

Chapter 1 Weaving the Piko

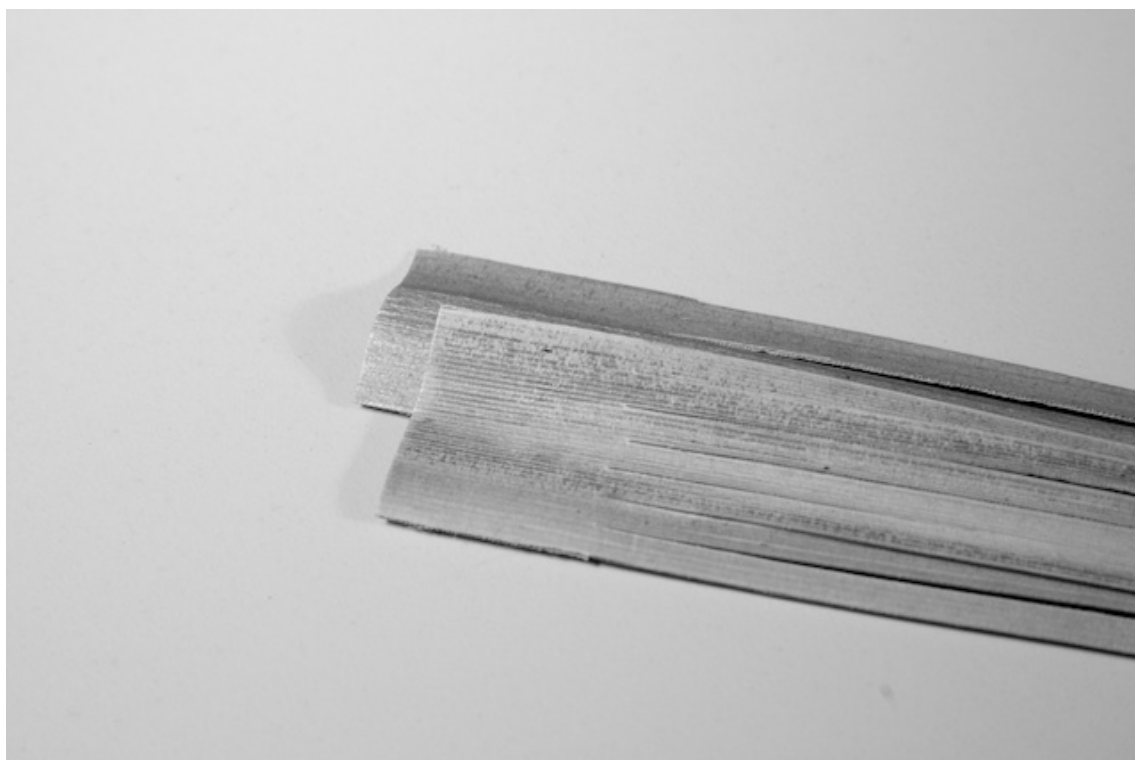
The weaving of a lauhala hat begins with the piko. There is a great deal of variety of styles of piko among lauhala weavers. The one I will show you is a common standard that has been used for years in Kona. Some people call it the pāwehe piko.

This piko can be made with 5, 6, 7 or more mau'u (strands). The number can be a design consideration. A smaller or larger piko may just look better on a particular hat. Another consideration is the size of the block used to weave the hat. A five mau'u piko may fit a small block better than a seven mau'u piko. The width of the mau'u may also be a deciding factor. Narrower mau'u may look better in a particular size piko. Experience will tell you which to choose. We will use seven mau'u for these directions.

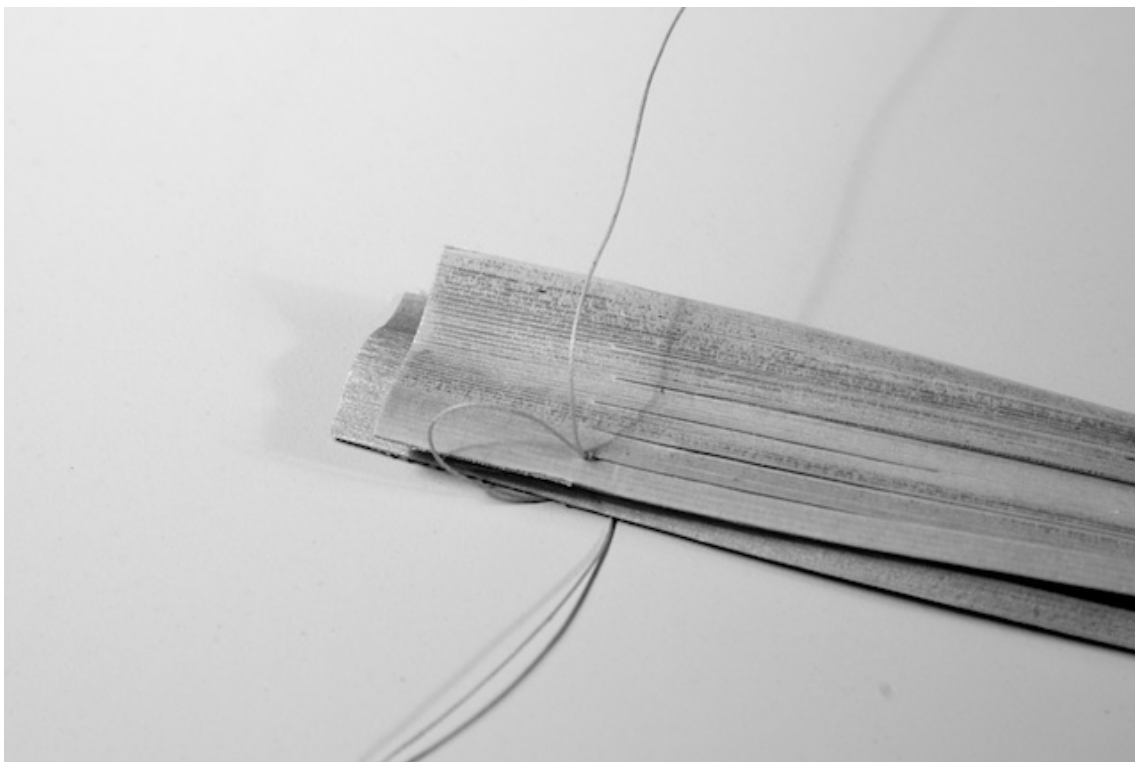
Well, let's get started.



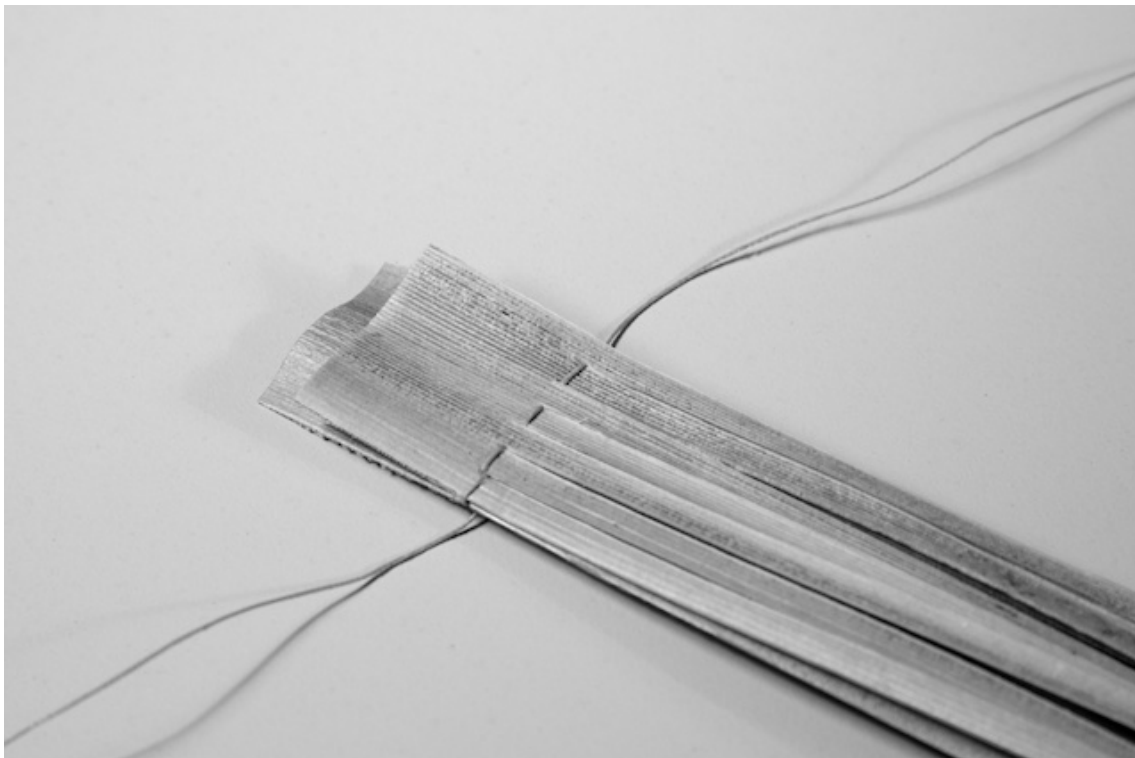
In the Basic Assumptions we said that the sets of strands should be sorted into three groups. These are under 18", 18" - 24", over 24"



