Māori Weaving Techniques

A Quick Guide
MĀORI WEAVING TECHNIQUES

There are several traditional weaving techniques that are used in Māori Weaving.

RARANGA

A basketry technique used to weave kete – carrying baskets and whaariki – floor mats
TAANIKO

A technique akin to twining used to weave the borders of kākahu – traditional garments such as feathered cloaks. Different coloured threads are carried along and brought forward in the weave to create patterns.
WHATU

The technique used to weave kākahu – like hieke (rain capes) and cloaks. Fine threads called 'aho' are used to weave the whenu or warp threads together to create the fabric.

The fine lines resemble stitches made by a machine, although they are all painstakingly woven by hand.
TUKUTUKU

*Tukutuku* is the technique used in the weaving of wall panels for wharenuī – traditional meeting houses.

The panels are created by weavers, one at the front and one at the back of the panel, threading different coloured fibre through to create the design.
**WHIRI**

*Whiri* is another technique that is used in different forms of ‘plaiting’ with 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 or more whenu (weaving strips) which are woven together.

The whiri technique is used to make handles for kete, poi, as well as rope and other items.
OTHER

There are also variations of weaving techniques used to weave fishing implements such as kupenga (nets) and taruke (eel) or hinaki (crayfish pots).

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