



Zigzag Tote Braid-Along: May 2021

\$25/4 one-hour sessions

Instructor:

Christine Manges

4 Fridays via Zoom, 1 p EST
May 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2021

This dramatically patterned zigzag tote bag is easier than it looks. Braiding two braids at once, the zigzag pattern is created with only one set of color changes (photo left, with solid-colored base) or with no color changes at all (photo right). The bases of both handles are

inter-braided into the row below. The ends are finished with a perky fringe on either side of the tote.

Braid level: Confident beginner and up.

Class #1: Starting and braiding the 2 braids, and shoe-lacing them together. The technique of lacing two braids at once in an oval pattern will be reviewed. The oval tote bottom can start with two different braids (photo right: easiest) or can start with a solid base (photo left: challenging to change colors and match them up in class #2).

Homework: Braid and lace the oval base.

Class #2: Making color changes to the zigzag (solid base only); matching up the zigzag on either side of the bag; and braiding and lacing the tote bag sides.

Homework: braid and lace half-way up the sides of the bag.

Class #3: Continuing to braid and lace up the sides; demonstration of inter-braiding the handles and choosing their location so that the patterns still match up. Demonstration of incorporating an elastic hair band for the button closure (optional).

Homework: Braid up to the point of the where the handles begin; try to inter-braid at least one handle base.

Class #4: We will work on the handles together in class, and the fringe finish and button closure will be demonstrated.

“Braid-Along” is a term for a class that is demonstration-based, although the instructor is happy to be interrupted with questions. After the demo, any time left within the hour will be used for review of students’ work. There will be a detailed handout with diagrammed instructions, and each class will be recorded and available for later viewing if students need to miss a class.

Supplies: Fabric: Wool OR Polyester Fleece; 1.5 yards dark fabric and 1.5 yards light fabric. (IF using fleece, buy two colors from the same fabric line, or you could end up with very different sizes of braids). If you are starting with a dark base, please increase the dark fabric to 2.25 yards.

Usual braiding supplies. If closure is desired: elastic hair band + decorative shank button.