

# Fabric Braids

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/fabric-braids>

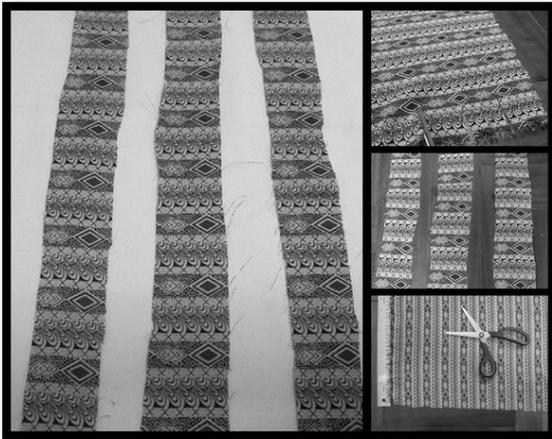
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This tute will show you one way to make durable braid embellishment out of light and medium weight fabrics. I used these braids in my Zebra Braids project and figure everyone should know how to give it a go.

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## Step 1 — (Measure) and Cut



When deciding on the length and width of your braids you must take into account that the length will shorten by about 25% of the length of your initial strips, and the with depends upon on the weight of your fabric and the width of your strips. I recommend lighter weight fabrics for more flexible or delicate braids (the flexibility will also depend on the tightness of the braid itself) In this step cut 3 strips of fabric equal in length and width.

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## Step 2 — Fold and Press



This is the hardest, as in most tedious step of this short tutorial. Luckily, you can bypass it if you are using materials like jersey that do not fray! Here you will fold the sides of each strip inward to the center and then again in half. This will give you one quarter ( $1/4$ ) of the width you began with. With each fold you will want to press just to ensure that your folds stay in place, and I recommend pinning as shown in the photo, to make life easier in the next step.

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## Step 3 — Stitch



Now you will want to run a simple stitch down the length of each folded strip. Again, if you are using fabrics like jersey this isn't necessary.

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#### **Step 4 — Braid!**



Now comes the fun part! stitch the ends of the 3 sewn strips together in order to secure (as pictured) and commence your 3 strand braid. I am not 100% sure how to describe the braiding technique eloquently so I looked on youtube.com and ehow.com and they both have wonderful videos on how to do a 3 strand braid on hair. The technique is the same for this project!

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#### **Step 5 — Secure and Attach**



Now you can sew the ends together and attach to your garment! I recommend using these as trim, ties, straps, closures or belts. But I am sure there are countless creative ways to utilize them. I hope this helps! and the black and white is clear enough (I know the printed fabric doesn't help

much). I figured it's a pretty simple technique once you've got the idea, so good luck!!

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*Fabric Braids*