

DRYAD LEAFLET No. 16

8d.

RE-CANING A STOOL OR CHAIR SEAT



DRYAD HANDICRAFTS
LEICESTER

RE-CANING A STOOL OR CHAIR SEAT

THE caning of stool or chair seats is not the mystery many people think it to be. In fact it is done by blind people at most Institutions for the Blind and is one of the things a blind man can do really well. By carefully following the instructions given below the most inexperienced worker will obtain good results.

STOOL OR CHAIR CANING TOOLS

The following tools are recommended, but in some cases where the expenditure is limited, they can be substituted by a simple home-made appliance as suggested. It is advisable, however, to have all the tools where a good deal of caning is to be done, as a considerable amount of time will be saved thereby.

KNIFE, for cutting away the old seat and any surplus ends.

CLEARER, for clearing away the old canes from the holes.

DOUBLER, placed into each hole in turn to hold the cane taut while threading the next hole. This can be substituted by a small round wooden peg, about 3 inches long and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, tapered at one end.

SHELL BODKIN, used to carry the cane under the strands, during the weaving of the later stages. This would be a tedious matter if done with the hands, but it is quite simple with the use of the shell bodkin. For example, the cane is to be passed from right to left, under the alternate strands. Holding the bodkin in the left hand, and counting from the right-hand side, pick up the four alternate strands under which the cane is to pass, and insert the end of the cane in the shell of the bodkin, pointing towards the handle. Place the thumb of the left hand over this and pull the bodkin out, bringing the cane with it. Repeat this until the left hand side is reached. The shell bodkin tool can be substituted by a length of wire $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick, with a blunt point at one end which is slightly bent for picking up the strands, and a small loop at the other end for removing the wire. It is passed under the strands from side to side of the seat to make a passage for the cane strand, which is

threaded along by the side of it, after which the wire is drawn out by means of the small loop.

BODKIN. As the holes become filled with the canes, in the latter stages, the bodkin must be used to make way for further canes.

CANE SEATING WEAVER, a long wire needle essential for the loose-seated stool described on page 9.

SEATING CANE

Seating cane is used for the designs described in this leaflet. It is a split cane with a hard, glossy surface and is supplied in various sizes.

TO RE-SEAT A STOOL OR CHAIR

The old seat must first be cut away at the edges and the holes made quite clear by knocking out the pieces of cane with a clearer and a hammer.

The cane to be used for re-seating requires soaking for two or three minutes before starting, to make it pliable for working.

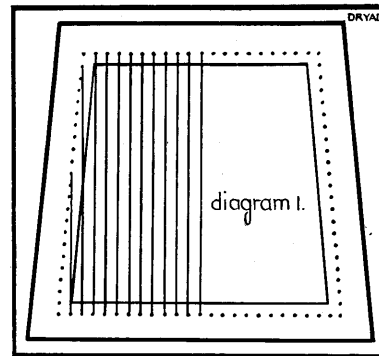
PATTERN 1 ILLUSTRATED ON PAGE 5

This is considered the standard pattern for cane seating. The caning is carried out in seven stages as shown in the illustrations. For the first four stages No. 2 cane is used and for the next two stages No. 3. The seventh stage is carried out with No. 6 beading cane.

STAGE 1.

Commence by counting the number of holes along the back and the front of the seat, finding the centre one in each case. Where there is an even number of holes, take those nearest the centre. It is simpler to begin at the centre and work to the right and left, rather than to start at one side as in many instances the chair seat will be wider at the front than at the back and will, therefore, have a greater number of holes. Suppose there are two more holes along the front on each side of the centre than along the back. The upright strands in stages 1 and 3 are taken from these holes into the corresponding holes along the side of the chair that will give a vertical line parallel with the other strands (see diagram 1). The remaining stages

are just the same as in a square seat, so that for simplicity the diagrams are illustrated in this form. Take a long strand of cane and draw it down through the centre hole at the back for about half its length, and then up again through the next hole on the left side. Bring the two ends of cane across to the front and down through the two corresponding centre holes. Place a doubler or peg in the left hole to keep the cane in position while working with the right-hand cane. Continue threading up and down through the holes, from the back to the front of the seat, placing a doubler or peg in the preceding hole to keep the cane tight while threading the next hole until all the holes on both right and left of the centre are used except for the corner holes, (see Stage 1, on page 5).



