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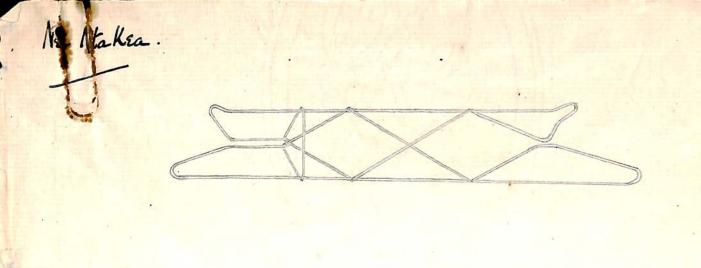
Grimble Papers - Part V

String Figures

Field Notes MS 48p.

Two string figures have been published in H.C. and H.E. Maude, String Figures from the Gilbert Islands, 1958:60-63, 65, with acknowledgement, while others were collected independently and published in the same book.

sterne Liquees.



Wanten by Seg Cattle Grands

X Kan- Tabakea

The name was probably Nan Tabakea in Parlier days (Nam Pabakea was the father of Ame Na Arean to Karimon, the Creator). The change from "Nan" to "Kan" was possibly made by generations of children who did not know anything about Palakea, + at The same time used the masculine prefix Tr. or Tru in daily conversation; + So lost the meaning of Wan. The substitute "Kan" would be naturally arrived at by analogy with the names of a nomenous group of strong tigures all beginning "Kan" - Kan-tabe, Kani, munning, Kani-beka, Kan-tang, Kan-uki, Etc.

Karika-na

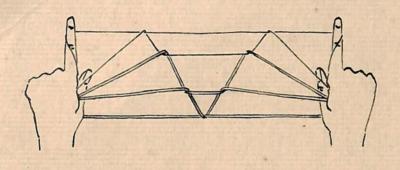
1 Loops on thumbs.

Double strings across palms and between ming + little fringers, so that they are stretched round whom sides of little fringers

3 Pick up palm strings (double) upon opposite indices.

4) Thembo proximal to index looks;

Nei Anti.





- 1. Double your loop (i.e., make it into a double-stringed loop of half the usual size), and insert the thumbs into it pointing away from you. Let it hang loosely from the backs of the thumbs.
- 2. Pass the little finger of your right hand towards you over the dorsal strings of the left thumb. From proximal side insert the little finger into thumb loop; return to right carrying dorsal thumb strings. Extend.
 - 3. Pass the left little finger between the radial little finger strings and the ulnar thumb strings of the right hand, and under the palmar string from the proximal side; return with this string.
 - 4. From proximal side pass thumbs into little finger loops, and return with radial little finger strings.
 - 5. From proximal side pick up ulnar thumb strings on the tips of the indices. Extend figure by pressing up thumbs, straightening indices, and turning palms away from you.
 - 6. You now have a double string sagging below the figure from thumb to thumb. Take one of these strings and Navaho thumbs.
 - 7. Pass thumbs distal to the string you have just Navaho-ed and proximal to the ulnar index strings. Drop these strings on the backs of the thumbs by releasing the indices from their loops; return thumbs.
- 8. Repeat 5, 6, and 7.
- 9. To extend, repeat 5.

Te Ba-Auriaria (No. 2) Given by Aitintebuaka of Banaba.

- 1. Make Te Ba-Auriaria No. 1, as far as the end of movement 11.
- 2. Release indices.

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- 3. Pull the hands gently apart until the loose loops are shortened by about half their length.
- 4. With indices, from the proximal side pick up the ulnar thumb strings, keeping thumbs well pressed in.
- 5. Hold down the ulnar little finger string to the palm with the tips of middle and ring fingers.
- §. Extend by straightening indices and turning palms away from you.
 - (N.B. It is necessary to keep the tension on the strings very gentle throughout these two figures. A friend should also stand by to arrange the strings properly when you have extended the figure).

a variation of Meneuri 95(b) manubana

a variation of Meneuri ? no. 956)

Te Ba-Auriaria (Auriaria's leaf). Given by Aitintebuaka of Banaba. Seen nowhere else in the Gilbert Group.

1. Opening A.

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- 2. Turn each thumb and finger clockwise under its own loop.
- 3. Pass thumbs distal to middle finger loops and into little finger loops from the proximal side; return with radial little finger strings.
- 4. Pass indices into thumb loops from the proximal side; return with ulnar thumb strings.
- 5. Release thumbs from all strings.
- 6. Pass thumbs through the proximal index loops from the distal side, and on into the little finger loops from the proximal side; return with radial little finger strings through the proximal index loops.
- 7. Release little fingers.
- 8. Insert little fingers from the distal side into the distal index loops; pull down distal ulnar index strings to the palm; then pass little fingers proximal to the proximal index loops and into the thumb loops from the proximal side. On backs of little fingers pick up the ulnar thumb strings and return.
- 9. Release thumbs.
- 10. Pass thumbs between the distal and proximal index loops, and then into the distal index loops from the distal side; release indices from their distal loops.
- 11. Pass thumbs distal to index loops and into little finger loops from the proximal side; return with radial little finger strings.
- 12. From the proximal side pick up on the indices the ulnar thumb strings.
- 13. To extend, press thumbs up to hold loose strings, straighten indices, and turn palms away from you.

To Roata. (Mika of Arorae) Position I. Por Turn left Thumb counter clockwise over and under its own radial string; thumb is now in a loop. From proximal side visent right witex wito themb loop and return; Pass left ridex between ulnar and radial right midex strings, wesent it from proximal Side under right palmar string and Pan right ridex between ulnar and radial strings of left widex, wisert four proximal side inder left palmer string and uturn; Kelease all frigues of left hand and let the figure hang four right hand; From distal side pass little tringer of of left hand into distal loop of right index, and lift it off, the top at now hough loosely Position I on left hand; do not Extend the figure; On the right hand, it will be seen that the radial little friger string and the when midex string are crossed. Pass left.
Thumb how distal side wito the triangle
thus formed, and four proximal side
wito the index loop. Release widex and Extend the figure. Release Themb from radial little friger string (i.e. Navaho Thumb);

With frigues of right hand lift of left thumb loop, give it a half turn counterclock wire fand replace on themb (what was before the radial vice versa). Repeat this on right hand. From prox. side pass thembs into lit. fing. loops, and return with radial strings. From prox. side pass vidices vito themal loops. and return with whom the was strings on With little and mig priges hold where litt. fing. strings to palms. Parss themas close up to privent slipping and extend by turning palms away from you. 1420 For -- 1- A Agency of the

And the second second second second

- 1. Position 1;
- 2. Turn left thumb counterclockwise over and under its own radial string.
- 3. Thumb is now in a loop; from proximal side insert right index into this loop, and draw out;
- 4. Pass left index between ulnur and radial index strings of right hand, and insert it from proximal side under right palmar string; return.
- Pass right index between ulnar and radial strings of left index, and insert it from proximal side under left palmar string; return.
- 6. Release all fingers of left hand, letting the figure hang from right hand with palm downward.
- 7. From distal side pass little finger and thumb of left hand into the distal loop of right index, and lift it off, so that it hangs loosely in Position 1 on left hand; do not extend.
- 8. On right hand it will be seen that the radial little finger string and the ulnar index string are crossed; pass left thumb from distal side into the triangle thus formed, and then from proximal side into the index loop; lift off this loop and extend.
- 10. With fingers of right hand lift off left thumb loop, give it a half turn counterclockwise and replace it on thumb.

