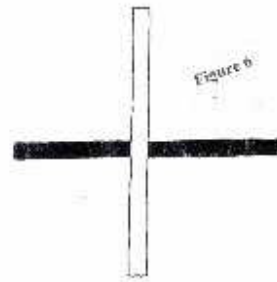
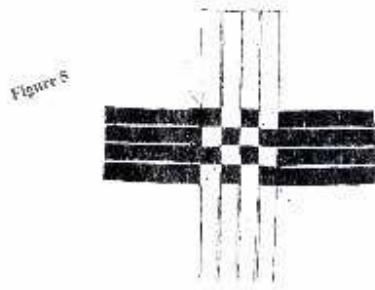
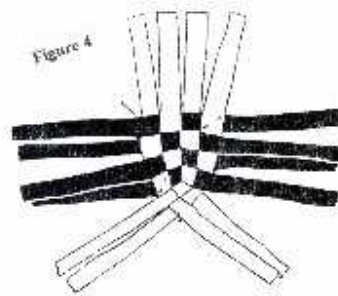
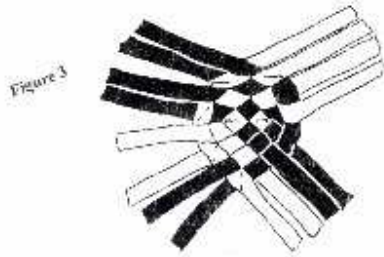
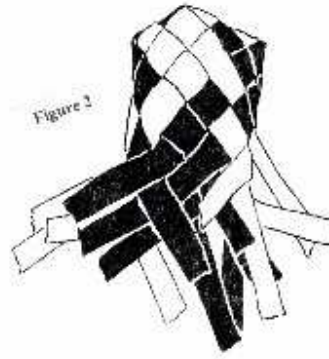


SINGLE LAYER PLAITED (BRAIDED) BASKET

By Elaine Schanzer, Westchester-Rockland Branch



MATERIALS:

- 3 large sheets of newspaper
- straight pins
- magic marker (or a bottle of ink and a brush)
- scissors, if desired

METHOD:

1. Take 3 sheets of paper and, using a yardstick as a guide, tear 8 bands, each 3 inches wide. Four bands should be black and four should be plain newsprint. The newsprint can be painted black with either a brush and ink or with a marker.
2. Fold all bands in half lengthwise. Then take one black and one plain and cross them at the center.
3. Take the other 6 bands and weave or plait. Place straight pins in each of the 4 corners.
4. Take the top four vertical bands and, with the right-of-center band, begin weaving one over, one under, as shown. Secure the top point with a straight pin.
5. Continue forming the corners, moving around the piece from right to left. As you weave, you will see that each of the corners is formed in the center of the four flat-plaited bands. As each corner is formed, the elements automatically plait up the side of the shape in a diagonal form. The arrows in Figure 4 indicate the two corners already formed as well as the two corners yet to be plaited.
6. Continue plaiting until there are least three diamonds formed above each of the four corners.
7. To finish the basket in a saw-tooth edge pattern, fold one left element back over the next element on the right side. Fold the right over the left and plait each band down into the appropriate slot to secure the edges.
8. Once all the edges are secure, remove all the pins.