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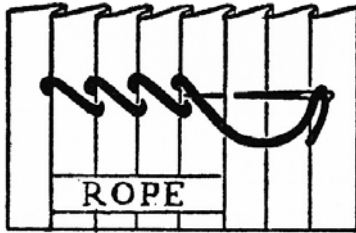
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THE COUNTRYWOMAN'S YEAR

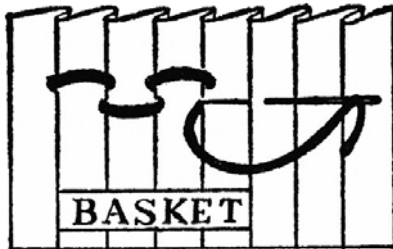
Smocking Stitches. In the old traditional smocks, there were usually three basic smocking stitches used on the tubings:

- (1) Rope (2) Basket (3) Chevron



Rope stitch is similar to the embroidery stitch known as stem stitch, and is worked in a straight line across the tubings from left to right. The needle is inserted at right angles to the tubings, a small amount of material on the top of each tubing is picked up on the needle and the thread is held, either always below the needle or always above the needle. If two rows are worked closely together with the thread above the needle in the first row and below the needle in the second row (or vice versa), the finished result resembles a chain.

Basket stitch is worked in exactly the same way as rope stitch but the thread is held alternately above and below the needle for each consecutive stitch. When two rows are worked together a basket weave is formed.



LOCAL SKILLS

No two Corn Dollies are alike and in this lies their charm. In the older types, made quickly on the field, the corn stalks were often left unadorned and the whole effect is more individual and less finished than the elaborate ornamental examples made at leisure in the inn or barn.

Three Plait (Cat Foot)

It is important that the angles shown in the figures are maintained. The position of 'B' in Fig. 1 shows the line along which the plait must be built.

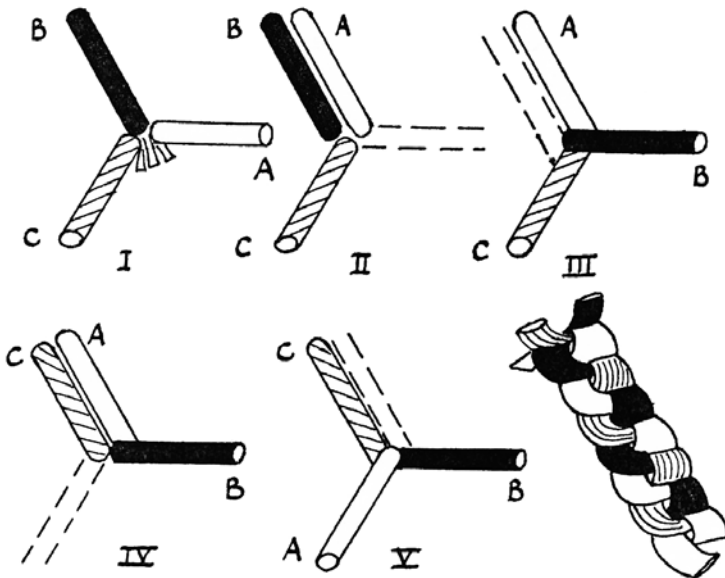
Fig. 2. Fold 'A' alongside 'B'.

Fig. 3. Fold 'B' over to take 'A's' original place.

Fig. 4. Fold 'C' alongside 'A'.

Fig. 5. Fold 'A' over to take 'C's' original place.

These four movements are repeated throughout.





PICKLES AND CHUTNEYS

A pickle is made of fruit or vegetable suitably prepared and then preserved by the addition of sweetened or unsweetened spiced vinegar. Pickles may be clear, sweet, mixed or crisp according to the type and method of preparation.

A chutney is a preserve made of fruits such as apples, gooseberries, plums, ripe or green tomatoes, to which are added onions, garlic, raisins, dates, salt, sugar and spices according to taste and variety. Vinegar is added and with the salt and spices acts as the preserving agent.

Equipment

To avoid a metallic flavour when making any preserve containing vinegar, pans and utensils must be made of enamel, monel metal or stainless steel.