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CANNING



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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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CANING

Many beautiful old cane chairs may have been discarded because of broken cane. These chairs can be restored and used in today's home. Weaving new cane seats or inserting cane webbing requires time and patience, but it is not a difficult job.

This bulletin includes information and directions for the following types of caning:

1. Hand woven cane seats for chairs or stools with small holes drilled through the frame.
2. Cane webbing or pressed cane that can be used for chairs, stools, cabinet doors, folding screens, etc. A groove is needed for this type of caning.

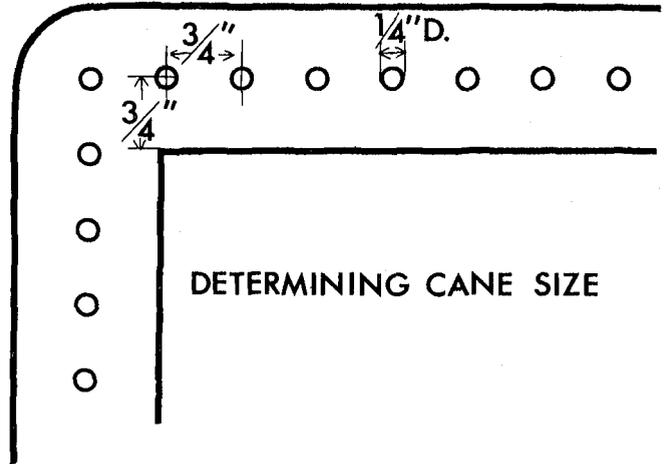
Cane is the outside part of rattan, a palm which is imported from India, China, and the Malay Peninsula. All cane is glossy on one side. The glossy side is the top or outside.

Hand Woven Seats

Cane is sold in bundles of approximately 1,000 feet. One hank will weave two to three average size seats. (For weaving chair seats cane is available in the following sizes: superfine, fine fine, fine, narrow medium, medium and common.) Binding cane is used to give a finished look to the chair seat. Binding cane may be purchased in narrow or wide widths.

The size of holes in the seat frame and the distance between holes determine the size of cane to use in weaving the seat. This table is a guide to use in determining size of cane needed.

| Diameter of Holes | Space Between Holes | Size of Cane |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 3/16 inch | 3/8 inch | superfine |
| 3/16 inch | 1/2 inch | fine-fine |
| 3/16 inch | 5/8 inch | fine |
| 1/4 inch | 3/4 inch | medium |
| 5/16 inch | 7/8 inch | common |



Equipment Needed

1. Chair or stool with holes.
2. Correct size cane.
3. Wooden pegs (about 15 to 20). There are regular pegs for caning; however, you can whittle your own, or use golf tees.
4. Icepick or awl.
5. Scissors.
6. Sponge.
7. Pan of hot water.
8. Old towel.

Preparation of Chair

1. Save a small piece of weaving cane and binding cane from the old seat to use in ordering new cane.
2. Remove old seat. Cut off close to wood. Keep this for a pattern.
3. Remove all cane from holes.
4. If furniture needs repairing and refinishing, complete that work before starting to cane.

Preparation of Cane

Pull one strand of cane from looped end of hank. To keep cane from tangling, never pull out more than one strand at a time. Shaking the hank of cane as you pull the strand will help keep cane from tangling.

Roll each strand (right side out) over your hand. Fasten by tying one end around the roll of cane, or use a clamp clothespin. SOAK cane in HOT water for about five minutes until it is soft and pliable. Keep two or three strands of cane soaking all the time you are caning.

Square, Round or Oblong Seats

Procedure

The following directions are for a square, round or oblong seat. Make adjustments for other shaped seats.

STEP I.

1. Begin in center back. Count holes and place a peg in the hole nearest the center back. In the same way, put a peg in the hole nearest the center front.

2. Remove center back peg and draw one end of cane through hole. Replace peg (Fig. 1). Leave 3 to 4 inches of cane below chair seat.

3. The right or glossy side of cane is drawn from back of seat across to front and down through center front hole. Place peg to hold cane in center front hole.

4. Work from center to right side of chair. Draw cane up through the next front hole to the right. Peg.

5. Carry cane to the back, front, back and so on in this way until right half of the chair is completed.

6. When a strand runs out, leave at least 3 to 4 inches of cane below seat. Peg. Begin another strand in next hole as you did in step 2 above.

NOTES:

- Keep glossy side of cane on top at all times.
- Do not permit cane to become twisted.
- Use sponge to keep damp the cane already woven.
- Do NOT draw cane too tightly. Cane tightens as it dries and as weaving progresses.
- **Never pass over a hole on the underside.**
- Keep all strands of cane on **top** of chair seat.
- To hold cane taut, keep pegs in holes with short ends of cane and in last hole through which cane is drawn.

