

Materials for Beginning Braiding on the Marudai with Terry Flynn

I hope this may help you avoid purchasing something that doesn't meet your needs. A search on the Internet yields quite a variety of styles, some of which have design adaptations that are either unnecessary or unhelpful. The shape and the size of the marudai and the bobbins make a huge difference in how easy they are to use. I highly recommend BraidersHand.com for their well-designed, and beautifully finished marudai and bobbins. <https://braidershand.com/buying-your-first-marudai/>. (Their prices are similar to what I was charging 20 years ago for English equipment of the same quality.) If you have a very tight budget, please check my website for suggestions on alternatives. Better to not put off enjoying this amazing way to create unique textiles!

You will need:

- Marudai with a 10" mirror

- 16 bobbins (tama) in a weight that suits the kind of work that interests you. Please don't stress. If you want to do some of everything except core braids, choose 85 grams.
 - 70 grams – most common choice in the US and Britain. Good for lightweight to medium sized braids and jewelry. Also best if you want to move onto Andean core braids. <http://braidershand.com/bulk-70-gram-standard-tama/>.
 - 85 grams – Good choice if you want to make mostly 8- to 16-strand braids, animal leads, or if you know that you want to move on to braiding on the takadai. <http://braidershand.com/bulk-85-gram-standard-tama/>
 - 100 grams – Excellent for firm work like bag handles, passementerie, and animal leads. <http://braidershand.com/bulk-100-gram-standard-tama/>

- Warping pegs/posts (Weavers can use their warping board.)
 - BraidersHand's pegs require two 4" C-clamps or (my preference) a pair of Irwin quick grip mini clamps - <https://www.lowes.com/pd/IRWIN-QUICK-GRIP-2-Pack-4-1-4-in-Micro-Handed-Bar-Clamp/1000235699>

- Schacht Spindle Co pegs include clamps. <https://www.yarnbarn-ks.com/Warping-Pegs-Schacht/productinfo/WA%2DWW%2DWB%2DS3/> or your local weaving supply shop
- Size 10 crochet cotton for making bobbin leads/ties
- Size 10 crochet cotton or weaver’s carpet warp for binding the warp
- Tapestry needle size 18, a variety pack that includes sizes 16, 18, and 20 is helpful.
- Small S-hook – ¾" or 1" max
- A counterbalance bag, approximately 5" x 5" with a drawstring, or:
 - Fabric for bag fabric: cotton quilting fabric or similar weight
 - Cotton twine from the hardware store or kitchen shop. Weavers may also like cotton or linen rug warp.
- Weights for the counterbalance – This varies according to the weight of your bobbins. Lead fishing weights are the easiest to use because of their high density. Look for round, teardrop or egg-shaped weights. Follow the chart across to find how many weights you need of each type. As an example, for 70 g bobbins they ran less than \$9, and for 100 g less than \$14 on:

<https://www.tackledirect.com/sportfish-egg-sinker.html#>

Bobbin Weight	8 oz	4 oz	2 oz	1 oz
70 g	2	1	1	2
85 g	3	1	2	3
100 g	3	1	3	4

Yarn: Please watch Part 2 – Yarns for additional information or choose from the yarns below. The following yarns are easiest for beginners and make beautiful braids:

- Cottons: Embroidery floss, #8 embroidery pearl cotton, mercerized knitting cotton in worsted or DK weight, or weaver’s 10/2 pearl cotton. (*For the #8 and 10/2 cotton and embroidery floss, you will need to wind several ends onto each bobbin.
- Wools: Persian needlepoint yarn, worsted or DK weight knitting yarn, or needlepoint tapestry
- Jagerspun Zephyr Wool/Silk, a favorite of weavers makes beautiful braids.(See * above.)