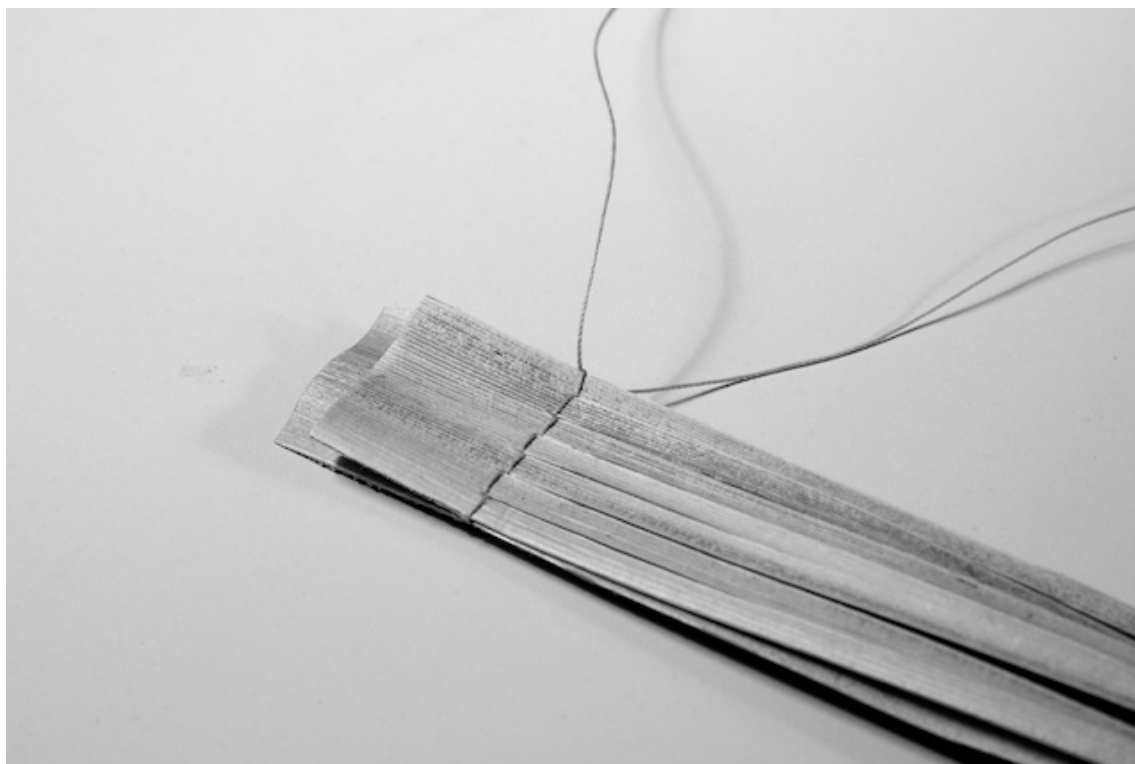
Start by placing two sets of 7 mau'u (strands) with their good sides (upper side of leaf) together.



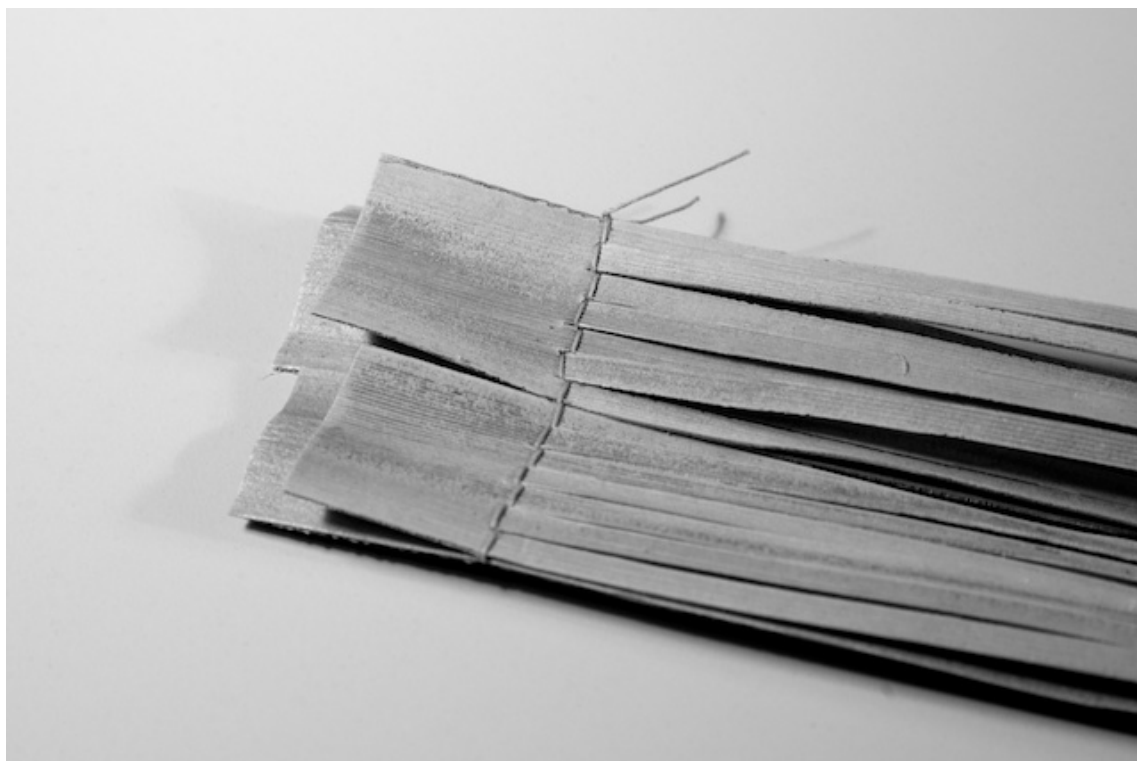
Cut off about 12" of button craft thread and wax it thoroughly with bee's wax. Loop it between the first and second mau'u of each set as shown.



