

## 2025 Seagrass Tote/Wall Basket

7.5"x4"x4 - 5"



### **Materials:**

Horizontal stakes: 1/2" flat reed, 5 pieces 22" long  
3/8" flat reed, 4 pieces 14" long (filler stakes)

Vertical stakes: 1/2" flat reed, 7 pieces 19" long

Locking row: #2 round reed, 1 piece 5' long

Weavers: 3/8" flat reed, 6 pieces 30" long  
#0 Seagrass, 2 pieces 10' long  
1/4" flat reed, 3 pieces 30" long

Rim row: 3/8" flat reed, 1 piece 30" long

Rims: 1/2" flat reed, 2 pieces 30" long  
#2 Seagrass, 1 piece 30" long (rim filler)

Lasher: 1/4" flat reed, 1 piece 5' long (lasher)

Handles: shaker tape or cotton webbing – cut to size

**Tools:** Bucket for water, pinch clothespins or small clamps, tape measure, pencil, full size scissors, awl or small flat head screwdriver, old hand towel, spoke weight or another weighted device.

**Soaking:** Round reed needs to be soaked in warm water for about five minutes; flat natural reed for 2 minutes. Wipe reed with towel after wetting. In this basket the seagrass is not soaked or wet.

**Laying out the base:** Find the rough side of all the stakes. The side that splinters when you bend it is the rough or wrong side. With a ruler and pencil, mark the center of all stakes on the rough side with a pencil line. Wet all your stakes at this time.

The base will be made up of horizontal and vertical stakes. The horizontal stakes contain alternating ½” flat reed, 22” long and the filler stakes 3/8” flat reed, 14” long.

#### Horizontal stakes

- **Rough side of reed facing up.**
- Place the 5 – ½ flat 22” long stakes horizontal flat on the table. Keep ½ inch between each stake.
- Use a spoke weight to hold your stakes in place.
- Line up the pencil marks.
- Place the 4 – 3/8” flat 14” long filler stakes horizontal in between each of the 22” long stakes flat on the table, with pencil marks lined up.

The vertical stakes will weave over and under the horizontal stakes. If your stakes are drying out, spray them to keep them wet.

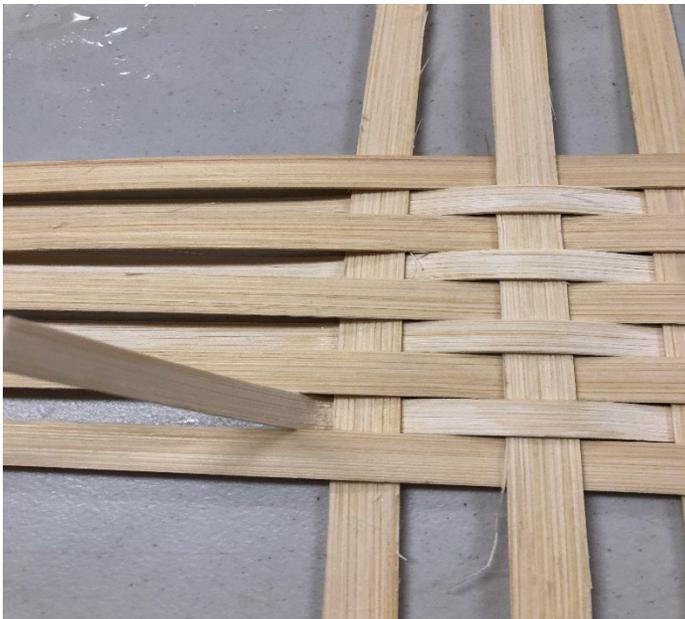
#### Vertical stakes:

- **Rough side of reed facing up.**
- Weave a 19” flat reed vertical stake over the 22” horizontal stakes and under the 14” filler horizontal stakes. Line up the center marks.
- Weave 2 - 19” flat reed vertical stakes one on the left side and one on the right side of the middle 19” vertical stake.
- Continue weaving the rest of the 19” vertical stakes, 2 on each side of the already woven 3 vertical stakes.
- There should be a total of 7 vertical stakes woven into the base.



