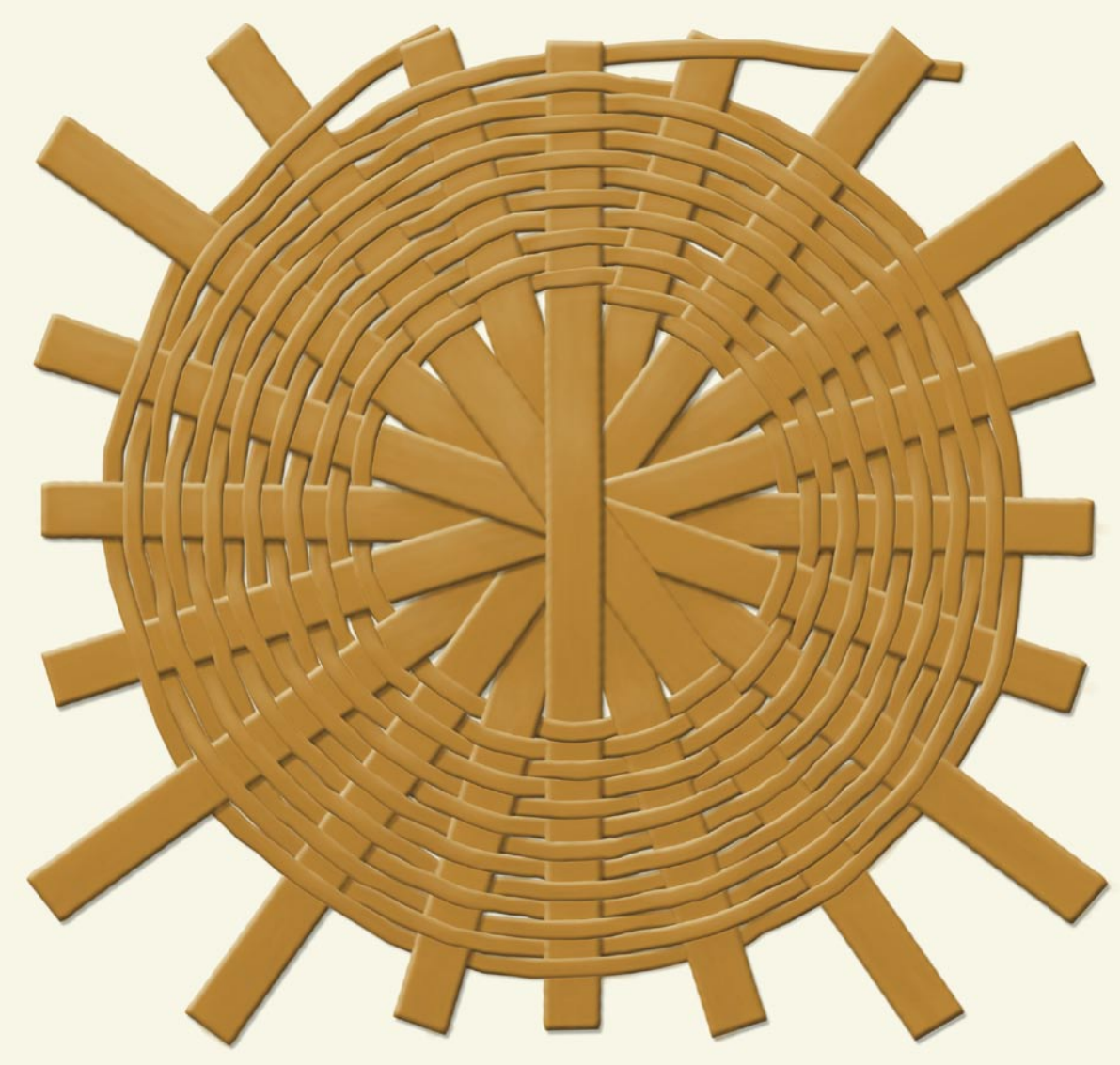
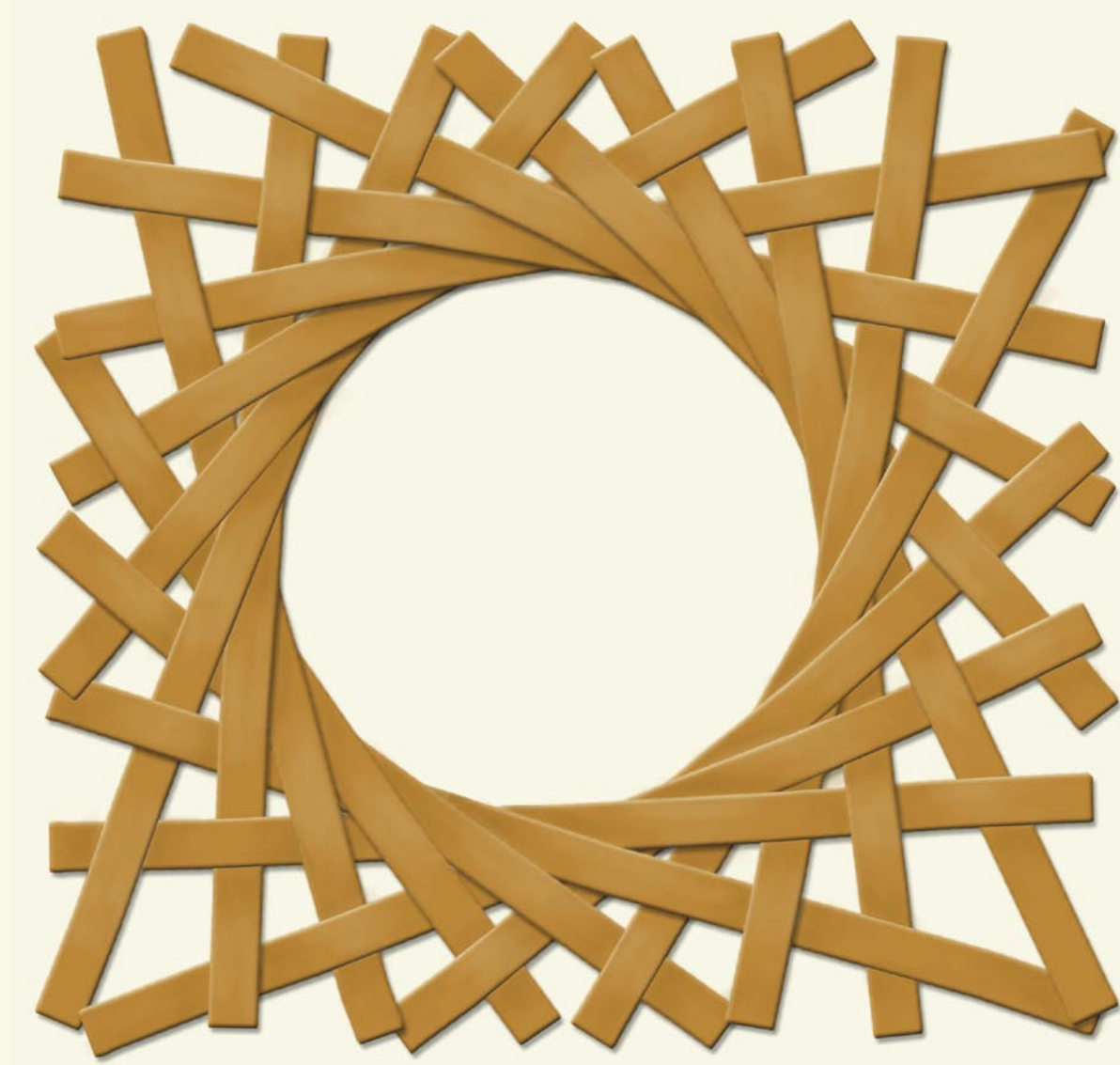


