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Barbara Morton's (deceased) Flag Basket

Rewritten by Debora Renken (student)

Materials/Preparation

3 strips natural of 1/4" flat oval – ribs 20" long (mark on wrong side 6 ½" 10" 13 ½")

9 strips natural of 1/4" flat oval – ribs 15" long (mark on wrong side 6 ½" 7 ½" 8 1/2")

2 strips natural of 3/8" flat flat – fillers 9" long

#2 round natural for keeper, stripes and rim row

#2 round Red for stripes and lashing

#2 round Navy for star background

3/8" flat oval Red for inside rim row

#10 round Red for handle 15"

Mold (optional) 2 x 4 – cut mold 7" long

Overall Size: 7" long, 2" wide, 5" tall. Approximately 7" tall with handle

Tools Needed: White tracing pencil, small clamps/plastic ties, ruler/tape measure, scissors, large eye needle, knife, bucket, spray bottle, weight, towel and standard tools



REMEMBER:

Basket done in Stop and Start weaving rows

Soak all reed until very flexible and keep reed damp

Wipe reed to prevent bleeding

Weave filler sides to inside basket

ALWAYS stop and start on back of basket

Back - Red and natural stripes - ALWAYS start on 4th rib from left for first 6 stripes. Weave to the right. Once you reach the 7th stripe/navy background ALWAYS start on 4th rib from right weaving navy to right, red to left.

Front – ALWAYS wrap navy around the 4th rib from left for navy background ending on back of basket.

Square corners as you go

Keep sides straight, short sides will tend to lean in,

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Trim inside basket, stop and starts, every few rows.

Bottom:

Horizontally - Lay 3 - 20" pieces vertically in front of you flat side up. Matching marks. Fit 1 filler on each side of center.

Vertically – weave 15" pieces starting with center. Place on 10" mark. Center vertical piece should be over the horizontal center piece (center plus 2 fillers).

Continue weaving 4 pieces on each side of center piece. Shape and fit inside marks. Allow space for keeper. Base should be approx. 7" x 2"

Keeper – use #2 rr natural to twine 1 row around edge of base. Square up base 7" x 2". Always crease reed at turns.



Upsett ribs – keep ribs straight up when weaving

Sides: Start weaving on back (4th rib from left) with red #2 rr, stop and start weaving, 6 rows, should see 3 rows on each rib.

Next stripe 6 rows natural. REMEMBER to start and stop all stripes on 4th rib from left on back of basket.

Alternating Red and Natural for 3 strips each. (red, natural, red, natural, red, natural)

Now you start the Navy background. starting on 4th rib from right on back, wrapping around 4th rib on front, use #2 navy. You can continue to use long weavers until navy and stripes have to be finished on back.

On same row, on the other half of back, start red stripe on 4th rib from right. (Navy should cover 4 ribs on front and back). Adding of red or natural reed, will be added on rib 4 from right. Adding of navy will be done on 4th rib from right on back. Try to keep on adding on same ribs - results in straight row of start and stopping on inside. This will allow for a smooth looking edge on the Navy background.

Continue weaving stripes opposite from solid Navy back ground until you have 4 rows of red and 3 natural stripes next to Navy background. Remember to alternate colors on 4th rib.

Stars: Using pattern on last page lay 2" circle centered on navy, use white marker to mark stars, may help to wet tip, use a heavy white cotton yarn (size 3 or 4 ply). Start yarn knot on inside of basket, come thru front wall. Make knot (wrap around needle 3 times) push snug to basket. Directly under knot go back thru to inside of basket. Move needle to next mark. Repeat. Finish by knotting on inside of basket. 13 Stars.

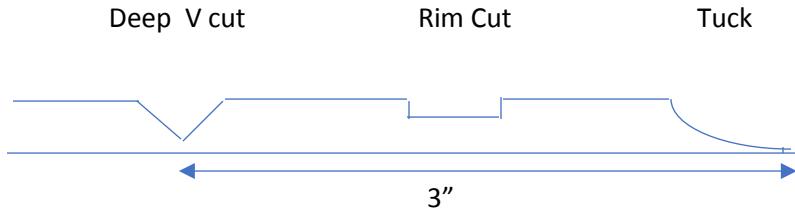
Fold and cut:

Fold outside ribs and cut so they are even with the lower edge of top red stripe. Cut inside ribs even with top.



Handle:

Using #10 round red, soak for 30 minutes until very flexible, measure length of basket, add 3 inches for each side handle. (ex: 3+7+3 =13). Carefully cut **deep V**, forming "L" at top corners of handle (at 3") be careful NOT to cut completely thru handle. See diagram below. This will form the bend in the handle. Bend slowly. On same side of handle as V cut, carver a notch for rim to fit in approx. 1 ½ - 2" from V cut. Carve ends of handle to make piece to be tucked inside basket under 4-5 rows of round reed on short sides. Top of notch should be even with top edge of basket. Place handle on center short side rib. "X" handle.



Rim: Attach 3/8" Flat Oval red rim piece to inside of basket with clips overlapping ends 2". Make sure that the rim is inserted into the notch you cut in handle. Use clips or plastic ties

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Lashing:

Start lashing on back of basket. Soak long piece of red #2 rr until very flexible. Tuck end of lashing under 3/8" FO, hold with clip. Wrap #2 Red round reed around front of basket and insert between red and natural stripe.

Lashing should cover top stripe. X at handles. On solid navy insert lashing approx. same distance from top (6 rows) as stripe. To end lashing. I suggest doing it the old fashion way of inserting the end under 2-3 loose wraps and pull tight, squeezing where start of lashing was inserted under 3/8" FO. Push this piece of lashing down under rim.



Trim hairs

Staining optional