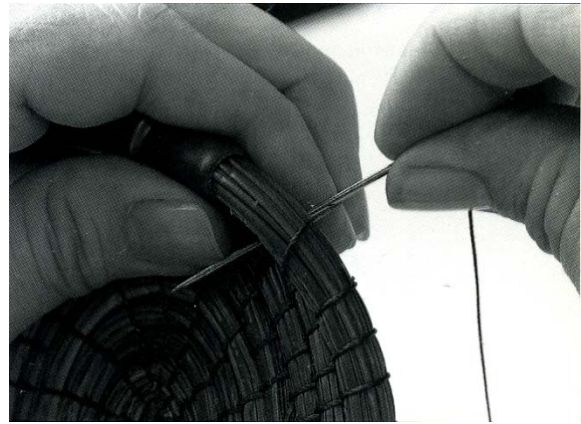


### ***Straightening Rows of Stitches***

*As you stitch more coils in place, the lines of plain stitches will tend to spiral out towards the left on the front side of your work. Unless you find their swirling pattern attractive (many basketmakers do), after you take each stitch, pull the thread gently back towards the right to snug it up against the last stitch; doing this will straighten up the stitching lines. If you're making a vase-shaped project, in which the exterior will be more visible than the interior, insert your needle to the right of each stitch and let it exit to the left.*



13. Plain-stitch one complete coil by continuing until you've returned to the starting point. Take care to space your stitches evenly; they'll serve as reference points for the stitches in succeeding coils. If they're uneven, the rows of stitches radiating out from your basket's center will be too. Don't forget to add needles as you go.

### **Stitching Succeeding Coils**

14. You may need to add thread at this point. If you do, read step 16 before proceeding. To take the first stitch of the second coil, insert your sewing needle (from the back of your work) at a slight angle, just to the right of the stitch in the coil beneath and pull it out just to the left of that stitch, picking up about one third of the coil as you do (see Figure 9). Keep the new coil directly on top of the one beneath or the bottom of your finished basket won't be flat.

15. Continue stitching coils in this fashion, adding de-capped clusters as necessary. Holding the work as shown in the photo above will make the stitching process easier. Because each coil that you add to the bottom of your basket is larger than the one it surrounds, the more you stitch, the farther apart the stitches will be in each coil. In Steps 19 and 20, you'll learn how to add new stitches.

### **Adding Thread**

16. When the thread remaining in your needle is about 4" (10.2cm) long, remove the needle, leaving the 4"-long tail dangling from the front of your work. Thread another 1 ½ yard (1.4m) length into your sewing needle. Take the next

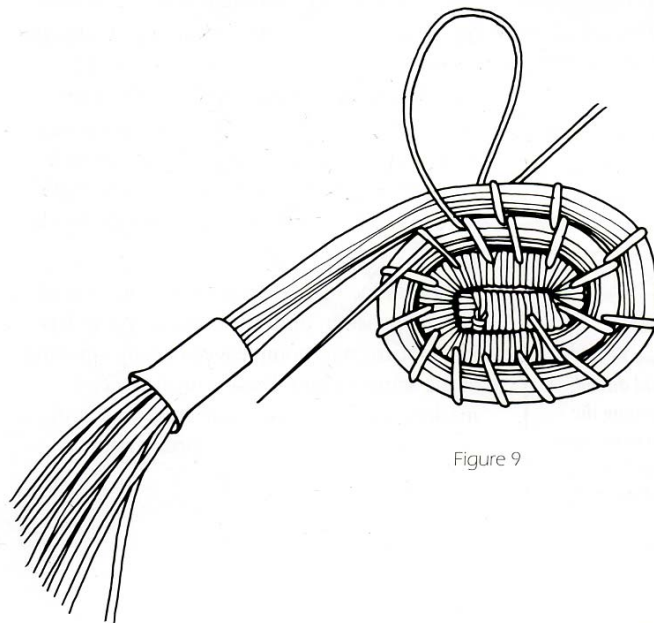


Figure 9