



a natural state

Artist: Peter Werner

Video 2: Process, Part C: Weaving Broom

Werner: And what I try to do is...this is the point right here where I came out from underneath...is that is where I start my weaving process. That is the first piece of second-layer broom straw that I put in. So I go in there and go under, and then over the next piece. And I just keep weaving...over and then under, and over and then under. And I have to get this really, really wet so that I can pull back on it and bend it because otherwise, again, it would just break.

I have a history in my family of arthritis. And my grandmother's hands, when she was in her seventies and so, were all kind of gnarled up. And my bottom-line reason here is that if I can keep doing things with my hands and keep my fingers supple, I may actually be postponing some of the arthritis problems that might crop up later.

One thing I try to do, also, when I'm making this broom, is try to get one layer as close to the next one as I can so that I create a pattern that is a bit artistic here.

One thing that you might notice while I'm doing this weaving is...from where I started, which was two layers underneath here, and where I originally put the hips in, I'm gradually, as I pull tight, getting a taper on each of these ends so that it will gradually work its way down to one layer thick at the base of the broom here. And then I'll tie it off, and it will look very, very nice.

But, even now, this isn't anything that looks magnificent. It's only when you put the final touches on things that you bring out the beauty of the wood and the beauty of the broom.

So that is how I do this.