 Repeat this on right thumb.
- 11. From proximal side pass thumbs into little finger loops, and return with radial little finger strings.
- 12. From proximal side pass indices into thumb loops, and return with ulner thumb strings on their tips. Press thumbs up, and extend by turning palms away from you.

Ni kabuaka of Romanani, Margher. Te eti ma le Vacko. (about 16) Trumakaeka 1. Opening A. Think dist to state look 2. Indices from dist. mito all loops of thurs, all strips on sadial side of thurs. Perlease 3. There prox to all radial witer et is Then Tisfal to ulnar milde the Alto with alman midry loop prox to rad. with alman midry loop prox to rad. 4. Indices wite them to loops from Vist.

brick up radial them tetrings & return

of same time releasing thembs from 5. Give sach vistal loop on vidices a loop clockwise twent. Cast It prox. loop A cach where 1. Thinks tom troop wite lif looks.
Return tithe radial st. Fransfer 7. Katera.

3 phone Clam Naa-ni-man V. p. b.2. . Opening A. 2. Thumb distal to wider loops and into l.f. loops from proximal side. Return with sadial life string. from distal side on index pick up almai themb String and return on tip of index. 4. Release thumbs from all loops. S. From distal side poss thumbs through distal ender loop and wito then into lit. f. loops from prox. side. Return thro. distal widex A. Poops with radial lit. f. strugs, 6. Kelease l.f. 7. From dist. side pass lif. thro dist. widex loops + then on mito themb loops from prox. side. Return thro dist. wid. loops with ulna thumb strugs. 8. Release Thumbs. Vass thumbs & proxitordie between dist. and prox. widex loops away from you then how dist. side into dist. widex loops, which transfer to thomb and seture. 10. Pass thumbs dist to wider loops and form prox. side wito l.f. loops. Return vista radial E.f. string. 11. Release indices from loops and gently separate the sto hands until nearly all 12. Pan vidices prox. to ratial thumb staps; pross thumbs up to keep strings from slipping and extend figure by straighting indices and turning palma any form

Te na-ni-man 1. Opening A; 2. Gove lack frager and think a turn clockwise under its loop. 3. Proceed exactly as in I. 1. Opening A; 2. Transfer right mides loop to left midex; and left midex loop over it to right midex; 3. Proceed as to in I and you have the lame figure. 1. Opening H; 2. Transfer midex loops to mig trigger, and thumb loops to middle frigas. 3. Take ulnar zu. f. string between teeth 4. Pass themb right the provide into month loop anitarbush pick up nigt left month string and pall it over to right, clear of right monthstrings. 5. Pan left them to to right the file under right month string; Bich up this string on back of left themb and pull over to left. Release month loop. 6. Transfer them loops to indices. 7. Repeat 3-5 with whom wider strings. 8 Proceed as in I. But mistead of releasing only wider as in I. 11, release under, mid by and mig friger from loops.

1. Opening A.

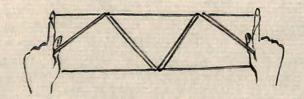
2. Proceed as in TV, 2-7;

3. Give Each fright a clockwise turn round its own loop;

4. Proceed as in TV. 8.

Na Umake (Mr. Umake). Given by Nei Tenamonrenga of Tarawa. Universal throughout Gilbert Islands.

- 1. With hands about six inches apart, hold string between thumbs and indices, letting the rest hang free.
- Make a little loop of the string between your hands, so as to bring your whole string into the shape of the figure 8, with a very small loop on top and a large one hanging below.
- 3. Into the small loop insert the indices, pointing away from you; into the large loop insert the thumbs, also pointing away from you. Draw hands apart.
- 4. From the distal side pass thumbs into index loops; transfer these loops to thumbs by releasing indices.
- 5. From the distal side pass little fingers into the distal thumb loops; crook little fingers over ulnar string of distal loop, and hold down to palm.
- 6. From the proximal side pass indices into proximal thumb loops. On tips of indices pick up ulnar strings of proximal loops.
- 7. To extend, press up thumbs to hold loose strings, straighten indices, and turn palms away from you.



Tima aniba. Tenua ni maniba (Three waterholes) Given by Nei Kaintia of Tabiteuea. Common to South Gilberts 1. Position 1. From proximal side insert left index under right palmar string and return. Release left thumb and little finger. Extend. 2. Transfer left index loop to Position 1 on thumb and little 3. finger. 2 and 3 above. 4. Repeat From proximal side insert left index under right palmar string 5. and return. Pass right thumb into little finger loop of same hand, from 6.

- the proximal side; return with radial little finger string.
- Pass left thumb from distal side into index loop of same hand, 7. transfer loop to thumb and return.
- From proximal side pass indices into thumb loops, pick up 8. ulnar thumb strings on tips.
- Press thumbs close to hold loose strings, straighten indices 9. and extend by turning palms away from you.
- Right hand.

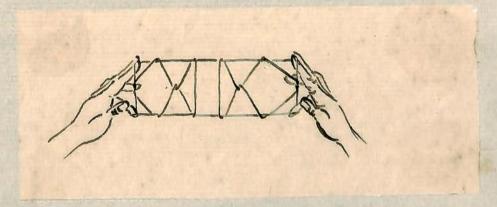
 10. You now have before you a figure consisting of a central diamond on either side of it. diamond and an incomplete diamond on either side of it. With the middle finger of the right hand push the ulnar little finger string towards you through the right hand (incomplete) diamond, and hold it between the teeth.
 - 11. Release little finger.
 - Transfer index loop to little finger. 12.
 - Release thumb. 13.
 - Insert thumb from proximal side into little finger loop, then 14. pass it distal to intervening strings towards you, and down into the mouth loop. Then turn thumb to your right under the right mouth string, and release string from teeth.

Left hand. 15. On the left hand are seen two radial thumb strings. the ulnar little finger string towards you between these strings; hold between teeth.

- 16. Release little finger.
- Transfer to the little finger the loop over thumb and index. 17.
- 18. With thumb and forefinger of right hand remove the remaining thumb loop and hold it in position, while the thumb is inserted from the proximal side into the little finger loop; then replace the thumb loop.
- 19. Release mouth string.

Both hands. 20. From the proximal side pick up the ulnar thumb strings on the indices. Keep thumbs pressed up to hold loose strings, and extend figure by straightening indices and turning away palms. Kani mumun (Flight of the vanquished). Given by Ten Toakai of Maiana; widely distributed through northern Gilberts.