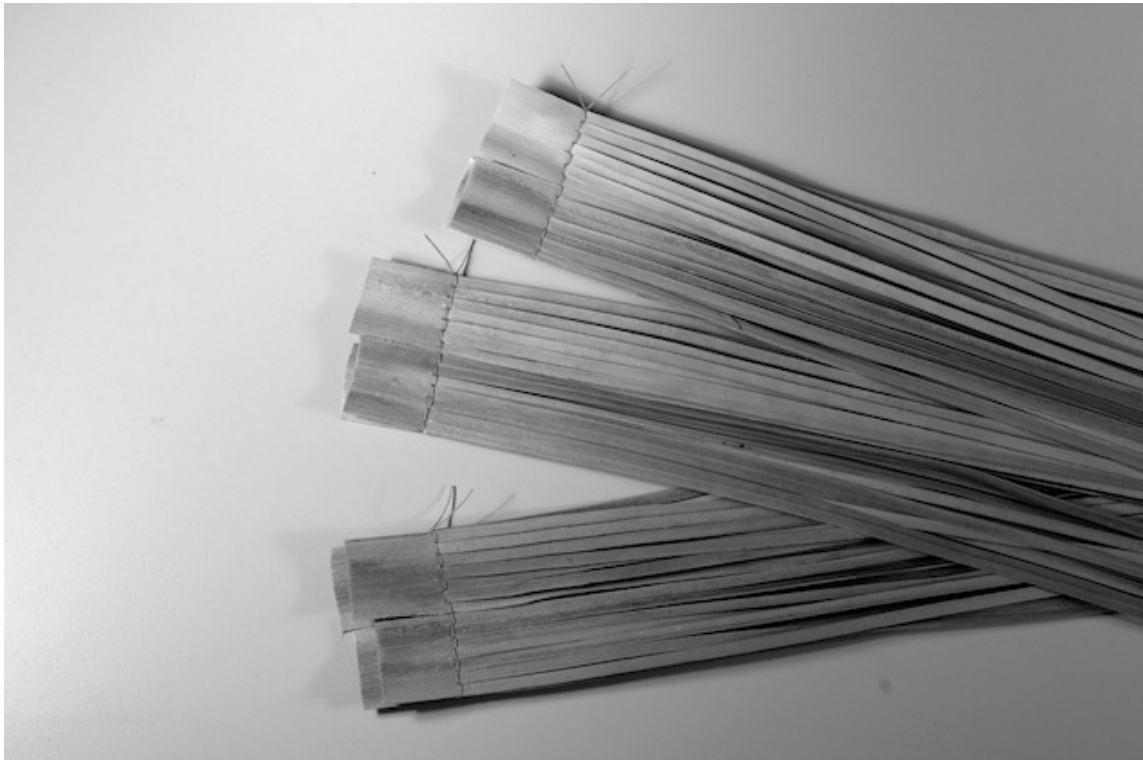
Take the thread on the front side and loop it around each mau'u of both sets as shown.



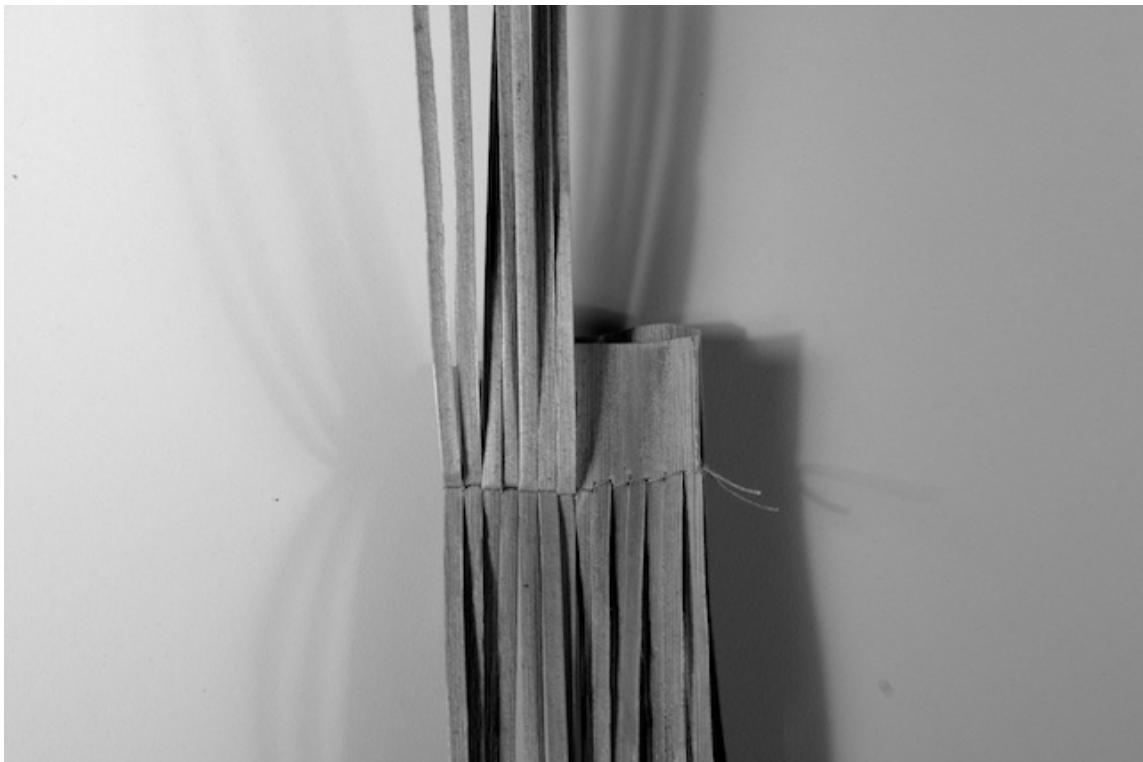
Repeat the process with the back thread. All mau'u should have threads on both sides as shown here. If you turn these sets over they will look the same. Pull the threads tight to the right and tie half of a square knot.



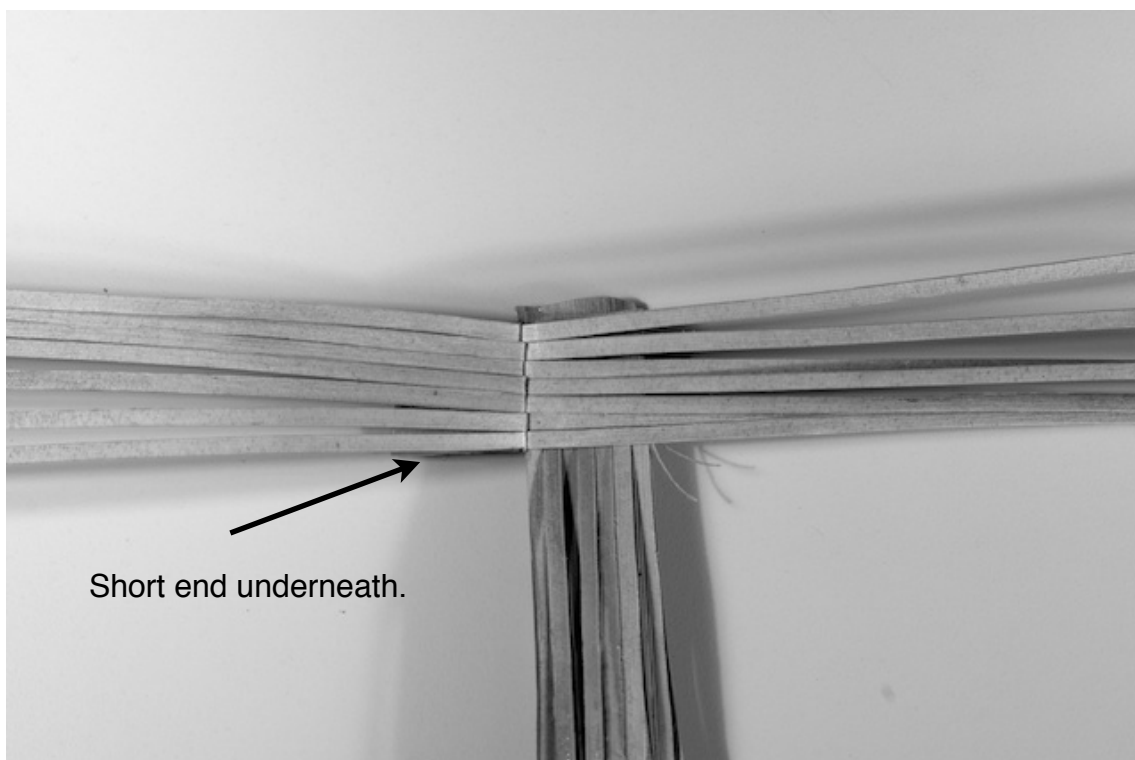
Repeat the process with a second pair of mau'u sets. Pull tight to the right so there is no play between the sets and tie a square knot on the right side.



