

Priscilla's Special Service Sheet — No. 30

BASKETRY

REED or rattan imported from East Indies is the material used. It comes in different sizes numbering from 1 to 12. Numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5 are most commonly used.

Before working soak the reeds from five to ten minutes in lukewarm water to make them pliant.

TOOLS. — Sloyd knife or penknife, pliers, awl, and a large tin dishpan.

FUNDAMENTAL WEAVES

I. PAIRING. — Place two weavers behind two consecutive spokes. Each time, carry the weaver to the left, in front of one spoke, and back of one, allowing it to cross on top of the weaver to the right.

II. JAPANESE WEAVE. — One weaver. Carry weaver in front of two spokes and back of one. This cannot be used in baskets where the number of spokes may be divided by three.

DOUBLE JAPANESE WEAVE. — Place two weavers behind the same spoke and carry them as one, in front of two spokes and back of one.

III. TRIPLE WEAVE. — Place three weavers back of three consecutive spokes, and beginning with weaver at left, bring each weaver in front of two spokes and back of one, allowing each weaver to cross on top of the two weavers to the right.

IV. UNDER AND OVER. — With an odd number of spokes use one weaver; with an even number, use two weavers, one behind and one in front of the same spoke, and weave alternately with each in front of one spoke and back of one.

A **COIL** may consist of three, four, or five weavers. It is always reversed, but not always locked.

THREE-ROD COIL. — The weavers are carried around as in triple weave, and stop behind the initial spoke (the first spoke). At this point to reverse the weaving, carry the *right* hand weaver in front of two spokes and back of next, then carry the next weaver in front of two and back of next, and so on. Now the three

weavers are in back of spokes 1, 2, and 3. In reversing a coil you reverse the weaving.

To **LOCK THE COIL.** — Pull the beginning weaver that is the right hand weaver, towards right, place the ending weaver, that is, the left hand weaver, between this and the spoke, and pull to outside of basket. Repeat with the other weavers in coil, and then clip off front and back ends.

V. FOUR-ROD COIL. — Like triple weave, except that four weavers are placed back of four consecutive spokes, and each weaver brought in turn in front of three spokes and back of one.

FIVE-ROD COILS. — Five weavers are placed back of five consecutive spokes, and each weaver brought in turn in front of four spokes and back of one.

VI. FOUR-ROD ARROW. — As it requires two rows to complete the arrow, each weaver should measure a trifle over the circumference of the basket. Make first row same as Four-rod Coil and stop before the initial spoke marked I on "sampler." Spokes to the right beginning with the initial spoke are marked 1, 2, 3, 4, and the spokes to the left are marked A, B, C, D.

To reverse the weave. — Carry weaver back of D, in front of spokes 1, 2, 3, and back of 4. The weaver back of C passes in front of D, 1, and 2, and back of 3. Weaver back of B passes in front of C, D, 1, and back of 2. Weaver back of A passes in front of B, C, D, and back of 1.

In next row each weaver in turn, as it passes in front of two spokes, is carried under the weavers to the right, instead of over them as in first row. This makes weavers of second row converge with weavers of first at each spoke. Continue this weave around basket until initial spoke is reached. To finish and lock arrow; end first weaver back of spoke 1. Pass second weaver to the left, in front of three spokes, under two remaining weavers to the right, also under first spoke of second row of arrow and end back of spoke 2. Pass third weaver in front of three spokes and one remaining weaver, under the two weavers which compose first and second strokes of second row of arrow, and end back of spoke 3. Pass fourth weaver

in front of 1, 2, 3, and under the three former weavers, in front of 4, and end back of spoke 4.

A **STROKE.** — This is the distance you carry your weaver in one movement (either front or back of spoke).

THREE-ROD ARROW. — Like Four-rod arrow only three weavers are used instead of four. First round same as Triple Weave.

TWO PLY WEAVE. — Four weavers are placed behind four consecutive spokes, and each in turn is carried over two spokes and back of two spokes.

BELLFONTE WEAVE. — One weaver. In front of one and back of three. This weaver can be used in baskets where the number of spokes when divided by four will leave a remainder of two, (i. e., 18, 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, etc.). This weave is used usually when the spokes are very close together, or where pairs of spokes have been used as one. Every other spoke is left out of the weaving on the outside of the basket, and after an inch or two of this weave, the spokes that are left out are usually picked up again, by a four-rod arrow or coil.

MENDING. — The insertion of a new weaver to continue the weave when the previous weaver has ended.

