

Woven Autumn Candle Jar

(intermediate skill level)



Square Jar Candle 4"X4"X6"

(purchased at Kohls)

Materials:

3/16" ff natural reed
1/4" ff natural reed
1/4" ff dyed reed

#2 round reed
Square Jar Soy candle with lid
Embellishment

Cut :

6 stakes - 1/4" ff natural reed 17"
6 stakes - 1/4" ff dyed reed 17"
2 rows - 3/16" ff natural 15"
1 1/4" ff natural for rim

8 rows - 1/4" ff dyed
8 rows - 1/4" ff natural
2 -#2 round reed at least 8 1/2 ft. long

Weaving the base:

1. Lightly soak the 12 stakes **just until pliable**. (Soak dyed reed separately to protect from bleeding.)
2. Smooth side **down**, lay out 3 dyed stakes parallel to each other followed by 3 natural stakes, with about 1/4" space between.
3. Find the center of the dyed and natural stakes that are next to each other at the center of the base. **Between** them is the center of your basket.
4. With a remaining dyed stake, weave in an over- under pattern just to the right of the center of the base, and center the stake on your weaving.
5. Now use a remaining natural stake and weave the opposite pattern just to left of the center of the base.
6. Following the pattern, add two more natural on the left side of the base and two more dyed on the right. Center your work and adjust spacing. Your base should measure about 3 1/4" square. Set your candle on top of the woven square and adjust until the smooth bottom of the glass comes exactly to the outer edge of the base. (The angled glass is part of the sides of the basket.)
7. Gently upturn the sides making sure it is bent securely at the edge of the base.

Weaving the sides: (start-stop weaving) Note: Before you begin weaving around the candle remove the label from the bottom of the candle and remove the lid and set aside. As you weave the sides **do not** keep wetting your stakes. They need to be rigid to keep their form.

Rows 1 -2 Dampen the 3/16" natural 15". Begin on the outside of the basket with the weaver end clipped on the outside of one of the center stakes. Weave to the last stake on that side. Now start a chasing row clipped one stake over from where you started and weave to the edge. Clip the corner stakes of the two sides up, trapping the weaving. Now weave the 1st row to the end of the next side, and chase it with the 2nd row.

Continue around the 4 sides in this chasing and clipping process, packing down close to the base as you go. When you get back to where you started, tighten everything and then clip the end of the 1st row to hide the start and tuck behind the **next** stake.

Do the same for the 2nd row. Note: When weaving with a chasing 2nd row you do not need to overlap 4 as you typically do with baskets. Long overlaps tend to bulk up narrow reed weaving which is undesirable.

Rows 3-4 Dampen your ¼” dyed weavers. Now you will be starting each row on different sides of the basket. Weave 2 rows of dyed reed, one row at a time, continuing the over-under pattern. Straighten stakes and tighten corners. Insert the candle in your basket. Tighten rows 3-4 as needed to snugly fit the candle jar.

Row 5-10 Weave the 6 remaining rows of dyed reed around your candle. Continuously pack your work and straighten your stakes.

Row 11-18 Now dampen the 8 natural weavers. Weave 8 rows of ¼” ff natural around the candle jar. This should bring you up to the top where the glass begins to narrow. Pack and straighten your weaving. Now cut off every other stake about ½” above the last row of weaving. Spritz the stakes and gently bend them in toward the angled glass.

Finishing the top: Soak two long #2 round reed until very pliable. Start twining by putting the end of each round reed behind neighboring long stakes thus reducing the number of stakes by half. When you get back to where you started you will need to “step up” to keep the pattern accurate. As you twine pull the reed snub so that it follows the angle of the glass. Pack evenly, and weave 6-7 rows until the twining just reaches the bottom of the lip. You need to allow room for the stakes to curl over and tuck inside the weaving without rubbing when the lid is inserted. Trim the stakes to ½” above the weaving. Spray the inside of the stakes and bend over the round reed and tuck inside the basket. (You can see your work through the glass to straighten.) Now, cut the short ¼” rim piece so that it overlaps about an inch the diameter of the outside of the glass rim. Do not wet. Gently slide the rim behind the weaving against the outside of the glass. This will give it a finished look from the inside.

Embellishing: You may embellish your woven candle with a tie on, or make a floral ring. Get creative. And, it is easy to change the embellishment to go with the seasons. When you use your candle up, melt down more wax insert a wick, and make a new one.

Don't forget to sign and date your work! Enjoy!