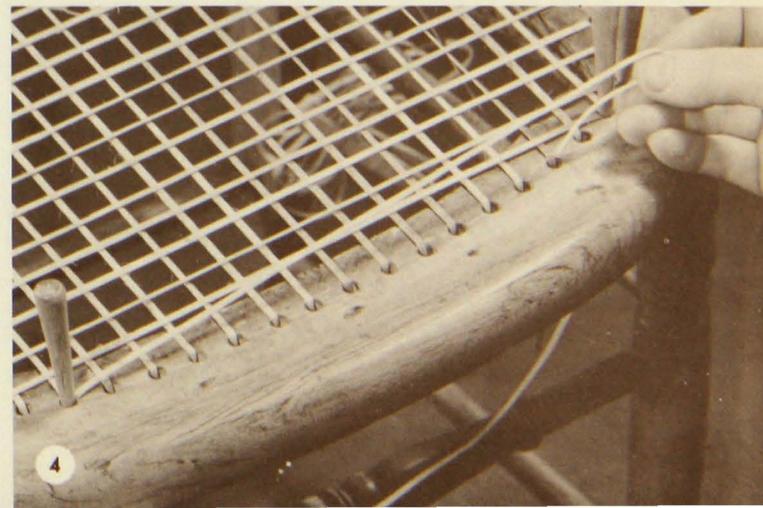
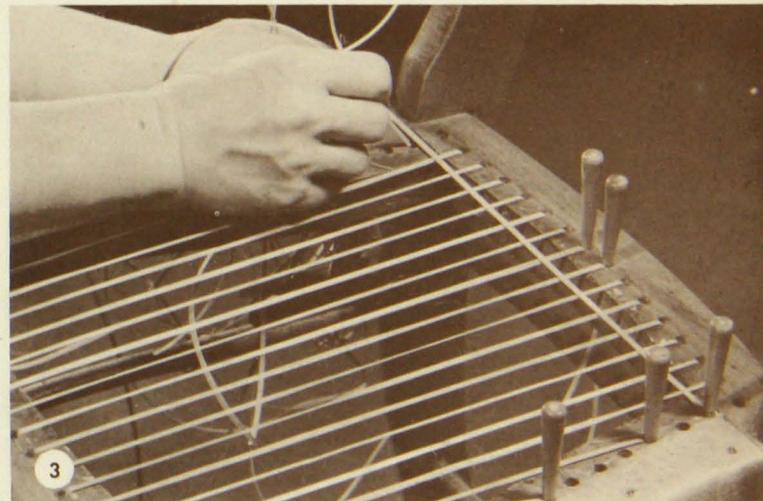
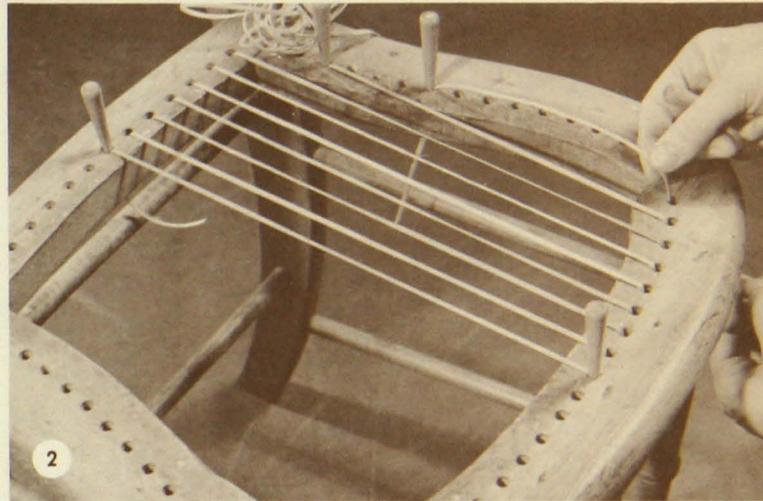
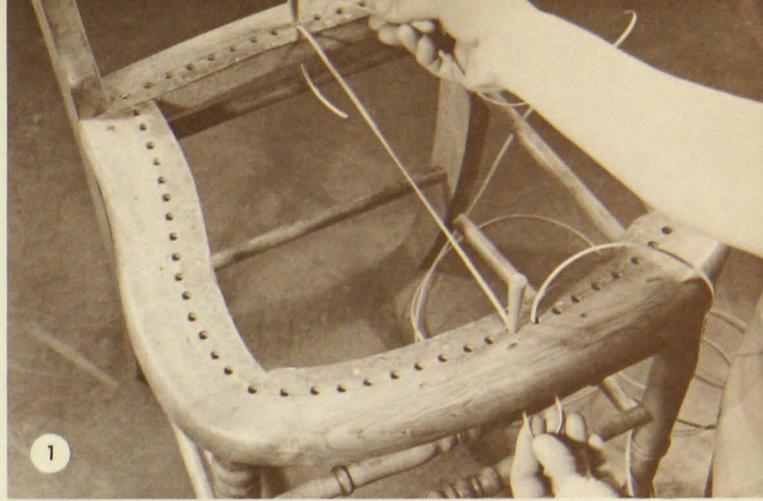
7. For seats wider at front than back, see Fig. 2. Skip enough holes on side so strands of cane will be parallel and equal distance apart. Remember, do not pass over and cover a hole on the underside.