Care must be taken not to twist the strands of cane but to keep the smooth side uppermost both on the underneath and top of the seat.

When a new strand of cane is required the ends of the old strand and the beginning of the new are secured on the under side of the seat by threading each one twice over one of the short strands between the holes, as shown in diagram 2, afterwards pulling them tight. All ends are secured in this way.

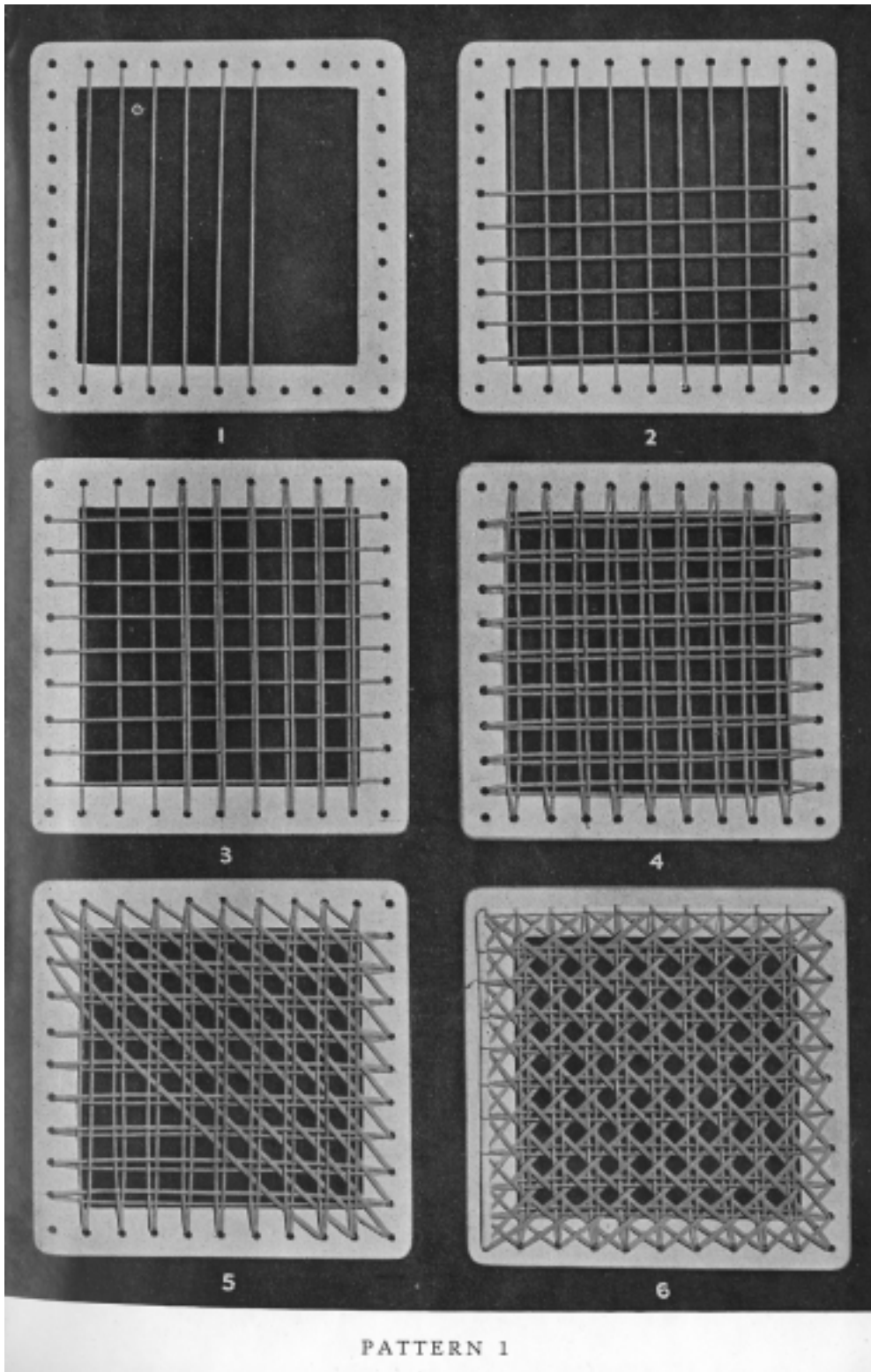
The cane should not be pulled too tightly in the first and second stages as the later stages tend to tighten these somewhat.