Mending Over and Under, Pairing and Bellfante Weave. — Allow short weaver to end behind a spoke. Clip off about ¼ inch to the right of the spoke. Place the new weaver on top of the old weaver back of the same spoke, and continue weaving.

Mending Japanese weave, Triple weave, and Two Ply weave. — Allow the short weaver to end behind a spoke and trim the weaver on the right side of spoke. Insert the new weaver down in the weaving on the right hand side of the spoke to the left of the mending spoke. Carry this new weaver back of the mending spoke, on top of the short end and to the outside of the basket and continue to weave.

INDIAN CENTRE (Fig. 3). — Sixteen spokes of required length, and 2 spokes half this length. Divide the 16 spokes into groups of four. The first group is held vertically, the second group horizontally, and the third group diagonally from right to left *under* the other two groups, and the fourth group diagonally from left to right *under* the others. A fine weaver, No 1, is inserted under the lower left diagonal group and carried over one group and under the next for three rows. Insert the two short spokes in the centre of the upper vertical group and for a very short distance through to the opposite side. Continue weaving over one and under one, separating groups into pairs. The short ends of the extra spokes are not considered as a pair on the opposite side but are carried in with the other spokes until finally lost in the weaving.

SIMPLE BRAIDED BORDER (Fig. 4). — This requires four rows of weaving and the diagram showing rows I-IV gives clearly the way each row of the braided border is made.

STAINING

Reed may be dyed or stained with household dyes before weaving, but usually baskets are stained after completing and are singed when quite damp. Besides the regular stains one may use tube oil paints in small amounts diluted very thin with turpentine. For variegated effects apply two or more colors while the paint is still wet letting the colors run into each other. When dry go over with liquid wax, then polish.

When using stains which do not contain varnish, add a finishing coat of shellac.

Fig. 1. Detail of weaves —

- I. Pairing.
- II. Japanese Weave.
- III. Triple Weave.
- IV. Under and Over Weave.
- V. Four-rod Coil or Weave.
- VI. Four-rod Arrow

