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Braiding Hunters

Holly Grayton



To braid a hunter well takes quite a lot of practice. Take all the chances you get to practice by offering out your services as a braider, and in turn you can make quite a nice amount of money along the way! There are professional braiders all over the continent whose expertise is trusted and relied upon for both the biggest hunter derbies and small schooling shows alike.



To start, you will need yarn (cut into pieces the length of your forearm) that matches the color of the horse you are going to braid, a three-prong comb is best for separating into equal parts, water or 'Quic Braid' in a spray bottle, and a pull-through.



You would like to have small sections of mane to work with, as your braids for the hunters will stay quite small.



Start your first braid by separating the mane into three equal parts, and wet the hair with the contents of your spray bottle.



Braid this section halfway down; at this point take one piece of yarn and lay it behind your braid, just about halfway down, and finish the braid to the bottom including the yarn into the braid.

Tie off the end to secure the braid.



Finish braiding the rest of the mane, sectioning off small pieces at a time, until you reach the bottom of the mane near the withers. At this point there should be pieces of yarn hanging down from the completed braids.

Now go back to the top, where you made your first braid.



Slide your pull-through down towards the neck from the top of the braid, and loop in the yarn. Pull the pull-through back out the top of the braid.

Continue pulling through for the remainder of the mane, leaving the yarn now hanging out the top side of the mane, normally on the opposite side of the neck by now.

Head back up to the first braid again.

Take the yarn back under your loop and tie a knot.

Now, divide the loop by tying a knot around it keeping 1/3 of the loop at the top, and 2/3 of the loop at the bottom.



Finally, tie one more knot under the braid to ensure it is secure.

Braiding the forelock is very similar to braiding the mane. The difference, however, is the top must be done in a French braid, and there is no need to divide the loop into thirds; rather, simply pull-through to the top and tie a knot to secure the braid.

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