# BAMBOO PLAITING TECHNIQUES



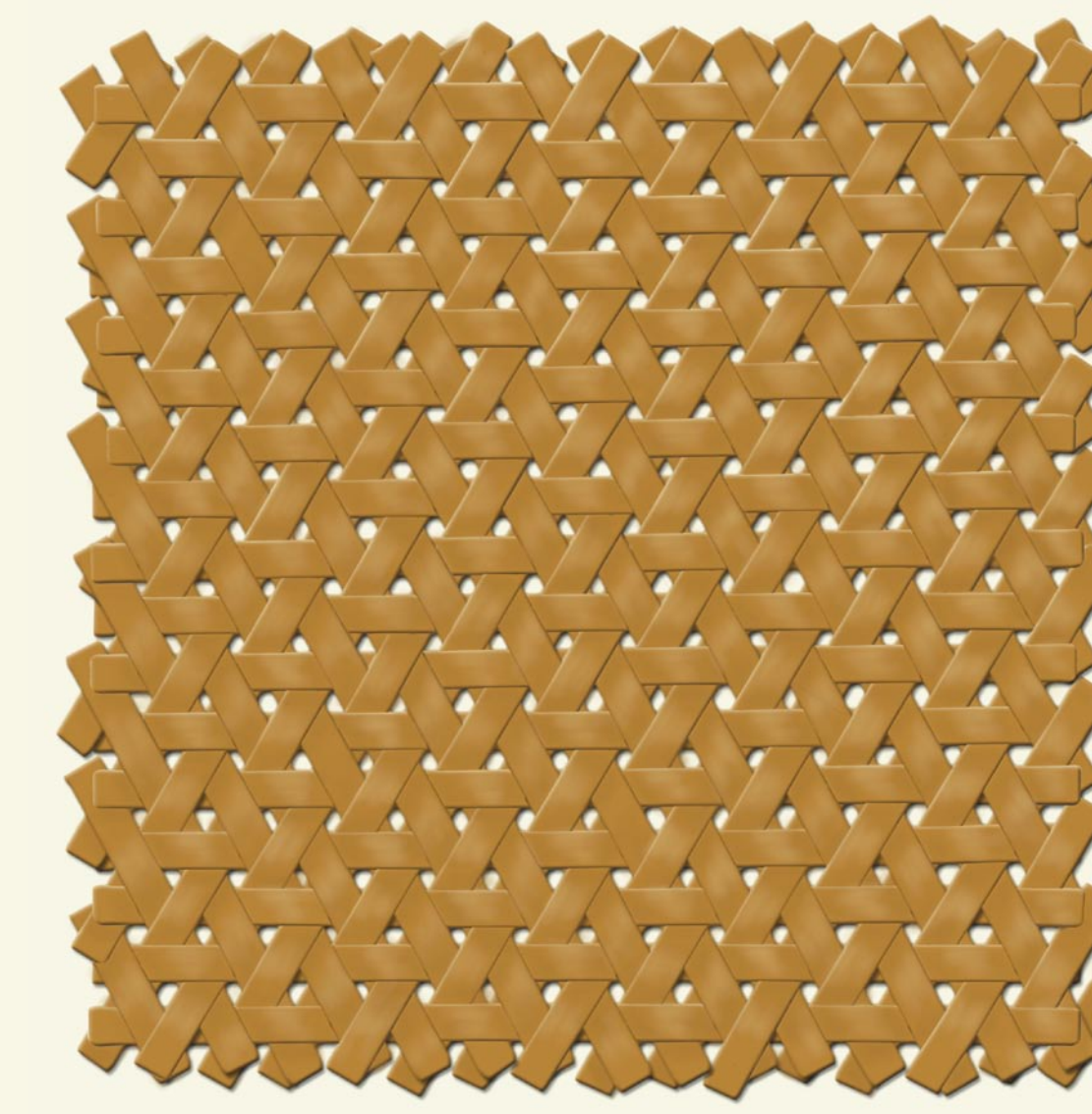
**CHRYSANTHEMUM BASE PLAITING** 菊底編み *kiku zoko ami*

Base made by layering strips in radiant arrangement and plaiting (usually mat plaiting or twining) around them in spiral pattern. Common on baskets dating from 1800s to early 1900s, especially from Western Japan.



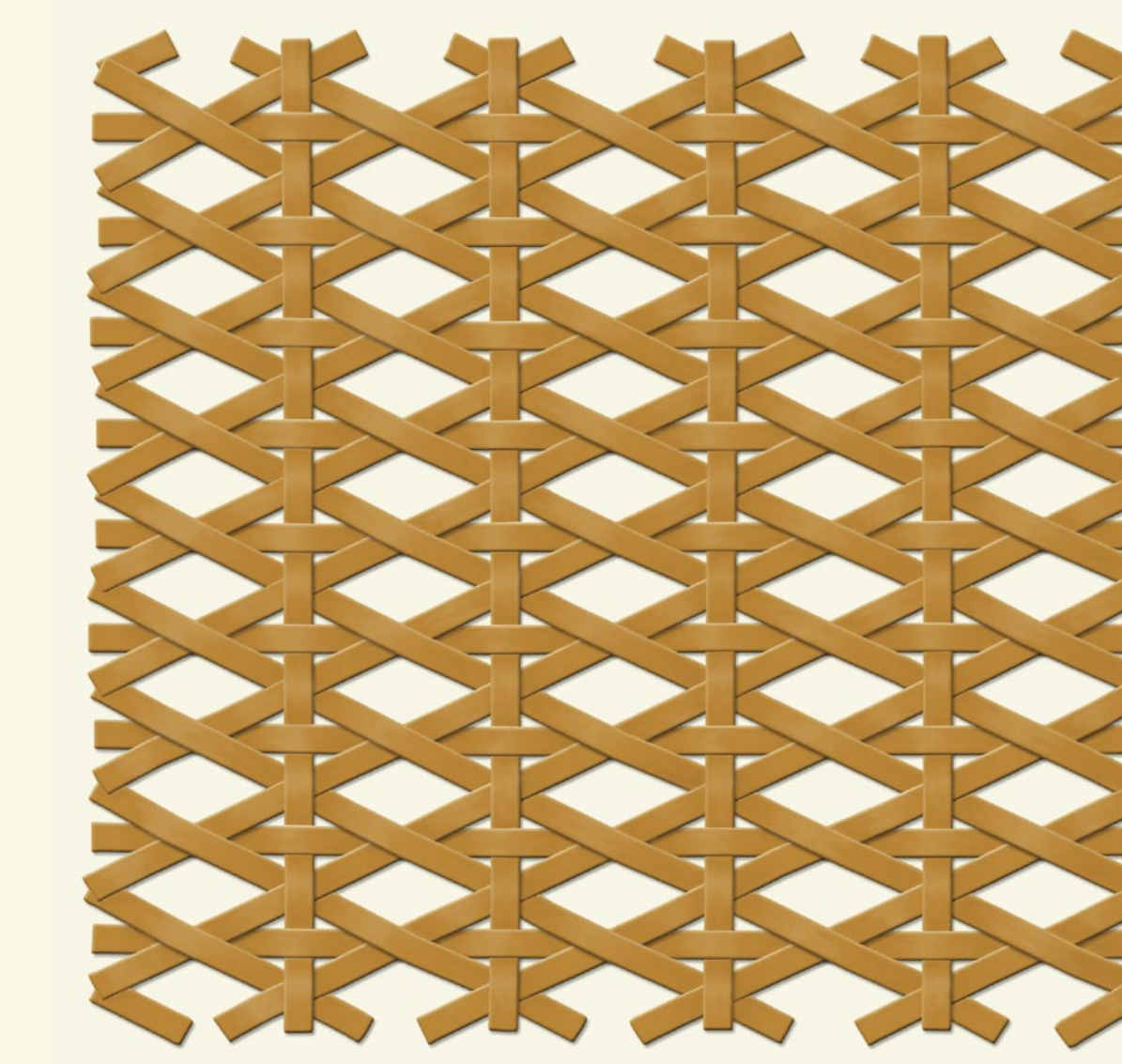
**CIRCULAR PLAITING** 輪弧編み *rinko ami*, 阿弥陀光編み *Amida ko ami*, 蛇の目編み *ja no me ami*, 丸じんく編み *maru jinku ami* (WJ)

Sometimes translated “bull’s-eye plaiting” or “snake-eye plaiting.” Strips of bamboo arranged tangentially to create circular opening. Most frequently used to form ring at basket’s base but can also be used to finish rim.



