2	Col 1
22	CC, purl OVER	MC, purl OVER
21	CC, purl UNDER	MC, purl UNDER
20	CC	MC
19	MC	MC
18	MC	MC
17	MC	MC
16	CC, purl UNDER	MC, purl OVER
15	CC, purl OVER	MC, purl OVER
14	CC	MC
13	MC	MC
12	MC	MC
11	MC	MC
10	MC, purl OVER	CC, purl OVER
9	CC	MC
8	MC	MC
7	MC	MC
6	MC	MC
5	CC, purl UNDER	MC, purl UNDER
4	CC, purl OVER	MC, purl OVER
3	MC	MC
2	MC	MC
1	CC, purl OVER	MC, purl OVER