

## ACORN BASKET



Size 7" tall for large / 4" tall for small

### MATERIALS LIST:

- 3/8" flat reed for spokes (small: 1/4" flat)
  - Cut 6 or 8 at 16" (Dyed Dark Brown) for the acorn (8 spokes will make a more rounded bottom)
  - Cut 6 or 8 at 13" (natural) for the lid (8 spokes makes a more rounded top)
- #2 Round reed for weaver (2 long pieces of dark brown brown and 2 long pieces of natural) (small #1)
- #3 Round reed for weavers (30 ft dyed dark brown for the acorn and 20 ft of natural for the lid) (small #2)
- Size 0 Seagrass – 50 ft (small use 3mm flat oval)
- Size 3 Seagrass – about 24" for the rim filler (small #1)
- 1/2" flat – 1 piece (dyed dark brown) and 2 pieces (natural) each about 30" (small: 1/4" flat)
- 1/2" flat oval – 1 piece dyed dark brown (small: 1/4flat")
- 1/4" flat reed - 30" brown for the rim row (small: 3/16" flat)
- Black and Natural 4 ply wax linen to lash rims
- T-pin and cork for base layout and stem

### BASE FOR ACORN:



Find the wrong side of each of the 3/8" flat spokes and mark the center and 1" on either side of the center (at this time, mark one end of the first spoke you placed over the T-pin). This will be your starting and stopping point of your weaving. Lay out 3 (4) spokes (WRONG SIDES ARE UP) on center mark over T-pin and place cork over the T-pin to protect you. Take a long piece of the dark brown #2 and crimp near the center. Place #2 round over the marked spoke on the T-pin at the 1" mark. Begin twining around each of the spokes at the 1" marks – when you get to the beginning of the twining, stop and adjust the circle of twining if needed. Continue twining until you have about an inch of space between

each spoke and stopping at the 1<sup>st</sup> marked first spoke (do not cut your weavers).

### ADD REMAINING 4 SPOKES TO BASE:

Next, place the 3 (4) remaining spokes over the T-pin and replace the cork. Continue twining both the old and new spokes for two more rows and end at the Marker 1<sup>st</sup> spoke and the second. Cut weavers. CAREFULLY REMOVE T-PIN AND SAVE IN CORK FOR THE ACORN STEM. TURN BASE OVER SO THAT THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SPOKES ARE NOW UP.



### SIDES:

Transfer the "X" to the end of the other side of the first spoke – this will be your starting and ending point as you weave the sides which will be worked in a "Chase Pattern" using #3 round reed and Size 0 seagrass. You will begin with the # 3 round and start reed behind the marked spoke going over and under each spoke. When you get back to the space before the 1<sup>st</sup> spoke, drop the #3 round reed and insert the seagrass behind the spoke just to the left of the marked 1<sup>st</sup> spoke. You will then work the seagrass over the marked spoke and proceed around in an under over pattern until you come to the #3 round reed.



Continue chase weaving and start pushing spokes inward to form a pointed or rounded bottom (your preference). You will notice each row ending will move one spoke to the left.

Use a clip to hold the weaver that is idle in place. This will help you see where you need to drop one weaver and start the other weaver – just move the clip each row to hold the idle weaver.



Once spokes are about 1/2" apart stop pushing in and work even until basket is about 5" tall. End with seagrass behind 1<sup>st</sup> marked spoke and the round reed behind the next spoke to the right.

1/2" inch spacing



#### **RIM ROW:**

Using 1/4" flat, work one row of start/stop weaving ending with a 4 spoke overlap. Tip: It is easier to tuck spokes behind the seagrass than behind the round reed, so make sure you insert your rim row behind spokes that

have the round reed on the outside of the basket which means you will be tucking the spokes behind the seagrass on the inside.

#### **RIMS:**

Measure circumference at the top of the basket and cut one piece of 1/2" flat brown reed to that measurement (inner rim) and cut a second piece 2" longer than the first piece (outer rim). Insert the inner rim first and then the outer rim and having rim overlaps spaced adjacent to each other. Insert #3 seagrass as rim filler. Lash rims with Black 4 ply wax linen in button hole stitch – begin lashing just to the right of the rim overlaps so you may work any ease in the rim as you work around the top of the basket. Secure wax linen with a surgeon's knot at beginning and ending of lashing and hide both ends under inner rim.

#### **ACORN CAP:**

Weave the cap base the same as the acorn, but using natural colored materials and making it much shorter. You will shape the cap into a shallow dome that is about 3/8" larger in diameter than the top of the basket. The cap should be able to easily slip down over the basket for about 1". Remember, the cap rims will take up some of the spacing between the basket and the cap.

#### **CAP RIMS:**

The outer rim will be made using the 1/2" flat oval (natural) rather than the flat reed. The inner rim will be 1/2" flat (natural). Use the natural colored wax linen to lash the rims.

#### **OPTION 1: HANG ACORN THROUGH STEM:**

If you want to hang your acorn, run some wax linen from the center of the base of the acorn up through the center of the cap and cork. Use the cork as a slide to open and close the cap. Tie a knot at the top of the wax linen leaving several inches of play, so you may open the cap. You may use your awl to make a hole through the cork. The cap can be detached from the basket, but has room to open and close as you slide the cork stem up and down on the waxed linen.

#### **OPTION 2: DETACHABLE CAP WITH STEM:**

Using the cork and the T-pin, insert the T-pin into the center of the spokes on the inside of the cap and exiting to the outside of the acorn cap. Apply a drop of E600 glue to the end of the cork and place it over the T-pin and press together until the T-pin is flush with the spokes on the inside of the cap. Adjust for tilt.

#### **OPTIONAL STAND UPRIGHT POSITIONING:**

If you want your acorn to stand up, coil some seagrass to make a small ring to support the base of the acorn.

This pattern is provided by Ozark Mountain Basket Weavers and you may copy if desired.