**CLEMATIS PLAITING** 鉄線編み *tessen ami*, 亀甲編み *kikko ami*

Variation on hexagonal plaiting initiated by pressing six strips of hexagonal cell together tightly, creating radiant, almost floral arrangement, hence the name. Relatively opaque surface practical for basket bases or trays.



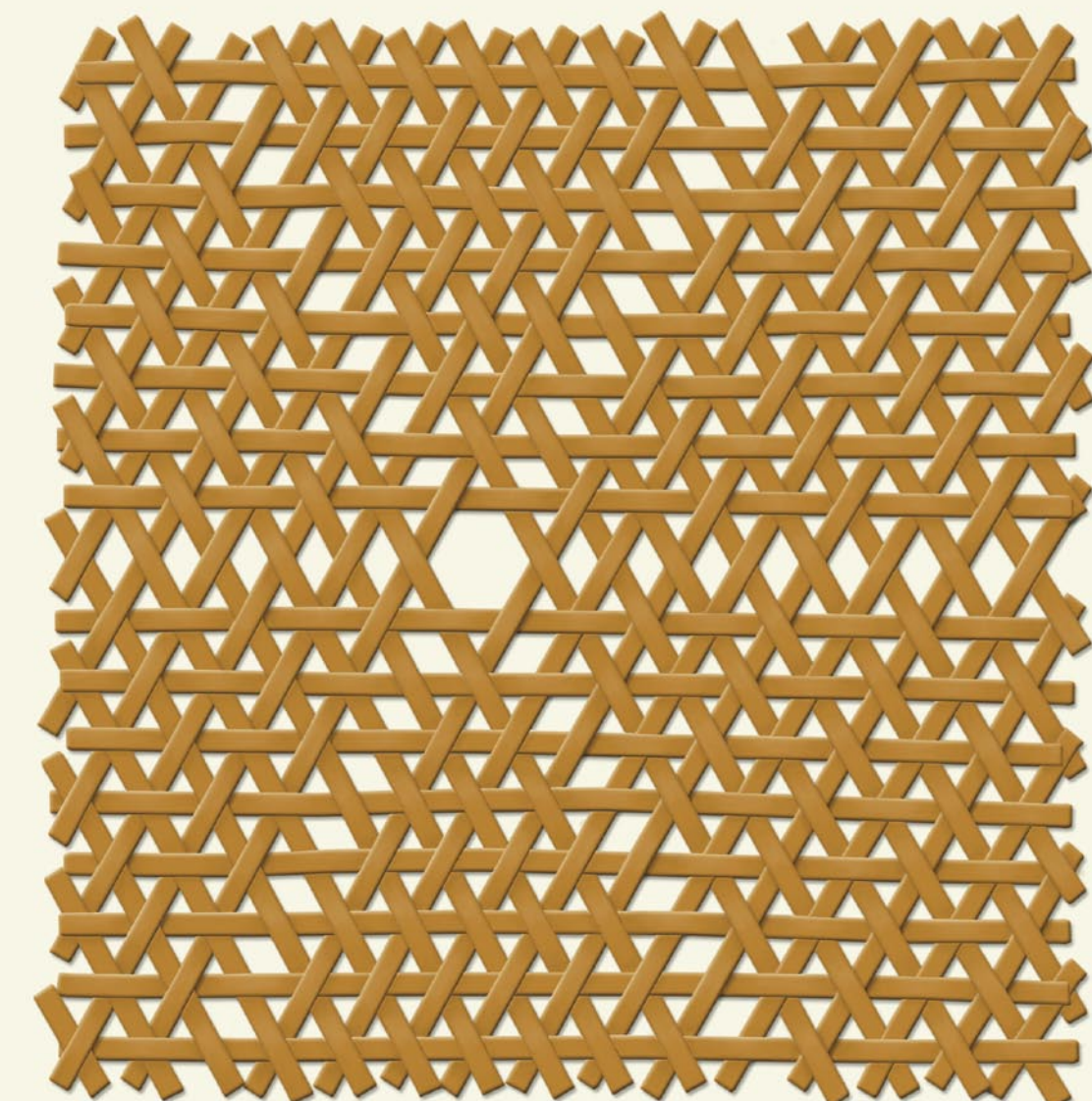
**COMPOUND LOZENGE PLAITING** 四つ目返し *yotsume gaeshi* (WJ), 差し菱目編み *sashi hishime ami*

Diagonally oriented square plaiting supplemented with vertical and horizontal elements. Commonly seen in Western Japan, where horizontal strips are often replaced with rows of twining.



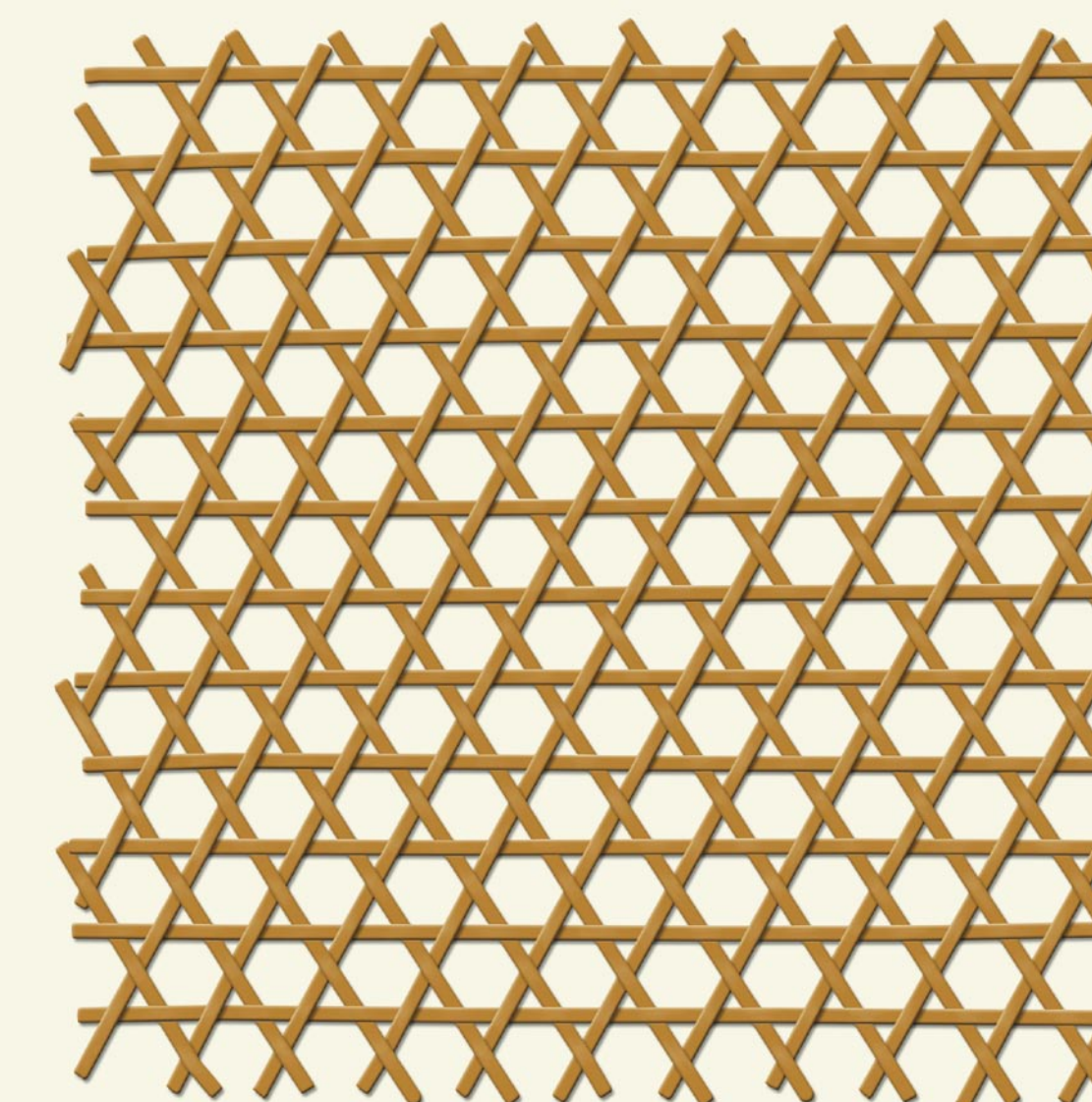
**DIAMOND TWILL PLAITING** 柘網代編み *masu ajiro ami*

Variation on twill plaiting often used at center of basket’s base. Called floral twill plaiting (花網代編み *hana ajiro ami*) when used as repeated design over a large area.



