



TEAL!! WE MEET AGAIN

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Materials

1/2" flat reed
#2 for twining
#2 dyed Teal for chain wale (14 yds)
7/8 flat reed dyed Teal (about 5 yds)
5/8" flat oval
#6 for rim filler
10" open notch handle
1/4" flat oval for lashing and one row of weaving
1/2 flat reed, very flexible for curls

Dimensions

Base: 8 1/2" x 8 1/2"
Body: 9 1/2" high
16" high including handle

1. Cut eighteen pieces of 1/2" flat reed 36" long. Mark centers of rough side.
2. Cut eight pieces of 1/2" flat reed 20" long. Mark centers of smooth side. These will be filler spokes, and marking them on the right side ensures a smooth bend when you tuck them in step six.
3. Soak spokes, fillers and a long piece of #2 reed for twining.
4. Begin weaving base with all spokes having their marked side UP. Lay your first two center pieces with the horizontal spoke going over the vertical spoke (this is a must). Alternate a filler spoke between the nine vertical spokes and weave in the remaining eight horizontal spokes.
5. Square base. Measure across your base where the spokes and filler pieces are flush against each other; and then adjust the other measurement accordingly. Most likely this will measure in the neighborhood of 8 1/2" by 8 1/2".
6. Turn the base over and tuck the filler spokes (short pieces). Trim these and tuck under the third row of weaving from the end, hiding the ends of the filler pieces.
7. Turn base over again so that the rough side of reed is up and twine one row. Upsett.
8. Using 1/2" flat, weave eight rows, packing well after each row. With the addition of the next step it will be virtually impossible to pack evenly, so make sure that packing is done before the chain wale row is added.

9. The first step in chain wale is triple twine. **TRIPLE TWINE:** Insert three pieces of #2 round reed dyed Teal behind three consecutive spokes. Take the piece on the left and go over two spokes, behind the third and out. Repeat this process around the basket one time, always bringing the reed on the left over two spokes, behind the next and out to the front. Do not cut #2. Complete the **CHAIN WALE** by triple twining with the left round reed weaver laying under the next two round reed weavers (and in front of two uprights) and behind the back of the next spoke and out to the front. Weave around the basket one time in this manner and cut behind the same three uprights on which you began the triple twine.
10. Weave two rows of 7/8" flat dyed Teal.
11. Weave one row of 1/4" flat oval plain.
12. Weave two rows of 7/8" flat dyed Teal.
13. Repeat the chain wale with dyed Teal #2.
14. Weave three rows of 1/2" flat.
15. Pack as much as you can and cut/tuck uprights.
16. Insert handle at a center spoke. I usually skip the first few rows of weaving in order for the handle to have a smooth fit when the basket is viewed from the outside.
17. Place rims on basket; scarfing the overlapping ends. The overlap should occur at the handle; one overlap on each side of the basket, securing with clothespins. Place a piece of #6 rim filler between the two pieces of rim. I believe that the cut/tuck and rim routine is crucial to a well-finished basket, so do the best possible job you can.
18. Lash with 1/4" flat oval and X'ing at the handles.
19. Make curls. Wet your reed and wipe with a towel to remove excess dye and "fuzzies". Begin by placing the smooth side of a long piece of 1/2" flat under a spoke that is on the outside of the dyed Teal 7/8" flat. Twist once and pull (again right side down) behind the next available spoke. When you twist the reed to insert the right side of the reed down, it automatically makes the curl. Looking at the photo will help. Continue around the basket. When the first row is finished, make a second row beginning in the same way.

Note: For contrast, I sometimes dye the #2 for the chain wale step in a lighter, or darker shade of the teal used for the 7/8" flat. Using a mixture of Rit Kelly Green and Royal Blue, you can mix dye for Teal Green or Teal Blue.