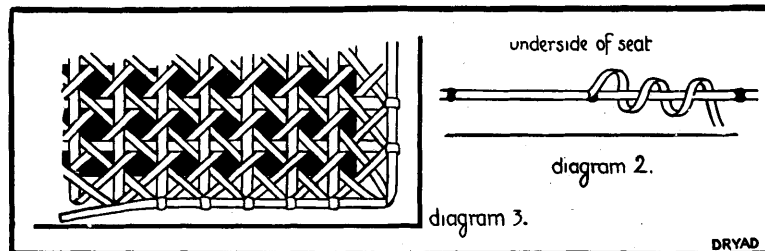
STAGE 2.

This is carried out in exactly the same way as the first stage but taken from side to side of the chair instead of from back to front.

STAGE 3.

A repetition of Stage 1. The cane is taken into exactly the same holes from back to front of the seat, passing over the canes of the two previous stages.





STAGE 4.

The strands of cane are taken from side to side of the seat as in the second stage, but this time they are woven under and over the strands of the previous stages. This can be done with the fingers but is somewhat slow, and much simpler with the aid of a shell bodkin or its wire substitute, (see description of tools). Keep the lines together in pairs so that the square holes remain quite definite for weaving in the strands in the fifth and sixth stages.

STAGE 5.

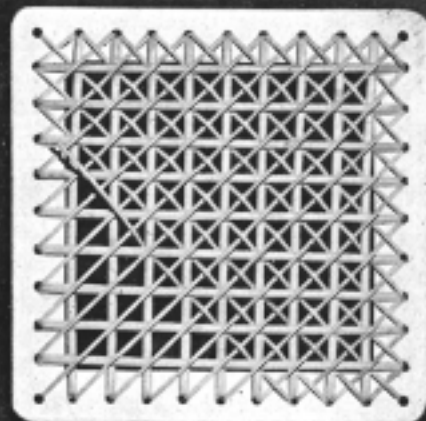
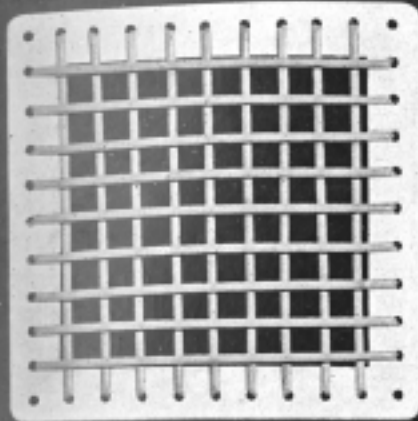
Here the strands are woven diagonally, commencing at one of the corners. See illustration, page 5. The beginner will find it simplest to use one hand underneath and the other on the top side of the seat while doing this. Here again the shell bodkin will be of great help. It will be seen from the diagram that the pairs of strands made by Stages 1, 2, 3, and 4 are used as one strand in each case during the weaving. It must also be noted that two strands are taken into each of the corner holes to give the correct spacing.

STAGE 6.

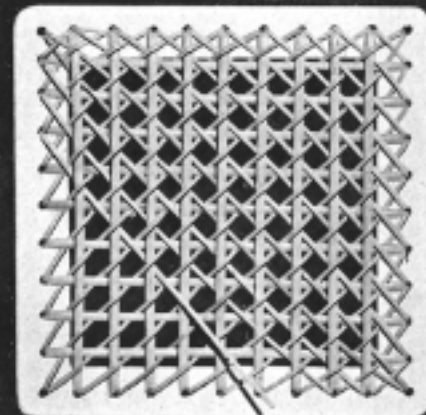
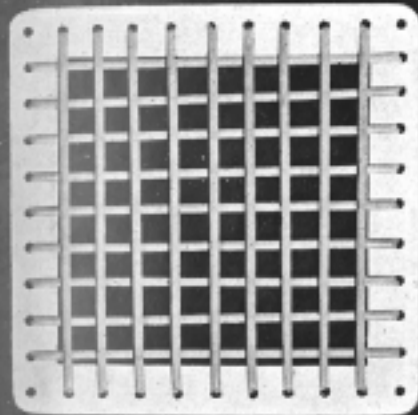
This is a repetition of the previous stage but taken in an opposite direction at right angles to that set of strands. For the last two stages the bodkin can be used with advantage, (see description of tools).

