

CORN EAR DOOR DECORATION

Ear dimensions: 2+”D x 8-10”L



MATERIALS FOR THREE EARS:

Staves: #3 RR natural or smoke, cut 12 @ 26”,
3 @ 13”

Weavers: #2 RR natural, approx 48” for tip of each ear
#2 RR natural, approx 24” for top of each ear
¼” FF space dyed fall colors

Trim: Ribbon, 18’ or approximately 6’ for each ear
Twisted paper ribbon, cut 15 @ 15”
#3 seagrass, cut 6 @ 16”
rafia
Other fall tie-ons

BASE: tip of corn ear

Soak the round reed. Mark centers of two 26” staves. Cross the staves on the center marks. A spoke weight helps to hold them in position until you get the first row of twining done. If you have problems, you might try using a twist tie at the crossover. With #2 RR, twine the first row as close to the cross-over point as possible. Add two more 26” staves under the first two staves and twine another row. (If you like, you can do all 4 spokes at once.) Pick up the spiral; bend the staves to form a cone shape – last 2 staves are on the inside. Continue to twine and slowly expand the cone until you have woven 6 or 7 rows. Keep these rows packed. When you end the twining, just tuck in the ends of the RR. The circumference should be slightly smaller than that of the mold if you are using one (see Note). Insert the 12” spoke into the twining next to another spoke. You will position it as a separate spoke as you weave with the ¼”FF. Having an odd number of staves lets you do continuous weaving.

WEAVING:

Taper the end of a ¼” FF space dyed weaver for about 12”. Weave over-under as a continuous weave until you have reached the ear length that you want. To add on, cut to the right of an under and have just a one spoke overlap. While you are weaving, make sure you can get the mold out by sliding it up and down. End off by just tucking the end of the weaver inside the ear. Vary the length/circumference of the ears for a more interesting arrangement. Stain the ears of corn if you wish.

CORN HUSKS:

Unwrap the 5 pieces of twisted paper ribbon. On one end of the untwisted paper ribbon, scrunch it up lengthwise and cut from a spot about 2 inches down the side to the center top. Repeat on the other side. This will give the husks a natural/ragged look. On the other end of the husk, slit the husk end into 3 equal sized sections with two cuts about 1-1.5” in length. Place the slit ends along the top of the corn ear, positioning a slit section between each stave. Bend the slit

ends down into the corn ear. Overlay the next husk over one slit section. Continue around the top of the ear of corn until you have all sections done. With #2 RR, twine 2-3 locking rows. Either push the corn ear spokes to the inside of the corn ear or weave one row of braid and cut off the ends.



ASSEMBLY:

The door arrangement has been constructed as follows:

1. Arrange the 3 ears with the corn husks pointing up

2. Untwist the ends of the seagrass leaving about 3 inches in the center of each piece that is not unwound. Place these in an "X" where the raffia knot will be tied.

3. Tie the husks together with several lengths of raffia - tie a square knot (right over left, left over right - makes a knot that's neat and tight) so the raffia ends will stick out on both sides of the corn. You can also wire the husks in place with floral wire before you tie the raffia if it makes it easier for you.



4. Make a bow using a ribbon of your choice (wire edge ribbon works best) and use floral wire to secure the loops of the bow. Leave the wire ends measuring about 6"-8"

5. Bend down a husk on either side of the corn for interest

6. Wire the bow over the raffia knot - this also secures the seagrass lengths. Make several twists in back. With the remaining ends of wire, make a loop for hanging the ears of corn.

7. Push silk foliage stems into the raffia knot and arrange to your liking.

8. Hang and enjoy

NOTES:

- The weaving mold can be the cardboard core from toilet paper or waxed paper, a piece of PVC pipe or closet pole. If using a cardboard mold, cover it with masking tape or duct tape to give it some structure and protection from moisture.
- Twisted paper ribbon can be found at some craft stores. Paper rush is the same thing (used in chair seats). You can untwist the paper ribbon by locking one end in a power drill and holding the other end. Another method is to lightly spray the pieces and place them in a plastic bag for an hour.

- The ears of corn may also be arranged in “teepee” fashion for use as a table top decoration. Use two bows and extra seagrass and raffia to fill out the arrangement.

