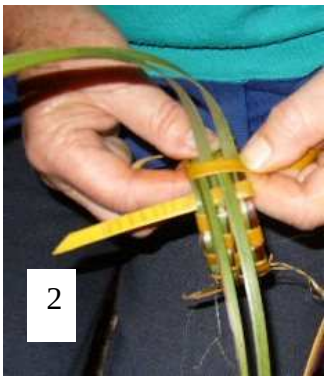
Mahi Harakeke:

How to make a bracelet (mau ringa):

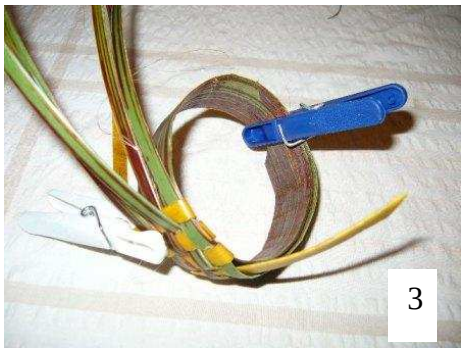
Choose a good rau, reasonably long as it needs to wrap around your wrist. The thick end forms the base really.
Prepare the flax for weaving as normal.
Wrap the rau around your wrist (width to suit you), peg, (Pic.3) then split into four weaving strands (whenu). Take care not to 'split'whenu right down. (If this happens – start again!)
I usually use a strip off the side as the aho to weave with. Or as in pictures – I have used a different colour .


1

There are some stunning natural colours out there.


2

Two whenu back – two forward – (alternative) place the weaving strand across the work, (Pic.2) wrap the weaving strand RIGHT AROUND THE PROJECT. (Pic.4)
You can start with the thick end or the thin end of your weaving strand. As in Pic.2 I leave some sticking out – to be trimmed later.
When you need to add another weaving strand – once again just lay it over the previous one – trim excess or leave till later, and round the strand goes again.
It may take 3 strands – depends on size of wrist and width of strands.
Keep weaving until you reach the 'end'. I weave one or two over the top of the start then finish the bracelet. (If it looks ok)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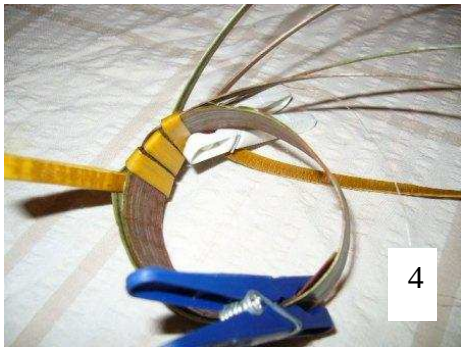
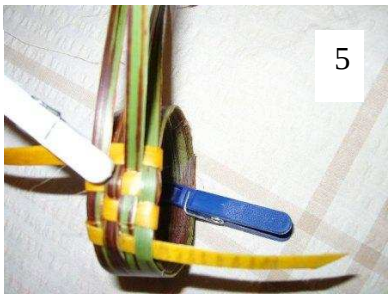

4

Finishing off:
Using the four weaving whenu (Pic.s 5 & 6) and keeping the weave correct, weave the strands – one at a time into your work keeping it 'round'.
I usually 'go' two along – then cut off the excess.
Bracelet should look like picture 7.


5

General comments:

- Two pegs – one to hold the thick end of the rau in shape while you are weaving around it. The other to hold your work if you have to put it down for a while.
- Find a container to dry your bracelet on. It needs to fit really snugly. Leave for a few days until it is dry and keeps its shape.
- Chicken skewer – (Pic.7) Used in finishing. Great for lifting 'stitch' and making gap to push aho in.


6

Kupu Māori:

Whenu – strand
Aho – thread
Mau ringa – bracelet
Rau - leaf
Harakeke – flax


7

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