STAGE 7.

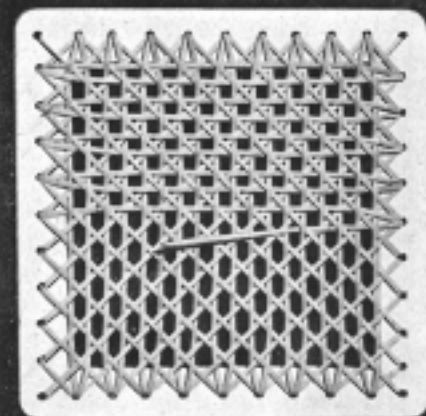
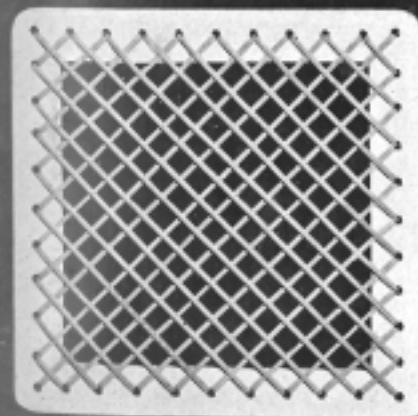
The final stage is the fixing on of the beading round the seat to cover the holes, (see diagram 3). Pegging is not required. No. 6 beading cane is used. Make a long point on the end and insert well down a corner hole. Bend it over to the left,



PATTERN 2



PATTERN 3



PATTERN 4

insert a piece of No. 1 cane in the next hole, and secure the end. This is used to fasten down the beading. It is brought up through the hole, passed round the beading cane and down again through the same hole and pulled tightly into position. This is repeated in each hole along the side until the last or corner hole is reached.

Now make a long point on the beading cane and insert through the corner hole. Make another long point on the end of another piece of beading cane and insert it well down the same corner hole. Bend it down and proceed along the next side. It is not necessary to put a peg in the corners after the beading has been done, as this makes it look unsightly. If, however, the corner hole is large, a peg could be inserted before the second beading cane is bent down, as the latter will cover the peg.

Aim at making the underside of the seat as neat as possible by threading any ends over and over a strand and then trimming them off quite short.

PATTERNS 2, 3, AND 4

Page 7 shows three alternative patterns, each of which has only four stages of working. The first two stages are shown complete in the left hand diagram and the third stage complete and the fourth partly completed in the right hand diagrams.

PATTERN 2.

No. 6 cane is used for Stages 1 and 2, which consist of vertical strands taken from the front to back of the seat and horizontal strands taken from side to side. No. 3 cane is used for the next two stages. In the third stage the cane passes diagonally from left to right and rests on top of the first two stages. In the fourth stage the cane passes diagonally again, but from right to left and is threaded over the cane in stage three, and under the first and second stages.

PATTERN 3.

No. 6 cane is used again for the first and second stages which are the same as before. No. 3 cane is used for the next two stages. The cane in the third stage passes diagonally from left to right and is threaded under the cane in the first stage and

over the second stage. In the fourth stage the cane passes diagonally from right to left and passes over the cane in the first stage and under the second.

PATTERN 4.

No. 4 cane is used for all four stages. In the first stage the cane passes diagonally from left to right and in the second stage from right to left so that they cross at right angles to form a series of diamonds. In the third stage the cane is threaded vertically under the cane in the first stage and over the second stage, while in the fourth stage it is threaded horizontally over the first stage and under the second.

