

TERMINOLOGY USED BY CATALAN BASKET-MAKERS

Dolores Soriano

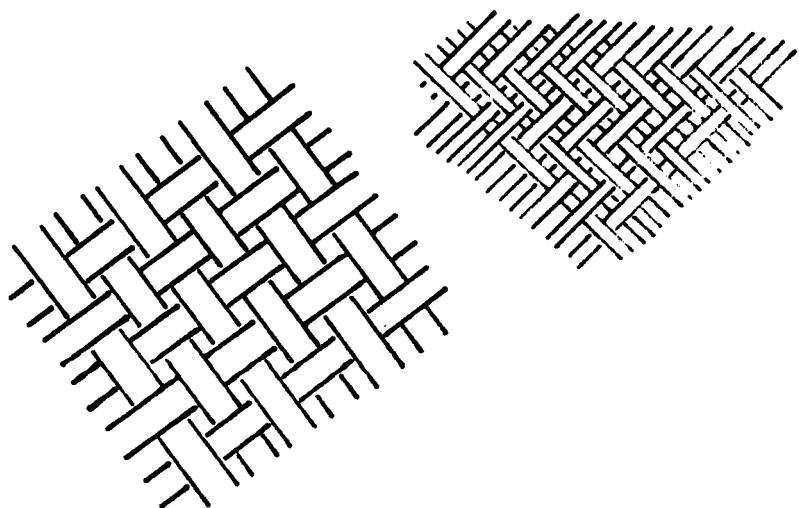
The Catalan terminology for basketry is different from the Spanish terminology. The Catalan, unlike the Spanish has one special name for each part of the basket.

This terminology was collected from the Catalan basket-makers all around Catalonia, in different fields of basket work, during the years 1978, 1979 and 1980. The terminology and the techniques used now by the Catalan basket-makers are shown in this report.

1. TECHNIQUES OF BASKETRY USED BY CATALAN BASKET-MAKERS.

1. Woven Technique ("Tecnica Teixida").

- 1.1. Diagonal braiding of two directions ("Diagonal de dues direccions").
Or twilled work.

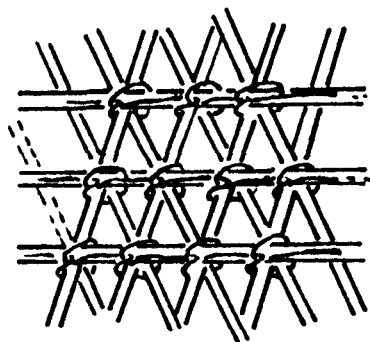


In this technique each element of the weft passes over one, two or more warp elements. Both warp and weft strands are brought together in pairs and one twined about the other.

Use: to make the plaited strand of alfalfa and palmetto

Geographical localization: Marseme (Tordera), Baix Ebre (Els Reguers, Benifallet, Alfara dels Ports), Baix Empordà (Torroella de Montgri) and Monsià (Màs de Barberans).

1.2. Diagonal weave of three directions: triangular weave ("Diagonal composta de tres direccions").



The warp is made by a pair of rods, knotted to a hoop of iron with a nylon thread. Each pair is spread at a 45° angle: The one on the right runs downwards and the left upwards. One rod goes up spirally to the hoop of iron and

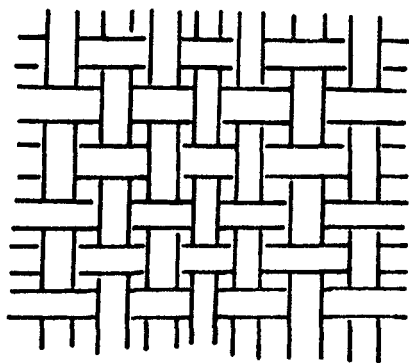
is tied to the rest of the warp with a nylon thread, forming a series of triangular structures.

Use: the baskets made with myrtle, rush and cane are used for fishing: basket of fish ("gambines"), lobster-pot ("nansa," "cistella de peix").

