

THE MODERN BASKET MAKER

BY MARY WHITE.

PART II.

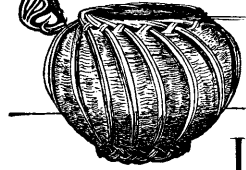


FIG. 15.

IN order to accustom herself to the handling of extra spokes needed for larger baskets the basket maker weaves a mat which forms the top of a

DOLL'S TEA TABLE.

Materials: Six 22-inch spokes of No. 3 rattan; one 12-inch spoke of No. 3 rattan; one weaver of No. 2 rattan; a small piece of fine wire; raffia; a knitting-needle.

Two groups of spokes, one of three and the other of three and a half, are crossed in the centre and woven into a mat, which, when it is three and a half inches in diameter, is bound off. Each spoke is brought across the next one and pressed down beside the next as in Open Border No. 2, except that the long end is not cut off, but brought out between the fourth and fifth rows of weaving on the under side of the mat. The border is drawn closely in. The long ends of the spokes (which are to form the legs of the table) are brought together and bound with a piece of fine wire, just under the centre. They are then separated into three groups of four each. The odd spoke is either cut off or whittled very thin and bound in with one of the three groups. A strand of raffia, either double or single, is now started at the top of one of the groups and wound tightly around until it has covered the desired length. At the end a half hitch, or one button-hole stitch, is made to keep the raffia from slipping and it is wound up again to the top. After the other legs have been covered in this way, the raffia is brought in and out between them where they separate. It is then tied and the ends cut close. Finally the spokes at the end of each leg are cut to a uniform length, and slanting, so that the table will stand firmly.

SMALL BASKET WITH TWISTED HANDLE.

Materials: Basket—Six 16-inch spokes of No. 4 rattan; one 9-inch spoke of No. 4 rattan; two weavers of No. 2 rattan. Handle—one 12-inch spoke of No. 4 rattan; one weaver of No. 2 rattan; a knitting-needle.

Six spokes and a half are started and woven into a centre. When it is two inches in diameter the spokes are wet and bent upward and woven with flaring sides. Two weavers are used, and then the basket is bound off.

Border—In the first row each spoke is brought back of the spoke to the right of it and out. In the second row each spoke is brought back of the next one to the right and out, making a roll on the edge of the basket. The ends, which are outside, are cut slanting, just long enough for each to rest on the spoke ahead.

Handle (see Fig. 12)—The knitting-needle is run down beside a spoke and then drawn out, leaving room to insert an end of the 12-inch spoke, which should be pressed down at least an inch below the top of the basket. The other end of the spoke is inserted in the same way beside a spoke exactly opposite. This makes the foundation handle. The end of a pliable weaver is now inserted under the third row from the top of the basket, to the left of the foundation handle, and run up between the weaving. This weaver is twisted around the handle with twists about an inch and a half apart. At the opposite side of the basket it is pushed in, under the third row of weaving from the top, on one side of the handle and brought out again on the other side of the handle three rows from the top, making a loop inside. The weaver is then laid close beside the first twist, and follows it across to the opposite side, where it goes in under the third row on the left of the handle and comes out on the right. Each row of twisting must follow close beside the last, and six rows should cover the spoke. The weaver is fastened off by bringing it inside the basket, then out across a spoke and inside again where it is cut short.

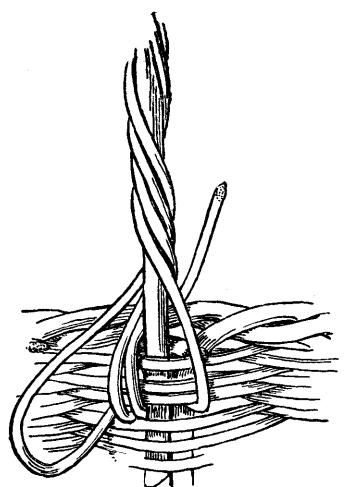


FIG. 12.

COVERED WORK BASKET.

Materials: Basket—Sixteen 34-inch pieces of No. 3 rattan; thirty-two 18-inch pieces of No. 3 rattan; about twelve weavers of No. 3 rattan; two weavers of No. 4 rattan; two weavers of No. 3 green rattan. Cover and Fastenings—Sixteen 24-inch pieces of No. 3 rattan; thirty-two 11-inch pieces of No. 3 rattan; about nine weavers of No. 3 rattan; two weavers of No. 3 green rattan.

The 34-inch pieces of No. 3 rattan are arranged in groups of four, the first group vertically, the second crossing it horizontally, the third diagonally from right to left, and the fourth diagonally from left to right (see Fig. 12). A single weaver is started by laying the end over the group to the left of the vertical group, over the next, under the next, and so on, until it comes around to the vertical group again. It is brought around four times in this way (see Fig. 13). The groups are now separated into twos, and the weaver is brought

over the left-hand pair of the upper vertical group, under the pair on the right, and so on until it comes around again.