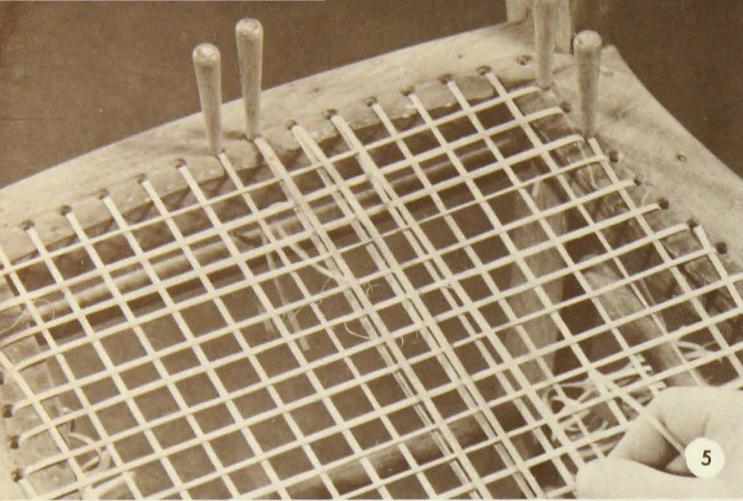
8. Complete left half of front seat in the same manner.

STEP II.

1. Start at back on right side as you face chair (Fig. 3). Start in side hole next to corner hole. For a round seat start in center of left side as you did in center back for Step I. Pull cane up through hole. Peg. Pull cane across seat **over** strands in Step I. Continue back and forth.

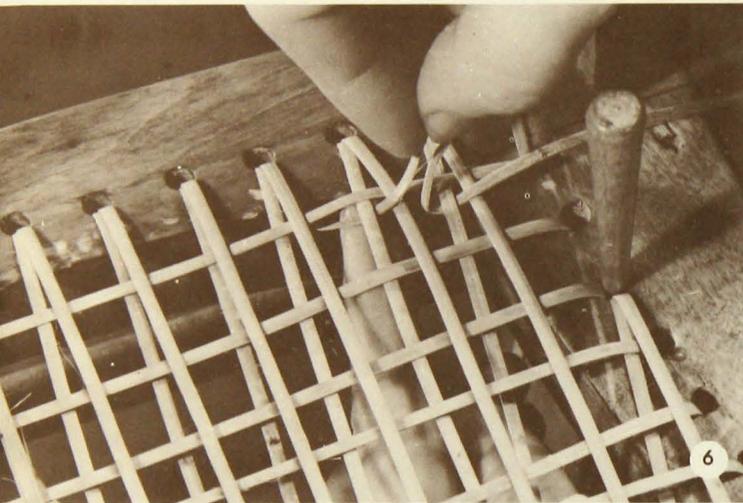
2. If front rail is curved (Fig. 4), weave with separate pieces of cane. Skip holes as needed so strands will be parallel and equal distance apart.





STEP III.

Repeat Step I. Pull cane from front to back over top of strands in Steps I and II (Fig. 5).



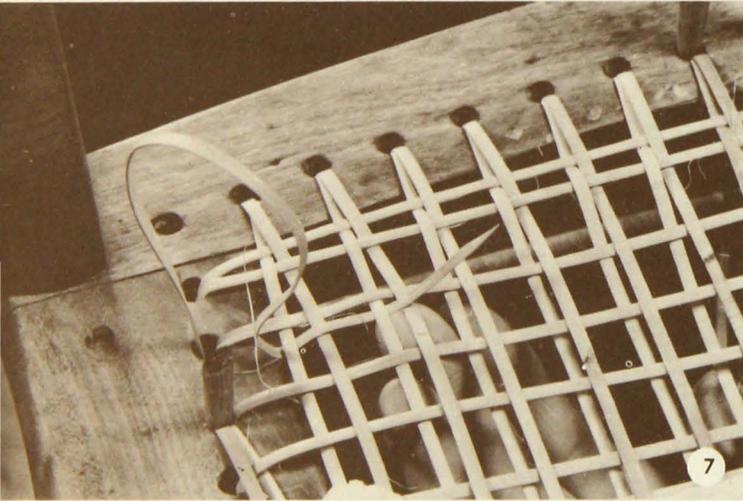
STEP IV.

