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How can braiding techniques become more accessible? Through the research of colour we aim to facilitate insight into different braiding techniques. Defined parameters that are executed in a structured way form the basis for the continuous research process. All our experiments and findings are collected in an archive, open for everyone to experiment themselves and share their own experiences.

While the different types of braids are endless, we focused on two braids in specific, one round, the Maypole braid, and one flat, the double-faced braid. Both of them are more complicated to make but with the archive we hope it will be more accessible and understandable. We opted for these two braids because their technique allows us to experiment with different colors, compositions and are easily manipulated to create new forms. The beginning of the research is conducted by Magdalena Sophie Orland, Rosan Pille and Annelies Clerix.

It is important to mention that the techniques explained below were developed with the help of the book of Noémie Speiser, The Manual of Braiding, 1988 and with the input of Soft Connection Lab (KASK) and Louise Dumon.

## **Maypole Braid**

The Maypole braid is mostly associated with a braiding machine of an amount of bobbins attached to carriers that crisscross each other on a series of tracks, this creates the tubular effect of the braid. The first braiding machines appeared in order to create the same kind of braid by hand.

## **Double-Faced Braid**

Like the name suggests this flat braid has two faces that are their exact opposites. When colored half and half and braided in a certain manner, one color will present itself solely on the inside and the second color on the outside of the braid. It is constructed with a thread amount of a multiple of 4, this creates the double face characteristic. In our research we mainly focused on a quantity of 16 threads.

## **Our application**

Our onset of the archive results in the creation of an applied object where we challenged ourselves to combine the Maypole braid, the double-faced braid and their experiments during the research. A swing has been designed composed in one continuous braid made up from 32 threads.