- 1. Opening A.
- 2. Transfer index loops to wrists.
- 3. Pass indices through little finger loops from distal side, then on into thumb loops, also from distal side; on tips of indices pick up ulnar thumb strings and return with these through the little finger loops.
- 4. Release thumbs, and then transfer index loops to thumbs.
- 5. Transfer wrist loops to Position 1 on thumbs and little fingers.
- 6. Repeat movement 3 above.
- 7. Release little fingers.
- 8. From distal side pass little fingers into index loops, lift them off and return.
- 9. There is now seen to be a middle string running across the figure parallel to the ulnar little finger string. This middle string forms the base of four small triangles, whose apices depend upon the ulnar little finger string. Into the right and left of these triangles insert the right and left indices, from the distal side; pick up the middle string on their tips.
- 10. Extend by straightening indices and releasing thumbs.



Te kasawa & Konraure

na aburbase Seales They have the single loop from month. (2) higher hand towards you with many - lift hand strug on back of night hand - deads across Deft hand between body & string - draw across Delvist hands down a away from the toward body.

317 towards body with month loops - release Blyst lops to Lunks 1) Thumbo prox side with LF Loops return with radial Lt strings 8) Press thurbs close to undies to present things 9) India prox side wite T logo & left who T.S. on the of undien poline away from you, I figure by himney That player prounts figure to 2nd player Figure of parishs up PRLF strugg which cross he Town the String with Store Town agreed of themes (4) 2 mg & 4 linds @ thurs for prox side into L. F. loops: return

with Rad. L.F. strugs; (3) Indices into To loops from prox. Side; On backs of midice pick up menon h stry Shoughten vidices: pros turns up; . Extend by turning palms away. Naumake te Karako IV. O Second player holds figure palms 3 there is middle of tigues; under the point where double strings toming porter strokes of this in pass oper toponish The other frigers between the string picks up + hans the outer strokes of the thingles; De Withham figure from hands of Second Player; (5) Indices from prox into 1. loops. fich up alean To strings. From up themb. De land by straighting vandice stary polices away

Tolow Bru There are now 2 prod to so to at the lower extremetes of the driver they bresented to and P. (200) passer all amed het not trulity towards (at) through these thandles 3 Thurs over double struces which was donal Caspel 9 1st P. thinks (4) First player drops all strings, + second player extends by passing widices from prox. wito themb loops of lifting doubte alasa T. String, pressing tuents up, + turning palm ontward. Butimata. 1 there is a large central triangle on base of bottom string, flanked by two inverted triangles; pass little frugers unto circuted trangles + crook them towards Sach other round side strongs of central trangle. 1 Thumbs with central triangle: on backs take up basal string of figure: twist turnts up lunder this string towards you. This brings palus opposite with all frigers pourting 3 Thumbs from prox. into L.F. loops. Return with radial L.F. struje Thumb loof

on possits take up uluar T. Things, Tress up T: straighten endices: turn palms Dand Phresent frame palm down and There are troubles ruling across donal aspect Dead them to to a botton string of frame! Ony bucks of L. F. thirt player picks up diagonal show which passes towards, him of typing palmis down away from him on thunks I show gassing 3 2nd player releases figure. It player whend with rad, L, F. stage D'Indices mito 7. loops from prox. Tick up uluar T chings on tips: Shaighten indices: press up themats: turn falen, Naumake to Abaki O there is an inverted triangle in middle of figure. Under the point where double side things of this triangle pass over top string of tigure, ment little prigers + passing over top string Do on backs of themas take up double side stings of contral triangle.

3 Remove from first player's hands + Stand.

Thursto into IF top from post to the up who on any whom the state up who and the state up who are to the state up who the fair courts of top a latter shines . Clares the dorsal Munt shines have an & doubte toop caught up and middle shings to the top and who will with the side of middle found for them to the side of middle found them to the side of middle found them to the side of middle found to the side of side O 1st P. passes little frigers toward 2 player under hanging total, Then over these doubte strings towards him, then over top string of figure towards 200 player, and finally under top string again towards himself. 1 There is now a double string hanging between L.F. of 1- player. He passes Thems towards 2 - player on either side of these things and on back of thumbs picks up bottom string: He then turns thumbs if under theirs they toward hem +

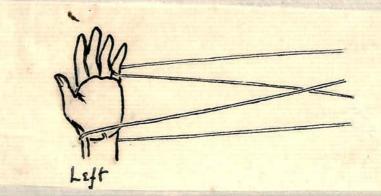
9.00 3. T. pour prox. ruto L.F. loops, Return with at andial L.F. cherry. De busices from prox. with T. loops, Pick up whom T. strongs. Press up T. Straighten Ind. Turn away palms.

This game is for two persons, preferably in the Gilberts a man and a woman, each of whom opens with one hand. The players sit facing each other.

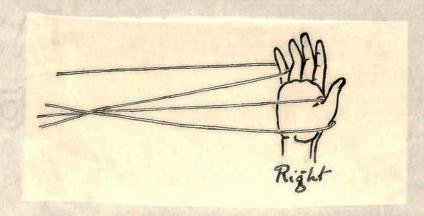
I, 1. Opening A is made on the right hand of the man and the left hand of the woman.

The movements now to be described will be those made by the player who has opened with the right hand. The movements of his partner are exactly similar, but are made with the opposite hand.

- 2. From proximal side insert free left hand through the index loop; pass left little finger from distal side into right little finger loop, and pick up ulnar string.
- 3. Withdraw right hand from all its loops, and earry figure away to the left.



- 11, 1. Pass right little finger proximal to all strings, and then into wrist loop of left hand from the distal side. Pick up ulnar wrist string, and pull it over to right proximal to all strings.
 - 2. Pass right thumb from distal side into little finger loop; pick up ulnar HHHHH string.
 - 3. Withdraw left hand from all its strings and carry figure away to the right.

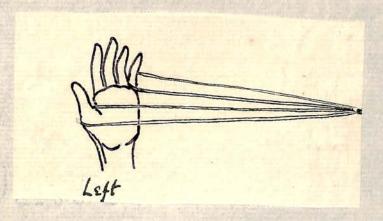


- III, 1. Figure is now on your right hand. Pass right thumb from proximal side into the little finger loop; return with radial little finger string.
 - 2. Pass right index from proximal side into thumb loop; pick up ulnar string on tip of index. Press thumbs up to index to prevent strings from slipping; extend figure by straightening index, and

2.

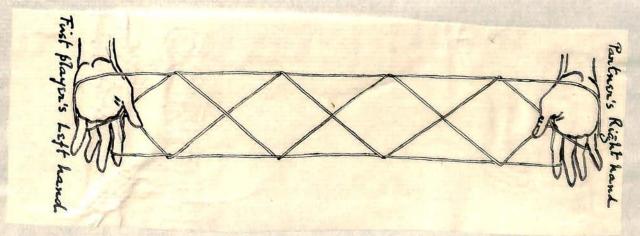
turning palm towards the left.