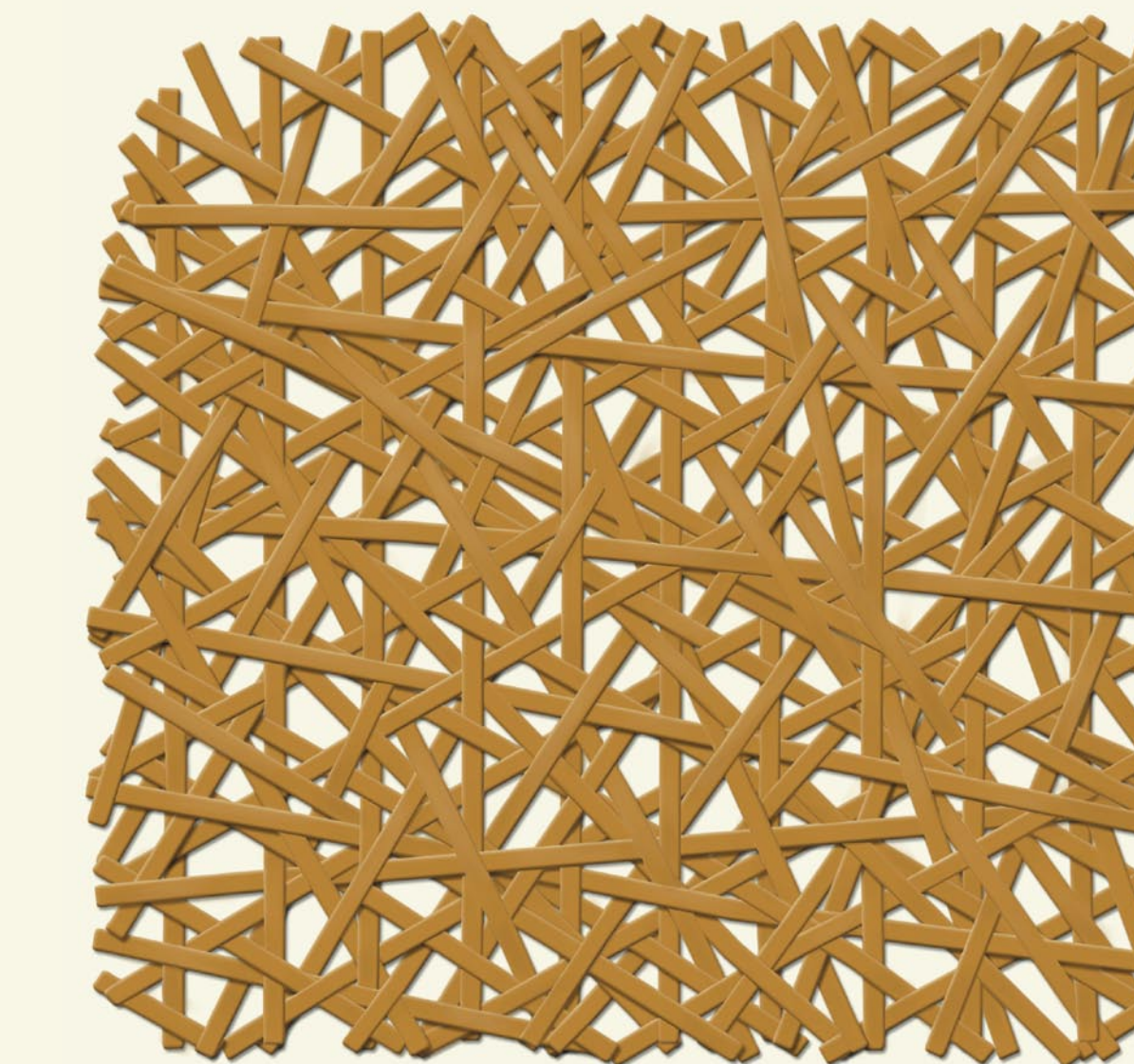
**HEMP LEAF PLAITING** 麻の葉編み *asa no ha ami*, 麻編み *asa ami* (WJ), 鱗編み *uroko ami* (WJ)

Triangular pattern incorporating three extra strips into each cell of basic hexagonal plaiting. Plaiting in six different directions from central hexagonal cell results in hexagonal star pattern said to resemble the shape of a hemp leaf.



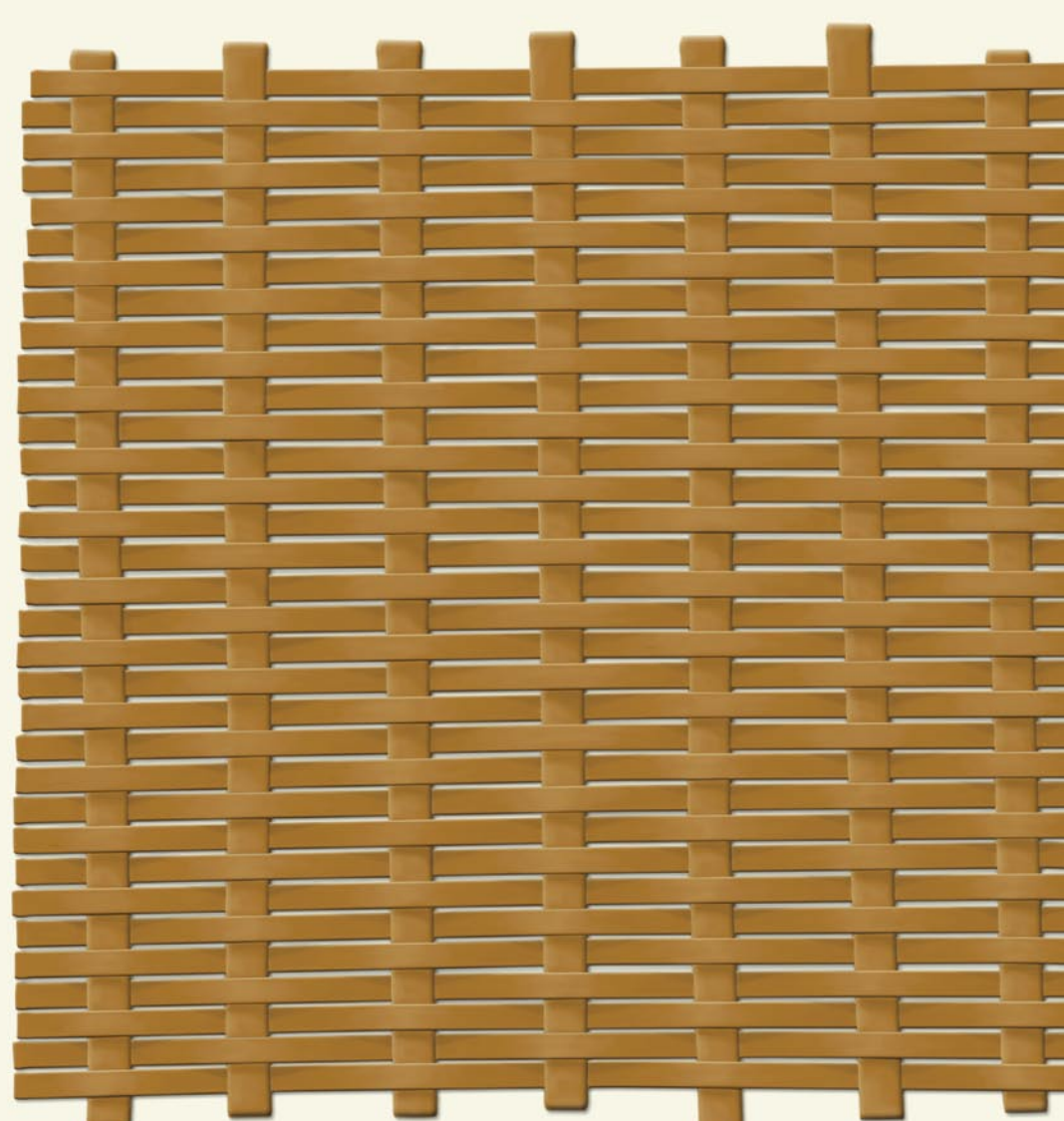
**HEXAGONAL PLAITING** 六つ目編み *mutsume ami*, 籠目編み *kagome ami*, 亀甲編み *kikko ami* (WJ)

