

Country Flower Vase Basket



Base: 4" Round
Sides: 7"
Handle: 12" Reed

Materials: 8 pieces @ 23" – ½" flat reed (spokes)
14' - #3 round reed (twining)
17 pieces @ 22" - 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
1 piece @ 17" – 5/8" flat oval (handle)
2 pieces @ 19" – 5/8" flat oval reed (inside & outside rims)
1 piece @ 17" - #6 round reed (rim filler)
1 piece @ 7' - 1/4" flat reed (lasher)
2 small brass tacks (to secure handle)

Soak the spoke pieces and #3 round reed for several minutes until pliable. Find the rough sides and centers of four of the spokes. Put a pencil mark 1¼" to the right of center and 1¼" to the left of center. Lay out the four pieces in a spoke-like design. Begin twining with a long length of the #3 round reed folded not quite in half. The first round of twining should create a 2½" circle. Continue twining for 3 rounds until the spaces between the spokes are large enough to add more spokes. Twine in the remaining four spokes and continue until the base measures 4". Clip the round twiners.

Upsett the spokes. Over and under weave 17 rows of 3/8" flat reed.

Fold all of the outside spokes to the inside of the basket and tuck them down into several rows of weaving. Clip the inside spokes flush or a bit below the last row of weaving. Slide the tails of the handle piece down into the inside of the basket several rows. The handle should stand about 5" above the sides of the basket.

Fit the inside and outside rims overlapping several inches on opposite sides. Sandwich the #6 round rim filler. **Single-lash** the rims and filler down tightly with the 1/4" flat reed lasher being sure to make an "X" around each end of the handle. Tack the tails of the handle through the rims with the small brass tacks.

The basket pictured had the rims and handle taped off and was sprayed with an oil-based spray paint. While the paint was still a bit tacky, the tape was removed and the whole basket was dipped in a dark walnut oil-based interior woodworking stain. It then was hung kitty-corner to dry.

Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*

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