- 3. A double string is now seen to sag loosely from the middle of the ulnar index string to the thumbs of the players. Pass the little finger of your free left hand between this loose string (at your end) and the index string; from the proximal side pick up the ulnar little finger string, and return to the left.
- 4. Pass the left thumb proximal to the right index string, and lift it off the index. Release right thumb and carry figure over to the left.



IV, 4. On your left hand repeat the movements described in III, 1 and 2 above.

2. Keeping the figure extended, make a counter-clockwise sweep thro' a circle with your left hand and forearm (your partner will perform it clockwise with his right), so that the hand is brought palm upwards before your body.



V,1. There are two corner triangles at your end of the figure, up against the radial side of your hand. Into the left hand corner plunge the thumb of your free right hand; into the right hand corner pass the little finger, pointing downwards.

Now push your right hand away from you towards your partner, scooping all intermediate strings with little finger and thumb

Now push your right hand away from you towards your partner, scooping all intermediate strings with little finger and thumb towards the middle. Your partner does the same with his left; you interlace your fingers with his in the centre, keeping yours on the ulnar side of those which correspond on his hand. Close hands palm to palm.

2. Withdraw your left hand from all strings, and let them fall loose. Your partner does not release his right hand.

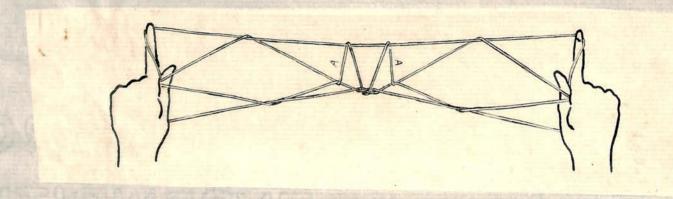
3. Drawn tight from the back of your partner's left hand you will now see a string between index and thumb and one between his lit-MENNHHHH tle finger and ring finger.

Turn half right so that you are able to point your left hand in

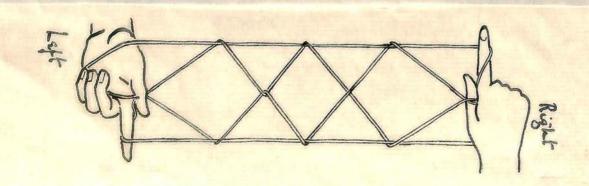
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the same direction as his; pass little finger and thumb down between the strings mentioned, and pick up his thumb string on your thumb and his little finger string on your little finger, from proximal side (below).

- 4. Your partner now releases both hands, and you extend the strings on yours.
- 5. Pass thumbs from proximal side into little finger loop; return with radial little finger string. Pass indices from proximal side into thumb loops, and pick up ulnar strings on tips. Press thumbs up to prevent loose strings from slipping, and extend by straightening indices and turning palms away from you.



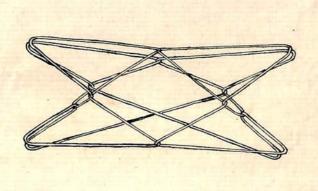
- VI, 1. In the figure you have made there are two small triangles at the middle. Your partner takes the strings forming the outer sides of these triangles (marked A, A in figure) between fingers and thumbs, and pulls them right and left towards your hands.
 - 2. Drop your index and thumb loops; present your thumbs at partner; he puts the strings he holds over them. Pull strings tight.
 - 3. There is now a loop caught up on each palmar string. Your partner takes the strings of these loops that are on his side of the figure, and puts them over your thumbs.
 - 4. Pass indices proximal to ulnar thumb strings and pick these up on tips of indices. Press up thumbs to hold loose strings, straighten indices and turn palms away from you. The figure has not yet appeared.
 - 5. Turn left hand down (palm downwards) clockwise, and right hand up (palm HHMHHHHH) counter-clockwise, and the figure will appear.
 - 6. Display the figure by bringing your left palm against your stomach, and carrying your right hand palm downwards straight in front of you.



VII, 1. In the figure you have extended towards your partner are three interior diamonds and eight exterior triangles, the latter based upon the top and bottom strings.

Your partner turns his palms towards you, with thumbs outwatd and fingers pointing down. From above, into the two triangles up against your right hand, he plunges his little fingers. Into the next pair away from him, also from above, he passes his thumbs. He pushes his thumbs onwards under the intermediate central diamond and upwards again into the third pair of triangles away from him. His little fingers he passes from below upwards into the last pair of triangles against your left hand.

2. Release both your hands from all strings, and let your partner extend figure on his thumbs and little fingers.



- VIII, 1. Keeping the figure extended, your partner presents at you the back of his right hand. From the proximal side pass your little fingers into his little finger and thumb loops (your right to his EHHMHHHHH little finger, your left to his thumb).
 - Crook your right little finger round his ulnar little finger string, and your left little finger round his radial thumb string, and lift loops off his right hand.
 - 3. Your partner now proceeds to hold his end of the figure exactly as you are holding yours. Extend between you, palms upward.
 - 4. Pass indices from the over side down into the corner triangles of the figure, then on under intervening strings into the central diamond. Crook right finger round right side strings of diamond and left finger round left side strings, at your end; your partner does the same at his end.
 - 5. Release little fingers, and extend figure on indices.
 - 6. Transfer index loops to little fingers, in same position as before.
 - 7. Movements 4, 5, and 6 are to be made ten times in succession, both partners counting aloud, "Te-taba-na, ua-taba, ten-taba, a-taba, aima-taba, ono-taba, iti-taba, van-taba, rua-taba, te-ngam".
 - 8. Now you reverse. Pass thumbs into little finger loops from the proximal side, take up loops on backs of thumbs, and release little fingers.
 - 9. From proximal side pass indices into thumb loops, then on distal to diamond strings. Crook right index round right side strings of diamond, and left index round left side strings. Full these strings proximal to thumb loops, and release thumbs.
 - 10. Transfer index loops to thumbs, by passing thumbs from the under

side up into index loops, and releasing indices.

- 11. Movements 8 and 9 are also to be made ten times in succession, both partners intoning aloud, "Teuana oki-ra , ua-oki , "One return-our, two-returns, ten-oki, a-oki, nima-oki, ono-oki, iti-oki, van-oki, rua-oki, te-ngaun".

Kawai-n Nei Tku (Nei Iku's way of doing it). Given by Nei Kaintia of Tabiteuea and Beru. Common in South Gilberts.

- 1. Opening A.
 - 2. Release right index and extend.
 - 3. From the distal side insert right index into index loop of left hand and lift it off; return with this loop on right index. You will see that it catches up the palmar string of the left hand: do not allow the palmar string to be extended more than four inches from the left palm.

Right hand.

