

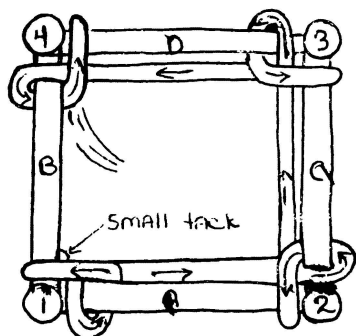
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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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CHAIR RESEATING with FIBER RUSH

Fiber rush is a material made from a very tough grade of paper twisted into a strand to resemble natural rush. It is prepared ready to use and is being used by many chair manufacturers. It is relatively easy to work with, but should be kept tightly twisted as the work progresses. It is available in brown and also brown with strands of green which is nearer the appearance of natural rush. It is available in different sizes, but 6/32" is the most popular size. About two pounds is needed for the average chair. DO NOT WET FIBER RUSH.

TRADITIONAL METHOD OF WEAVING THE SEAT



Square or Rectangular seat:

Roll off about 25 feet of cord into a bundle easy to handle. Tack the end of the cord underneath the left hand side rail near the post.

Carry the fiber over the top of the front rail, bringing the bundle up inside. Now carry the fiber over the left-hand side rail and again up inside.

Now take the fiber across to the right-hand side rail going over the rail and coming up inside. Proceed over and around the front rail, again bringing the fiber up through the center. Now across to the back rail.

Notice the procedure calls for always carrying the cord over the rail and up through the center, alternating going across the stool and back around the corner.

Continue going around until seat is filled in. On the second and all following times around, consider the fiber already in place as a part of the corner. Keep cord twisted and strands close together.

If side rails become filled before front and back rails, weave the remaining space by going over and around front rail, up through the center, over and around back rail, up through the center and repeat figure 8 until space is filled.

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The secret of good work with fiber lies in keeping the strands pushed together tightly as they go around the side rails. This may be done by tapping with a blunt screwdriver and hammer.

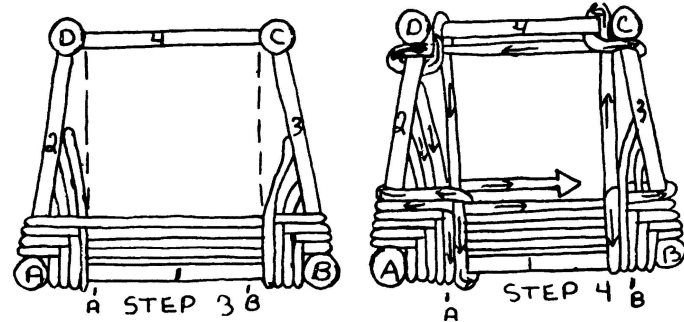
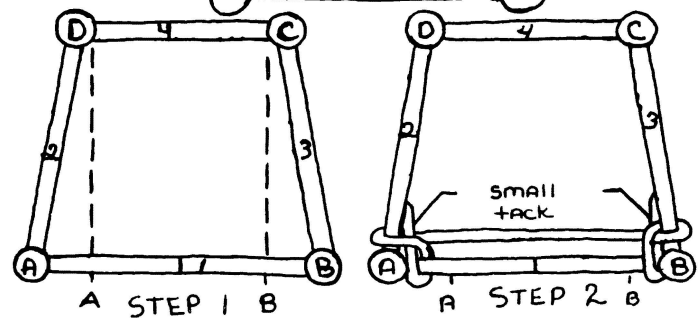
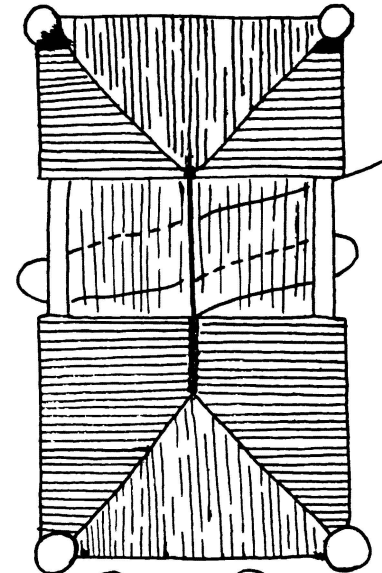
When a working bundle of fiber runs out additions are made by tying a square knot on the underside which may be concealed as the weaving proceeds.