Geographical localization: Alt Empordà (Sant Pere Pescador), Baix Empordà (Calella de Palafrugell, Tamatiu) and La Selva (Blanes).

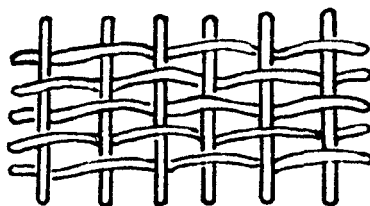
1.3. Right angled interlacing:
plain weave ("Teixit perpendicular:
teixit pla").

1.3.1. Simple ("Simple").

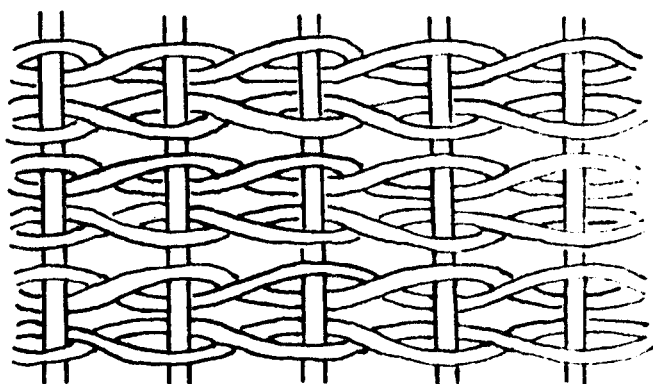


1.3.2. Wicker weave ("En encanyissat").

1.3.2.1. Simple ("Simple").



1.3.2.2. Fitching ("Doble o escatorcer" in Igualada. Anoia).

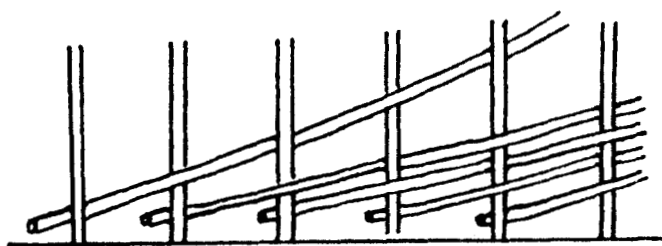


Use: the plain weave, and specially the wicker weave, is the weave most used in the Catalan basketry for all kinds of baskets made of willow and cane: Baskets used for vegetables, potatoes, etc., ("coves"), snail baskets ("cargolera"), hand baskets, generally ("cistelles"), pigeon nest-baskets ("niu de coloms"), etc.

Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Manresa, Moia, Sallent, Santpedor), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Vallès Oriental (Granollers, Castellterçol, Les Franqueses del Vallès), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui, Sabadell), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès, Vic), Maresme (Calella,

Premia de Mar. Vilassar de Mar), Barcelonès (Barcelona, Badalona), Alt Emporà (Figueres), Gironès (Banyoles). La Selva (Amer. Arbúcies., Santa Coloma de Farners), Ripollès (Campdevàrol), Berguedà (Berga, Puigreig.) Alt Urgell (Peramola), Sosonès (Solsona), Urgell (Tàrraga), Pallars Jussa (Tàlarn, La Pobla de Segur), Segrià (Lleida).

1.3.3. French randing. "Teixit a mans."



Each rod is laid in to the left of the previous one. This is repeated over and under adjacent vertical stakes with each rod until it is worked out.

It is called "teixit a mans" because the weave produced by each rod has the width of one hand or one span (8 inches).

Use: used in baskets made of willow like snail baskets ("cargoleres"), fish baskets ("cove de peix"), pheasant nest baskets ("niu de faisans"), and crates ("paners").

Geographical localizations: Barcelonès (Barcelona, Badalona), La Selva (Amer), Anoia (Calaf).

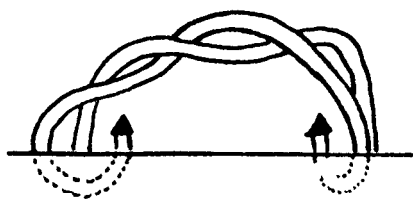
2. \ ROPED TECHNIQUE WITHOUT FRAMEWORK ("TÈCNICA CARGOLADA SENSE ARMADURA").