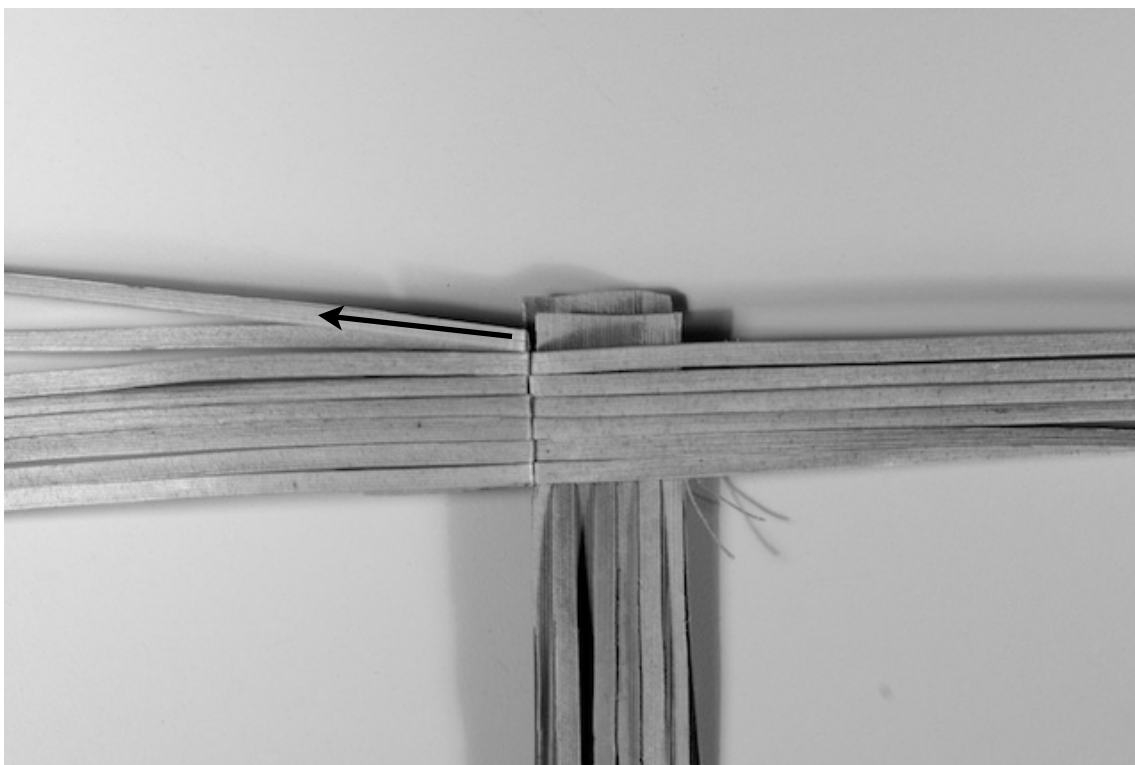
Make two more sets of mau'u as shown.



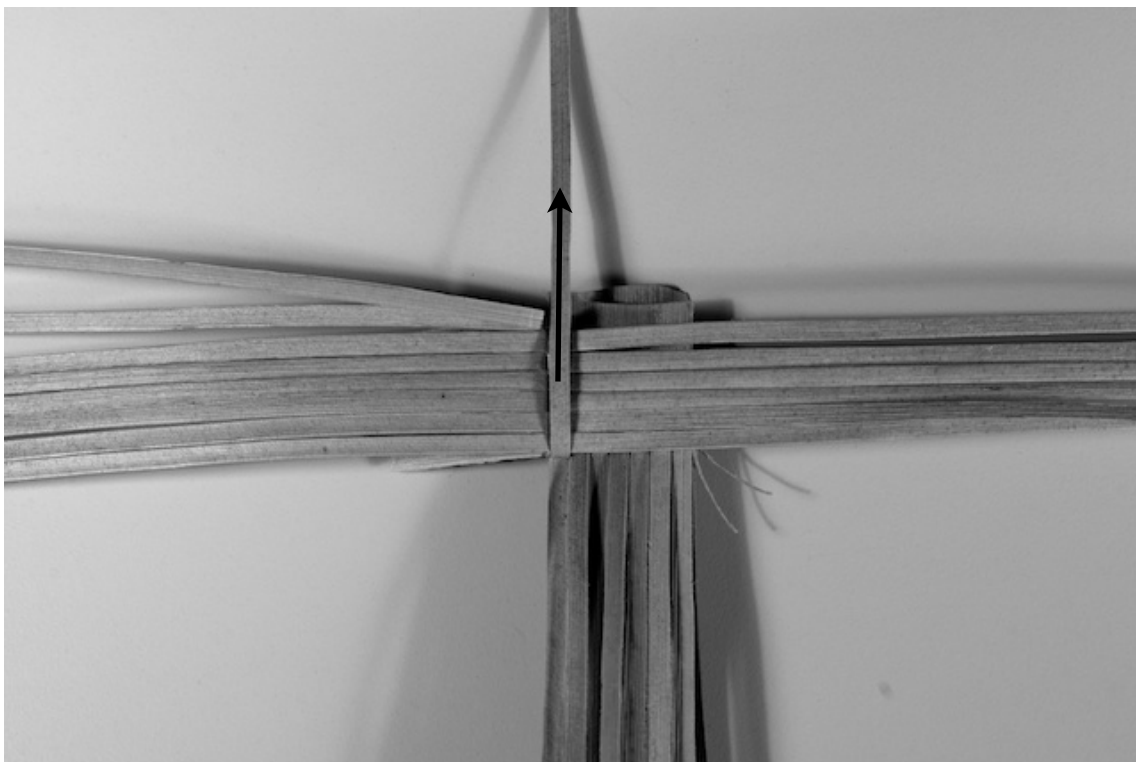
Open up the set on the left.



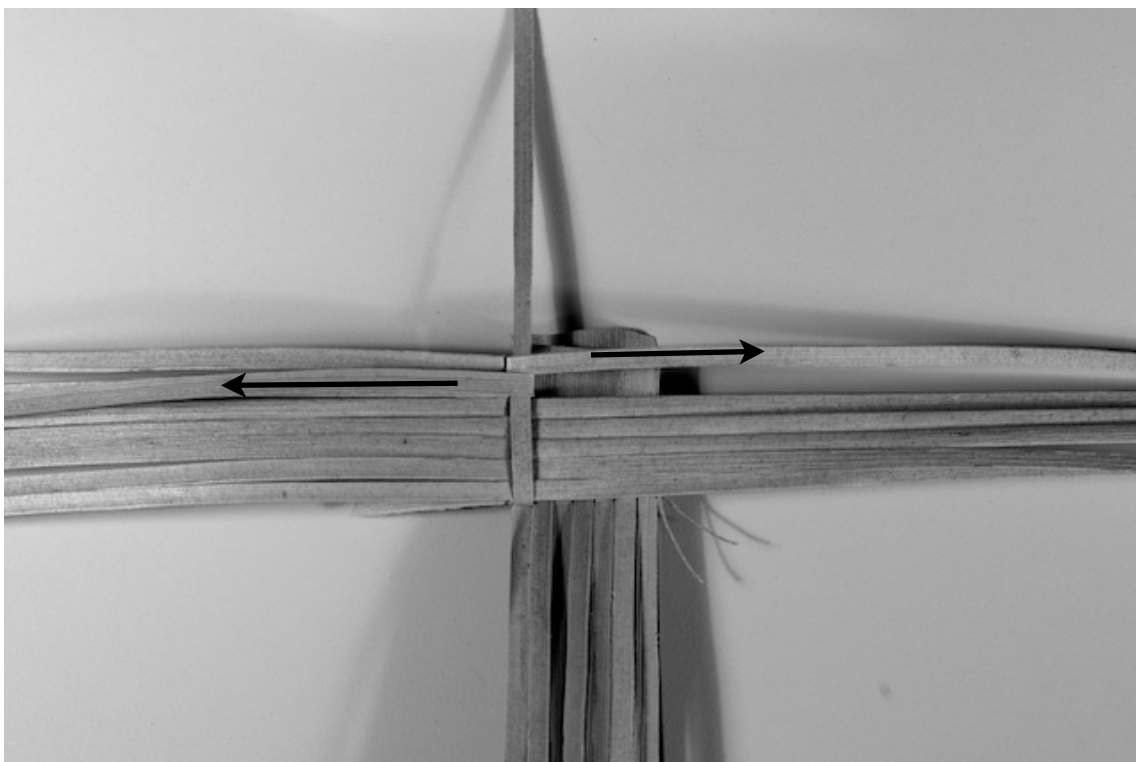
Rotate the open set to the horizontal position. Make sure the short ends extend to the left.