An irregular seat:

If the front rail is longer than the back, measure both rails between the posts. Find the difference between the two and mark off half of this difference on the front rail from each post. For example if the back rail is 10" and the front 13" the difference is 3" and therefore 1-1/2" is marked off on each end of the front rail. (See Figure 3, Step 1).

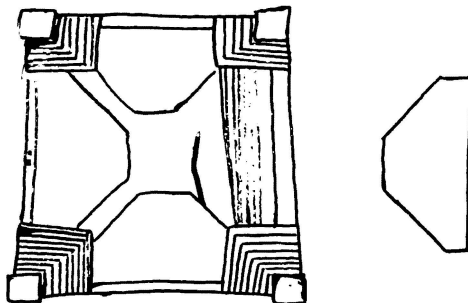
Begin as for square or rectangular seat proceeding to the right hand side rail and completing both front corners. Cut fiber and tack to side rail. (Figure 3, Step 2).

Continue this operation until the space on front rail has been filled from post to marking (Step 3) then proceed as in regular seat.

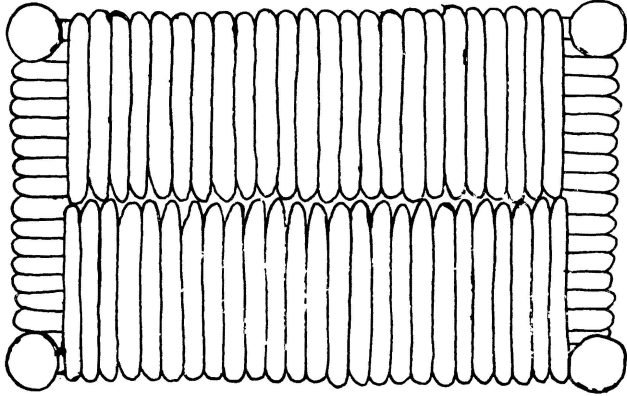


Padding:

Triangular pieces of heavy cardboard may be used to pad seats. Cut as in Figure 4 and insert after a few rounds of weaving have been completed. Brown paper bags may be torn and stuffed into the corners from the underside, using a blunt stick or heavy screwdriver.



Method No. 2



This method of weaving is considered by some to be easier than the conventional method.

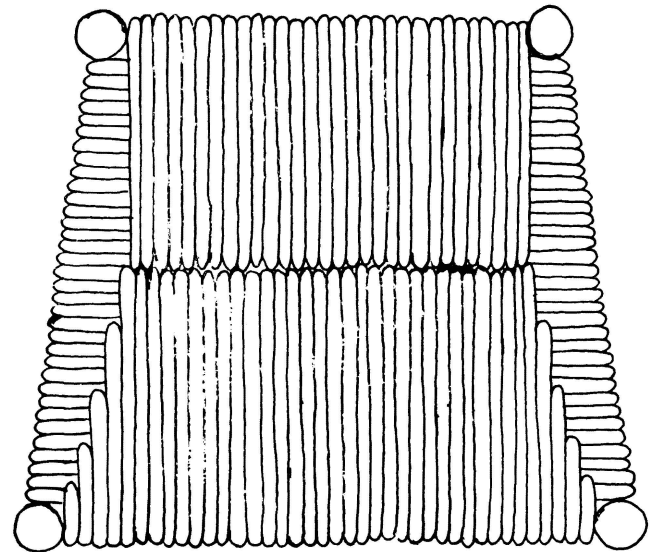
Start with about 25' of fiber. Begin by tacking fiber cord to underside of chair rail close to back post. Wrap sides completely. Cut and tack end of cord to underside of rail.

Count rows of weaving and find middle. Tack the end of the cord to the underside of the back rail. Bring cord up through the center, over and around the front rail, up through the center, over and around the front rail, up through the center, over and around the back rail, up through the center and repeat the figure 8 pattern until the front and back rail are filled.

center, over and around the back rail, up through the center and repeat the figure 8 pattern until the front and back rail are filled.

For irregular seat:

Measure and mark the front rail as directed for irregular seat under "Traditional Method". Wrap side rails first, then weave in the center section, leaving the front corners for the last step. Fill in these corners by weaving in stair step fashion, keeping the sides alike.



Finishing the Seat

Clear shellac or varnish may be used to give a protective finish to the fiber seat. Two or three coats should be applied before the seat is used. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly before a second coat is applied. DO NOT USE A PENETRATING FINISH.

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