

# Braiding

## Category Rules

The category is for textiles produced using braiding, which is fundamentally manipulated warp, not weaving. The methods include but are not limited to fingerloop, sprang, kumihimo, and other forms. The entrant must specify the braiding technique used to produce the entry and the planned use of the entry in the documentation. The use of synthetic gold or silver thread will be considered an acceptable alternative for real gold or silver thread and will not be penalized. Likewise, using a faux silk fiber would be acceptable provided that alternative fiber is mentioned in the documentation and an understanding of the differences is shown.

## Research and Documentation (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

## Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

The use of synthetic gold or silver thread will be considered an acceptable alternative for real gold or silver thread and will not be penalized.

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce a performance that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA culture. Entry is inconsistent to period, location, and persona. (ex: some period elements, but doubtful authenticity of materials, colors, technique, or design).
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was

constructed (ex: thread is modern, but thread count is close to extant work, looking more like a medieval piece).

- 3 Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed (ex: materials are completely authentic such as wool, silk, and linen; very minor inconsistencies in the combination of elements).
- 4 In-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

**Scope** (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Complexity of techniques attempted based on piece's culture and time period.
- Size: number of threads used, size of the threads, type of fiber, and length of piece.
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of the patterns, techniques, and materials used.

**Skill** (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

How well is the entry made? Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Evenness and tension.
- Neatness (including selvages, starts, and stops).
- Development of pattern.
- Handling of materials.

*Optional*

- Finishing

**Ingenuity** (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Did the entrant use creative thought to recreate / research their reproduction? Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entry's period?

**Judge's Observation** (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.