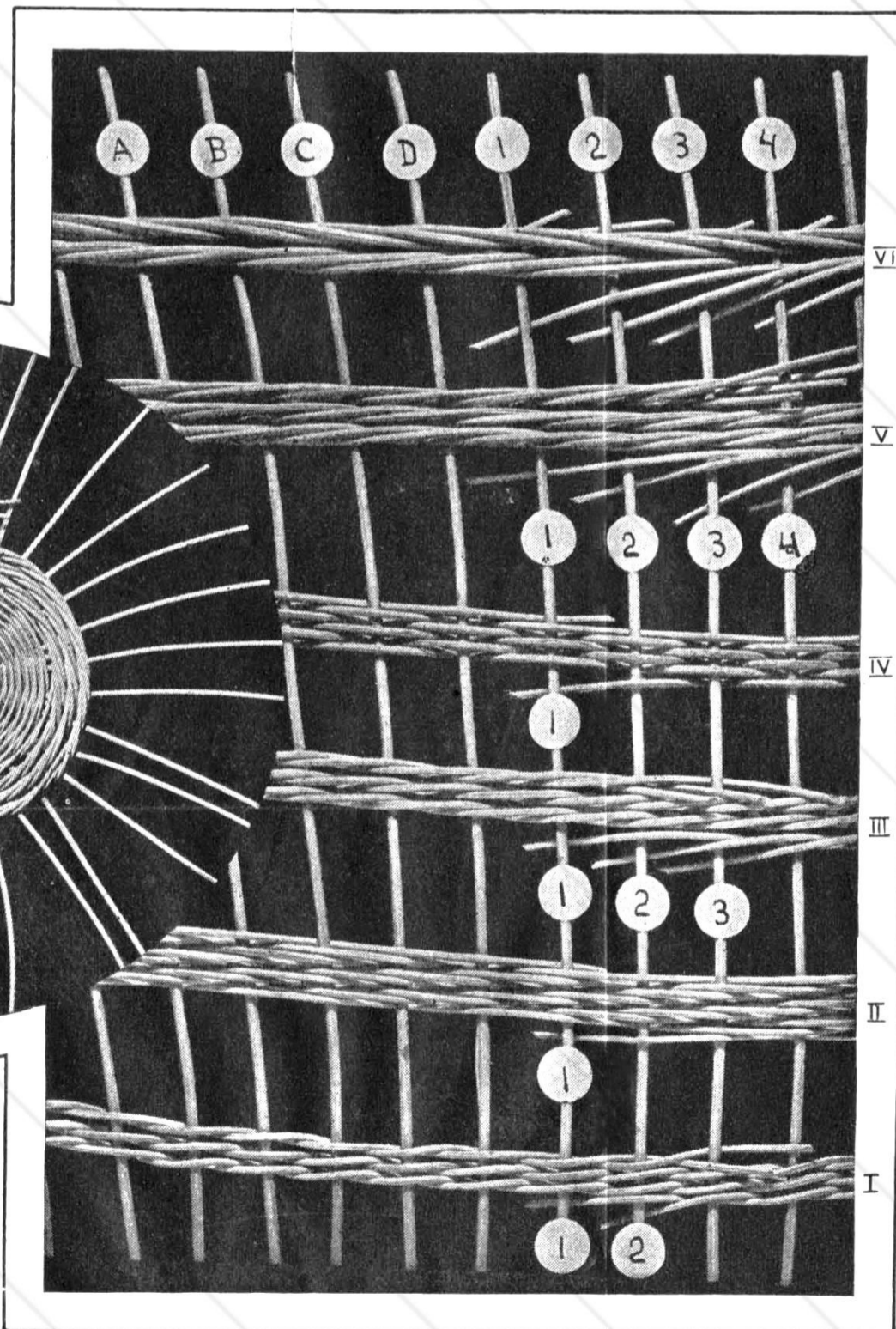


Fig. 1. Detail of Fundamental Weaves.

Fig. 2. Detail of a four-spoked base showing Button, two inches of Japanese Weave, and three rows of four-rod Coil or Weave, 32 bispokes are inserted one on each side of the original spokes.

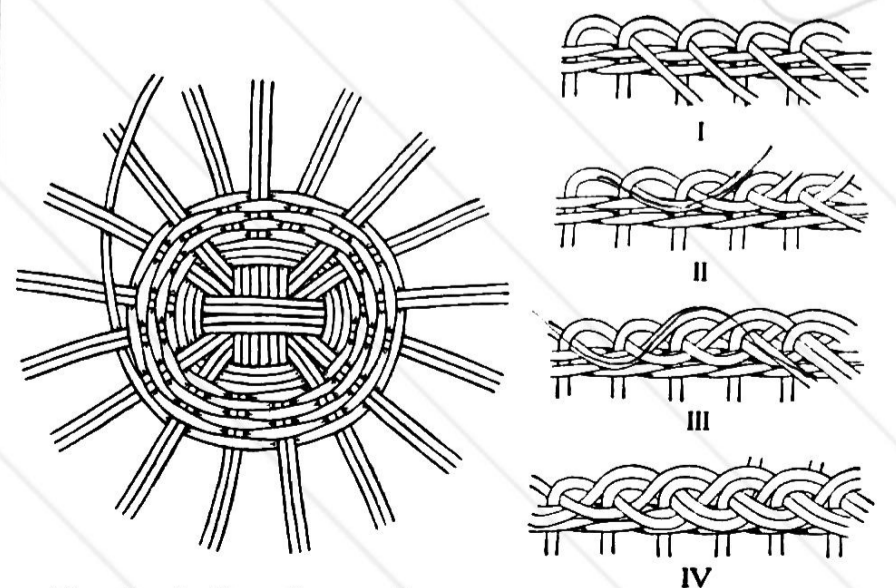


Fig. 3. Indian Centre Base.

Fig. 4. Simple Braided Border.

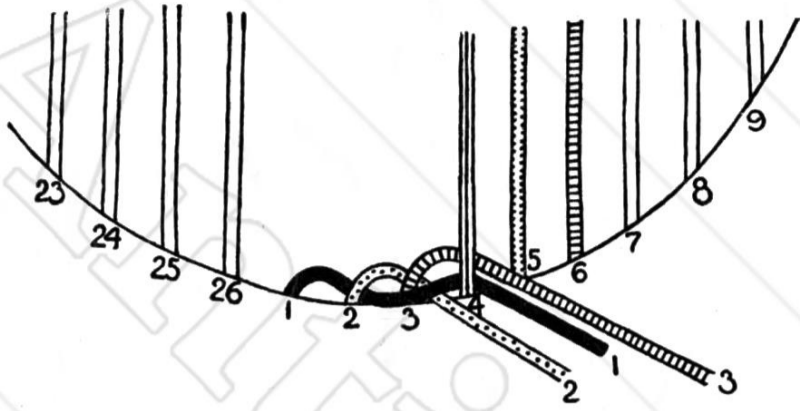


Fig. 5. Commencing Commercial Border.