1. The actual weaving begins here. Start at back on the right side (Fig. 6).

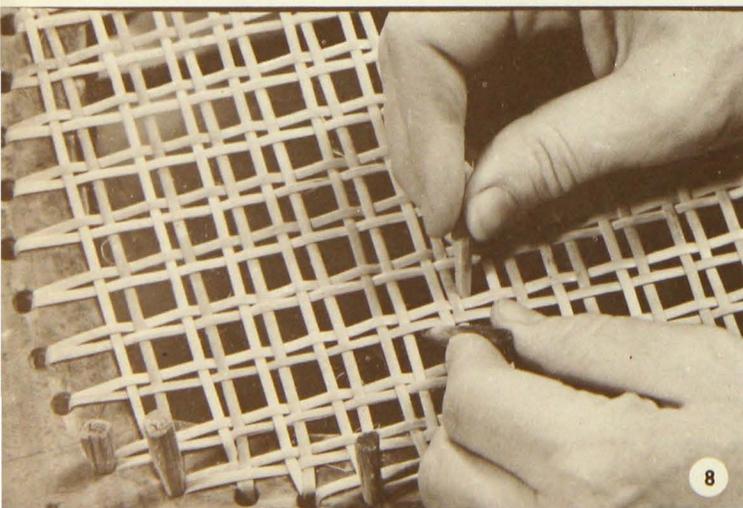
2. Push cane in Step III to the right of cane in Step I.

3. Always weave **over** cane in Step III and **under** cane in Step I.

4. Weave with one hand on top of seat and one hand underneath (Fig. 6).



5. The strands may be woven from the right or left side (Fig. 7). Make sure you always go **over** cane in Step III and **under** cane in Step I. **Keep woven cane thoroughly wet.** Use sponge.



STEP V.

1. Straighten woven cane and force strands into pairs (Fig. 8). Cane should be thoroughly wet. Use 2 pegs to help force cane together. Do this for pairs (strands 1 and 3) going from front to back and for pairs (strands 2 and 4) going from side to side. Be sure to keep cane in straight rows.

2. Now start at the right-hand corner at back of seat (Fig. 9). Weave **under** pairs that go from side to side, and weave **over** pairs that go from front to back (Fig. 10). The cane should pull through easily. If not, you may have made an error. Check your work. Keep cane thoroughly wet.

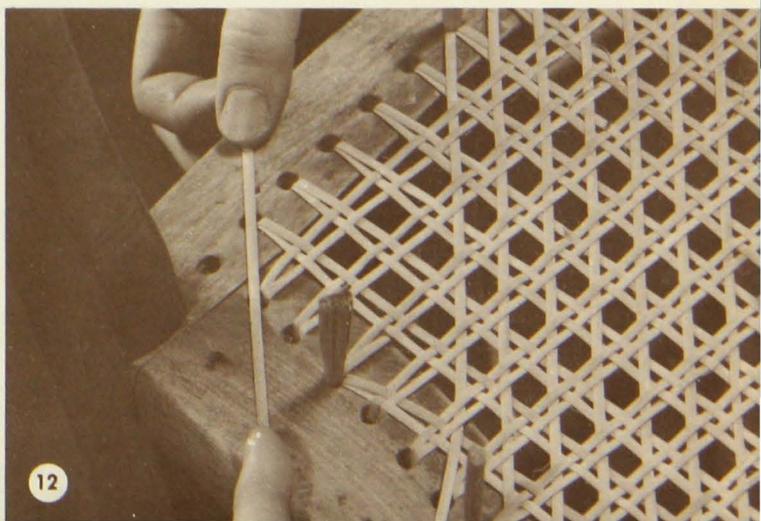
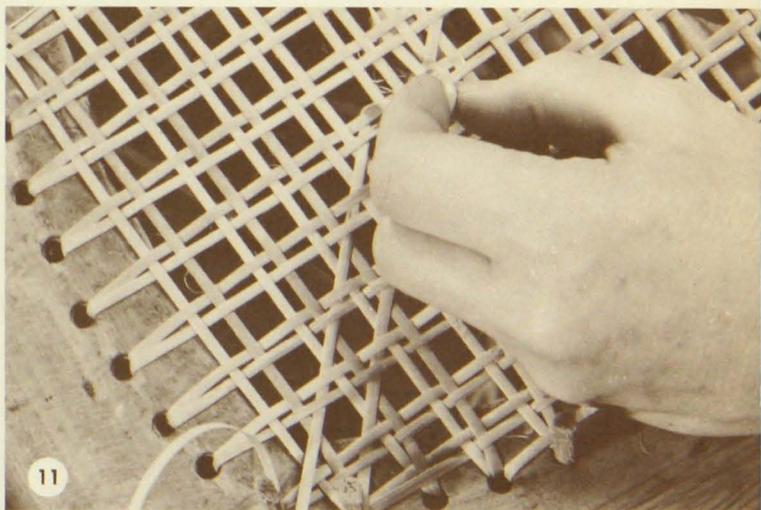
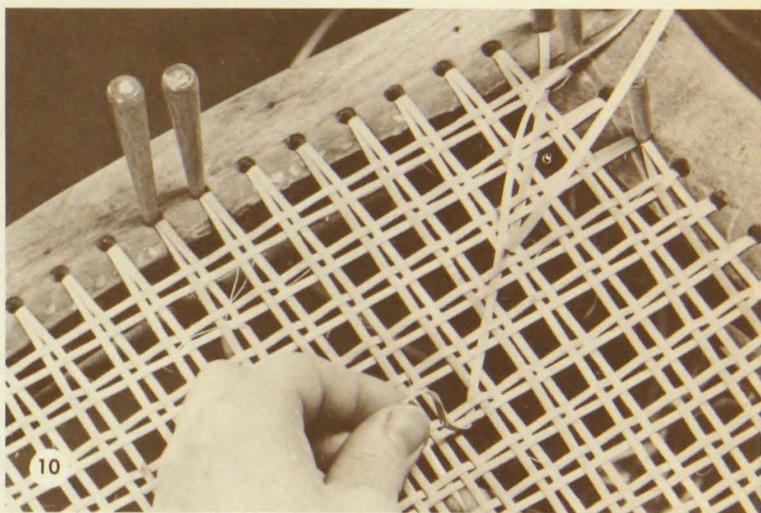
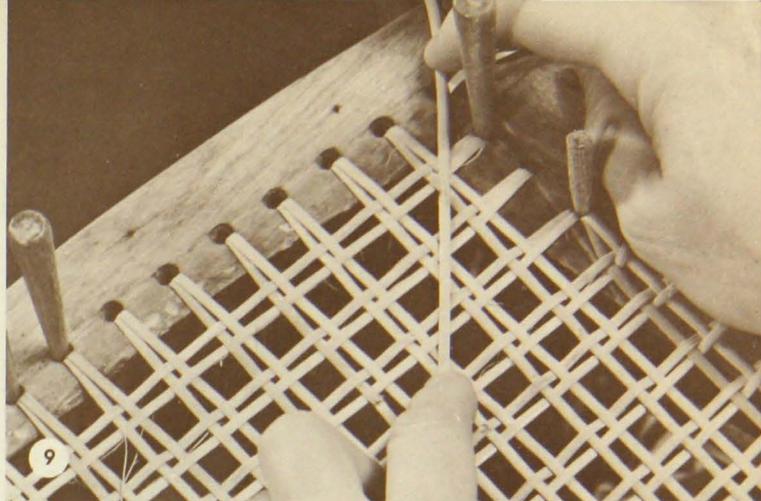
3. For the second row weave from front to back. Again go **over** pairs from front to back and **under** pairs from side to side (Fig. 11).

