

thumb was slipped under the buckskin thong. In using the implement it was pressed against the index finger with the iris leaf between. The fiber was pulled off with the opposite hand. As each fiber was pulled out it was looped over the middle finger, so that its ends hung down from the back of the hand. The work was usually done by men, but often assisted by women. Fibers were stripped off hour after hour by both men and women, from leaves pulled up from the ground in large quantities. Cordage was made by both men and women, but chiefly the former.

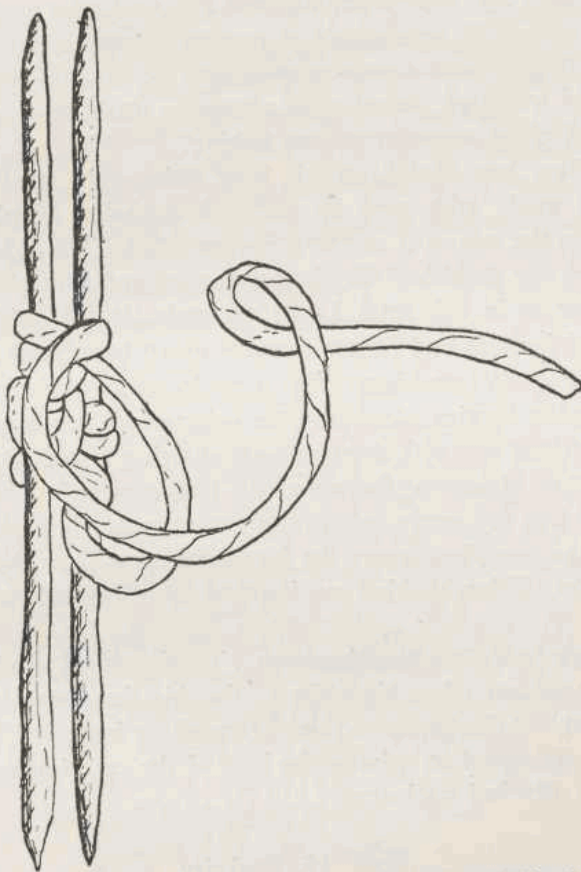


Figure 13. Netting needle. Drawn from model, University of California Museum of Anthropology 1—26739.

Rope the thickness of one's middle finger was four-ply, small string was two-ply. The twisting was done on the thigh. Three-ply cord was also made, a third strand being added to completed two-ply. Four-ply was made by adding one strand to three-ply. One strand or one "ply" was called *most*, two-ply string was *opet chiwasti*, three-ply *molmomosti*, four-ply *hilkoloposmosti*. Men continually made *chiwas* rope and kept bundles of it in the house to replace old and rotted rope. The word *chiwasbul*, meaning to make string, employed the word for iris, so thoroughly was string associated with that plant. In fact, it seems to have been the only plant used.