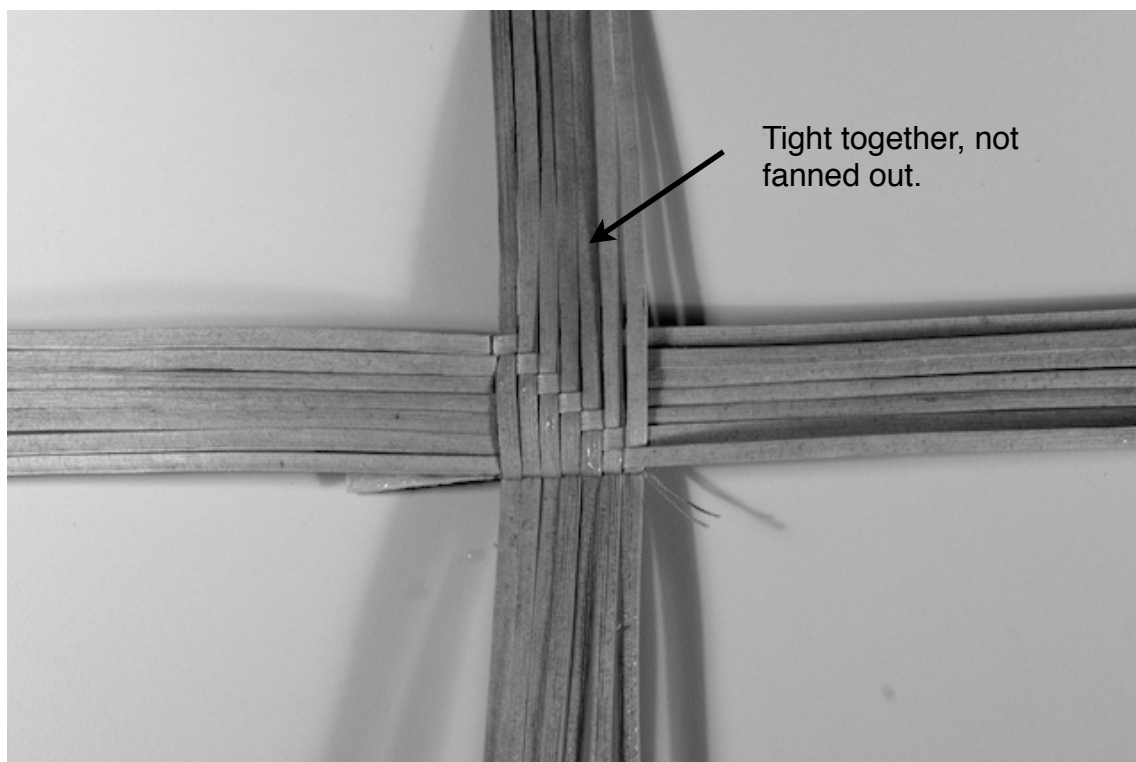
Fold to the left the top mau'u from the right side.



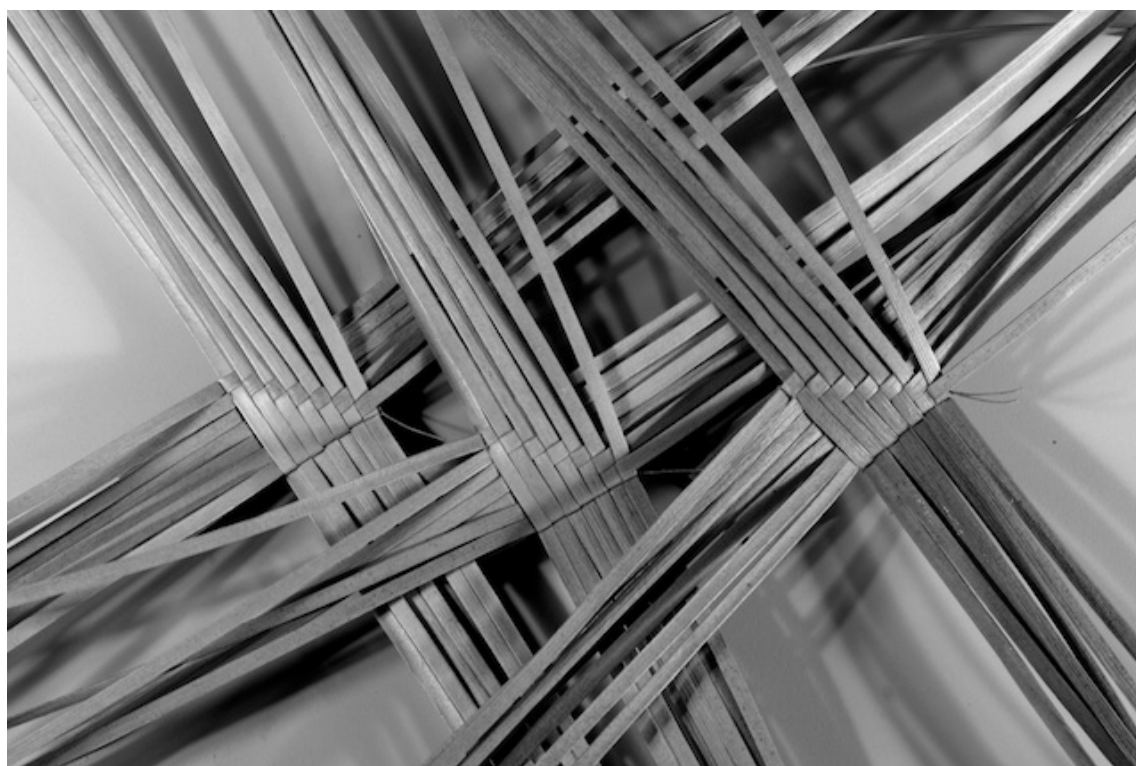
Bring up the left hand mau'u from the vertical set.



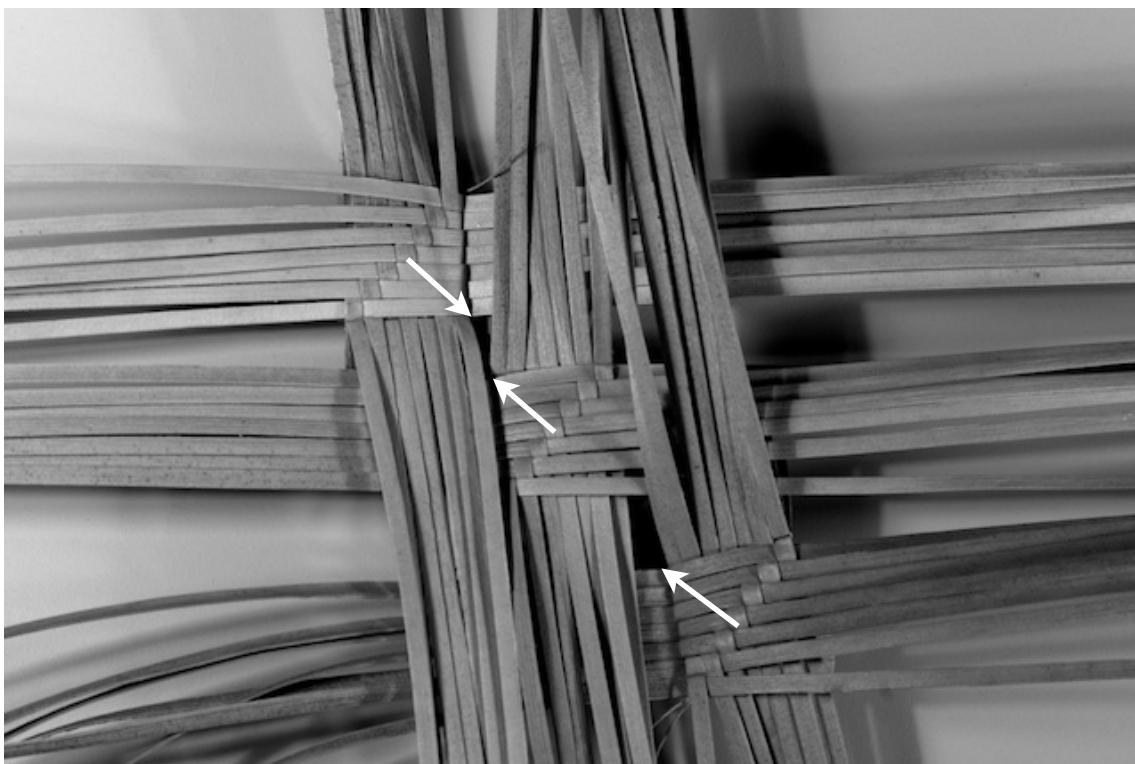
Bring across to the right the mau'u folded to the left previously. Fold the next mau'u to the left.



