Kumihimo Equipment

Marudai

Unbraided
Strand

Counterweight

Tama

Completed
Braid
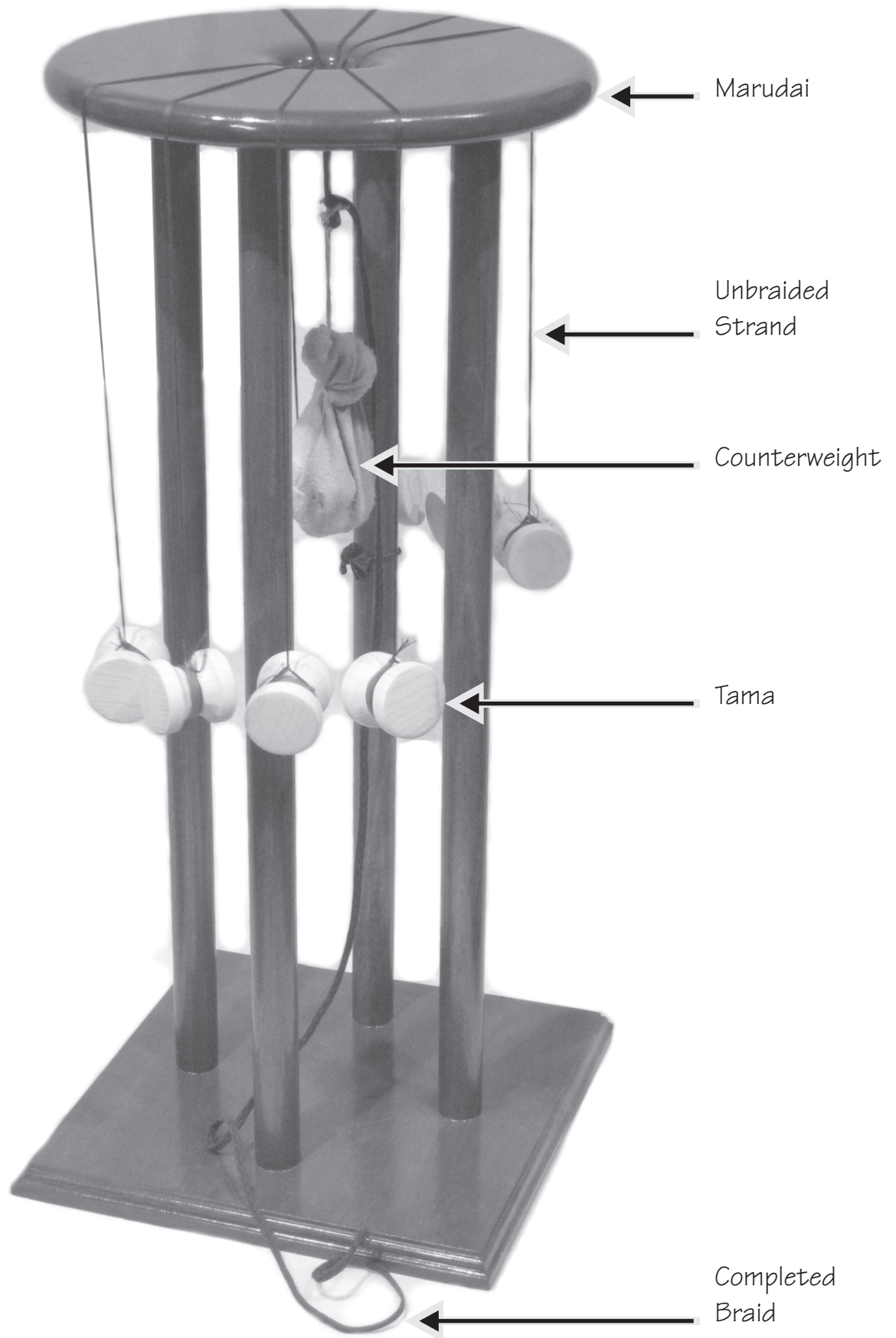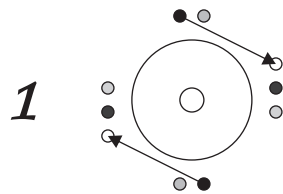
Edo Yatsu "Tokyo Eight"

Edo Yatsu Gumi yields a hollow, round braid with a smooth, woven texture. Half of the strands move clockwise around the braid, and half move counter-clockwise around the braid. This braiding structure can be seen in commercially available braided rope and cord. Often, a non-braided core runs down the hollow interior of the braid to add strength.
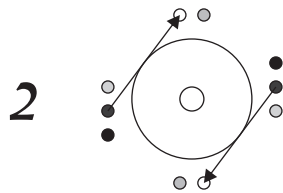
Different color patterns easily produce a nice array of pleasing visual patterns. Start with "XO XO XO XO" to keep track of the odd and even strands, but later try "XX XX OO OO" for a nice houndstooth check.
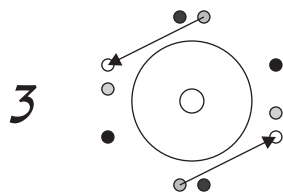
Start

Begin with 8 strands in 4 groups of 2. The left-hand strand of the top group is strand 1 and the numbers proceed clockwise.
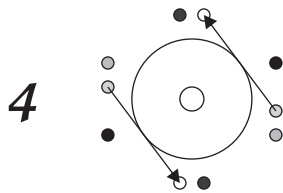
1

Move strand 1 clockwise to the <u>top</u> of the right group and move strand 5 clockwise to the <u>bottom</u> of the left group.