2.1. Of three strands ("De tres ramals")

Use: in the handles made of willow.

Geographical localization: Berguedà (Berga, Puig-reig), Vallès Occidental (Castellterçol, Granollers), Bages (Moià).

2.2. Of two strands ("De dos ramals").



The strand that is left off behind the border is crossed twice with the other of the border. Then the end of the two strands is passed through the border

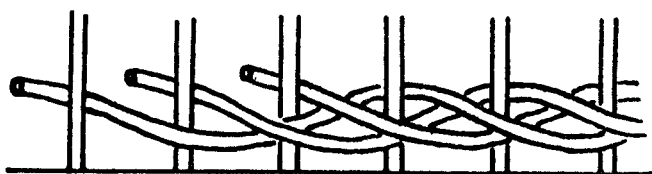
with the special tool called "la canal" and is returned to the body of the basket. It is twisted once more until the handle is finished.

Use: in handles and borders made of willow.

Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Manresa, Sallent), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès) Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui, Sabadell), Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), Barcelonès (Badalona, Barcelona), Gironès (Banyoles), Urgell (Tàrrrega), Segrià (Lleida, Pallars (Jussà (Talarn)).

3. ROPED TECHNIQUE WITH FRAMEWORK ("TECNICA CARGOLADA AMB ARMADURA".

3.1. Of three strands (De tres ramales").
Three-strand twining.



Use: in the upsetting, "remoli."
Geographical localization: Anoia

(Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Manresa, Moià, Santpedor, Sallent), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Vallès Oriental (Castellterçol, Granollers, Les Fraqueses del Vallès), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui Sabadell), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès, Vic) Maresme (Calella, Vilassar de Mar), Barcelonès (Badalona, Barcelona), Alt Empordà (Figueres), Gironès (Banyoles), La Selva (Amer, Arbúcies, Santa Coloma der Farners), Ripollès (Campdevàrol). Berguedà (Berga, Puig-reig); Alt Urgell (Peramola, Solsonès (Solsona, Urgell (Tàrrrega, Pallars Jussà (Tallarn), Segrià (Lleida).

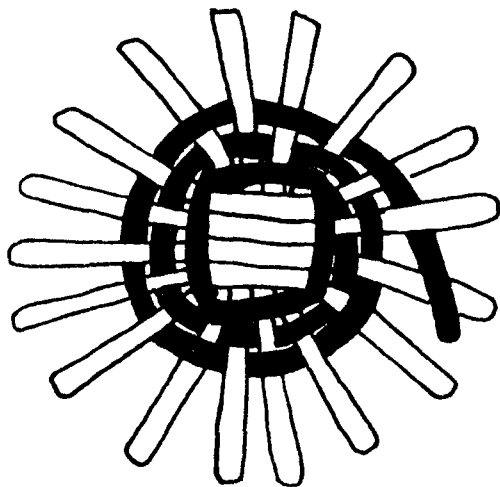
II. BASES ("CULS").

1. Cross base ("Cul de creu").

White or black willow.

There are two kinds of cross base:

1.1. The base in which two pairs of willow rods cross another two pairs of willow rods at right angles:



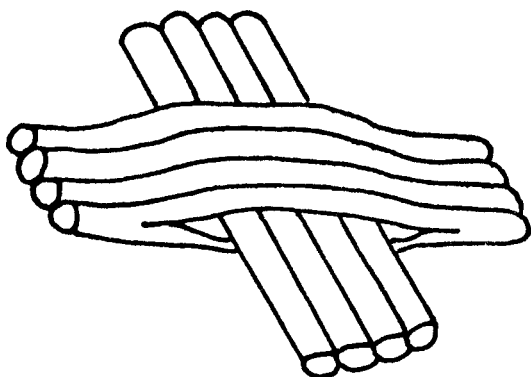
Use: in baskets ("coves").

Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Barcelonès (Barcelona), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui), Vallès Oriental (Berga, Puig-reig), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners), Solsonès (Solsona).

Variation of the term:

Ass base ("cul de ruc"): Tàrrrega (Urgell) and Tremp (Pallars Jussà). But it is called the same in other areas of the Segrià district.

1.2. A number of rods are pierced at their center with a knife and another set of rods are put through them at right angles.



Use: in baskets ("coves", snail baskets ("cargoleres"), tripe baskets ("triperes"), baskets in general ("cistelles").

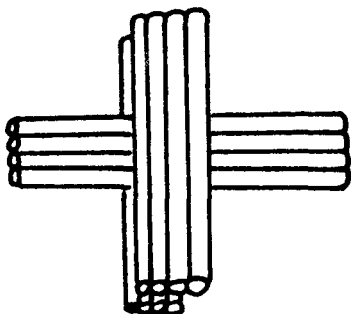
Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Barcelonès (Barcelona,

Badalona), Berguedà (Puig-reig, Berga), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui), Bages (Palà de Torroella), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners, Arbúcies), Solsonès (Solsona), Alt Penèdes (Vilafranca del Penedès).

Variation of the term:

Round base ("cul rodó"): Bages (Manresa, Sallent), La Selva (Amer), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès), Barcelonès (Barcelona).

One variant is when the base is made of horizontal willow rods which are locked between two groups of vertical willow rods.



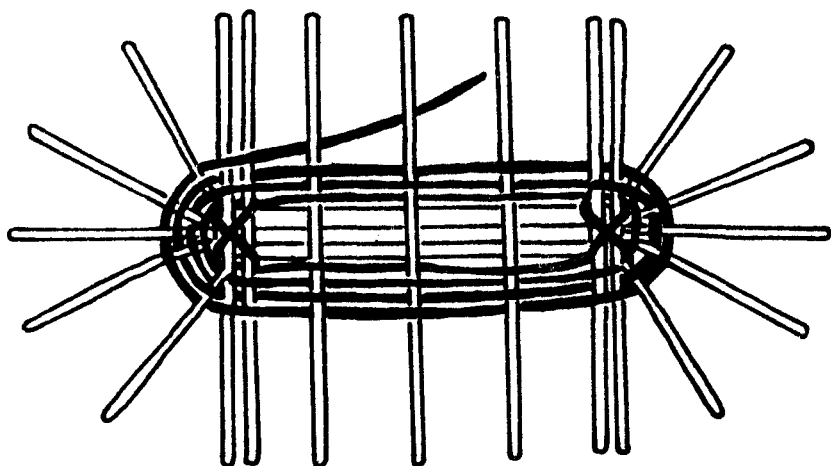
Use: baskets ("coves," "paneres").

Geographical localization: Barcelona (Barcelonès).

Oval base. "Cul de creu allargat:"

White or black willow.

Two or more horizontal rods and some transversal; then one begins to weave all around them.



Use: rabbit baskets ("conillers"), etc.

Geographical localization: Berguedà (Berga), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès), Vallès Oriental (Granollers), Barcelonès (Barcelona).

Variations of the term:

Cross base ("de creu): Vilassar de Mar (Maresme).

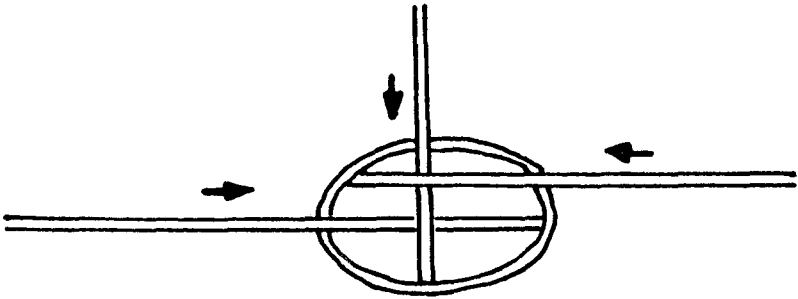
Oval base ("ovalat"): Barcelona (Barcelonès).

