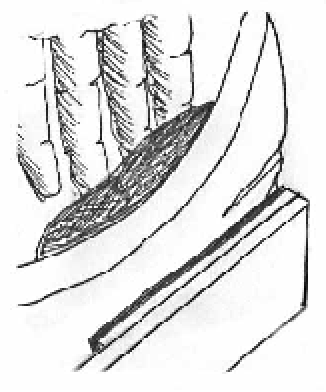


Historic Illinois Indian Decorated Pottery

The historic Illinois Indians used two main techniques to roughen the surfaces of their pots: **paddling** and **cordmarking**. One reason a rough surface was a good idea was that it allowed the person holding it to have a good grip on it, even when it was wet. Another reason was that rough-textured cooking pots may improve transfer of heat to the contents. The textured surface is also decorative.

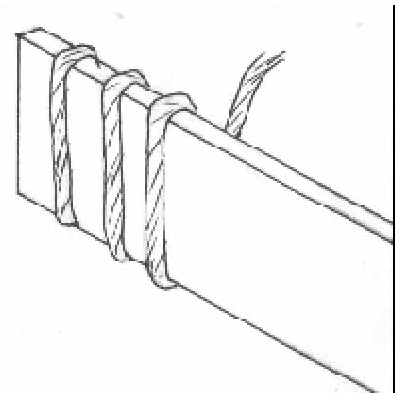
Paddling

Paddling was done when the pot was already formed while the clay was still a little moist. The Danner grooved pot shown here (photo below) shows the paddling technique. Paddling was done by cutting grooves in a wooden paddle, bracing the inside of the pot with a stone or ceramic anvil, and then striking the outer surface of the pot's body with the paddle (this pot shows diagonal grooves).



Cordmarking

Cordmarking was done by wrapping a wooden paddle with cordage, bracing the inside of the pot with a stone or ceramic anvil, and then striking the outside of the pot with the paddle to form lines of cord impressions.



Additional Decoration

Punctuation and Incising

While the clay was still wet, the rims of pots were sometimes notched with a stick.

The hourglass-shaped strap handles of the pot have lines **incised** (cut) into them, probably made with a pointed stick.

The shoulder of the paddled pot also shows an example of a line of **punctated** marks (impressions made with a tool or a fingernail).