COMMERCIAL BORDER (Figs. 5-11). — This may be made with single spokes, or with pairs of spokes used as one spoke. Wet spokes and crush them close to weaving. Number your spokes to correspond to numbers in illustrations.

FIGURE 5 (a). — Select any spoke (No. 1), carry it back of next spoke to the right, and out. Do same with No. 2 spoke.

(b). — Carry the first laid down spoke No. 1, in front of standing spoke No. 3, across laid-down spoke No. 2, and back of standing spoke 4, to outside of basket. Hold the laid-down spokes No. 1 and 2 with left hand, and with right bring standing spoke No. 3 back of spoke 4. Now there are three laid-down spokes.

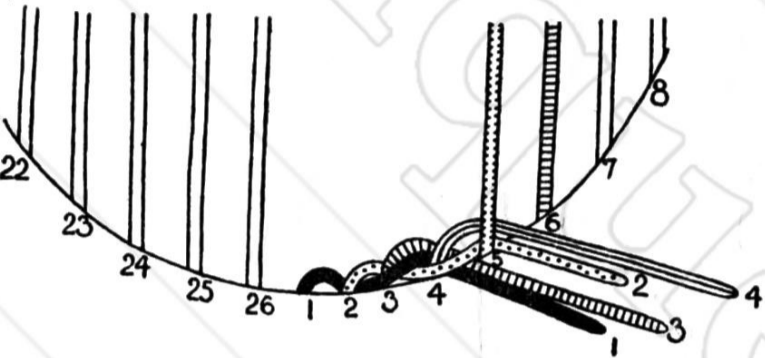


Fig. 6. Second Position of Spokes.

FIGURE 6. — Carry the single laid-down spoke No. 2 in front of spoke No. 4, across 1 and 3, back of 5, and outside of basket. Bring No. 4, back of 5, to outside parallel with No. 2. There are now two double sets of laid-down spokes.

FIGURE 7. — Carry spoke No. 3 in front of No. 5, across No. 2 and 4, back of No. 6 and out.

Carry standing spoke No. 5 back of 6, out, parallel with it. Bring No. 4 in front of standing spoke No. 6, back of No. 7, out. Carry standing spoke No. 6 back of 7 parallel with it. There are now two single laid-down spokes and two double sets of laid-down spokes. Continue in this way around the basket, each time carrying the right spoke of the left pair in front of first standing spoke to the right across a double set of laid-down spokes, back of next standing spoke and out. Lay the first standing spoke parallel with it.

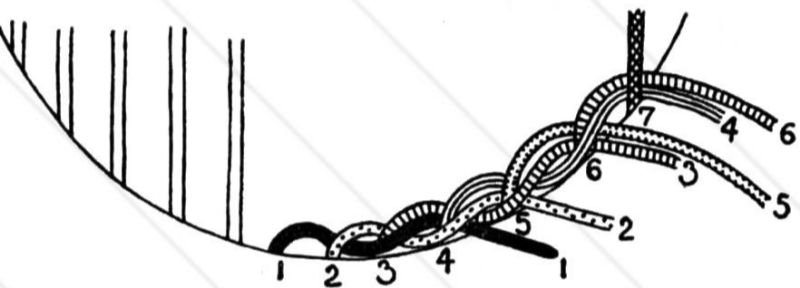


Fig. 7. Two double sets of laid down Spokes.

FIGURE 8. — Completion of the first row of border. When the beginning of the border is reached and only one standing spoke remains, carry the longer laid-down spoke No. 24 in front of the last standing spoke No. 26, across the last set of double spokes, Nos. 23 and 25, and back of No. 1 and out. Carry the last standing spoke No. 26, back of No. 1, under it, then outside parallel with spoke No. 24. There are now two double sets of spokes on the outside of basket, Nos. 23 and 25, and Nos. 24 and 26.

FIGURE 9. — The right hand spoke of each set is carried in turn in front of the spokes to the right (which is now a laid-down spoke) and back of the next laid-down spoke to the outside of basket.

NOTE. — Be careful to have these spokes parallel with the already laid-down spokes and not cross them. Carry No. 25 in front of No. 1, across the last double set of laid-down spokes Nos. 24 and 26, with the winding awl push spoke No. 1 away from No. 2, and carry No. 25 in and back of No. 2, and to the outside.

