

# Marie's Handbag by Marsha Holm

#8447 - Pattern Sheet  
Marie's Handbag



Size: 9" x 5" at rim / Height: 8"

This little Basket Handbag is named in memory of Marie Levan, Marsha Holm's niece, who lost her 2 year battle with cancer, October 2008, at the age of 37. Marie was a pre-school teacher, a wife and a mother. "She was full of life and love," says pattern author Marsha Holm. "One of her loves was for purses and I think she would have liked this one!"

*Marsha has made 5 baskets (so far) and she chose some of her favorite materials to incorporate into Marie's Handbag: a wooden base, leather handles and braided seagrass. Thanks, Marsha, for sharing Marie's memory with us!*

## Materials/Supplies:

2.5" x 6" Oblong Slotted Base	1
7mm Flat Oval Reed	36 ft. Stakes
11/64" Flat Oval Reed	80 ft. Weavers & Lashing
11/64" Flat Reed Dyed Navy	20 ft. Weavers
#0 Seagrass	30 ft. Weavers & Rim Filler
5/8" Braided Seagrass	3 ft. Weaver
1/2" Flat Oval Reed	6 ft. Rims
11" Braided Leather Handles	1 pair

## Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your Stakes and Weavers, soaking 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Rewet reed as you weave if needed. Place Seagrass in the water for just a minute. Soak the Flat Oval Rim Material for 5 to 10 minutes in hot water. Do not over-soak your reed.
2. Soak Dyed Reed separately, rinse well and wipe with towel before using.
3. Flat Reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed in half. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side.
4. As you weave you'll want to maintain an equal space between stakes by gently pushing on the stakes to keep them vertical and to reach a circumference of 22 inches at the widest point.
5. Do not leave spaces between the rows of weaving.
6. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

## Weaving Your Basket

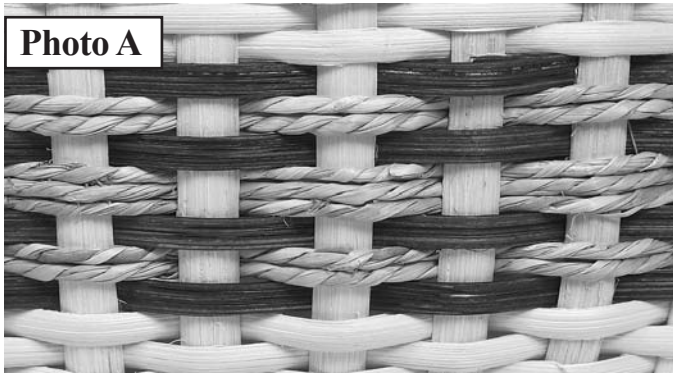
Sand your Slotted Base and apply the finish of your choice; allow the finish to dry completely. Cut 32 pieces (Stakes) 10" long from 7mm Flat Oval Reed. Trace the outline of the Base onto a piece of paper. Cut out the shape; fold in half and in half again. Unfold and, using the crease lines as your template, mark the edge of the Base in 4 places to indicate the 4 quarters. Soak all the Stakes then insert each Stake into the slot with the *Flat side up* (this is the inside of your basket). Place 8 Stakes evenly spaced into each quarter. *Note: If the Stakes are a bit thick for the width of your slot you may want to sand the slot or pinch the ends of the Stakes with pliers to flatten them before inserting.*

### ••Weaving Rows 1 - 11 11/64" Flat Oval

Weave 1 row with 11/64" Flat Oval, turning the rounded 'oval' side to the outside of the basket (the rounded side of Stakes are to the outside of the basket). Weave each row of Flat Oval (Flat Reed and Braided Seagrass, too) independently, overlapping the ends of each Weaver across 4 stakes. Keep Stakes laying flat as you weave this first row, adjusting the tension on the Weaver so that the Weaver is tight against the base. Check placement of Stakes—8 per quarter. Weave 2 more rows, allowing the Stakes to lie flat.

