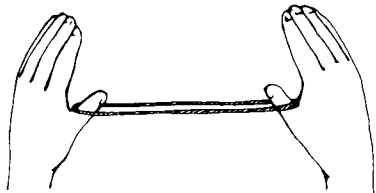


THE MOSQUITO

---a string story

(Note: to make a string for the following story, cut a yard of stout string or 4-ply macrame cord and knot)

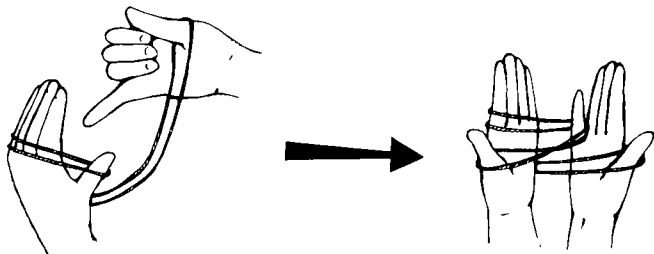
Once there was a woman sitting on her front porch,
(hook string around thumbs and extend hands until taut)



Weaving in and out...
(Keeping the string taut rotate the right hand clockwise around the left so that the string lies on the back of the left palm)

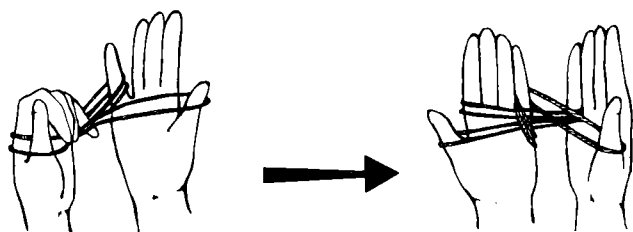
when she heard a buzzing sound (invite audience to make the sound---Zzzzzzzz) "What is that?", she said. But she didn't see anything, so she went back to work weaving in and out...

(With the little finger of the right hand, hook the two strings passing between the thumb and index finger of the left hand and pull through. Then push strings as far down fingers as possible)



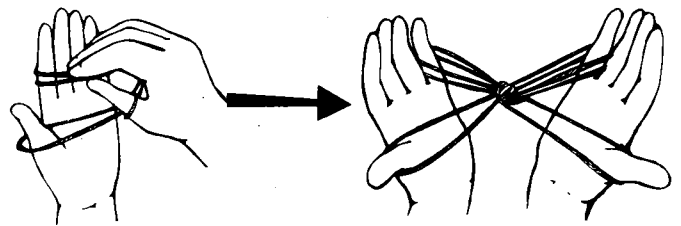
then she heard it again. (Zzzzzzzzzzzzz) "What is that?", she said again, a little irritated. But still she didn't see anything and went back to work weaving in and out.....

(Using the little finger of the left hand and passing over the top of the strings now in place, hook the two strands that are looped around the right thumb and return, again moving the strings as far down the fingers as possible)



Again she heard it!! (Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzz) "What is that?", she said quite angry now. But once again she didn't see anything. She went back to work weaving in and out.....

(Keeping all the strings in place, using the thumb and index finger of right hand like pinchers, pick up the top two strings on palm of left hand, and pass them over the four fingers on that hand, pulling as far to the right as possible and letting go of those strings only. Make all remaining strings taut. The mosquito should appear midway between the two hands)



When all of a sudden, right there under her nose, was a giant mosquito.
(Display the mosquito to audience)

It buzzed in her ear. ("Buzz" ear of member of audience) It buzzed in her hair. ("Buzz" someone's hair) It buzzed her toes. (Continue to interact with audience this way until you feel ready to stop)

Finally she said, "I'm going to get that pesky mosquito..." She went after, trying to get it between her hands.

(Ask audience to get ready to clap their hands and count 1,2,3...with you. Then complete the move by clapping your hands together. While your hands are closed, palms together, get ready to drop the strings on the little fingers while keeping the strings around the thumbs. Try to do this quickly and effortlessly enough so your audience doesn't see what is happening. When you open your hands the mosquito will have disappeared and you will be back to the first figure)

And that was the end of the mosquito!