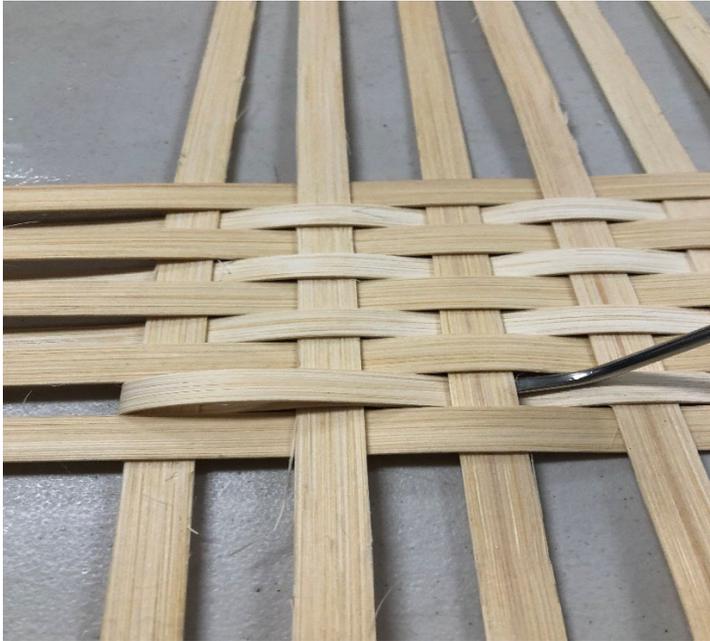
### **Finishing the base:**

- The base should measure close to 7.5 inches x 4 inches.
- Make certain there are no spaces between the horizontal stakes/fillers/handle.
- Leave approximately 3/8" space between the vertical stakes.
- Wet filler stakes where the weaving stops.
- Bend **all the filler stakes** inward toward the base.



- Two options here: regular or chicken feet  
**Regular:** Tuck each side of the filler stakes under the inside second stake.

- Use a flat head screwdriver or packing tool to slightly lift the vertical stake to tuck your filler underneath.
- The end of the filler stake should be hidden and not sticking out after tucking.



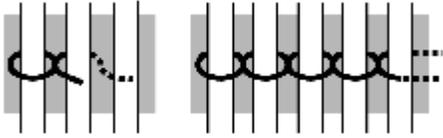
**Chicken feet:**

- Use scissors and cut the filler stake end in half vertically from the end to right against the vertical stake.
- The ends will fold over the first vertical stake, extend out and on either side of itself.
- Tuck under the second upright stake on either side, creating a V-shape, what is called chicken feet.
- Use a flat head screwdriver or packing tool to slightly lift the vertical stake to tuck your filler underneath.
- The end of the filler stake should be hidden and not sticking out after tucking.



Locking row using twining technique: Twining is the process of always weaving the top #2 round reed weaver behind the next spoke.

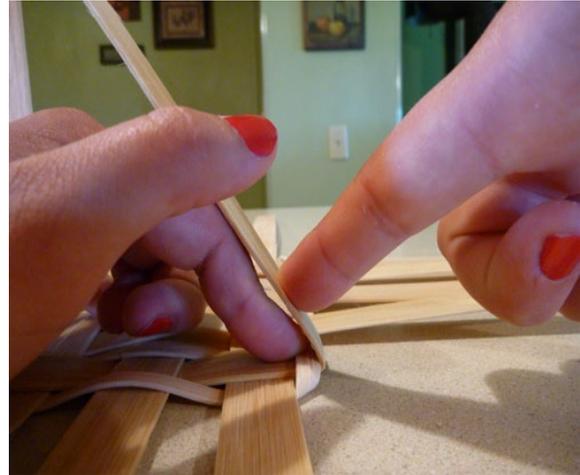
- Take the #2 round reed that has been well soaked in water. Find the middle of the round reed. Then crimp with pliers at not quite in half, one end should be 2 – 3” longer.
- Slide the crimped round reed around a stake so one half is under the stake and the other is over the spoke. On the long side of your base on the second or third stake, slide the round reed weaver down to the base. Try to keep your less dominant hand on your weaving as you progress.
- The two long round reed tails should be hanging to the right side of the base if you are right handed, the tails should be hanging to the left side of the base if you are left handed.
- Take the half of the round reed that is over the stake and go under the stake on the right, if right handed. You will weave in a clockwise direction.
- If left handed, take the half of the round reed that is over the stake and go under the stake on the left. You will weave in a counter clockwise direction.
- Always twine with the top twiner.
- Twine for 1 row until you get back to the start of the twining. End at the places you started. Cut off the round reed leaving an inch tail.



