

©1998 Eileen LaPorte

8275 31 Mile Road  
Romeo, MI 48095-1302  
810-752-2853

53.00

weaving level:  
all levels

tested by  
Jean May



## Colorful Tote ©

*This is a great useful and functional basket to use up some of those left over pieces of dyed reed that you don't have quite enough for another basket. In the picture above the basket on the left has the notched handle and the basket on the right has the overlapped wrapped handle.*

**DIMENSIONS:** 14" long    5 3/4" wide    12" high (not including the handle)

**MATERIALS:** 1/2" flat - spokes  
5/8" flat oval - rim pieces  
various sizes of flat and flat oval - weavers - (about 46" long each)  
1/2" half round - 3 pieces @ 14" each for runners  
1/2" handle filler - if doing an overlap wrap handle  
18" round notch handle - notch to notch (optional)  
#3 seagrass - rim filler  
Medium binder cane or 1/4" - for rim lashing



**PREPARATION:** From the 1/2" flat reed cut the following for spokes:  
5 @ 43", 12 @ 35", 1 handle @ 95". Mark these in the center on the rough side.  
cut 4 filler spokes @ 20" and mark these on the smooth side.  
Optional 18" round notch handle - instead of cutting the 95" spoke for the handle  
cut 13 spokes @ 35"

### Base

1. Place the 35" spokes vertical on the table to measure 13 1/2" across, with the center marks lined up. If you are not doing the round notched handle you will place the 95" spoke down with 6 of the 35" spokes on each side of it.
2. Begin weaving under the first spoke with a 43" spoke across the center marks.
3. Weave a filler spoke above and below this center spoke. Alternate with the remaining 43" and 20" spokes for the rest of the base. Pack the horizontal spokes tight.
4. Turn the basket over to the good side. Fold the filler spokes over and cut them off just beyond the second spoke. Cut the spoke in half to the base. Tuck half of the spoke to the right under the second spoke and tuck the other half of the spoke to the left under the second spoke. (It looks like chicken feet.) Continue tucking all the filler spokes in this same manner.

### Runners

5. Take the 14" pieces of 1/2" half round and notch 1/2" off the rounded side of each end.
6. Still with the base facing the good side you will place a runner on top of the filler spoke that is next to the last spoke. (no runners on the two inner filler spokes). The notched part will go under the outer 35" base spokes.
7. Turn the base over to the inside of the basket and I inserted the third runner on top of the center 43" spoke, placing the notched ends under the two outside 35" spokes. On this runner to help keep it in place I cut two 5" scrap pieces of 1/2". Place them on top of the runner on the 4th spoke from each end. Tuck the ends under the two 43" spokes on either side of the runner to hold it in place.
8. Weave a retainer row with a piece of 7mm or 1/4" flat oval. Begin on top of any spoke (opposite of the base weaving) and weave over and under around the base folding it over at an angle ↻ as you come to a corner and overlap 4 spokes. (It will flip with smooth side up and then rough side up so that it doesn't matter which side you begin with)
9. Wet the base and gently upset the spokes.



## SIDES

10. Here's where the fun begins. Remember your basic weaving of always starting on the top of a spoke, overlap 4 spokes and tuck the end behind the fourth spoke.
11. Pull out all those dyed pieces of flat and flat oval reed that measure at least 44". You have 11" of spoke length to work with so weave whatever size or color you like. Just pick a weaver up from your scrap bag.
12. Weave one row with 3/8" to go under the rim. Fold and tuck all the outside spokes down under the second row of weaving from the top. Cut off the remaining spokes flush with the top of the basket.

## HANDLE OPTIONS

13. Overlap handle - tuck one handle spoke to the inside about 9 1/2". Bend and tuck up the handle spoke on the inside of the basket under a row or two to measure about 18" from rim to rim. Tuck the other handle spoke to the outside down along the other handle spoke. Leave the outside about an 1" above the other handle spoke and hang loose at the bottom. Insert a the handle filler in between the overlapped spokes. Then pull the top handle tight. Begin to wrap the handle on the side where the handle spoke is tucked to the inside of the basket with a long piece of 1/4" flat or flat oval.

When you have wrapped the entire handle tuck the end to the inside of the basket.

14. Notched handle - tuck the tip end of the handle under a row or two of weavers on the center spoke on the long side of the basket on each side of the basket. Have the shelf of the handle rest just below the bottom of the 3/8" rim row. The handle will then be held in place with the lacing of the rim.

## RIM:

15. Rim with 5/8" flat oval for the outside overlapping 3"-4" shaving down the overlap to avoid bulk. For the inside rim use either 5/8" flat or flat oval. Use #3 seagrass on the top to fill in between the rim pieces. Lace the rim with either binder cane or 1/4".