Openwork pattern of hexagonal cells, each formed from six strips. Also the foundation for techniques such as hemp leaf plaiting and clematis plaiting.



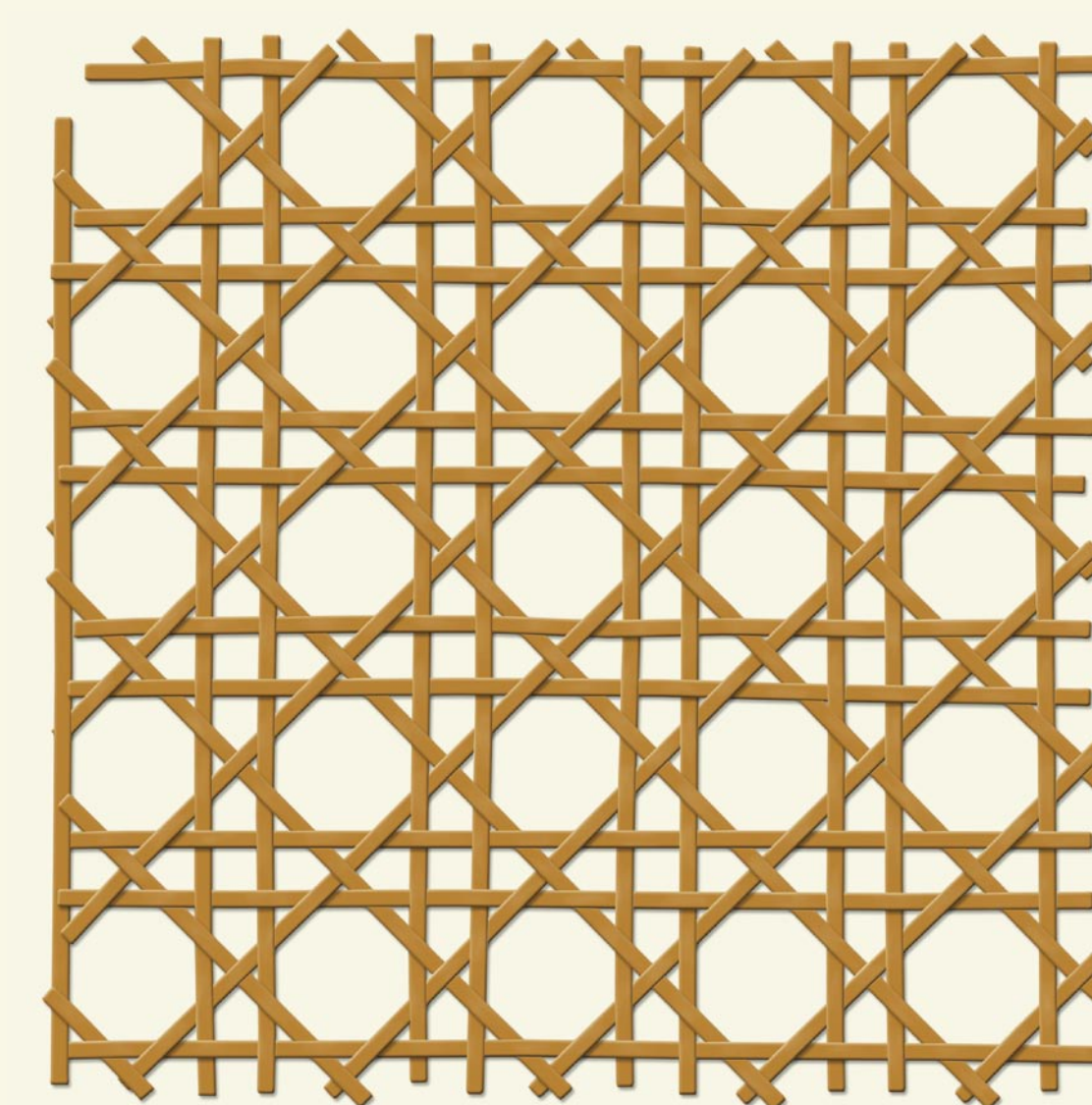
**IRREGULAR PLAITING** 乱れ編み *midare ami* (WJ), やたら編み *yatara ami* (K), 氷裂編 *hyoretsu ami* (WJ), 落松葉編み *ochimatsuba ami* (K)

No set rules, though most artists work over hexagonally plaited armature. Often strips begin at base, move up to rim, then return to base.



