

The nest

Use grey thread and couch a feather or two in the centre of the nest. Bring needle and thread to top of work; place aside to use in the next step.



Split a piece of raffia into thin strips which are about 10cm (4") long. Couch in place with brown thread. Space couching stitches quite far apart – stitch only where the raffia requires shaping. Twirl raffia round and round, overlapping the previous layer and using a gentle tension as you couch.



Add a second piece, and a third or fourth piece, building the nest around the feathers.



Use the same brown thread and secure a bead on the nest. Use two or three stitches to secure it in place.



Repeat for the two other beads and end off. Rethread, making a knot at the long end.

Couch more raffia pieces, as you did before, twirling them around to form the nest. Remember to use a gentle tension and to stitch only where necessary. End off at the back. Don't you think it's a cute little nest?



There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before. Robert Lynd - The Blue Lion and Other Essays