3. "Molar" base ("Cul de queixal").

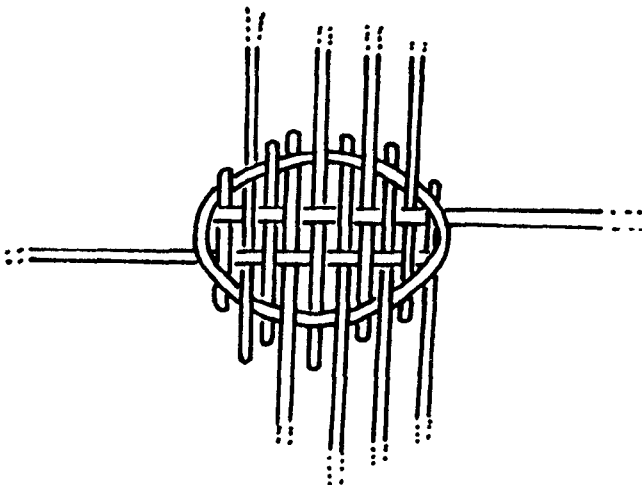
Black willow.

One makes a ring with one or two rods.

One puts one or more overthwarts on one side and one or more overthwarts on the other side, so that the top of the rods come up to the end of the ring.



Then one puts another rod in the middle of the ring and begins to weave in a wicker weave, making first one half of the ring and then the other half. One weaves with full willows and split willows alternatively.



Use: in baskets ("coves," "cistelles"), crates ("paneres"), etc.

Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf), Urgell (Tàrraga), Bages (Manresa, Sallent), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners), Alt Empordà (Figueres), Solsonès (Solsona), Bsrclones (Barcelona, Badalona), Berguedà (Puig-reig, Berga), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès), Vallès Oriental (Castellterçol), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès).

Variation of the term:

Ring base ("cul de rodantxa"): Vilassar de Maresme.

Long base ("cul llarg"): Amer (La Selva).

Lengthened base ("cul allargat"): Barcelona (Barcelonès).

Spike base, fish-bone base ("cul d'espiga"): Igualada (Anoi).

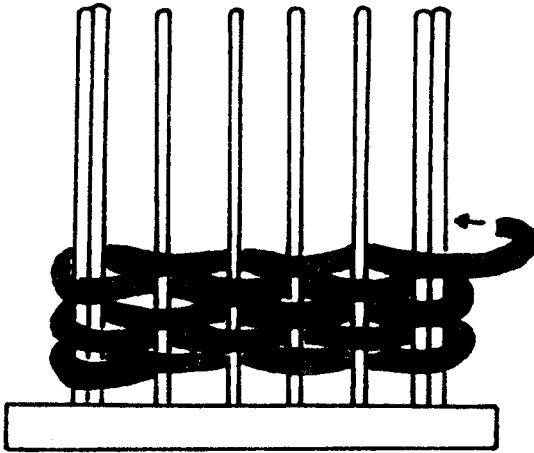
Round base ("cul rodo"): Peramola (Alt Urgell).

Normal base of peasant's crate basket ("cul normal de cove de pagès"): Arbúcies (La Selva).

4. Rectangular base, "cul quadrat."

White willow or cane.

The rods are put between two blocks of wood.



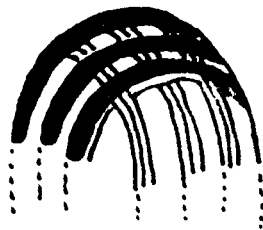
Use: drugstore or grocery basket ("Cistella de ca l'adroger"), carnation basket ("panera de clavells").

Geographical localization: Barcelonès (Barcelona). Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners).

5. The Square of the base, "el quadrat del cul."

Birch.

Base made by the stakes crossed in a right angle.



Use: panniers ("cartres").

Geographical localization: Roní (Pallars Sobirà) and Civís (Alt Urgell).