**Upset the stakes:**

- Wet all stakes with your spray bottle close to the end of the twining.
- At the base perimeter, carefully bend up/upset the wet stakes by gently laying your hand flat where the stakes will bend.
- Utilize your index finger to bend each stake over toward the opposite side of the base.

- This helps to give the stakes a memory to stand straight up from the twining.

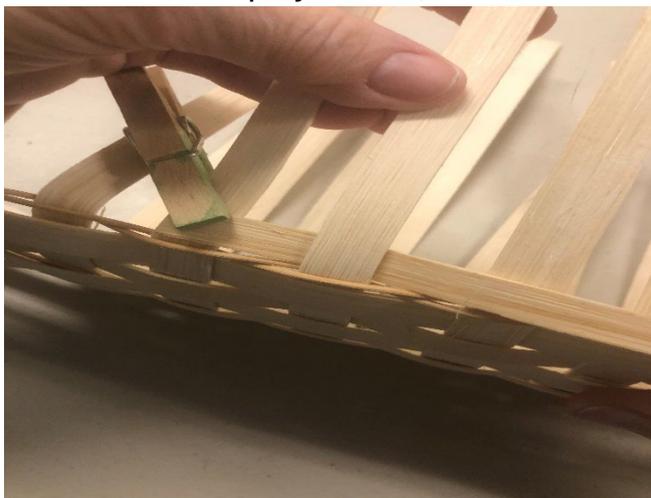


This photo example shows a locking row using flat reed, not twining. Both locking techniques serve the same purpose, either can be used. (Photo used with permission from Joanna's Collections.)

### **Weaving the basket sides**

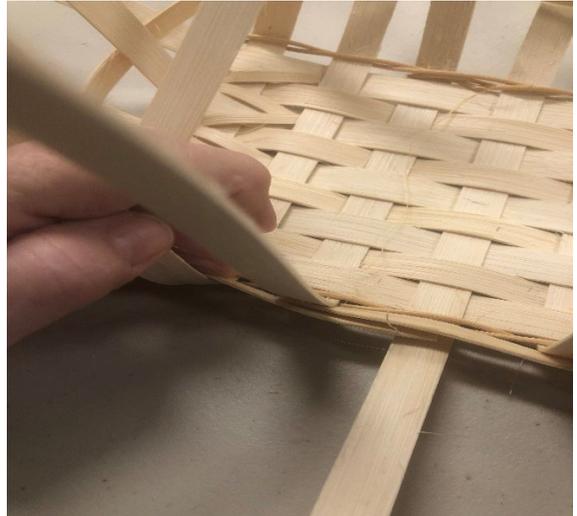
#### **Start and stop weaving:**

- Using 3/8" flat natural weavers weave one row at a time, over one/under one.
- Weave with the good side of the reed (smooth, less splintery side) towards the outside of the basket.
- Place the end of the reed on the outside of a stake. Weave all the way around - over one/under one - using lots of clamps to hold it in place. The more clamps you use, the better shaped basket you will get.