FIGURE 10. — Carry spoke No. 26 in front of No. 2, across the two spokes Nos. 25 and 1 which pass back of spoke No. 2, and with the winding awl push spoke No. 2 away from No. 3, and bring outside so that it lies parallel with spoke No. 2, but does not cross it. This completes the first row of border, but to make it more effective and stronger we carry these spokes to the outside of the basket.

FIGURE 11. — Bring each spoke in turn in front of one spoke to the right and back of a second spoke to the inside of basket, making it lie parallel and in front of the two spokes already passing back of this second spoke.

Trim the spokes that are carried inside with a slanting cut.

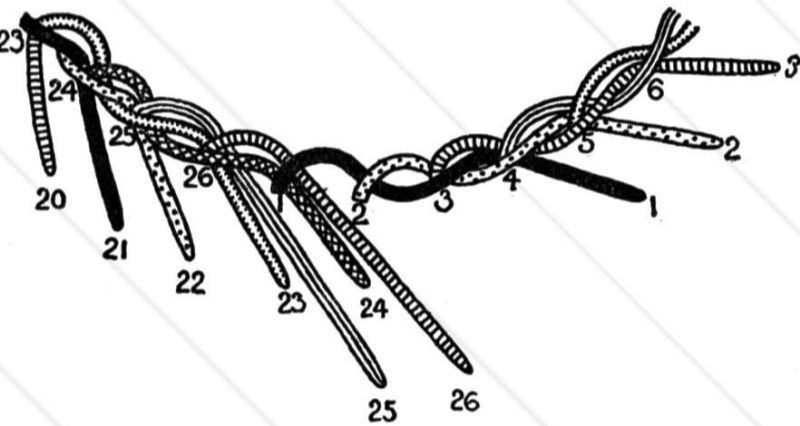


Fig. 8. The last standing spoke has now been laid down.

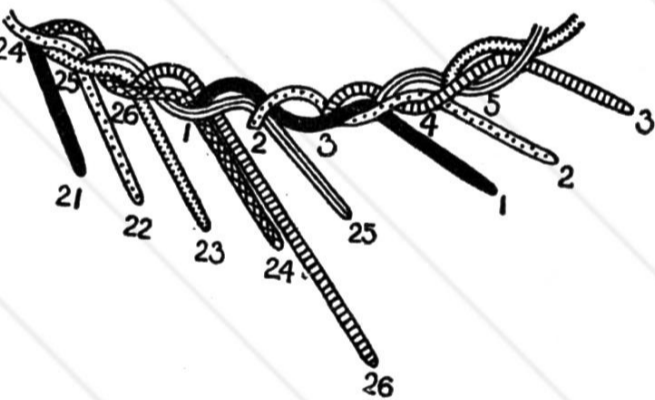


Fig. 9.

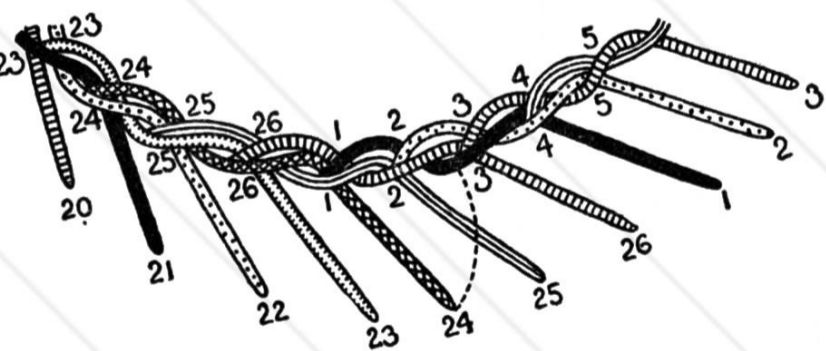


Fig. 10. First row of Border completed.

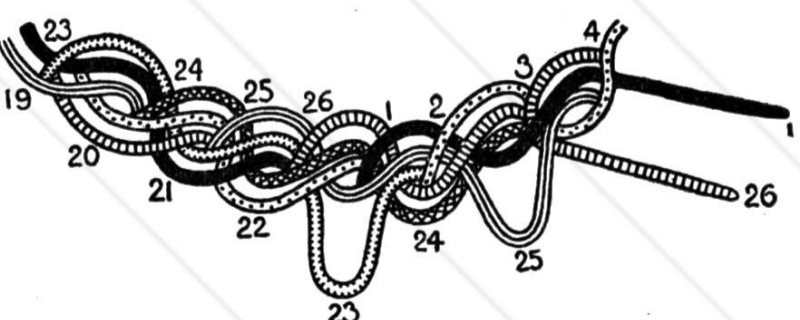


Fig. 11. Last row completing Border.