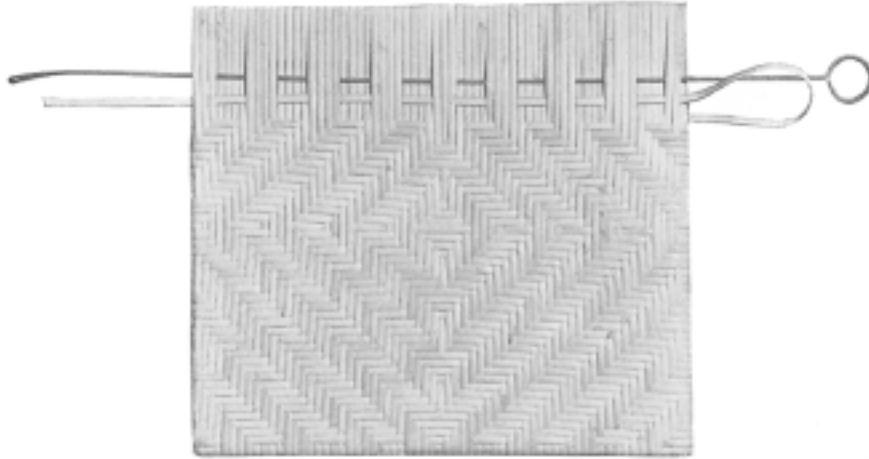
TO CANE A LOOSE-SEATED STOOL

(closely woven)

This method of seating which is carried out with No. 6 glossy wrapping cane, is interesting, as the loose seat can be worked in two distinct patterns for the top side and the underside, thus making a reversible top which could be changed round at any time, (see illustration on front of leaflet).

PROCESS OF SEATING.

The process consists of two stages, the first in which strands are taken from two opposite sides of the loose frame, placing the strands quite close together and working right round the frame so that the top and underside are alike, to make foundation strands for the second stage, which consists of weaving under and over groups of strands to form the pattern. In the stool described one side is worked "twill" pattern, i.e., over four and under four strands, and each row to run one step more to the right each time, and this is illustrated in the frontispiece. The reverse side is worked in a diamond pattern, which radiates from the centre in a series of diamonds, (illustration page 10). Wet the cane a short time before it is required and start the end of a long piece of cane by nailing it on the edge of the frame and taking it twice round, thus covering the four corners. Then continue with it to do the first stage, as mentioned above, but before doing so procure two pieces of wood a little longer than the width of the frame and about $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, round or square,



PATTERN FOR LOOSE SEATED STOOL

and temporarily tie them to both sides of the frame. All the strands must pass over these to ensure a sufficient and equal slackness when they are removed. If the first stage were done without these the strands would be too taut to complete the seat.

To Join.

When it is necessary to join a new length of cane, an invisible join can be made as follows: Thread the new end with its wrong side uppermost under two or three of the last strands on the edge of the frame, easing them up with a bodkin or needle to make way for it. Allow the end to protrude for about 1". Lay the old end across the new piece of cane and twist them so that the new piece is on top of the old with the latter resting along the frame. Give it a little tap to make it neat and flat.

After the first stage is done, remove the two pieces of wood and proceed with the same piece of cane for the weaving, but it will be found necessary to secure it with a small nail.

It is essential to use a long wire seating needle to pick up the strands to make the pattern, which in this case is the twill pattern. Work the bent point of the needle over four and under

four strands right across the seat, and then slide the cane alongside of this and remove the needle. Press the strand into position and turn the seat frame over, but before inserting the needle find the centre strand and arrange the needle so that it passes over the centre cane, and under and over all the other strands in groups of four. Thread the cane alongside of this, press into position, turn the seat over, and work the needle one step more to the right, i.e., pass it over three strands to begin with and the rest under and over four. Press the strand down into position each time with the end of a ruler or any square ended piece of wood. Turn the seat over and arrange for the needle to pass over the centre three and under the groups of four on either side to the right and to the left. Keep turning the seat over as each pattern is done.

NOTE. On the diamond pattern side the third row passes over the centre five, the fourth row over the centre seven, the fifth row under the centre one, the next row under the centre three, the next row under the centre five, the next row under the centre seven. From now on the pattern is repeated as the commencement until the centre of the side, which has previously been marked, is reached. The pattern is now reversed, as will be seen by the illustration on page 10.

Care must be taken to press the strands each time quite close to the last one. When about 2" remain to be done it will be found necessary to use a bent bodkin or bent packing needle to lift up the groups of strands and at once to thread the cane under and not to thread right across the seat as before, as the strands are too tight.

*This leaflet, one of a series covering every branch of craftwork,
is published by*

DRYAD HANDICRAFTS

SAINT NICHOLAS ST., LEICESTER

London Showroom: 22 BLOOMSBURY STREET, W.C.I.

Made and printed in Great Britain by Nutt & Stevens Ltd., Leicester. U/MM/R