

CHEROKEE WHEELS BASKET

By Linda Biermann

This pattern is written assuming you have mastered basic basket weaving skills.



Size-16" x 13" x 10 1/4" tall

Supplies:

8" x 12" oval slotted base, sand before use
2-5" push in handles, sand before use
5/8" flat, for spokes
1/2" flat natural reed, for weavers
1/2" flat space dyed reed, for spokes
3/4" flat natural reed, for wheel set up
3 round space dyed reed
2 round reed, for twining
1/4" flat oval dyed reed to coordinate with space dyed reed,
for overlays and 2 weaver rows
1/2" flat oval for rim
3/8" flat natural for inside rim and false rim
1/4" flat oval, for binding rim
Seagrass, for rim filler

Tools:

Pencil
Scissors
Packer
Ruler
Paper
Clips
Wood plane
Zip ties

Directions:

Cut 20 15" 5/8" spokes
Cut 20 15" 1/2" space dyed spokes
Cut 20 11" 1/4" flat oval dyed reed for overlays

Make a paper template of the base and divide into quarters. Place template on base and make a pencil mark at the quarters.

Insert 1 5/8" spoke at each quarter mark, smooth side up. In between each quarter place 5-1/2" space dyed spokes alternating with 4-5/8" spokes. You may glue them in if you wish. Make sure that you have them equally spaced and alternating dyed and natural.

Twine 4 rows with #2 reed. Gently start to bring the spokes into the upright position, do not crease and bend up. Weave 1 row with 1/2" flat reed, using the over and under, stop and start method, starting over the dyed spoke and under the natural spoke. Weave 1 row with 1/2" flat.

All rows are start and stop. Insert the 1/4" flat oval dyed reed on the natural spoke placing the reed under the 2nd row of reed. This will be loose in the beginning but will lay down as you weave more rows. Weave 5 more rows with 1/2" flat. Continue to bring spokes into an upright position as you weave. Weave one row of 1/4" dyed flat oval. Weave one row of 3/4" flat natural. Weave one row 1/4" dyed flat oval. This row should be over the natural spoke. Weave one row 3/4" flat natural. Weave one row of 1/4" dyed flat oval. Weave seven rows 1/2" flat natural. Weave one false rim row with 3/8" flat natural reed. Pack all rows together. Spritze spokes so that they are flexible. Bend the spokes on the outside of the basket to the inside, trim to fit and tuck under the first reed going over a spoke. Trim the spokes on the inside of the basket even with the false rim.

Insert a handle on the narrow ends of the basket centering it. You may need to trim the handle legs in length and you may need to scarf some of the width off to match the width of the reed. Sand to make smooth.

Measure the inside of the basket and the outside of the basket. Cut one piece of 3/8" flat natural the length of the inside measurement plus a 4" overlap. Cut one piece of 1/2" flat oval the outside measurement plus a 4" overlap. Submerge in water so very flexible. Scarf the 4" overlap on the 1/2" flat oval so that it lays smoothly together. Round outside edges of both rims and sand smooth. Insert the inner reed and overlap the edges. Make sure that your inner rim is placed in the notches of the handles. Clip temporarily into place. Place the outer rim on overlapping the ends. Do not end the inner and outer rims in the same place. Place them opposite each other. Clip both inner and outer rims together. Cut a piece of seagrass to fit in between the inner and outer rims. Angle the ends so that they lay nicely together. Place zip ties about every 5" around the rim securing everything together, removing the clips. Lash rim, with 1/4" flat oval natural, creating an X on handles.

Soak #3 round reed until very flexible. Place one end behind any spoke where the 1/4" dyed flat oval forms a cross. Wrap around that spoke 5-6 times keeping the wheels tight. Use your packer to lift up the spoke so that you can wrap. Every other spoke will end on the top or bottom. Bring the #3 to the next spoke and wrap around it. Continue around the whole basket. If you run out of reed cut it at the edge of the spoke and add a new one on the top of the other.



Finish your basket with a light or clear stain or as you wish.

Basket inspired by J Choate's bicycle basket.