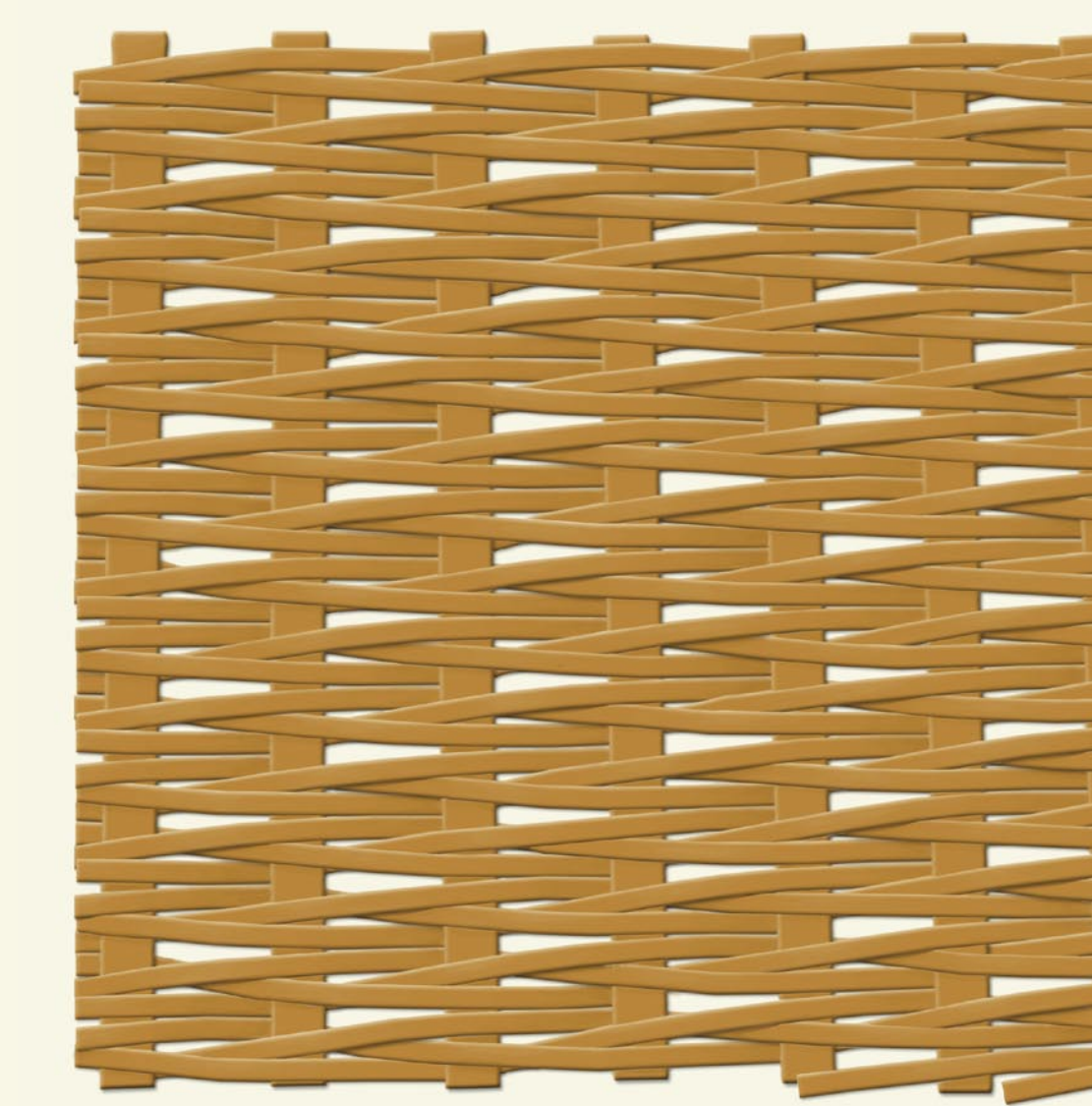
**MAT PLAITING** ござ目編み *gozame ami*, ぬき編み *nuki ami* (WJ)

Also called simple plaiting. One of the most common basketry techniques. Differs from square plaiting in that horizontal elements are narrower and more closely spaced than vertical elements, creating horizontally faced surface.



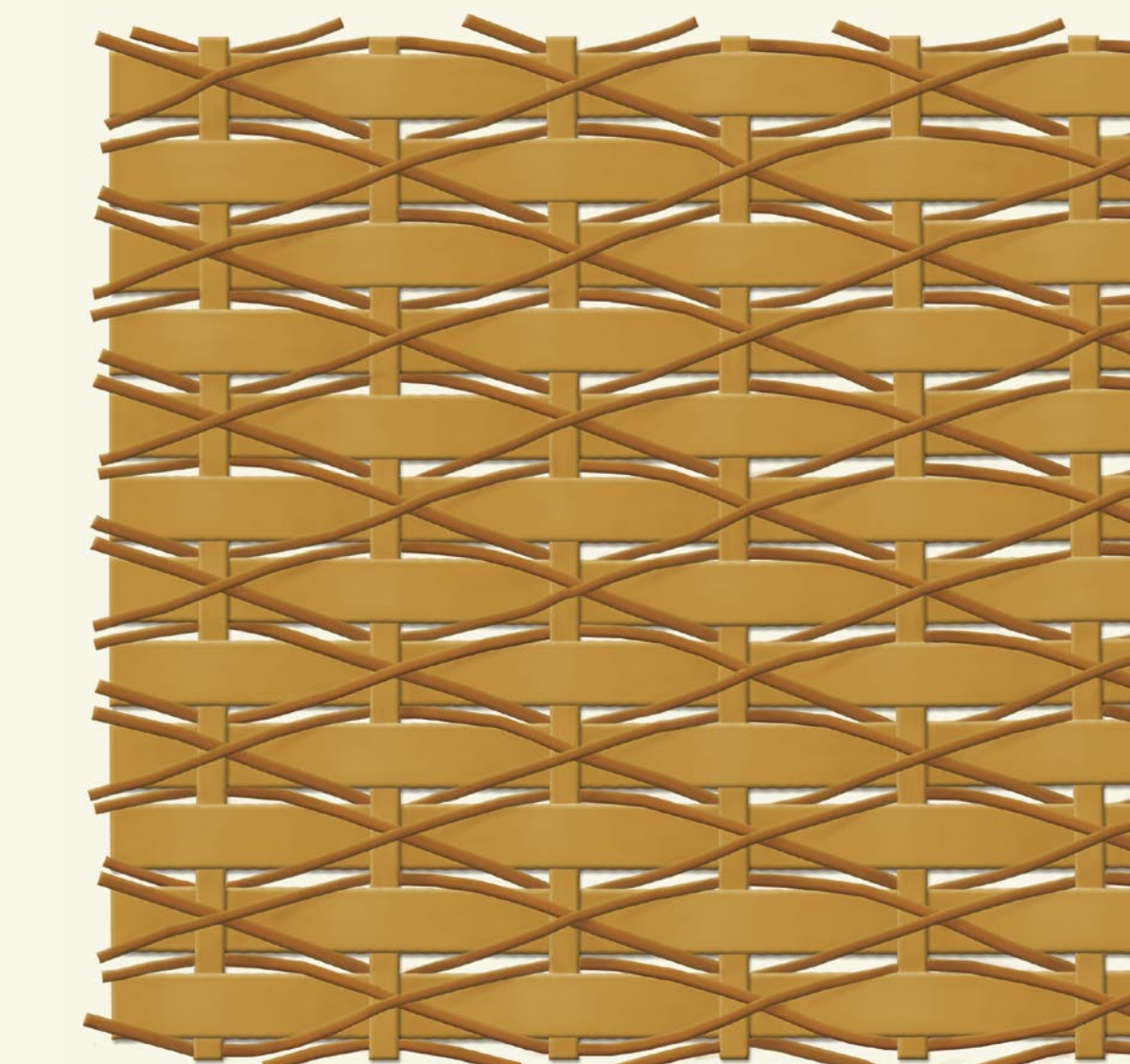
**OCTAGONAL PLAITING** 八つ目編み *yatsume ami*

Openwork pattern of octagonal cells each formed from eight strips—four creating square pattern and four creating lozenge pattern. As plaiting proceeds, each strip of the eight goes over one strip and under the next.



