

Striped Mail Basket



Measures: 10x6x6.5H

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Materials

**1/2 Flat Reed natural and dyed - stakes/base
fillers/weavers**

**1/4 Flat or Flat Oval Reed natural and dyed -
weavers**

**3/16 Flat or Flat Oval - lashing
Seagrass**

1/2 Flat Oval - rim

#2 round reed - weavers and locking row

- Cut 6 stakes from 1/2 flat reed NATURAL @ 22" long
- Cut 3 stakes from 1/2 flat reed DYED @ 22" long
- Cut 3 stakes from 1/2 flat reed NATURAL @ 28" long
- Cut 2 filler stakes from 1/2 flat reed @ 15"

Find the "bad" side of the reed. Reed has a good side and a bad side. You want to determine the bad side of the reed so it ends up on the inside of your basket. Bend stake over your finger and the bad side will have hairs stick up. The good side will have no hairs stick up and be smooth.



Once the bad side has been determined put a pencil mark on the bad side of the reed in the MIDDLE of the stake.



Lay your 3-28" stakes out horizontally and in between lay your 2- 15" filler stakes . Begin weaving in your 22" stakes on your middle marks. You will be **UNDER** the first stake and alternate under/over. Continue weaving the remaining 8 stakes (4 on each side of the middle marks). On the left side you will weave in 3 dyed stakes first and then one natural stake. The right side will have all natural stakes.



True your base to 2 1/2"x9".
Tuck your filler stakes (the short horizontal stakes). Fold the stakes towards the middle of the basket and cut the stake so you only have enough to tuck under the third stake in.



Now twine a locking row around the base with #3 round reed



Up set your stakes.

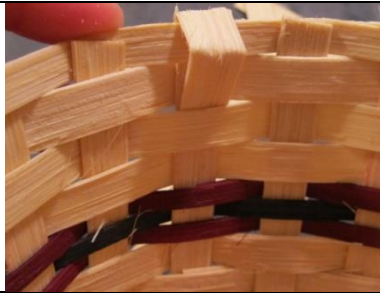
Starting with natural 1/4 flat oval or 3/16 flat oval, weave 10 alternating rows of natural/dyed



- Twine two rows with #2 round reed.
- Then weave 6 rows of 1/2 flat reed natural.
- Weave one row of 1/2 flat reed dyed
- Weave 1/4 or 3/16 flat oval dyed
- Weave one row of 1/2 flat reed dyed
- Weave the last row with 3/8 flat reed (this is your false rim row)



Cut and tuck your stakes. Cut the inside stakes flush with the top row of weaving and the outside stakes will get folded to the inside and tucked under a row or two of weaving.



Measure around your basket for your 1/2" flat oval outside rim. Determine the total circumference and add 3" for the outside rim and cut your inside rim from 5/8" flat oval reed about 2" shorter than the outside. For a professional finish, make sure to scarf your rims where they overlap to prevent excess. Begin clipping your outside rim on covering the last row of 3/8FF weaving. I do not place both my inside and outside overlaps in the same place. I like to start my inside overlap to the left of the outside overlap. You will slip your handle onto the outside rim and line the loops up with the 3rd and 7th stakes on the back of the basket.



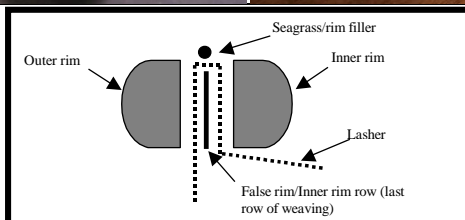
Now take your piece seagrass and insert it in between the rim pieces. The rim filler hides the rough edges and everything underneath.



I also added a piece of dyed reed to the rim as an accent.



Take the lasher and hook it over the last row of weaving and behind the outside rim. It forms a hook to secure the lasher in place.



Bring the long end of the weaver to the front of the basket and insert the end under the rim and in between two stakes to the inside of the basket. You might have to make a little room to insert the lasher depending on how tight your weaving is. Pull the lasher tight and and bring back to the outside of the basket into the next space. When you arrive at the handle loops you will x-lash through the loop. Lash around the basket and end the lasher the same way you began. You are DONE! Try it in another color. You will love making this basket for friends and family.