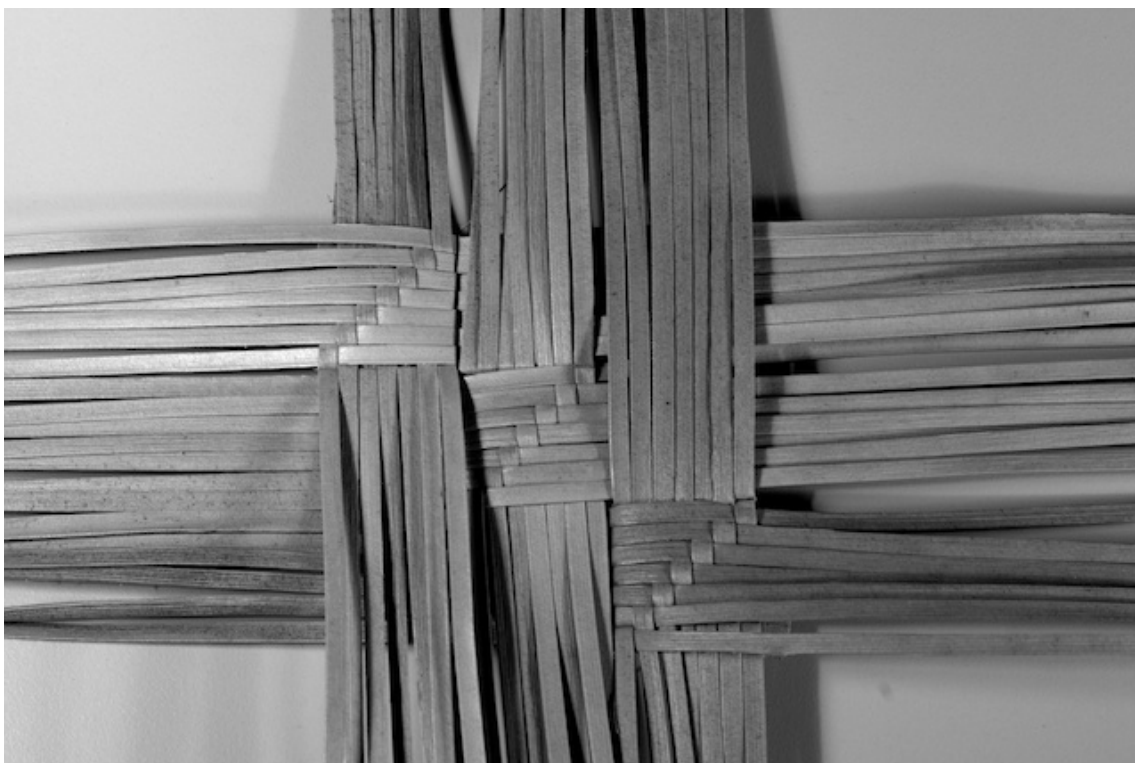
Continue in the same fashion until all mau'u are used and the work looks like this picture. Make sure the mau'u don't fan out.



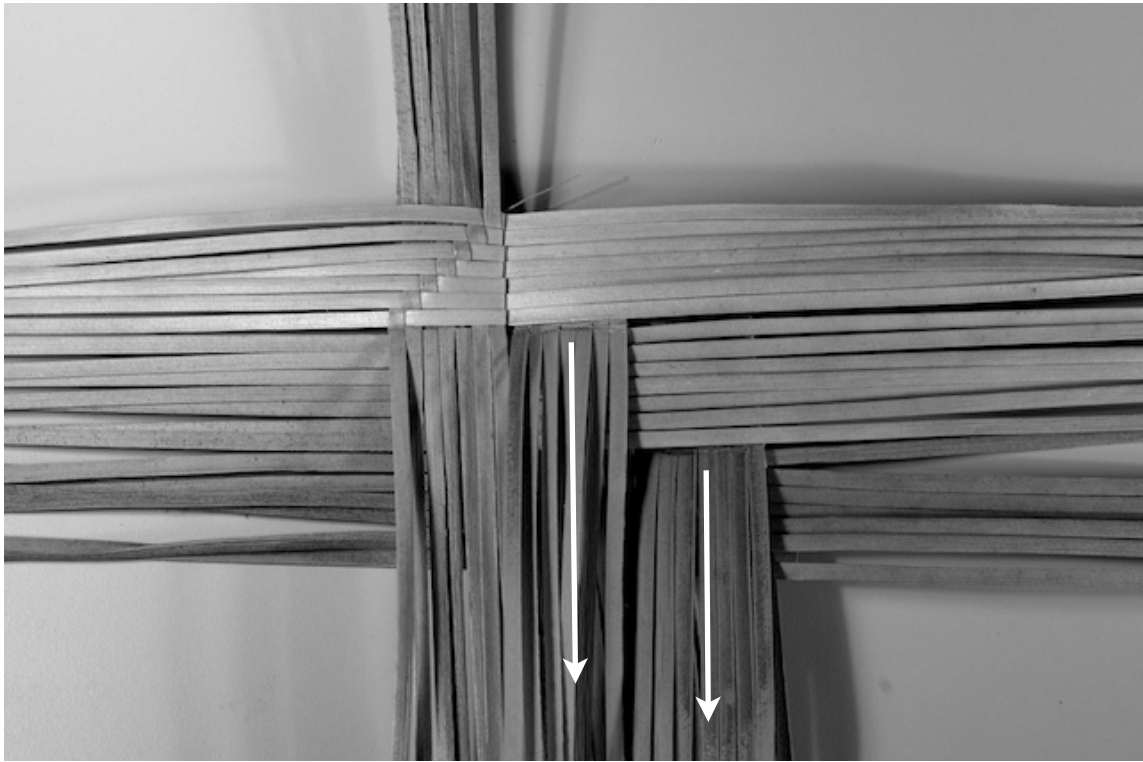
Do the same with the other two sets.