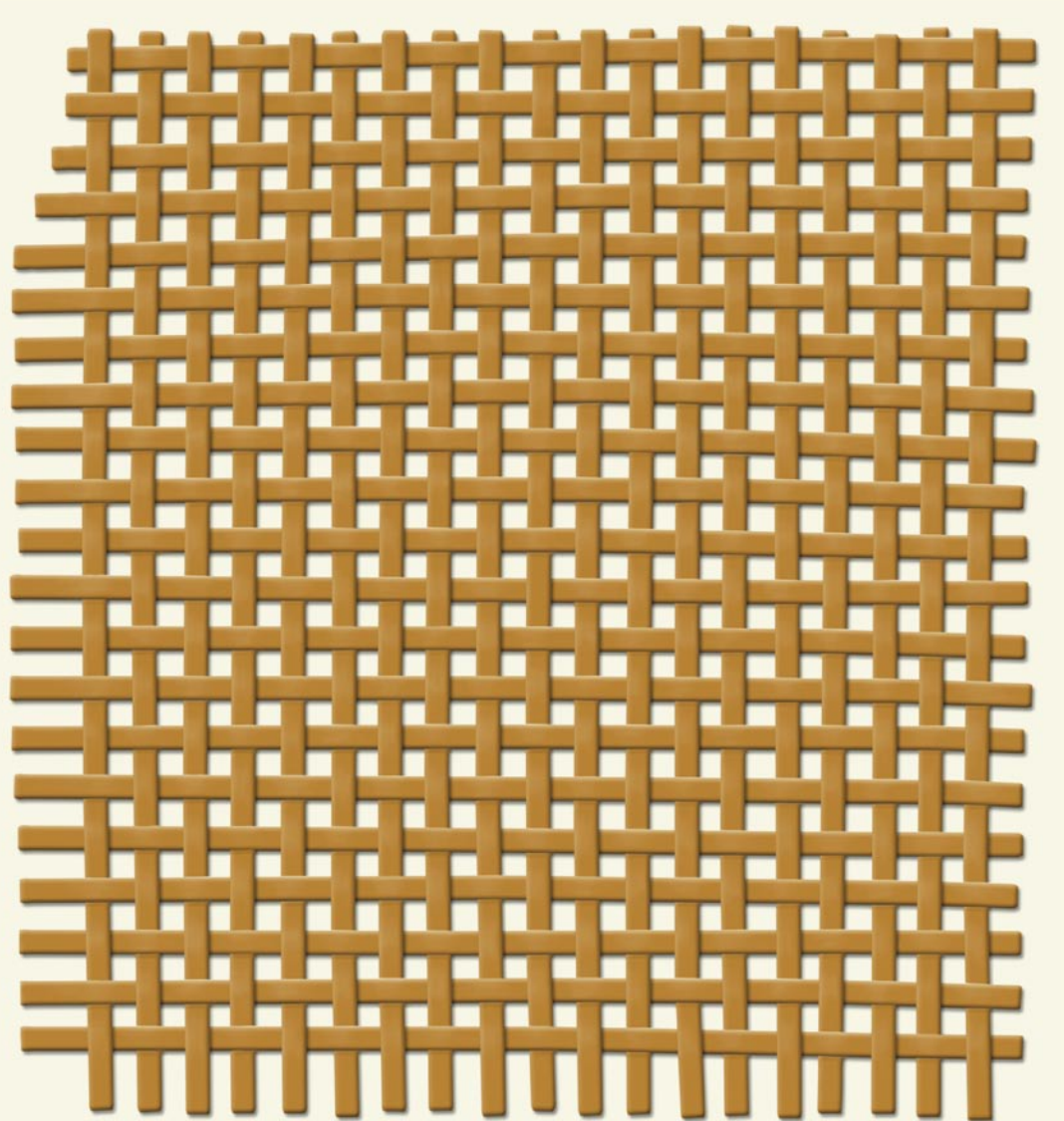
**PINE NEEDLE PLAITING** 松葉編み *matsuba ami*

Variation on twining using three horizontal elements in 2-1 twill. Y-like arrangement reminiscent of pine needles created by changing orientation of pattern in alternate rows, giving a mirrored effect. Called “wave plaiting” (青海編み *seikai ami*) when same orientation used for every row.



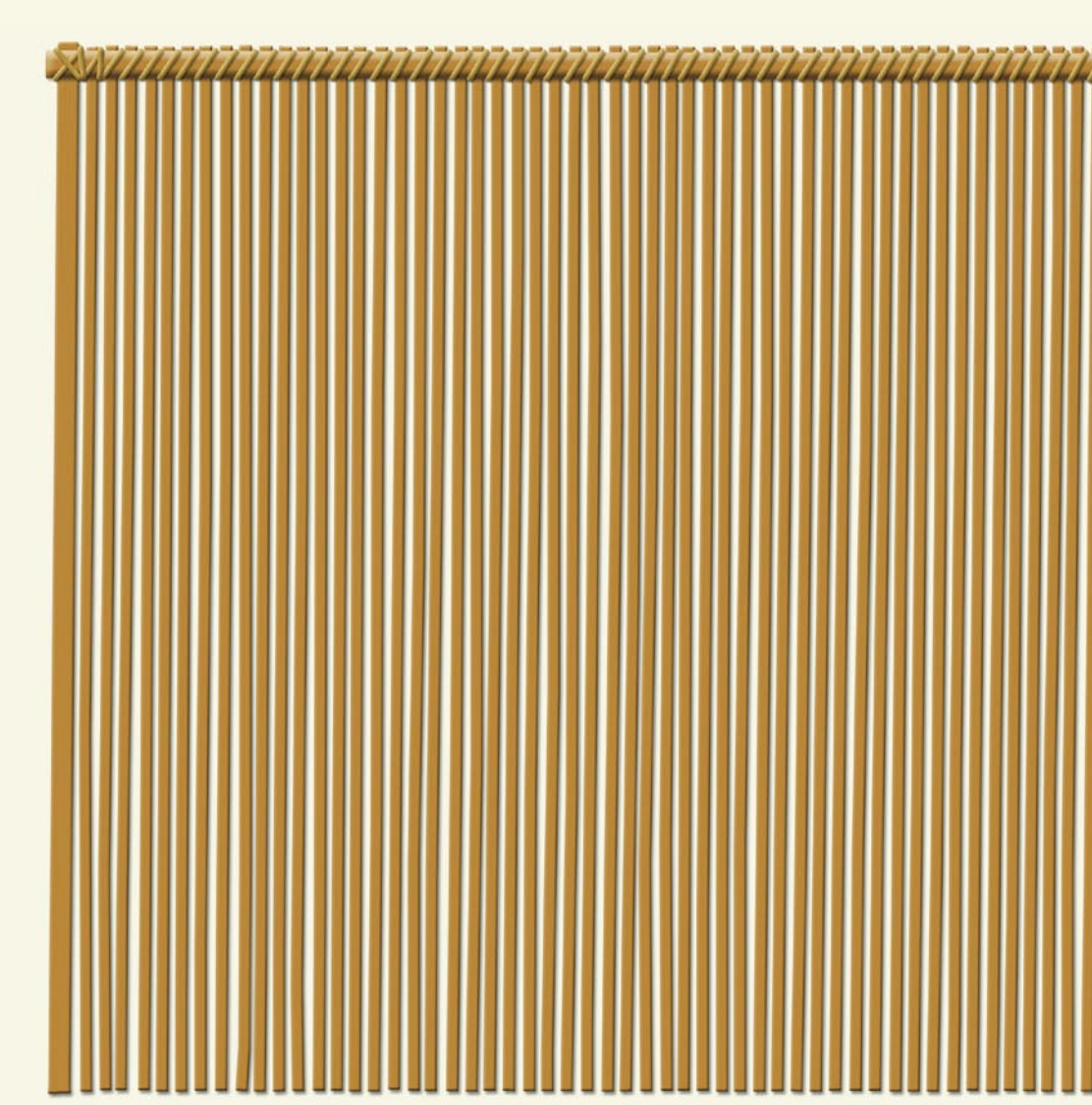
**PLOVER PLAITING** 千鳥編み *chidori ami*, 千鳥掛け編み *chidori gake ami*, 編みすがり *ami sugari*

Type of mat plaiting in which each row is supplemented by two fine strips that undulate and cross one another as they zigzag above and below horizontal strip. Creates delicate crosses resembling tiny bird tracks on sand, hence the name.