- To finish a row, overlap your piece of reed by two spokes and cut it off. If woven correctly, both ends will be hidden. The end of the weaver will slip into weaving of that same row.



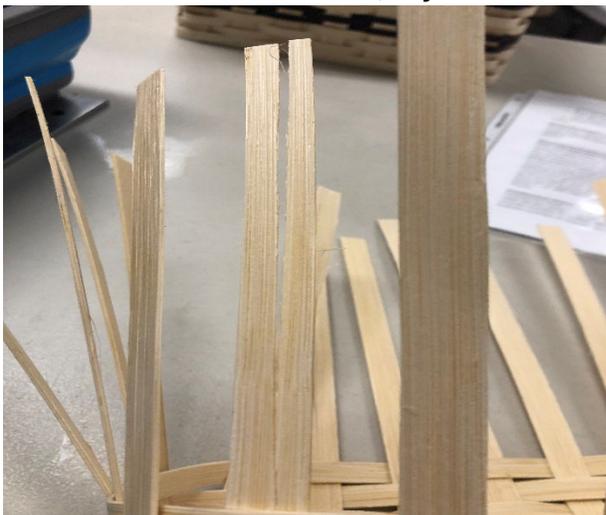
- Consecutive rows are opposite the row before it (if over/under, then under/over).
- Be sure to rotate your basket so that all your stop/starts will not be in the same area.
- Also be sure to pack down the rows as you weave so that there are no spaces showing between the rows of weaving.

Rows 1 – 3: 3/8" flat natural weavers.



**Continuous weave:**

- You won't start and stop each row of weaving, instead you keep weaving using the same piece of weaving material.
- In our case we are using seagrass.
- To have an equal continuous weave you need an uneven number of stakes.
- We need to split a stake in this basket to get an uneven number of stakes.
- On the back side of your basket if you are right handed use the spoke third from the left; if you are left handed use the third from the right.



This photo shows a split stake on the first stake on the long side.

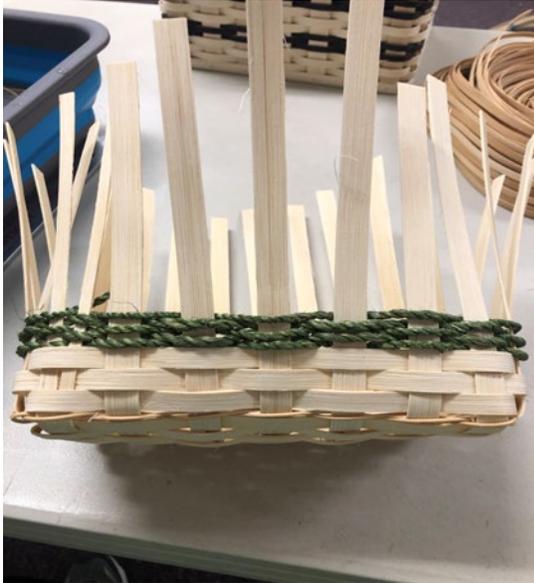
- Use your scissors and cut down the middle of this stake from top to the top of the third row of weaving
- **Do not wet seagrass.** To begin weaving slip your seagrass in the middle of the split spoke.



In this photo the seagrass weaver is going over the first side of the split stake and under the second side of the split stake on the first row.

- Go the opposite over/under weave as the previous row.
- Continue to weave over and under for 5 rows using the split spoke as two separate spokes.
- Return to the split spoke starting point.
- Leave a 2 inch tail and cut seagrass in the inside of the basket

Rows 4 – 8: seagrass



Rows 9 – 11: ¼” flat natural reed – start and stop weave like rows 1 – 3. **During this weave you will treat the split spoke as one spoke.**



Rows 12 – 16: seagrass – continuous weave, use same split stake starting point. Weave the same way you did as the previous 5 rows of seagrass weaving.

**From this point forward, the split spoke will be treated as one spoke.**

Rows 17 – 19: 3/8” flat natural reed – start and stop weave.