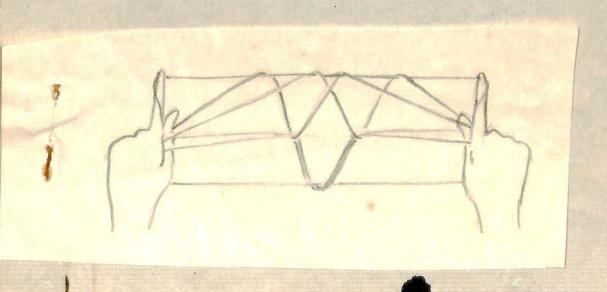
- 4. Give each loop on right hand a twist by turning little finger and index loops clockwise, and thumb counterclockwise, under their loops
- 5. Transfer thumb loop to index.
- 6. Pass thumb from distal side through proximal index loop, and on into little finger loop from the proximal side; return with radial little finger string through the proximal index loop.
- 7. Release little finger.
- 8. Transfer distal index loop to thumb.
- 9. Pass indices towards you, distal to distal thumb loops, and then into proximal thumb loops from the distal side; return with radial string of proximal thumb loop distal to distal loop, at the same time releasing thumb from proximal loop.
- 10. Repeat 8 and 9.
- 11. Transfer distal index loop to thumb.
- 12. Twist thumb counterclockwise under its loops.
- 13. From distal side push radial index string through thumb loops, and hold in teeth.
- 14. Pass ulnar index string towards you distal to thumb loops, and also hold in teeth, at the same time releasing index.
- 15. Transfer thumb loops to little finger and mouth loops to thumb.

Left hand.

- 16. On the left hand are a thumb loop and a little finger loop. From the distal side, between thumb and index of right hand, pinch together the ulnar thumb string and the radial little finger string. Lift off the left thumb and little finger loops, letting them hang respectively on the thumb and index of the right hand.
- 17. From the proximal side, pass your left little finger into the new hanging thumb loop; lift it off.
- 18. Insert thumb from proximal side into little finger loop, so that it is in Position 1 on left hand.
- 19. From distal side pass thumb into hanging loop on right index; lift it off and extend KHYHKHH strings by separating hands.
- 20. To extend figure: Pass index of right hand into little finger loop from distal side, and pick up from proximal side the double string dividing it from thumb loop. Pass index of left hand proximal to ulnar thumb string, and pick up. Keep left thumb pressed up to hold loose strings; release right thumb, and straighten indices, turning palms away from you.

Tabonibai maereere (Striped fingers). Given by Kabaua of Tabiang village, Beru.

- 1. Mouth loop;
- 2. Insert right hand towards you into mouth loop; pass it to left between your body and the left mouth string; pick up this string on the back of right wrist, and return to right so that it is clear of the right mouth string.
- 3. Pass left hand between your body and the right mouth string; return to left with string on back of left wrist.
- 4. Insert both little fingers towards you into mouth loop(i.e., above the point where the right and left mouth string cross each other).
- 5. Drop string from mouth and extend.
- 6. From distal side pass mouth through little finger loops, and between the teeth pick up ulnar wrist string; pull this towards you through little finger loops.
- 7. Pass right thumb to left, distal to new mouth loop; then from proximal side into mouth loop. On back of thumb pick up left mouth string and return to right so that it clears right mouth string.
- 8. Pass left thumb to right distal to right mouth string; then from the proximal side pick up this string on the back of the thumb, and return to left.
- 9. Drop mouth string and extend figure.
- 10. Transfer wrist loops to middle fingers.
- 11. Pass thumbs distal to middle finger loops, and into little finger loops from the proximal side; return with radial little finger strings.
- 12. Pass indices into thumb loops from proximal side, and pick up ulnar thumb strings on their tips.
- 13. Press up thumb to hold loose strings, straighten indices, and extend figure by turning palms away from you.



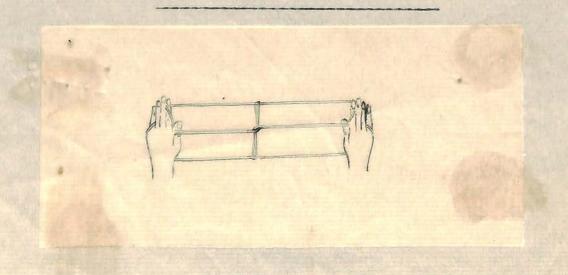
Te katei-maneaba (The building of the meeting-house). Universal throughout Gilberts.

- 1. Two players sit facing each other, each with his separate string. Both make Opening A.
- 2. First player passes both hands with strings extended from prominal side through his partner's index loops.
- 3. Second player drops his index loops across dorsal aspect of first player's wrists.
- 4. First player withdraws his hands, carrying partner's index loops on his wrists.
- 5. Second player pass both hands with strings extended from distal side into partner's index loops.
- 6. First player drops his index loops across dorsal aspect of HAMMAHH
- 7. Second player withdraws his hands, carrying partner's index loops on his wrists.
- 8. First player releases his hands from all strings, which he then takes and winds several times round the second player's figure.
- 9. Second player gives partner his right NHHH little finger loop to hold in right hand, and his thumb loop to hold in left hand. hand.
- 10. Partners now work the strings back and forth between them; gradually the tangle in the middle disperses and at last the ground plan of the maneaba appears.

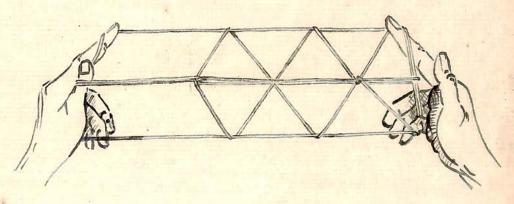
Te Roata (the Centipede). Given by Mika of Arorae, aged 40. Universal to Gilbert Islands.

- 1. Position 1;
- 2. Turn left thumb counterclockwise over and under its own radial string.
- 3. Thumb is now in a doop; from proximal side insert right index into this loop, and draw out;
- 4. Pass left index between ulnar and radial index strings of right hand, and insert it from proximal side under right palmar string; return.
- 5. Pass right index between ulnar and radial strings of left index, and insert it from proximal side under left palmar string; return.
- 6. Release all fingers of left hand, letting the figure hang from right hand with palm downward.
- 7. From distal side pass little finger and thumb of left hand into the distal loop of right index, and lift it off, so that it hangs loosely in Position 1 on left hand; do not extend.
- 8. On right hand it will be seen that the radial little finger string and the ulnar index string are crossed; pass left thumb from distal side into the triangle thus formed, and then from proximal side into the index loop; lift off this loop and extend.
- 9. Release left thumb from radial little finger string (i.e., Navaho thumb).
- 10. With fingers of right hand lift off left thumb loop, give it a half turn counterclockwise and replace it on thumb.

 Repeat this on right thumb.
- 11. From proximal side pass thumbs into little finger loops, and return with radial little finger strings.
- 12. From proximal side pass indices into thumb loops, and return with ulnar thumb strings on their tips. Press thumbs up, and extend by turning palms away from you.