2

Move strand 3 clockwise to position 5 and move strand clockwise 7 to position 1.

3

Move strand 2 counter-clockwise to the <u>top</u> of the left group and strand 6 counter-clockwise to the <u>bottom</u> of the right group.

4

Move strand 4 counter-clockwise to position 2 and strand 8 counter-clockwise to position 6.

End

Odd-numbered strands have moved two positions clockwise and even numbered strands have moved two positions counter-clockwise.
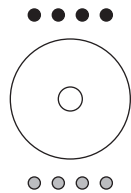
Hira Nami "Flat Waves"

Hira Nami Gumi yields a flat braid with a woven texture. It is the best braid for creating ribbons and straps, but takes quite a bit of attention.

This braid can also be expanded to include more strands, in any multiple of four More strands mean a wider braid, without any increase in braid thickness.
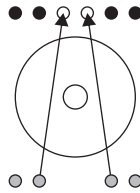
Start with an "XXXX 0000" color pattern to produce this braid's distinctive alternating chevron pattern. Another good color pattern is "XX00 00XX", which produces an argyle pattern.
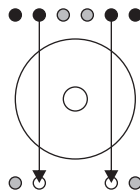
Start

Begin with 8 strands in 2 groups of 4 The left-hand strand of the top group is strand 1 and the numbers proceed clockwise.
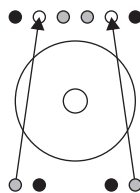
1

Move strand 6 counter-clockwise to the center of the top group, and strand 7 clockwise just to the left of that.
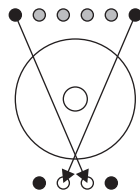
2

Move strand 2 counter-clockwise to the center of the bottom group, and strand 3 clockwise just to the rightof that.
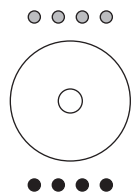
3

Move strand 5 counter-clockwise to the right-hand empty space in the top group, and strand 8 clockwise to the left-hand empty space

4

Move strand 4 clockwise to position 7 and strand 1 counter-clockwise to position 6, crossing it over strand 4.

End

Top strands have all moved to the bottom and bottom strands to the top. The outermost strands have moved to the center.
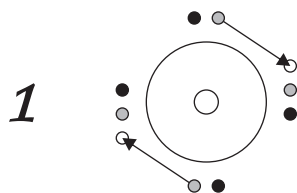
Kaku Yatsu "Square Eight"

Kau Yatsu Gumi yields a tight, square braid with a twill texture. Half of the strands move clockwise around the braid, and half move counter-clockwise around the braid. This braid works well with stiffer cord and wire.
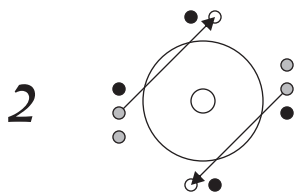
Colors follow steadily through this braid, but in an unexpected fashion due to the twill structure. Start with "XO OX XO OX" to keep track of the clockwise and counter-clockwise strands, and for long vertical stripes along the corners. Later, try "XO XO XO XO" which creates square "rings" of color.
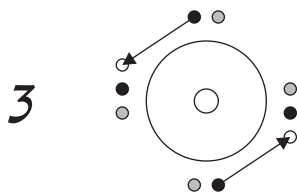
Start

Begin with 8 strands in 4 groups of 2. The left-hand strand of the top group is strand 1 and the numbers proceed clockwise.
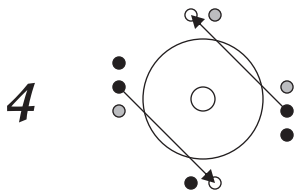
1

Move strand 2 clockwise to the <u>top</u> of the right group and move strand 6 clockwise to the <u>bottom</u> of the left group.

2

Move strand 3 clockwise to position 6 and move strand clockwise 7 to position 2.

3

Move strand 1 counter-clockwise to the <u>top</u> of the left group and strand 5 counter-clockwise to the <u>bottom</u> of the right group.

4

Move strand 4 counter-clockwise to position 1 and strand 8 counter-clockwise to position 5.

End

Light and dark strands have kept to the same corners of the braid, since they have moved one or three positions each.