Terms connected with the base ("Termes relacionats amb el cul").

"Estromberes": The two first large willow rods that are put into the ring forming the handles in the molar base ("cul de queixal").

Geographical localization: Arbucies (La Selva).

"Reforç," backing: a split willow that involves the molar base ("Cul de queixal"), to back it before the upsetting ("remoli") is made.

Geographical localization: Peramola (Alt Urgell).

Variation of the term: binding base ("ribet del cul"): Amer (La Selva).

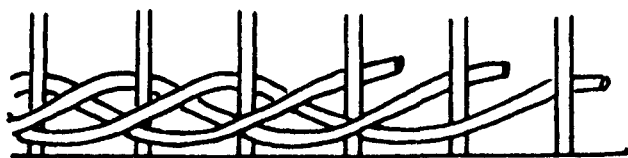
"Plegar el cul," staking up: When the base is finished, it is put to the ground and one puts a foot on it. Then one bends the rods of willow upwardly. With one hand one holds the willows up while the other hand grasps the willows and lifts them up. When all the rods are bent, they are tied together with a piece of willow.

Geographical localization: this type of work is made everywhere in connection with the molar base ("Cul de queixal"), but this verb is only used in Amer (La Selva).

III. UPSETTING ("REMOLI").

This is the part of the basket that directly

touches the ground (the rim of the base). It is made to back the basket and prevent its breaking. It is composed of three rods of willow put behind three stakes and each rod is worked in front of two stakes and behind one., with the roped technique, three-strand twining.



First one makes one upsetting ("remolf"), of three strands, and then, in most baskets, another is made of two strands, each of which is thinner and composed of different thin rod of willow.

Use: all the baskets made of willow and cane or only willow: pigeon nest basket ("niu de colomes"), turtle-dove basket ("niu de tórtors"), and large round weasel basket ("cistella per a la furs").

Geographical localization : Barcelonès (Badalona, Barcelona), Anoia (Calaf), Bages (Manresa, Palà de Torroella, Sallent), Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), Berguedà (Berga, Puig-reig), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès), Vallès Oriental (Castellterçol), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), La Selva (Arbúcies, Santa Coloma de Farners), Alt Empordà (Figueres), Solsonès

(Solsona), Alt Urgell (Peramola), Pallars Sobirà (Esterri d'Aneu).

Variation of the term:

String ("Bordo"): Tàrrega (Urgell) and Igualada (Anoia).

Binding ("ribet"): Amer (La Selva).

Terminology connected with the upsetting ("Terminologia relacionada amb el Remoli").

"Remolinar": a conjunction consisting of all the upsetting, ("remoli").

Geographical localization: Arbúcies (La Selva).

"Remolinar": to make an upsetting, ("remoli").

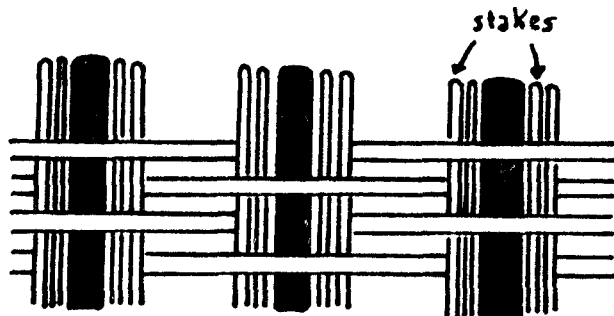
Geographical localization: Amer (La Selva).

"Anar cavallant" to go on horseback: to make the upsetting, ("remoli"). Because it passes behind and in front of, it comes up and down, it receives this expression.

Geographical localization: Igualada (Anoia).

IV. BYE-STAKES ("COSTELLES").

The bye-stakes are split rods of cane that are inserted by the side of the vertical stakes for additional strength of the basket.



The baskets that are made of willow, cane or hazel are made with bye-stakes.

Use: in baskets ("coves," "paners"), snail baskets ("cargoleres"), etc.

