

KETTLE BASKET

By Bob Etchason

Materials needed

1/2" flat oval reed
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3/8" flat oval reed
1/4" flat oval reed
#3 round reed
#3 seagrass
1/4" flat reed
8" x 8" wood and wire handle
(4) 3/4" wooden ball feet
3/8" x 2" brass round head screws
(1) 8" hoop (used to shape basket)



Preparation

Cut and soak (12) 18" stakes from the 1/2" flat reed. Mark the center of each stake on the wrong side of the reed. Lay (5) stakes horizontally in front of you, with wrong sides up and marks in a straight line. Vertically weave the remaining (6) stakes. Measure 2-1/2" from the center marks, this is where the outside stakes will lie. The finished base should measure 5" x 5". Using the soaked #3 round reed, twine around the base one time. Upset the stakes.

Weaving the Kettle Basket

Weave (1) row of 3/8" flat reed. The remaining (16) rows are woven with 1/4" flat oval reed. Be careful to flare out a little more each row since the top is to measure 8" in diameter. An easy way to shape the basket is to clothespin an 8" hoop approximately 2" from the top of the upset stakes. This gives you a visual guide as to where you want to end. Bend stakes over and tuck to the inside of the basket. Rim the inside and the outside of the basket with 1/2" flat oval and fill the rim with #3 seagrass. Lash with 1/4" flat reed. Place wire handle on opposite side of the basket. Feed wire to the inside of the basket, going under and bending around the finished rim.

Finishing the Country Kettle Basket

Place the wooden ball feet on the bottom corners by using an awl or a small drill to make guide holes for the brass round head screws. Screw securely through the reed into the wood. Finished basket measures 4-1/2" high and 8" in diameter.