



# a natural state

**Artist: Peter Werner**

**Video 2: Process, Part D: Securing Weave**

Werner: Once I get to a point where I'm at the very top of a particular piece of broom cornstalk, and I know that I'm past the place where I've gone from two layers down to one layer, I can choose to finish my broom off.

And what I do is just take a loop...this is like whipping the end of a rope...what I do is put my loop in there. And I have to be able to pull it through in one direction, so I have to be smart about the way I put that loop in.

Then, again, I'm going around, and I keep pulling it to keep my tension on it. And I'm not counting right now, so I either go five or six times, just like I did when I started all of this process. And once I get to that point in time and it looks about equal, then I make a decision that I'm done with my broom, and I take my trusty knife again and I just cut it off.

And then I take the end here and stick it through my loop. And then I pull on that loop and then give it a quick tug and pull it through...under. And now that is completely done. I have a, a broom that's completely made.

What I have to do is come back here and cut this little stem off, and you'll never ever see that again. And it will never come out.

And then to make it beautiful, I just try to take it and choose maybe a half an inch or thereabouts, and cut it off.

This is a serrated knife that's very, very sharp, and will cut through these fibers. And people are always cautioning me, "Well, won't you cut your...into your knee?" And I'm always cautious about that, but, as you can see, I have the stick between my knee and the knife, so I haven't come close to cutting myself yet. And I guess maybe I should walk...knock on wood, but I'm...I try to be as careful as I possibly can.

But now that is all finished, and the only thing I have left is to tie it off and, and make it flat.