Te Kar-n-Roa



<u>Catscradles.</u>
<u>Na Umake.</u> Gwin by Nri Trnamourenga of Tarawa: learned by her at Nikunau. Take about six niches of string between thumbs and midices allowing the not of the string to hang down. Make a small loop by bringing left hand towards you and to the right. This brings the whole string roughly with the shape of the figure right, with a large loop below and a small loop above, Thus: -Into the small loop misert the indices, positing away home you, and nito the large look insert the thumb, also pointing away. Draw hands apart, turning the palms up. Into the widex loops misent the three free frigers of Each hand, from the proximal Close fingers on the radial midex string (which his across their palmar aspect), Thus holding it down. Pick up the dorsal string on the backs of the Thumbs, and return. Keeping thumbs close prosed to the bases of the indices, pick up the ulnar thumb strings on the tips of the indices. Straighten indices and Extend by turning palms away from you. Catseradles. X

Meneuri Given by Nei Kamarawa of Banaba, (Jaburwa Village). Common also in Gilbert Islands.

Pass thumbs proximal to midex loops and mito little friger looks from proximal side. Pick up ulnar little friger strings on backs of thumbs and nturn, at same time casting off little friger loops. There are now 2 loops on sach thumb. With tip of middle friger push radial ridex string of right hand through the thumb loops from thistal side; hold between teeth.

Now pass ulnar midex string distal to

Now pass ulman midex string distal to thumb loops and hold between teeth. Release midex. Transfer thumb loops to little finger and month loops to thumb.

Repeat for left hand.
The radial little friger strings are now found to be caught up by loops which me round the thumbs. The effect is that the little frigers are in triangles of string. Pass indices into these triangles from the distal side and pick up radial little friger strings near the middle of the figure. Release thumbs and extend.

a movement missing

Catscradles. Tabitenea (Nei Kaintia, aged 35). awai - n Nri Iku. 1) Opening A.
2) Release night index and extend. 3) The left nidex is now in a triangle formed by its radial + when strings and the Baloman string which radial + when strings and the Baloman string which muss across them. Insert the right midex into their triangle from the distal side; transfer left ridex triangle from the distal side; transfer left ridex toop to right midex and return extensions.

4) Give Each loop and when one right hand a twist by twoming little friger and intex clockwise words their while and trumb counterclockwise under their words. Transfer themb loop to ridex (right hand): pass thumb from distal side through proximal midex loops. loop, then from proximal side wite lit finger loop; return with radial lit. priger strong through proximal midex loop. Release lit. puga. Transfer distal videx loop to Thumb. Close prizes on all strings except radial string of proximal Thumb loop; pass ridex proximal to this string, and return with it, at the Same time casting off proximal loop from themb Transfer distal index loop to Thumb. 0 Twist thumb counterclock wise under its books. From distal side push radial literaturges string 8 9 through through sold in teeth.

Par ilvar literproger string distal to themplex index

loops and also hold in teeth; clease literproger. 10) Transfer Thumb loops to lit prizes and mouth loops to thumb. (3) On left hand are a thromb loop and a

lit. fuiger loop. Between trainly and mide of right hand prich together whom them thing and radial lit friger string. Lift's of right hand. Pass left little friger from proximal side wite the new through loop. More left hand away pour you so that the radial little fright string is pulled over the tip of the night midex. busert thank wito two new widex loops from distal cide. hidex of night hand from distal side into little prizer triangle. From proximal side on tip of wider pick up the double. String which divides lit triger triangle pour tenul triangle. Index fleft hand proximial to radial Thunk string. Extend by Straightung wities and there left thumb will proved up to frewent strings from slipping: where right thumb. Extend by straightening ridices and hirming palms away from you. (Photo taken):

Kawai-n Nei Iku (Nei Iku's way of doing it). Given by Nei Kaintia of Tabiteuea and Beru. Common in South Gilberts.

- 1. Opening A.
 - 2. Release right index and extend.
 - 3. From the distal side insert right index into index loop of left hand and lift it off; return with this loop on right index. You will see that it catches up the palmar string of the left hand: do not allow the palmar string to be extended more than four inches from the left palm.

Right hand.

- 4. Give each loop on right hand a twist by turning little finger and index loops clockwise, and thumb counterclockwise, under their loops
- 5. Transfer thumb loop to index.
- 6. Pass thumb from distal side through proximal index loop, and on into little finger loop from the proximal side; return with radial little finger string through the proximal index loop.
- 7. Release little finger.
- 8. Transfer distal index loop to thumb.
- 9. Pass indices towards you, distal to distal thumb loops, and then into proximal thumb loops from the distal side; return with radial string of proximal thumb loop distal to distal loop, at the same time releasing thumb from proximal loop.
- 10. Repeat 8 and 9.
- 11. Transfer distal index loop to thumb.
- 12. Twist thumb counterclockwise under its loops.
- 13. From distal side push radial index string through thumb loops, and hold in teeth.
- 14. Pass ulnar index string towards you distal to thumb loops, and also hold in teeth, at the same time releasing index.
- 15. Transfer thumb loops to little finger and mouth loops to thumb.

Left hand.

- 16. On the left hand are a thumb loop and a little finger loop. From the distal side, between thumb and index of right hand, pinch together the ulnar thumb string and the radial little finger string. Lift off the left thumb and little finger loops, letting them hang respectively on the thumb and index of the right hand.
- 17. From the proximal side, pass your left little finger into the new hanging thumb loop; lift it off.
- 18. Insert thumb from proximal side into little finger loop, so that it is in Position 1 on left hand.
- 19. From distal side pass thumb into hanging loop on right index; lift it off and extend WHHINH strings by separating hands.
- 20. To extend figure: Pass index of right hand into little finger loop from distal side, and pick up from proximal side the double string dividing it from thumb loop. Pass index of left hand proximal to ulnar thumb string, and pick up. Keep left thumb pressed up to hold loose strings; release right thumb, and straighten indices, turning palms away from you.