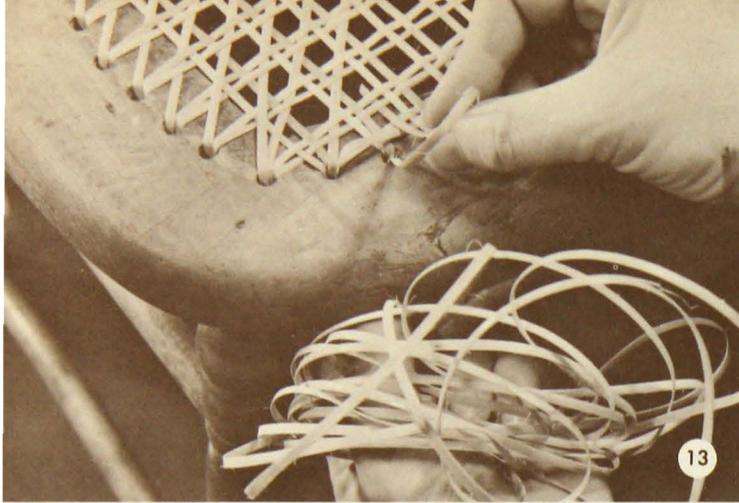
4. **Back section**—Complete the back section by weaving through holes on left and back rails. In this step always weave **under** pairs that go from side to side and **over** pairs that go from front to back.

5. Always carry cane straight to the nearest hole.

6. Weave two strands in each corner hole.

7. Cane should be on the exact diagonal in the corner (Fig. 12). If there are more holes on left side than back, **skip holes** (usually not more than 2 or 3) so that cane will be on the diagonal in the corner.





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8. **Front Section**—Complete seat by weaving from front to right side (Fig. 13). Cane may curve slightly near the rail. Put cane in nearest hole. If there are more holes on the front rail, double up on the side in several holes (usually not more than 2 or 3) to make cane on the diagonal in the corner.

9. Weave 2 strands in each corner hole.

STEP VI.

1. Weave second diagonal by starting on left at back corner hole (Fig. 14).

2. **Back section**—Weave diagonally **under** pairs from front to back and **over** those from side to side.

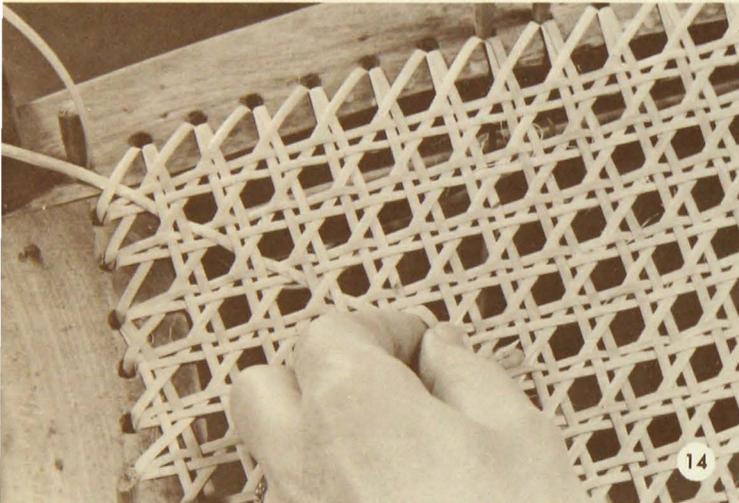
3. Weave back section first.