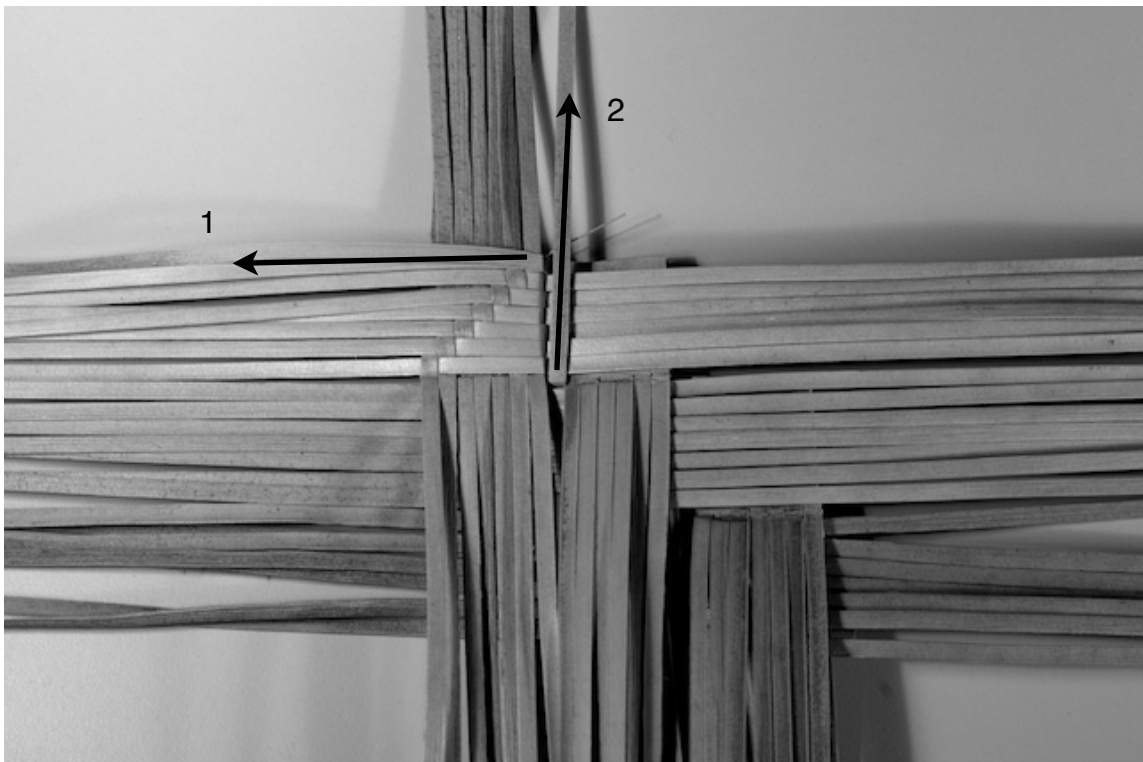
Place the completed sets as shown. Notice that the point of the two triangles point at each other. The point of the third triangle points towards the others.



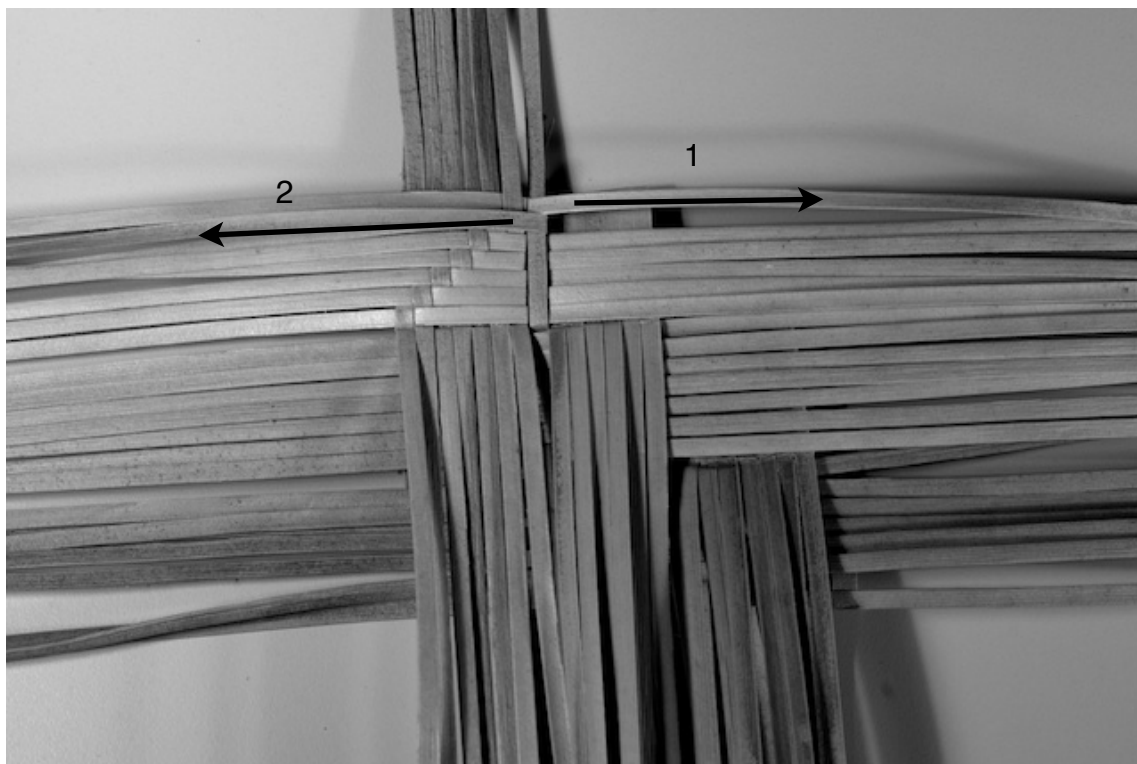
Move the sets together so there is no gap between the points of the triangles. Notice that the vertical mau'u are on top of the horizontals.



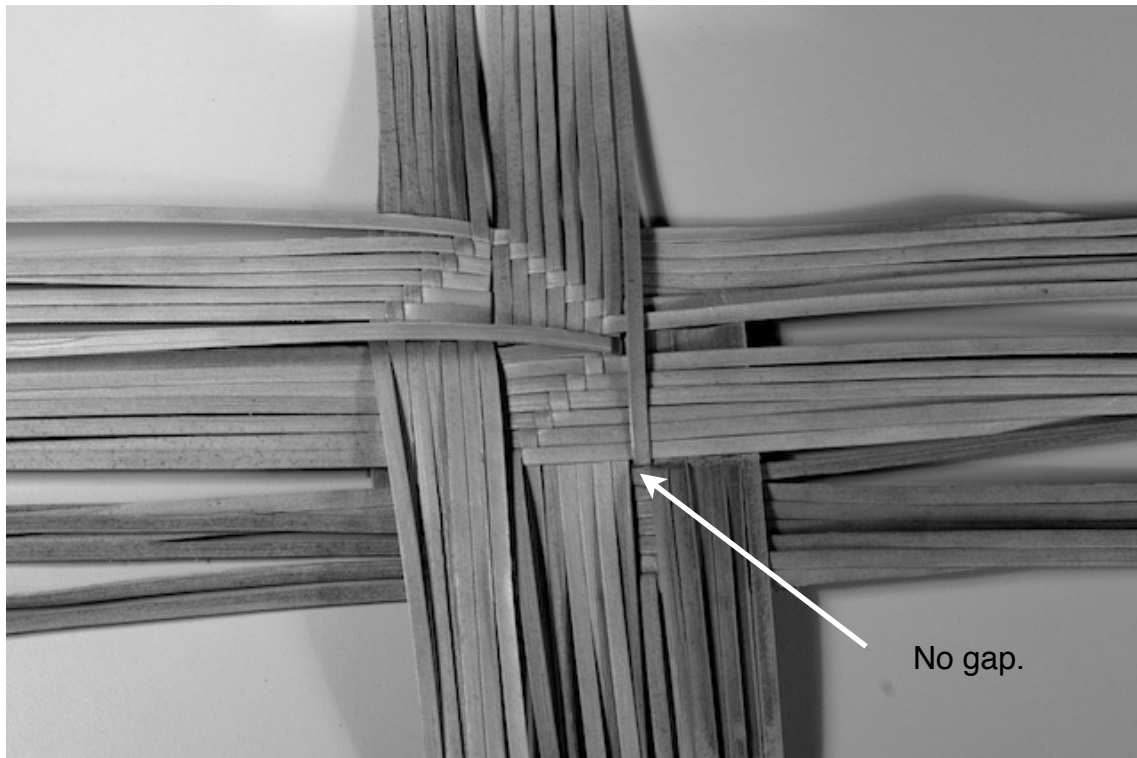
Fold down the right and center sets of mau'u.



Repeat the process shown on page 7.