To check the security of your Stakes, push each Stake into the slot, reseating the Stakes if needed. Dampen the Stakes just above these rows and gently roll each Stake upward (flat side to the inside of the basket). Weave 8 more rows with 11/64" Flat Oval, putting a bit of tension on these rows so the Weavers begin holding the Stakes upward. You'll have a total of 11 rows of 11/64" Flat Oval. Pack these rows. Check the circumference (22").

••**Weaving Rows 12 - 22** *11/64" Flat Dyed and #0 Seagrass (note Seagrass rows weave the same pattern)*  
Weave this section with 11/64" Dyed Flat Reed and #0 Seagrass—see Photo A for pattern. As you weave, keep stakes wet above the rows of weaving and adjust stakes constantly to maintain even space between all Stakes.



**Photo A**

- To help gauge the needed circumference and maintain a consistent shape, you may want to pre-cut each Dyed Flat Reed Weaver to 25".

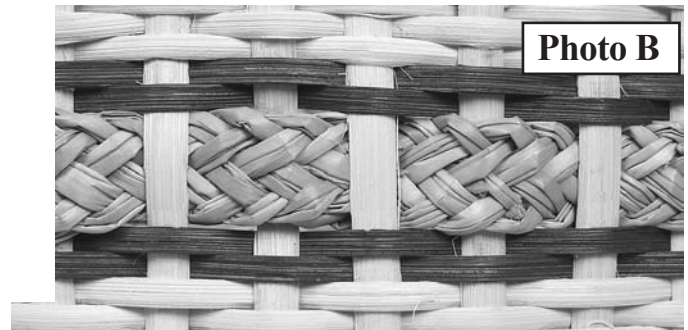
- Cut a piece of Seagrass that's long enough to weave all 7 rows (plus about 8" extra length). To begin Row 13, dip Seagrass in water, secure one end behind a few rows of weaving on the inside of the basket, and weave two rows in the same pattern. Lay the length of Seagrass inside the basket; do not cut or tuck the end.

• Weave the second row of Dyed Reed; pull the Seagrass to the outside and weave three rows in the same pattern; lay the ends to the inside, etc. Secure end after the final row. Pack all rows before starting Row 23.

••**Weaving Rows 23 - 35** *11/64" Flat Oval*

••**Weaving Rows 36 - 40** *See Photo B*  
Rows 36 - 37 *11/64" Flat Dyed*  
Row 38 *5/8" Braided Seagrass*  
Rows 39 - 40 *11/64" Flat Dyed*

••**Weaving Rows 41 - 47** *11/64" Flat Oval*  
(two of these rows are hidden later by the rim)



**Photo B**

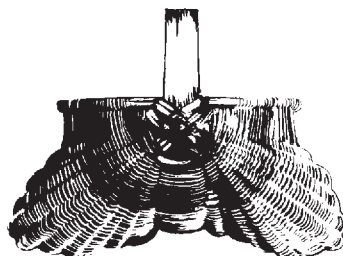
Pack rows. Soak Stakes that extend above the top row for several minutes—do not rewet the woven sides of the basket. Identify each Stake where the top row of Weaver is on the inside of the basket; crease, trim to length, then tuck each of these Stakes. Cut remaining Stakes flush with the top of the basket.

## Handles, Rims and Lashing

Sand the 1/2" Flat Oval Rim material if desired and then soak. Determine the Rim lengths, allowing about a 4" overlap. Mark and carve the overlap of each piece.

Locate two Stakes on each long side of the basket, over which to position the Handles; mark the top edge of these Stakes with a pencil. Place inside Rim into basket, covering the top two rows of weaving. Cut several pieces of #0 Seagrass for your Rim Filler. Slip the ends of the Handles through the outside Rim, aligning as previously determined. Position and attach the Rims and Rim Filler to the basket with cable ties or twist ties. (Rims cover the top two rows of weaving.) Single lash the Rims with 11/64" Flat Oval Reed taking an extra stitch on each side of each end of the Handles.

Enjoy!



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