Row 20: 3/8" flat natural reed – rim row, start and stop weave

Pack your weavers for the final time.

**Cut and tuck process of turning the spoke ends back into the basket so that the rim will not pull off**

- Wet the unwoven part of the stakes with your spray bottle.
- Notice that every other stake is on the outside of the last row of 1/4" reed, and the rest are on the inside of the 1/4".
- Begin by measuring the outside stakes by folding them to the inside of the basket.
- You want to tuck the stake into rows of weavers.
- Cut the stake to the length needed to fit behind the weaver on the inside of the basket.
- Using a flat tipped basket tool, open a space behind the inside weavers to tuck the folded stake.
- Do this with each outside stake, be sure to push the stake down to fit snugly over the rim row.



Joanna's Collection photo – used with permission

- For the inside stakes – cut each stake off level with the top of the rim row.



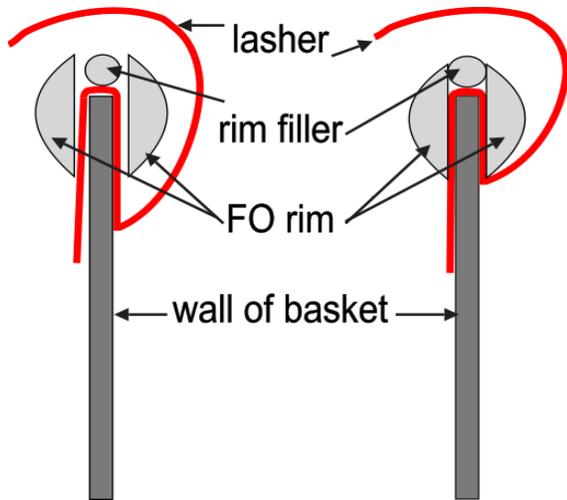
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### **Rim:**

- This basket kit uses flat, flat natural reed for our rim.
- Take one ½" flat natural reed, smooth side out, and wrap around the top of your basket hiding your 3/8" flat reed rim row. Leave a 3-inch overlap. Clamp to basket using clamps
- Take the other ½" flat reed rim, smooth side out/showing and lay over the rim row on the inside of your basket. Leave a 3-inch overlap. Clamp outside and inside rim to your basket using clamps/cable ties.
- Put the seagrass rim filler on top of the rim row and between the inside and outside rims.
- Clamp or use cable ties to hold the outside rim, inside rim, and seagrass rim filler.

### **Lash: Lashing**

- The best way to start and end a lasher is to hairpin it over the side of the basket – under the rim and the rim filler.



- This gives a secure anchor for the lashing. You will repeat this technique at the end of the lashing as well.
- This is also called a fishhook.
- Anchoring the lasher can be accomplished using an awl to open the space.
- Thread the lasher between the inner rim and rim row from bottom to top, rough reed side facing up.
- Then thread the reed between the rim row and outer rim from top to bottom to the outside of the basket leaving a tail that will be cut off after lashing is complete.
- Single lash the basket.
- Insert the lasher into the space between two stakes and between the rim row and the top row of weaving.
- Pull lasher taut.
- Go up and over the rim while bringing it one spoke to the right (if right-handed) and left (if left-handed).
- Insert it into the next space between two stakes and between the rim row and the top row of weaving.
- Continue single lashing until you get back to the beginning.
- End your lashing with the fishhook technique.
- On the inside of the basket, weave the lasher up between the outside rim and rim row.
- Weave the lasher under the seagrass and between the rim row and inside rim.
- Pull the lasher taut.
- Cut the beginning and end tail of your lasher flush to the rim.

**Handle:** Decide on the length of your handle(s). Weave in the shaker tape on the outside of the basket. Depending on the style you choose, it will dictate how to weave the handle into your basket. As an example, the double tote handles are woven in/out of the third and fifth stakes on the long side through the base and back up on the other long basket side. The single tote handle is woven through a short side of the basket, through the base and back up the other short basket side.

Enjoy your basket!