

HOW TO BRAID A FOUR STRAND ROUND CHALLAH

You will need four dough strands of the same length. Place two strands in the center of a smooth surface, running parallel top to bottom. Place the third strand across the two strands, going under the left strand and over the right. Place the fourth strand directly below the third strand, going over the left strand and under the right. You will have something similar to a tic-tac-toe board pattern, with the center of the board being a very small square and 8 "legs" sticking out from that center. Keep the center as tight as possible... you'll be braiding from the center. I have numbered the strand ends in the following diagram to make the braiding process easier.



A. Take strand 1 and cross it over strand 2.



D. Take strand 7 and cross it over strand 8.



B. Take strand 3 and cross it over strand 4.



E. Take strand 2 and cross it back the opposite way, over strand 7.



C. Take strand 5 and cross it over strand 6.



F. Take strand 8 and cross it over strand 5.



I. Take strand 7 and twist it with strand 4.



G. Take strand 6 and cross it over strand 3.



J. Tuck the twisted ends under the challah. Repeat this process with the remaining loose ends—twist and tuck 1 with 6, then 3 and 8, then 5 and 2.



H. Take strand 4 and cross it over strand 1.



K. When all of the loose ends are twisted under, gently plump the challah into a nice, even round shape.