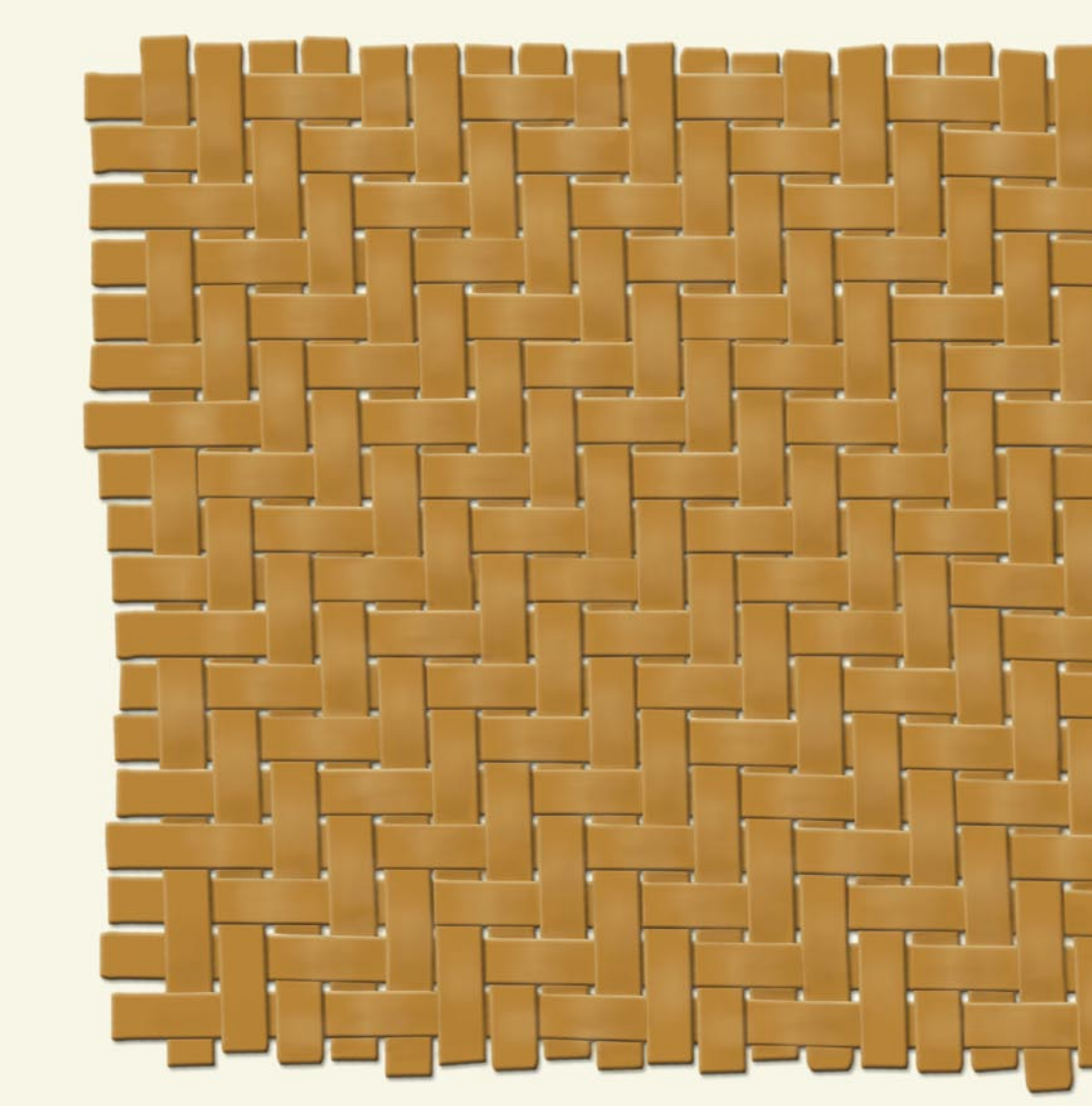
**SQUARE PLAITING** 四つ目編み *yotsume ami*

Type of simple plaiting with balanced vertical and horizontal elements. Often results in openwork because of stiffness of material. Can be used for base or walls of basket. Variations formed by changing width of vertical and/or horizontal strips.



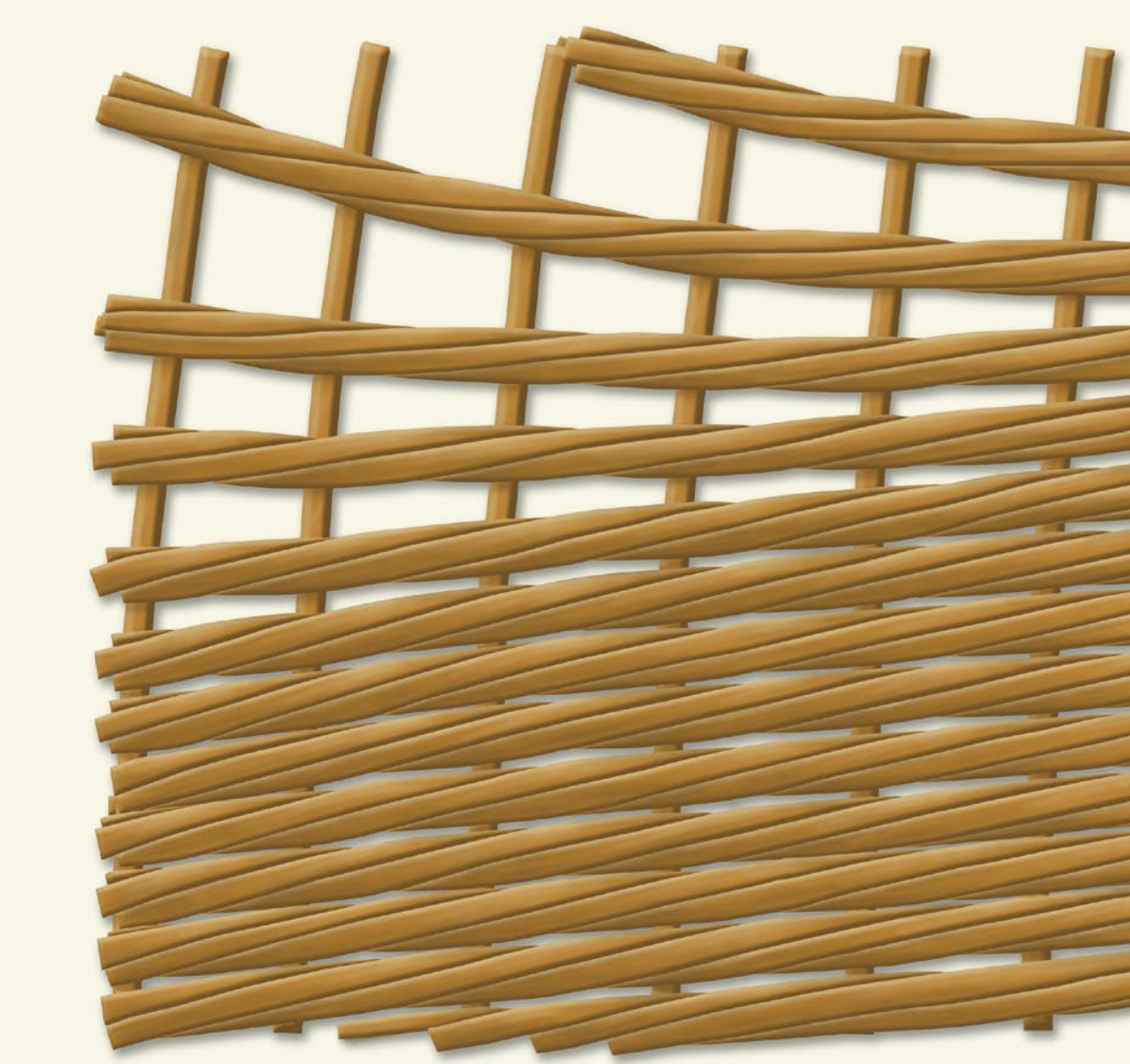
**THOUSAND-LINE CONSTRUCTION (COMB PLAITING)** 千筋組 *sensuji gumi*, 櫛目編み *kushime ami*

Technically not plaiting. Involves not interlacing various elements but aligning stiff elements in parallel and securing them using any of a variety of methods. Also “parallel construction.” (組 *kumi*)



**TWILL PLAITING** 網代編み *ajiro ami*

Diagonally oriented technique in which strips of one direction float over multiple strips of other direction in regular pattern. Variations made by changing orientation or length of floats, or width, color, or texture of strips.



**TWINING** 縄目編み *nawame ami*

Literally “rope plaiting.” Fine strips—often three or four—are alternately lifted up and around all the others and inserted into vertical elements in staggered twill pattern. Distinctive diagonal rope-like effect. Stable, suitable for openwork.

WJ = WESTERN JAPAN  
EJ = EASTERN JAPAN  
K = KYUSHU

Illustrations by Tomoyuki Okada