4. On the right side rail, skip holes woven in twice by the first diagonal (Step V-8).

5. **Front section**—Complete seat by weaving from front to left side.

6. Weave 2 strands in each corner hole.

7. On the left side rail, weave twice in holes skipped by first diagonal (Step V-7).



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STEP VII.

Binding and tying off ends. Cane used for binding is usually the next wider size cane than that used for weaving. Binding cane covers the holes and finishes the edges of the woven seat. You will need also one or more strands of the same cane used in weaving the seat.

A. **Square or rectangular seats.** Use one piece of binding cane. Miter all corners. Follow directions given for curved or round seats.

B. **Curved or round seats.** Use one piece of binding cane. Keep both binder and strands used for weaving wet and pliable.

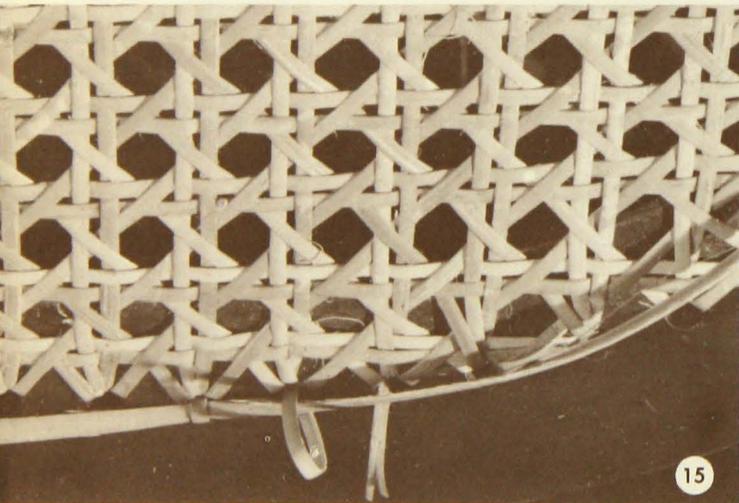
1. Lay center of binder flat over holes on front of chair.

2. Use a long strand for weaving.

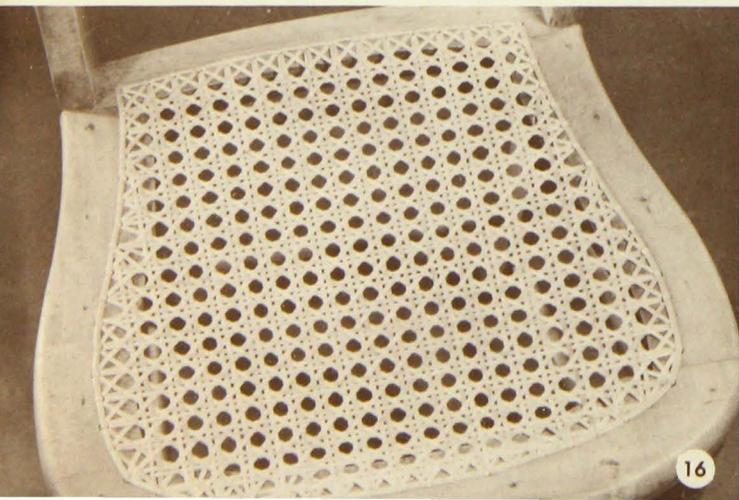
3. Pull center of weaving strand up through center hole to form a loop. Binder goes through the loop.

4. Take one end of weaving strand and bring it up through the next hole on the right. Pass weaver over top of binder and down through the same hole (Fig. 15).

5. Bring weaver up through the next hole on the same side of the hole that you passed the weaver down in the previous step. For example, if you go **down** on the **back** side of the hole, then come **up** on the **back** side in the next hole. If you go **down** on the **front** side of a hole, then come **up** on the **front** side of the next hole. Alternate in this manner to complete the binding off step. Figure 16 shows the finished seat.



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C. **Tying off ends.** All ends should be tied or wrapped onto the cane on the under side of seat frame (Fig. 17).

1. Thoroughly wet all ends and cane on bottom of seat frame.

2. Ends may be tied off as work progresses from step to step; however, it is recommended that all ends be tied off after the binding step.

3. Cut ends. Leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

Variations in Shapes of Chairs

A. **Round seat**—Skip holes as needed to keep strands of cane parallel and equal distances apart.

B. **Back of rocker**—(Fig. 18). Use a yardstick or something similar in size to retain curve. Stick may be taped into place. If the chair back is curved from side to side, use a vertical stick in the same manner. Weave Steps I through IV **behind** sticks. Remove sticks when weaving Steps V through VII.