- 1. Opening A. Cast off right index loop.
- 2. Pass right thumb from proximal side into little finger loop; return with radial little finger string.
- 3. Pass index (right) from proximal side into thumb loop; pick up ulnar thumb string on index, and release thumb from all strings. Transfer index loop to thumb.
- 4. Pass right little finger from proximal side into thumb loop; return with ulnar thumb string.
- 5. Pass right index from proximal side into little finger loop; pick up radial little finger string on index, and release the little finger from all strings. Transfer index loop to little finger.
- 6. Turn the thumb (right) clockwise and the little finger (right) counterclockwise around its own loop.
- 7. Insert right index into left index loop from the distal side; lift off this loop on the right index and return, pulling it over the left palmar string.
- 8. Pass right thumb into the index loop from the proximal side; return with radial index string.
- 9. Pass right index from proximal side into thumb loop; pick up ulnar thumb string on tip of index, and release thumb from all strings.
- 10. Transfer distal index loop to thumb.
- 11. Pass right little finger from proximal side into index loop; return with ulnar index string.
- 12. Pass right index from proximal side into little finger loop;

 pick up radial little finger string, and release little finger from all strings.
- 13. Transfer distal index loop to little finger.
- 14. Drop the loop from the right index; gently separate the hands, but do not draw the loose strings quite tight.
- 15. Pass indices of both hands from the distal side into thumb loops; pick up radial thumb strings on indices, and release thumbs from the loops.
- 16. Pass thumbs proximal to index loops and into little finger loops from proximal side; return with radial little finger strings proximal to index loops.
- 17. Transfer index loops to thumbs.
- 18. Pass indices from proximal side into thumb loops; on their tips pick up ulnar thumb strings. Extend the figure by pressing up thumbs to prevent loose strings from slipping, atraightening indices, and turning palms away from you.
 - Note. The number of diamonds in this figure may be increased by repeating movements 2, 5, 4, 5, and 6 before proceeding with 7.

Given by NSi Tenamourenga of Jarawa; learned by her at Nikunau; sera also at Jarawa. Na Ubwebwi.

Take string between tech so that it hangs in a toop

from right and left corners of month. Insert right hand towards you nito the loop; with back of wrist pick up left month string,

and return.

heret left hand between jour body and right month string; pick up this string on back of left wrist, and return.

Twist both hands clockwise, form you.

Insert left little friger towards you wito month loop; pick up mythet month string on lack of little friger.

Pick up left, month string on back of right little friger: release string from month.

Extend. Extent.

Paro thumbs proximal into little friger loops and on their dorsal aspect pick up alman Kuping thumbs close prosed to bases of vidices, pick up ulnar thumb strings on tips of vidices. Extend by straightening vidices, and turning palms away from you.

and the second Catscradles.

he describing Gilbertese catscradles, stereotype the opening made by letting string hang from night and left corner of month, under The name of Month opening. 2. Note in text the movements which seem to be typical of Gilbertese

Catscradles: -

Slipping.

(a) The Extension of a figure is in the great majority of cases effected by picking up a radial tuhunb string on tip of widex and turnling palms (6) Typical also of the extension is the prossing of them to enough, to prevent loose strings from

Catsciadles. Banaba. When making string figures together, the Banaban children played a game of guessing. One of them would begin making a figure, holding the hands concealed behind a tree or Some other object; while bug with his (or her) Juigers, the child would intone Tune, Time! June, June! Jane, Jane! Jiaki Kairna-u ba Jane, Jane! Not my mistake, whose mistake? Kairna-n antai? The others were supposed then to guess what figure was being made by the speaker. One would answer, say, "Kairna- ne Naubwebwe!" The mistake of Naubwebwe, the word Nainburebure being the name of a particular figure. If the figure did not happen to be the one named the maker would hold it up to view with the words La maninga! He (or she) has guessed and would then name the figure made. If the guess was cornet, the maken would say "Aingaia naba"

Calsinades, Banata. meaning "That's right," and the turn to set the problem would then pars to the one who guessed consistly. Some other object; while they with James, Suns line, that! Vine Vine! lane, Irac! Not my min lake, diale Kainana oa where much take? Kairanon autai! The others section and have to proceed what figure was dain't made to the "Kinna. re Namberler!" The motake of .. Wandrietur, the work Windredow Sing the property of the pr Les (La Cala) and a land and the same the figure The the state of the spice when

Kabaebaea baara (Catch the kingfish). Given by Aitintebuaka of Tabiang village, Banaba. Common to all the Gilbert Islands.

- With hands about a foot apart and pointing away from you, let loop hang loosely over backs of thumbs.
- 2. Pass little finger of right hand towards you over the dorsal thumb string; pick string up on back of little finger and return. Extend.
- 3. From proximal side pick up right palmar string on back of left little finger, and return, between when Kumb string and radial little finger string.
- 4. From proximal side pass thumbs into little finger loops; return with radial little finger strings.
- 5: Pass indices into thumb loops from proximal side; on tips pick up ulnar thumb strings.
- 6. Extend by pressing up thumbs to hold loose strings, straightening indices and turning palms away from you.
- 7. A radial thumb string now sags loosely down, on your side of the figure. A friend sitting opposite you pulls this string towards him, and passing his free hand under it, introduces the hand into the middle triangle of the figure.
- 8. You work the figure to and fro with a sawing movement across your friends wrist, and intone these words -

N na kabae-a, ke N na kakom-a? I shall catch-it, or I shall release-it?

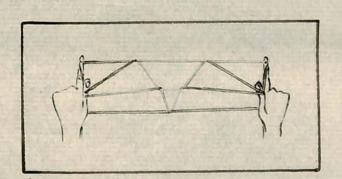
If he answers, "Kabae-a (catch it)", cast off left hand and jerk strings to right; if the answer is "Kakom-a (release it); cast off right and jerk left.

Na Tunikun i-nano (Na Tunikun down below). Given by Nei Kaintia of Tabiteuea.

1. Make Kabaebaea baara(No...).

N

- 2. As the figure stands before you, a loose string sags radially from thumb to thumb. Lift this string over the tips of the thumbs, so that it lies across their palmar aspect (i.e., Navaho thumbs). Extend figure.
- 3. Pass thumbs from distal side into index loops; on their dorsal aspect pick up ulnar index strings and return; release indices.
- 4. Pass indices through 14th finger trops from distal of it, sandarona paraximal reidenpicks up on their tips the minar though the paraximal reidenpicks up on tips of indices.
- 5. To extend, press thumbs up to hold loose strings, straighten indices, and turn palms away from you.

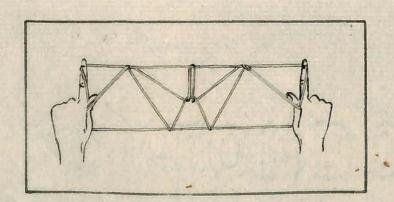


Na Tunikun i-eta (Mr. Tunikun on top) Given by Nei Kaintia of Beru and Tabiteuea.
Universal through Gilberts.

1. Make Na Tunikun i-nano.

1

- 2. In the top right and left corners of the figure are triangles enclosed in a paidful thumb string, an ulnar index string and the radial side of the wand index.
 - 3. Pass the mouth through the top right triangle, pick up between teeth the ulnar little finger string, and return through triangle, at the same time releasing little finger.
 - 4. Transfer index loop to little finger.
 - 5. Release thumb(right).
 - 6. From proximal side insert right thumb into little finger loop.
 - 7. A double string divides little finger loop from mouth loop; with back of thumb from distal side press down this double string, and then pass thumb to right under the right mouth string.
 - 8. Release mouth loop.
 - 9. Repeat 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 on left hand.
 - 10. Pass indices from proximal side into thumb loops. On tips pick up ulnar thumb strings.
 - 11. Extend by pressing up thumbs, straightening indices, and turning palms away from you.



