

# The Arts of Basket Weaving

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A popular traditional craft, Moroccan basket weaving knew how to exploit the plant richness of the Moroccan regions intelligently to address functional and aesthetic needs of everyday life .

The craftsmen, therefore create decorative objects (boxes, garden furniture, lampshades...) or useful objects (pom pom hats, baskets...) woven with rushes, reeds or dwarf palms.



## Banig (Lhssir)

An age-old craft, banig weaving consists of making mats from harvested natural plants. Once dried properly, the stalks are weeded out, then colored to serve its quality and use, with natural products. Then comes the weaving phase where the master craftsman skillfully weaves mats with fairly varied shapes, colors and patterns.

The mats were greatly on demand to be used as carp to spread on the room floors in houses, mosques, Koranic schools, zawias and tents in rural markets.

The hygienic and ecological value of the mats is unquestionable, because, after brief exposure to the sun, they easily clean out and dry out avoiding the accumulation of mites, a source of allergy.

## Divers vannerie items

Moroccan basket weaving is an often rural craft, fabricated by both men and women. Several fibers and techniques are used to create woven baskets : the palm tree, found in large quantities in the south, is used with its leaves to fabricate baskets, baskets, hoods, bags.

The raffia is used for colored baskets, the rush is mainly used for the manufacture of square or rectangular baskets, the reed, available in the northern regions, is used in furniture, tables, chairs, shelves.

Finally, the doum from arid regions is used to make ropes, harnesses and mats. Like all Moroccan crafts, the forms of basketry and techniques differ and compete in beauty from one region to another.