Reseating a Chair with Cane Webbing or Pressed Cane

Cane webbing or pressed cane can be used to reseat chairs if there is a groove in the seat frame (Fig. 19). Reed spline is used to hold the cane webbing in place. Cane webbing can be used also for stools, cabinet doors, folding screens, etc.

Cane webbing can be bought in several sizes such as medium open, fine open, fine-fine open, and super-fine open. Other patterns are close woven, radio nets, and medium Swedish loose weave. Cane webbing is bought by the running foot in widths from twelve to thirty-six inches.

Equipment Needed

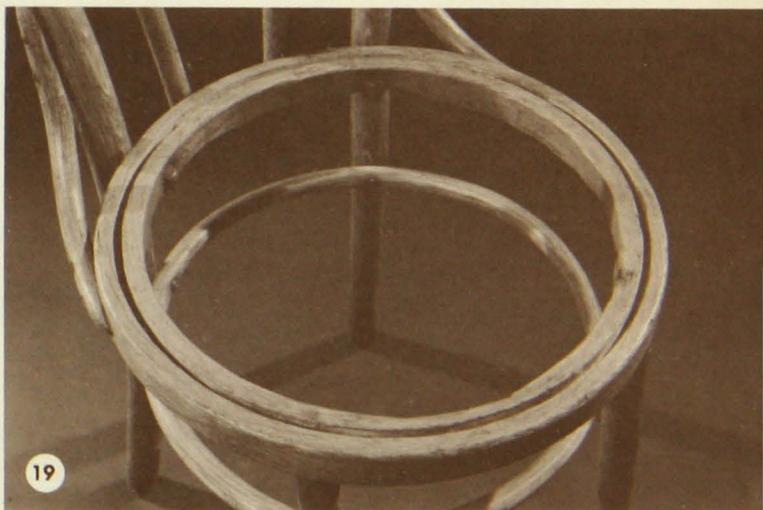
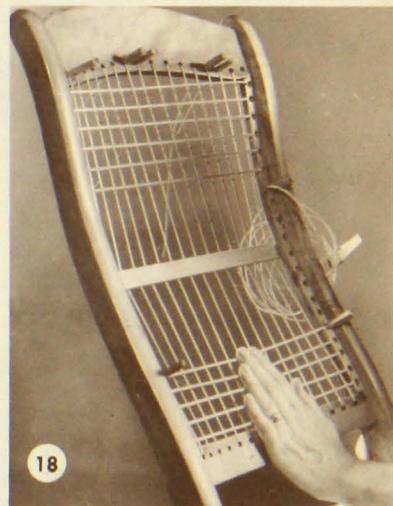
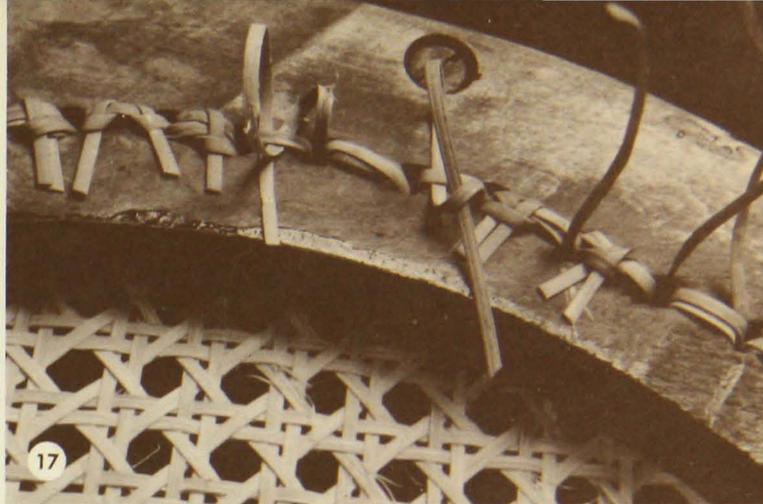
Chair with groove, about 5 wedges ($\frac{1}{8}$ " thick on narrow end and at least 1 inch wide), mallet, chisel, glue, cane webbing, and spline. Spline should fit loosely in empty groove.

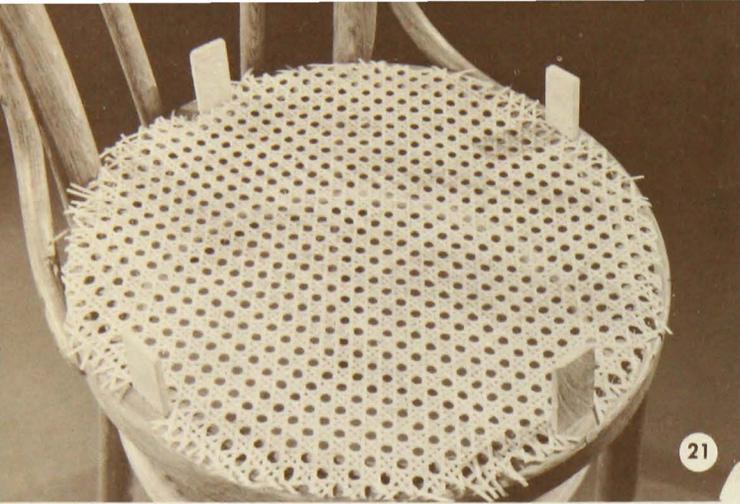
Procedure

1. Remove all old cane and spline. To remove spline use a chisel or screwdriver. Lightly tap chisel with hammer and go on both sides of spline. After spline is loosened, remove from groove. **Be careful not to chip or damage seat** while removing spline.