Kawai-n ana maniba Na Akinran (Pathway of his well Na Akinran)
Given by Kabaua of Tabiang village,
Beru Island. Seen also on the
island of Tabiteuea.

- 1. Opening A.
- 2. Pass thumbs distal to middle finger loops and from proximal side into little finger loops; return with radial little finger strings.
- 3. Pass indices from proximal side into thumb loops and return with ulnar thumb strings.
- 4. Release thumbs.
- 5. From distal side pass thumbs through proximal index loops, then on into little finger loops from proximal side; return with radial little finger strings through the proximal index loop.
- 6. Release little fingers.
- through
 7. From distal side pass little fingers EHHH distal index loops, then proximal to proximal index loops, and from proximal side into the thumb loops; return with ulnar thumb strings through the distal index loops.
- 8. Release thumbs.
- 9. Pass thumbs between distal and proximal index loops; then distal to ulnar string of distal index loop; return thumbs with these strings, at the same time releasing indices from distal loops.

index

- 10. Pass thumbs distal to HEHHEHHEHHEHHEH loops, and into little finger loops from the proximal side; return with radial little finger strings.
- ll. From proximal side pass indices into thumb loops; on tips of indices pick up ulnar thumb strings; straighten indices, press up thumbs to hold loose strings, and turn palms away from you.

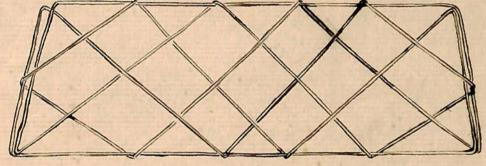
I. Namakaina (Moon). Universal throughout the Gilbert Islands, but called <u>Taai</u> (Sun) in some islands.

Given by Na Aiti-n-te-buaka of Banaba, aged about 65.

Compare with this figure that of the same name recorded by Miss Haddon from Central Africa, "Cats' cradles from many lands", p.31. Though the Central African method is somewhat different, the result arrived at is very nearly identical with the Cilbertese; the additional similarity of names is strikingly suggestive of a common source of distribution.

- 1. Take string between the teeth, so that the loop hangs down from the corners of the mouth;
- Pass right hand towards you into the mouth loop; on its dorsal aspect take up the left mouth string, and return to right;
- Pass left hand between your body and the right mouth string; return left with this string on back of hand;
- 4. Put little fingers of both hands towards you into the mouth loop, crooking the right round the right string and the left round the left string; release loop from mouth, and pull apart by returning hands right and left;
- 5. From proximal side take ulnar little finger string between teeth and pull towards you;
- Pass right thumb distal to mouth loop, and on its dorsal aspect pick up left mouth string; pull this string to the right so that it is clear of right mouth string;
- 7. Pass left thumb distal to right mouth string, picking up the latter on dorsal aspect of thumb;
- 8. Release mouth loop and extend strings;
- 9. From proximal side insert thumbs into little finger loops, and return with radial little finger strings;
- 10. From proximal side with indices pick up ulnar thumb strings; straighten indices, at the same time releasing thumbs and little fingers, and drawing the hands gently apart. Exclaim, as the figure appears, "Namakaina! Namakaina! (Moon!Moon!)".

Nenewic:



Neneuri. (Gwen by Nei Kamarawa of Tabiano village, Kamulua Banaba, aged about 55. Common throughout Gilbert group)

1. Opening A.

2. Thumbs proximal to midex loops, and mito little finger loops from proximal side. With backs of thumbs press down ulnar little finger strings, and return proximal to index loops, at same time releasing little fingers from their loops.

3. On each hand expanately: with tip of middle finger push the radial midex string, from distal side, through the double thumb loop, and hold it between teeth. Now pass what widex string towards you, distal to thumb loops, and also hold between teeth. Transfer thumb loops to little finger, and month loops to thumb.

4. Release index loops.

4. Pass in dices from distal side into little finger.

4. Pass in dices from distal side into little finger.

4. Pass indices from distal side into little finger.
Pass indices from distal side into little finger loops and on their tips pick up double middleloops and on their tips pick up double middlestrings of figure. Straighten indices, and extend
by releasing thumbs and turning hands away.

Uruaba uruaba Arna nanon urua nanon Ko na mamaakan-ra é e? Ko na mamaakan akawa ee! ·· - - - - - - - - 20 EE ? - - - ni Korokarewe! - - - · 2a ee? - - - - n siribana. - - - !a ee? . - - - - - - n tai ee! Uruaba unaba . Uhna nanon, una nanon. Druik is strand with sud of cocamet leaf and a frice of a young pandames leaf. This storer is taken home by person and accompanies hui wherever he goes.

Te Ri ni kua (the bone of the porpoise). From Beru Island; given by Nei Beira of Teteirio village. Also seen on Tabiteuea, Nikunau, Arorae and Onotoa, all islands of the southern half of the Gilbert Group. Sought but not found in the northern islands.

- 1. Mouth loop;
- 2. Right hand towards you into mouth loop, and then to left between body and left mouth string; return hand right with this string on back of wrist.
- 3. Pass left hand to right between body and right mouth string; return hand left with this string on back of wrist.
- 4. Put both little fingers towards you into mouth loop; drop string from mouth; extend.
- 5. Pass mouth distal to little finger loops, and between teeth pick up ulnar wrist string; pull it towards you, distal to all strings.
- 6. Pass right thumb to left over the mouth loop; on back of thumb pick up left mouth string, and pull it to your right so that it clears the right mouth string.
- 7. Pass left thumb to right over the right mouth string; on back of thumb pick up this string. Drop mouth loop, and extend strings.
- 8. Insert thumbs from the proximal side into little finger loops, and return with radial little finger strings.
- 9. Pass indices from the proximal side into thumb loops, and on their tips pick up ulnar thumb strings. Press thumbs close to indices to hold loose strings, and straighten indices.
- 10. In the figure before you are two triangles depending from their apices upon the ulnar index string. With the teeth, draw the ulnar little finger string towards you through the right hand triangle, at the same time releasing the right little finger.
- 11. Transfer index loop to little finger, and release thumb;
- 12. Pass thumb from proximal side into little finger loop, then onwards, distal to intervening strings, into mouth loop from distal side. Turn the thumb back towards the right, so that it passes under the right mouth string. Then drop mouth loop.
- 13. Repeat 10, 11 and 12 on left hand.
- 14. Pass indices into thumb loops from the proximal side; on their tips pick up ulner thumb strings. Keeping thumbs close, to hold loose strings, straighten indices and extend by turning palms away from you.

Variant of same, seen in Onotoa.

After completing movement 13 above, transfer wrist loops to thumbs. From proximal side pass indices into proximal thumb loops; pick up on tips the ulner strings of proximal loops; press up thumbs to hold loose strings, straighten indices, and turn palms away from you.

