

16. BASKETRY

This is the art/practice of making baskets by interweaving strips of flexible material such as cane, palm leaves, straw etc.

Materials and tools for Basketry

Palm leaves	Weaving needles
Grass	Bamboo
Cane	Sharp knife
Straws	Pair of scissors
Creepers	

Uses Of Baskets/ Basketry

- For Ritual purposes
- For storage purposes
- For carrying purposes
- For filtering purposes
- For trapping game

TECHNIQUES OF BASKETRY.

1. Twining

Twining is the technique of weaving that uses two elements of weaver at the same time. One element goes behind the spoke, the other in front of it, with a twist in between. It is a weave done with two elements woven simultaneously around the spokes.

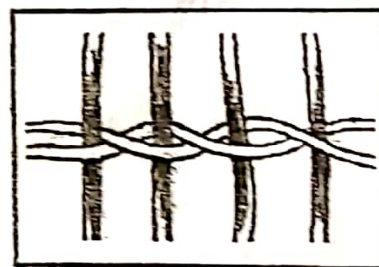


Fig (a) Twining

2. Wickerwork

In this method, the artist uses a stiff material such as cane as an inflexible warp and a more flexible material for weft.

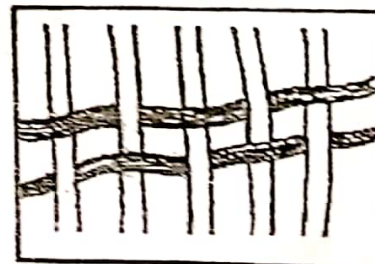


Fig (b) Wicker work

3. Coiling

In this method, a bundle of strands or rods are stitched into a spiralling oval or round form with a thin flexible element.

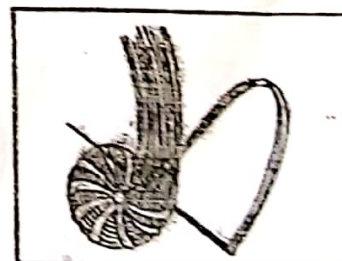


Fig (c) Coiling

Steps followed in Coiling

1. Collect suitable grass or material to use
2. Arrange it into a coil
3. Wrap one end with raffia/ banana leaves.
4. Form a base with a wrapped end of the coil by spiralling it.
5. Sew it to ensure that you attach it to the already made coils.
6. As the coil becomes shorter, add more grass, wrapping it and carefully sewing it onto other coils.
7. Use narrow coils as you end to reduce on the circumference of the basket.

4. Plaiting/ Braiding

This is where palm leaf strands or any other simple materials are plaited/ woven to make a form. Long strips are usually plaited and later joined together to make a basket.

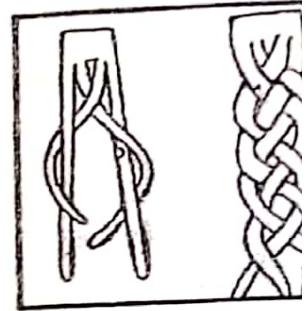


Fig (d) Braiding

Basketry terms to note;

(a) Weaver;

These are the basket strands that weave through the spokes; they are lighter, thinner and more flexible than the spokes, to enable them to be woven in and out;

(b) Spoke

These are the strands that stand upright and form the side supports of the basket; they are much stiffer and strong than the weavers.