When four rows have been made the weaver passes under two groups. From now on this must be done at the beginning of every new row, to make the weave come right. When the bottom of the basket is six inches in diameter extra spokes are inserted, one on either side of a group, making four in each group. These are separated into pairs. When the bottom is eight inches in diameter flaring sides are woven for about an inch and a quarter. A row of triple twist in No. 4 is followed by three rows of double weaving in green rattan, drawn in slightly. Another row of No. 4 in triple twist, and an inch and a quarter of under-and-over weaving drawn closely in complete the sides.

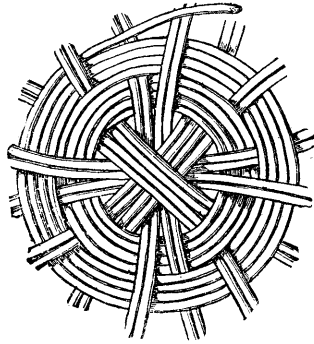


FIG. 13.

Border—First row : Each pair of spokes is brought back of the pair on the right and out. Second row : Each pair of ends is brought under the next pair, over the next and down, where they are cut when the border is finished. The cover is started and woven like the bottom of the basket. Extra spokes are inserted, and when it is seven inches in diameter four rows of double weaving in green, followed by half an inch of under-and-over weaving in the natural color, finish it. Each spoke is brought under the next spoke on the right, over the next, under the next, over the next and in.

Hinge and Fastening—Having chosen the best place for the hinge on basket and cover, an end of a piece of No. 3 rattan about a foot long, which has been wet until pliable, is inserted at the right of a spoke to fasten it securely. It is woven under and over two or three spokes to the last two rows of weaving at the left of a spoke. It is brought down inside and across to the right of the spoke in the cover, where it is pressed inside and down to the place where it started on the basket. Here it is woven under and over several spokes till it is firmly attached. The front fastening is formed of two rings, also made of No. 3 rattan (see Fig. 14). The ring on the cover should be smaller than the one on the basket so that it may slip through it. In attaching the one on the cover, the ends are pushed inside the basket between the border and the last row of weaving, and woven under and over two or three spokes until the ring is secure. The ring on the basket is fastened in the same way, between the seventh and eighth rows of weaving from the top.

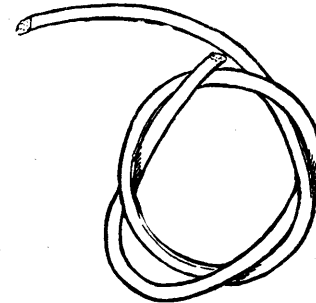


FIG. 14.

CANDY BASKET OF RATTAN WITH A BAND OF COLOR.

Materials : Ten 20-inch spokes of No. 4 rattan; one 11-inch spoke of No. 4 rattan; five weavers of No. 2 rattan; two weavers of No. 2 colored rattan.

Two groups of spokes, one of five and the other of five and a half, are crossed in the centre and bound around three times with No. 2 rattan which is woven in under-and-over weaving into a flat bottom about six and a quarter inches in diameter. The spokes are wet thoroughly and turned up, rounding them gradually. After about a quarter of an inch has been woven up the sides, two colored weavers are woven into four rows of double weaving, which are drawn in slightly toward the top; three rows of under-and-over weaving in No. 2 rattan are also slightly drawn in, and then the top is bound off and finished with this border. Each spoke is brought in front of the next one on the right, back of the next, in front of the next and in. They are cut slanting, just long enough to allow each to lie across the spoke in front of it.

SCRAP BASKET OF RATTAN IN GREEN AND THE NATURAL COLOR.

Materials : Sixteen 66-inch pieces of No. 4 rattan; thirty-two 30-inch pieces of No. 4 rattan; about forty-five weavers of No. 4 rattan; a knitting-needle.

An effective scrap basket, as shown in the initial Fig. 15, on page 423, is made as follows : Sixteen spokes are arranged as in Fig. 13. A centre eight inches in diameter is made. Here extra spokes are inserted, one on each side of every group. The groups are separated into twos and the basket shaped as nearly round as possible.

At the widest point, the circumference should be thirty-eight inches; from there it is gradually drawn in until the diameter of the top is about ten and a half inches.

At this point the basket is stained a pale green, with wood stain, just to the edge of the weaving, leaving the long spokes in the natural color. Two weavers are also stained. When the stain is dry the the spokes are wet until pliable.

Each group of spokes is brought over the next two groups on the right, back of the third group and outside. Next, each group is brought down to the bottom of the basket on the outside, about where the extra spokes were inserted, and in front of the next spoke to the one it last went behind, where it is drawn through two rows of weaving to hold it in place. These outside groups should be left quite loose.

The basket is next turned upside down and two rows of under-and-over weaving in green rattan make part of a base; the end of each group is then brought under the next end to the right, over the next and pressed down inside, completing the base.

(To be continued.)