Geographical localization: in the places where one works with willow, cane and hazel.

Terminology connected with the bye-stakes ("Terminologia relacionada amb les costelles").

"Encostellar": to insert the bye-stakes into the basket.

Geographical localization: Puig-reig (Bergueda).

"Estampar," to stamp: the action of stamping the bye-stakes by the sides of the stakes, with the special tool named "la canal." There exists also the expression "to make beetling" ("fer l'estampacio").

Geographical localization: Puig-reig (Bergueda).

V. BAND ("FRANJA").

This is the stripe made with split willows, in order to strengthen the basket and avoid its deformation. It is composed of between four and eight draws or rounds. Generally the band occurs in the middle of the basket or at one inch of the border.

Use: in baskets ("coves"), straw baskets, rick baskets or dock baskets, (cove pallissaire, de pallar i per al moll"), peasant basket ("panereta de pagès," "panistres"), etc.

Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf), Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), Vallès Occidental

(Caldes de Montbui), Berguedà (Puig-reig), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners, Arbúcies), Solsonès (Solsona), Alt Urgell (Peramola).

VI. DRAW ("PASSADA").

The weave made with one split willow or cane from the start or place in which it is put, to the return point at the start. One complete circular movement.

VII. BORDERS ("VORES").

Roped border ("vora cargolada").

This is formed by three rods of willow that are inserted in the stakes, after cutting their large tops on the bias.

They are twisted around themselves and each one passes in front of two stakes and behind one. Gradually the stakes are incorporated to the strands.

When they arrive to the beginning more willows are added so that the whole border has the same thickness.

Use: baskets, hampers ("coves," "cistelles). etc.

Geographical localization: Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Manresa, Sallent), Barcelonès (Barcelona, Badalona), Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), La Selva (Arbúcies, Santa Coloma de Farners), Solsonès (Solsona), Alt Urgell (Peramola), Pallars Jussà (Talarn), Pallars Sobirà (Esterrri d'Aneu).

Variation of the term:

"roblegada": Amer (La Selva).
three-strand pairs plait ("trenada de tres ramals"): Puig-reig and Berga (Berguedà), Prats del Lluçanès (Bages),

Castellterçol (Vallès Occidental) and Arbúcies (La Selva).

This kind of border is the one most used in Catalonia.

2. Plait border ("vora trenada").

It is like a plait.

Use: very seldom used.

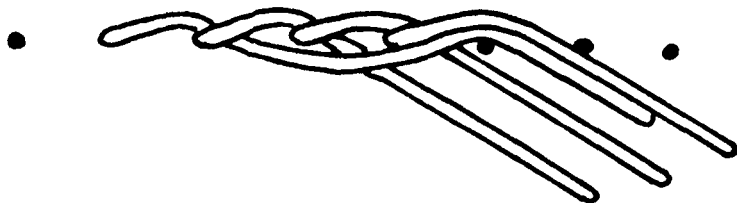
Geographical localization: Barcelonès (Barcelona), Bages (Manresa, Sallent), Alt Urgell (Peramola).

3. Plain border ("vora francesca o plana").

This can be made with five, four and three rods of willow. The rods must be cut on the bias before introducing them in the stakes.

Made of five rods, the border will become freer and sits more to the outside of the basket. The first rod passes behind the second and in front of the third; the second behind the third and in front of the fourth; the third behind the fourth and in front of the fifth and so on.

With four rods, the first passes behind two and in front



of one; the second behind two and in front of one; the third behind two and in front of one, and the fourth behind the fifth and all over again. The rods are joined with the stakes and twisted afterwards, they are cut. With three stakes the border is thinner. One repeats the operation but one leaves out one stake since one rod passes directly to the following stake: the first passes in front of two and behind one; the second in front of two and behind one and the third behind one. One returns to the beginning and the first that will be fourth, passes in front of two and behind one; the second (the fifth) behind one and the third behind two and in front of one. And thus the border is augmented.

Use: flask ("cove de la roba") basket for the electric iron ("panera de la planxa"), greens basket ("paner de verdures"), etc.