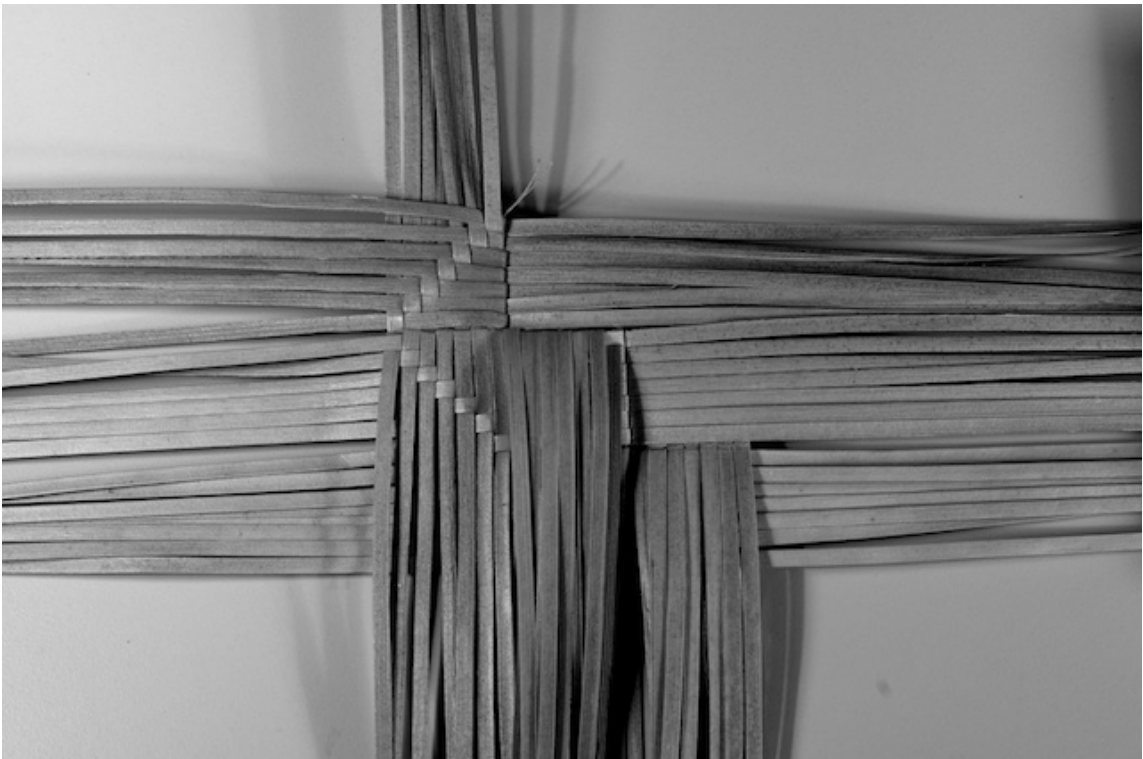
Repeat process shown on page 7.



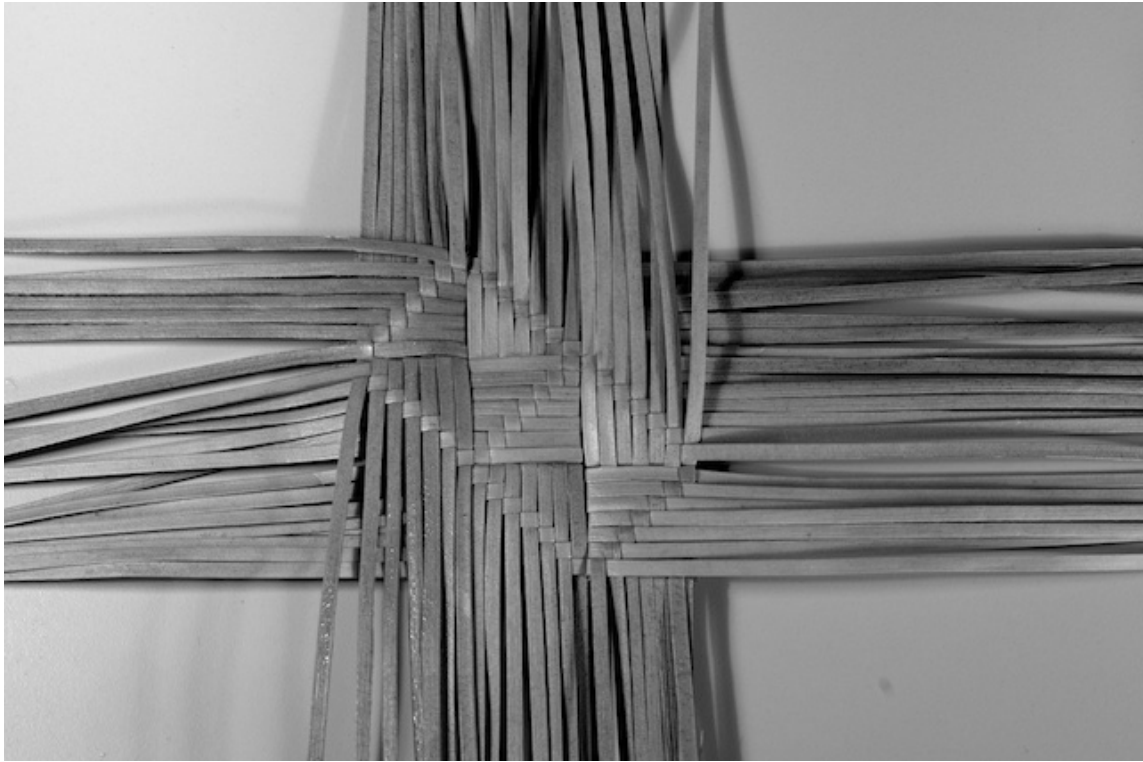
Continue in the same way until ready to start the next set. Be sure there is no gap where the two sets come together.



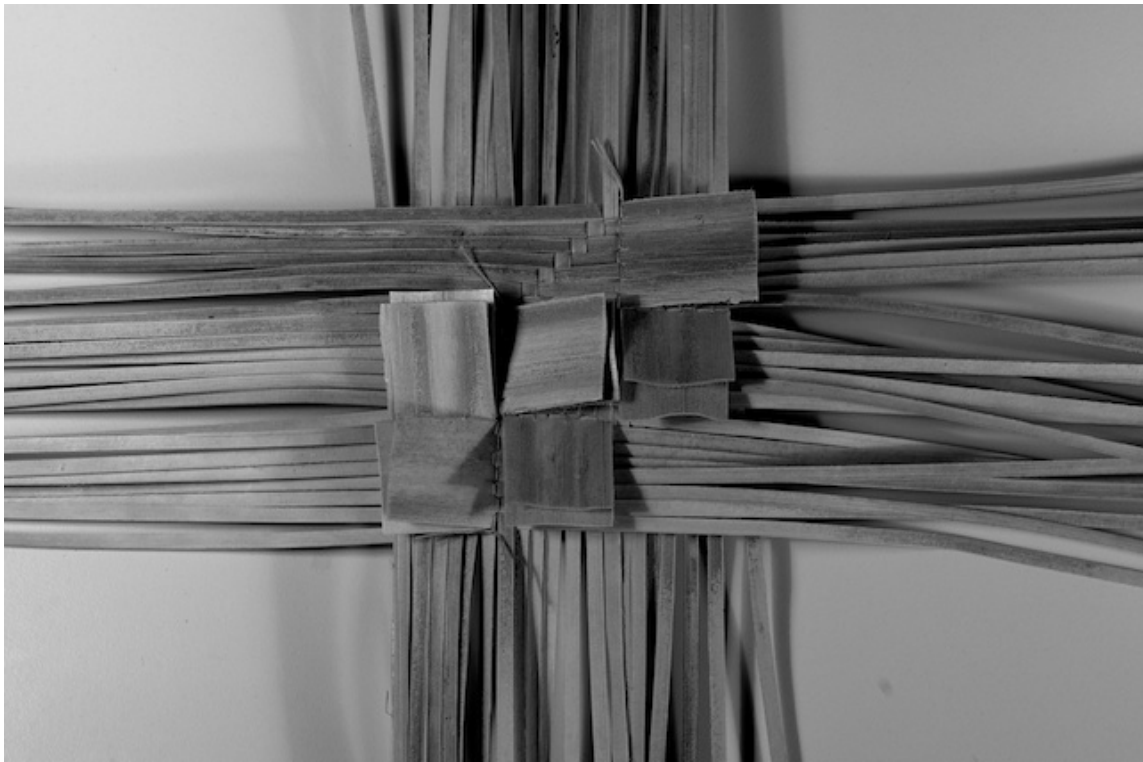
Finish the first side.



Turn the work around and continue weaving in the same fashion.



The completed piko.



The underside of the work.