FLAT PLAITED BORDER. — Figures 12-15. Spokes should be at least 13 inches before starting border and they should not be more than 1/2 or 3/4 inch apart. Soak spokes and crush close to weaving.

Start at any place on the basket by turning down three spokes to the outside (Fig. 12). Hold spokes 2 and 3 (counting spokes from left to right), down with the left hand and bring spoke No. 1 in a curve over spokes 2 and 3 between the first 2 upright spokes, 4 and 5. Spoke 1 should curve loosely over spokes 2 and 3.

Next spoke 4 is brought down sharply over spoke 1 to the outside of the basket. Now spoke 1 is down and to the inside of basket and spokes 2, 3, and 4 are down and to the outside.

Now bring spoke 2 in a loose curve over spokes 3 and 4 and between upright spokes 5 and 6 to the inside of basket. Spoke 5 is turned down sharply to the outside of the basket over spoke 2. Spoke 3 is then brought over spokes 4 and 5 in a loose curve and between upright spokes 6 and 7 to the inside of basket. Spoke 1 is next carried from the inside to the outside of basket over spokes 2 and 3 and between upright spokes 6 and 7.

Bring spoke 6 down to outside over spoke 3 and along side of spoke 1. (See Fig. 13.) From here on the spokes will be in pairs. Bring spoke 4 over spokes 5 and 6 and 1 and between the next two upright spokes 7 and 8. Spoke 2 from the inside is then brought over spokes 3 and 4 and between upright spokes 7 and 8 to the outside. Spoke 7, the first upright spoke, is brought down to the outside over spoke 4 and alongside spoke 2.

The process of braiding from now on is as follows: Take the first spoke that is down on the outside and bring it to the inside between the first two upright spokes, place the first spoke that is down on the inside, then turn the first upright spoke down beside it. (See Fig. 13.)

Continue in this way, and when the double spokes are reached they are used together as one spoke both inside and outside the basket. When the triple spokes are reached, the two longer spokes are used as one spoke and the short spoke is left to be cut off after border is completed. The first spoke to be dropped will be spoke 1 and this spoke will end behind spoke 11, and from here on when a new spoke is picked up an old one (the shortest) is dropped. This process is continued until the last upright spoke has been turned down.

TO CONNECT UP THE BORDER. — When the last spoke is turned down there will be 2 sets of double spokes on the inside, and 3 sets of triple spokes on the outside of basket. Pass the two longer spokes of the first set of triple spokes under spoke 1. Then pass the two longer spokes of the second set of triple spokes over spoke 1 and under spoke 2. Next take the 2 longer spokes of the third triple set and pass them over spokes 1 and 2 and under spoke 3. Now you have 5 sets of double spokes on the inside. (See Fig. 14.)

Pass the first set of double spokes alongside and under spoke 1 to the outside. Pass the second set of double spokes alongside and under spoke 2 and continue with the remaining 3 sets of double spokes in like manner, passing each set alongside of and under its respective spoke.

There are now 5 sets of double spokes on the outside of basket. Pass the longer spoke of each pair alongside of the single spoke already in place in the border. These spokes are then passed from the inside alongside the spokes already in the border with which they pair and to the outside. The border is now complete, except it is now necessary to clip off the ends of the spokes close up under the border.



Fig. 12. Commencing Flat Plaited Border.



Fig. 13. Second position of Spokes in Flat Plait Border.

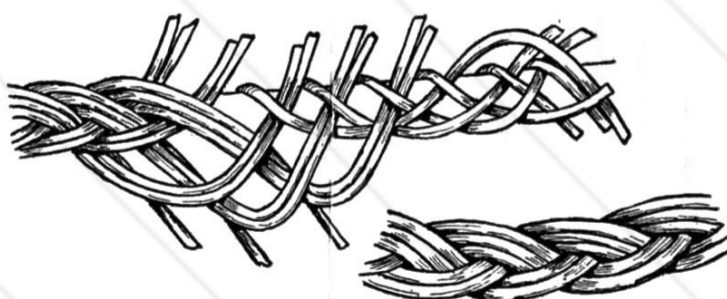


Fig. 14. Flat Plait border in progress with portion of finished Border.



Fig. 15. Flat Plait Border finished.