Geographical localization: Anoi (Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Manresa, Palà de Toruella, Sallent). Bergueda (Berga, Puig-reig), Osona (Prats del Lluçanès), Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), Barcelonès (Badalona, Barcelona), Vallès Occidental (Caldes de Montbui), La Selva (Arbúcies, Amer, Santa Coloma de Farners), Urgell (Tàrraga), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Solsonès (Solsona), Pallars Jussà (Trempt).

Variation of the term:

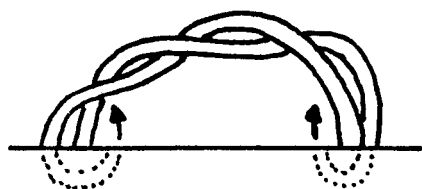
Thin border or plain border ("vora prima o francesa"): Peramola (Alt Urgell).

VIII. HANDLES ("NANSES").

1. Without bow ("sense ànima").

1.1. Roped ("cargolada").

The roped handle is used in the basket with roped border. When the border is made, one leaves off one stake formed by one or two rods of willow and continues the border approximately 10 cm. The stake that is being left out, is twisted and intercrossed with the first stake that has been twisted before. When it arrives at the other side, it is introduced into the border with the special tool *la canal* and continues to be twisted in the handle. When it arrives at the bottom of the handle, it is joined with the brand (the first brand) that was left off behind and one continues making the border.



Most handles are made with two brands because if they were made with three brands, they would draw too much.



Use: baskets ("coves," "cistelles"), etc.

Geographical localization: Barcelonès (Barcelona, Badalona), Maresme (Vilassar del Mar), Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Palà de Torroella, Manresa, Sallent), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Urgell (Tàrraga), Berguedà (Puig-reig), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners), Osona (Peramola), Solsonès (Solsona), Pallars Jussà (Talarn), Pallars Sobirà (Esterrí d'Aneu).

Variation of the term:

"roblegada": Amer (La Selva).

Plaited ("trenada"): Caldes de Montbui (Vallès Occidental), Castellterçol (Vallès Oriental), "Moià (Bages). Prats del Lluçanès (Osona) and Berga (Berguedà).

1.2. Stringed ("corada").

These are strams in baskets that have a plait border. The rods of willow are twisted very closed, like a spring, wreath.

Use: flask ("cova de la roba"), basket for the electric iron ("panera de la planxa"), etc.

Geographical localization: Barcelonès (Barcelona), Anoia (Calaf, Igualada), Bages (Manresa, Sallent), Alt Penedès (Vilafranca del Penedès), Urgell (Tàrraga), La Selva (Santa Coloma de Farners, Amer).

2. With bow ("amb ànima").

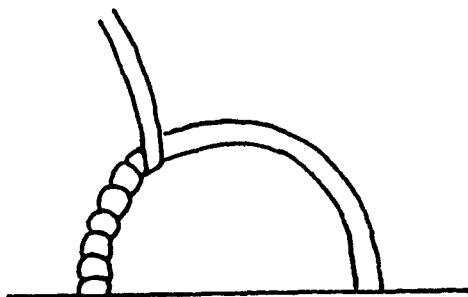
The bow ("l'ànima"), is a piece of large willow that is introduced by the sides of the stakes and covering

them, the rods are twisted to make the handle.

2.1. Stringed ("cordada").

It is the same as the handle without the bow but with bow.

Use: All kinds of baskets.



Geographical localization: Barcelonès (Barcelona), Bages (Manresa, Sallent), Maresme (Vilassar de Mar), Vallès Oriental Granollers, Urgell (Tàrrrega), La Selva (Arbúcies, Santa Coloma de Farners), Alt Empordà (Figueres).

IX. PICKING OFF ("POLIR LA PEÇA").

This is the last phase in the process of the work, that the basket-maker does.

It consists of cutting off the end of the rods of willow, cane and birch that are projecting out of the basket. The basket-maker does the picking off inside and outside the basket.