

"BUTTERFLY" or "INTERLOCKING V" KNOT

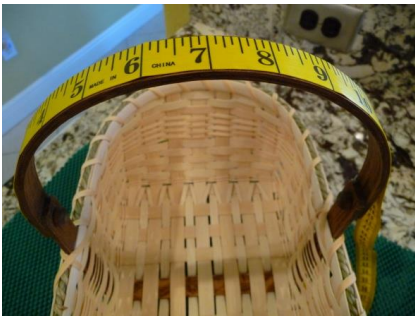


You've made a great basket. You have a plain wood handle that you really don't want to wrap entirely. Maybe it's stained and has a polyurethane coating like the one in the picture. What you need is an awesome adornment for the top of your handle. Plus, this knot makes an incredibly comfortable hand grip for the wood handle.

Materials Needed: Flat Oval Narrow Reed - Dyed or Natural - 11/64" FO was used for this tutorial.
Push In, D Handle, Swing in Either Round or Square Top

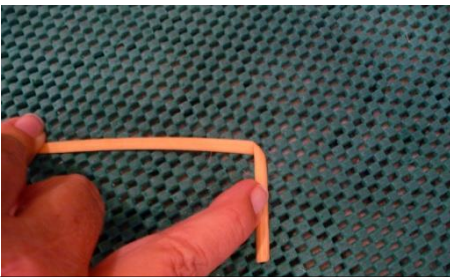
Sand and preferably, stain and polyurethane coat, a wood handle that is at least 5/8" in width. The handle used for this tutorial was 3/4" wide. The handle shown was stained with MinWax Wood Stain in Provincial and then given a few coats of MinWax Rub On Polyurethane for moisture resistance.

Choose a piece of 11/64" FO that is of good quality and 80" in length (for about a 3" width knot). For a larger width knot, adjust the reed length accordingly). Clip any obvious hairs or fibers from the reed piece before wetting it.

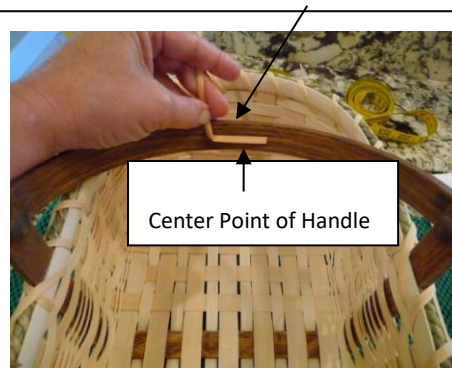


Using a flexible measuring tape, find the center point of your handle and mark it with a Sharpie. My center point was 7" between the pins of my swing handle (which is easier for demonstrating).

Soak the piece of reed until it is pliable and easily bent - but not soggy. Reed that is too wet can be easily broken as you pull the knot snugly in addition to causing the hair like fibers to raise more.



Fold about 1" of the end of reed sharply at a 90 degree angle. It might help to use pliers to flatten your crease well.



Place the end of the reed horizontally with your handle on the **UNDERSIDE** (*shown on TOP of handle for visual only*) with the reed wrapper (marked with arrow) about 1/2" to the left of the center mark (good side of reed against handle so that wrap will be right side up).

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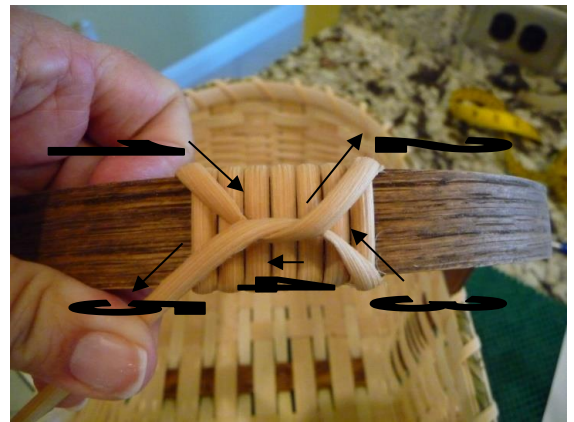
Wrap the handle 7 times around covering the 1" reed tail (trim it if you need to before final wrap around).



This part is literally the only difficult part of making your knot and can be a bit tricky to hold it all in place.

Holding the reed in place on the underside of the handle, make a loop that reaches to the midpoint of the handle. Your reed stays on one side of the handle (in the picture, the top side of handle) for the loop. Holding the loop in place, bring the reed under the handle.

The original loop is made by following arrows 1 to 2. Bring the reed under the handle and thread it through the loop you made (3 to 4). You may need to adjust your loop to make sure this first threading of the loop leaves it centered on the handle. Make sure to keep your reed with the smooth (or rounded) side up. The reed will then go under the handle (5) and back to the starting point of 1). The reed should be pulled snugly and not be loose.



The reed will continue following the *exact same path* as the first round - threading through the loop already created. The pieces should slightly overlap and lay smoothly side by side. Happily, you won't feel like you need four hands now as the reed will pretty much stay in place by itself. Make sure it is pulled with steady tension.



Look! I'm actually hands free now on holding the knot. Whew!
Continue until your Butterfly or Interlocking V Knot is of the width you desire.
When you have reached your desired size, count and make sure you have the same number of reed pieces on all four corners. In my case, you can see I have six pieces on each side.

End your knot on the underside of the handle, again making a 90 degree bend and crease in the tail of your reed. Tuck the tail under the wraps. I always feel like it's a good idea to add a drop of glue (*after the reed is dry*) at the starting and ending point of the reed as added insurance that it doesn't come loose.
This picture is of the underside of the handle. I would normally have a much neater wrap but being the photographer and the weaver does present some challenges (I was at least two hands short ;o).