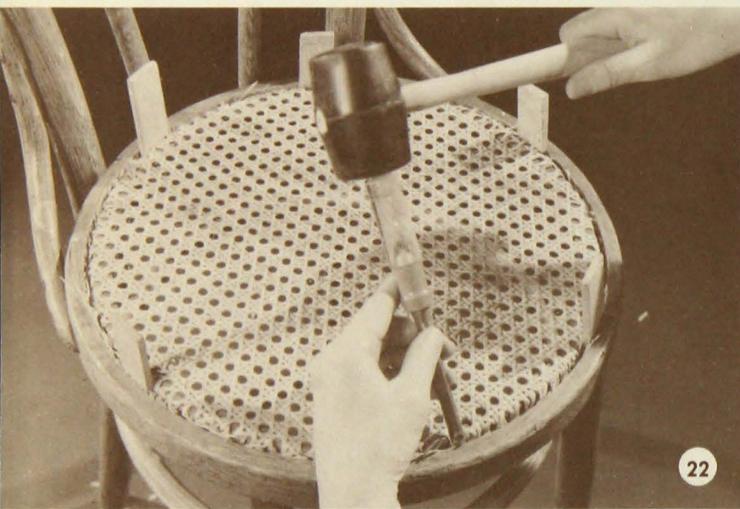
2. Use hot vinegar to loosen and remove old glue. **All old glue must be removed** from groove. New cane and spline will not glue properly unless all the old glue is removed.

3. Cut a pattern by taping newsprint to chair seat (Fig. 20). Use edge of scissors blade or a knife. Go around **inside** of groove to cut pattern.

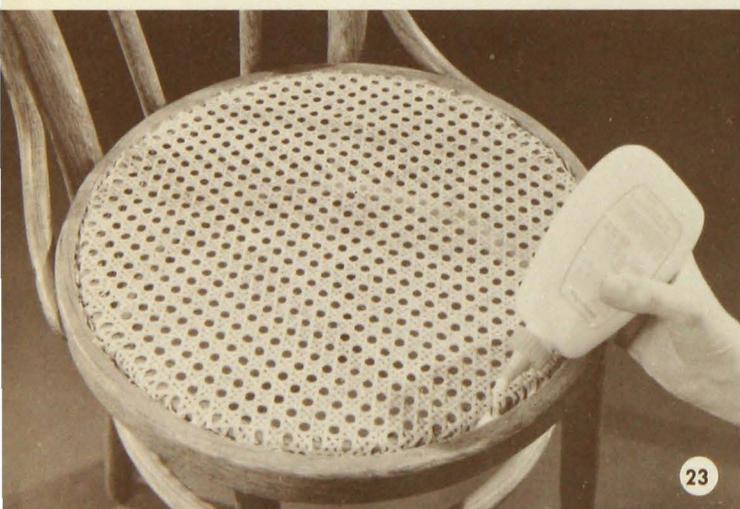




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4. Place pattern on cane webbing. Cut webbing on all sides $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger than pattern.

5. Soak webbing in hot water until pliable.

6. Lay webbing on seat and make sure that strands run straight from front to back of chair.

7. Remove strands running over and parallel with the groove.

8. With a wedge drive cane in groove at back of chair. Leave wedge in place (Fig. 21).

9. Pull webbing tightly across to front of chair and drive in another wedge. Leave in place.

10. Drive in wedges on left and right sides of chair. Be sure webbing is pulled tightly before driving wedges in place.

11. Use another wedge to drive webbing all the way around and in the groove.

12. Use a chisel to trim edges (Fig. 22).

13. Soak spline in hot water until pliable.

14. Remove wedges.

15. Pour glue all the way around in groove (Fig. 23).

16. Use a rubber or paper mallet to force spline into groove (Fig. 24). A hammer padded with a rubber tip may be used if a mallet is not available.

17. Miter ends of spline where they join at back of chair.

18. Clean off excess glue with a wet sponge.

19. Dry thoroughly (at least 24 hours).

20. Stain reed spline to match color of chair.

21. Finish cane and spline as directed.

22. The finished chair is pictured on front cover.

Finishes

Cane may be left natural in color or it may be stained. An oil stain may be rubbed first on the underside and then on top of cane. Let dry thoroughly (about 24 hours). A coat of penetrating wood seal or a coat of thin varnish should be applied first to the underside and then top of cane.

Acknowledgment

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