



Thai Plating Basketry

Overview

Various kinds of basketry made in Thailand are different in their identities by each region. Their characteristics reflect not only communities' culture but also lifestyle and wisdom of the locals. Moreover, each basketry has distinct value in art and beauty which occurred from great willingness and heedfulness of creators who design and make them from their sophisticated intellect. By this meticulousness, basketry products are well-made, well-design, and can be use in daily life.

What is Klah?

Klah (*Schumannianthus dichotomus*) is not well-known plant like others, but it is a highlight of our booth. It is Thai local plant found in a muddy environment near a pond in mangrove forest which can be used to produce a unique Thai mat.

Now, let's see how basketry are made.

Materials

1. Plant fibers:
 - Bamboo strips
 - Palm leaves
 - Klah leaves
2. Scissors
3. Knives
4. Threads
5. Ropes
6. Needles

Procedure

Palm hat

1. Trim 24-36 palm leaves 3-4cm from the end (The trimmed leaves must have equal length). Place leaves into a circle in the certain direction with spacing of $\frac{1}{2}$ of leaf width. Sew the circle of leaves at $\frac{1}{2}$ cm below of the edge.
2. Insert half of all leaves beneath the first leaves, then repeat this pattern for next leaves until we cannot continue the process.
3. Squeeze the hat by using rope to strengthen the structure.
4. Sew the hat from the center and then sew around the circumference of the hat.

Bamboo Basket

1. Cut bamboo into 1 cm-width strips and 1 inch-width strips for basket edge and handle.
2. Peel each strip by using a sharp knife and leave the thin and flexible part of bamboo strips.
3. Weave the basket, starting at the base, by plaiting harder strips vertically with constant spacing. While softer strips are plaited horizontally. Repeat the process until the basket shape is consistent. Finally, plait 1 inch-width strips at the top of the basket and the handle.

Klah mat

1. Prepare Klah strips by cutting and drying under the sun.
2. Plait Klah strips into checkered pattern.
3. Sew or plait edges of the mat to make a perfect rectangle Klah mat.

It can be notice that all basket products have the same pattern which is cross or checkered-liked.