

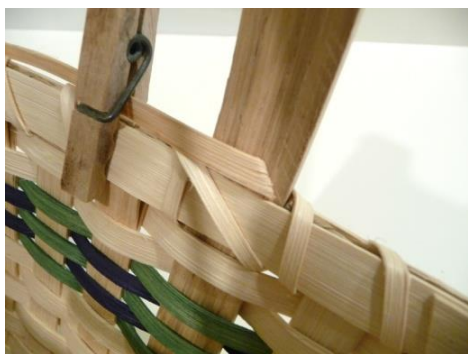
TUTORIAL AND TIPS FOR A BASIC HANDLE WRAP

1) Choose a piece of GOOD reed. Preferably one that is LONG enough to wrap the handle without splicing. Splicing will be inevitable on some handles, but try to avoid it.

Note: This basket has a 7/8" wide handle and I used 7 mm to wrap the handle. A good measure of length for this handle and size of wrapping reed is 9" per inch of exposed handle.

2) While the reed is DRY, trim it and de-hair it. REALLY GOOD. You will be glad you did this later on when de-hairing the basket.

3) Wet the reed well, but not soaking wet. Your friend will be your spray bottle as you wrap.

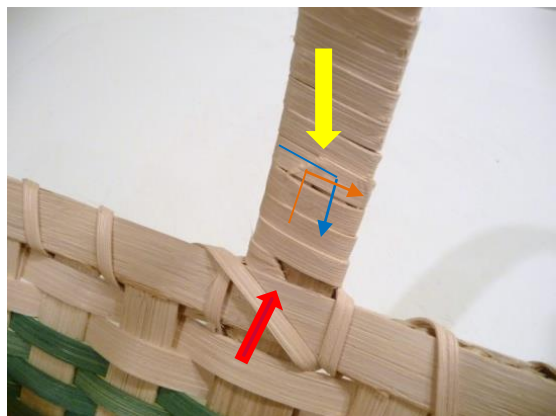


4) Start with a 90 degree SHARPLY CREASED bend in the end, tucking inside the handle under the rim row. Start close to the basket rim with the accent reed nicely tucked under the first row of wrapping. Good side of reed is UP.

5) Start the first row STRAIGHT. Subsequent rows will be then also. (The backside of the handle will be at a slight angle - but the front is what shows!) Lay each row BESIDE each other - DON'T OVERLAP. The wrapped handle will look better if there are slight gaps beside the rows rather than overlaps.

7) Don't let the wrapping reed dry out. Spray the reed as you weave, keeping it DAMP - not wet. Pull each row GENTLY around the handle, easing it around the handle edges. SLOW and steady will keep the reed from cracking.

8) End the wrapping with another 90 degree sharply creased end that is tucked under the rim row on the inside of the handle (Red Arrow).



If you must splice (Yellow Arrow)... Sharply crease a 90 degree angle leaving about 1" that the new wrapping reed will overlap (Blue Arrow). Clothespin that to the handle and prepare the new piece with another 90 degree angle that matches and lays beside the ending piece leaving a 1" tail on it also (Orange Arrow). You will wrap and cover both of these 1" tails as you proceed. Use a strong clamp to flatten these flat to the handle while they are still damp. Tack glue if necessary.



A good beginner handle wrap with accent piece is inserting a piece of ¼" FF dyed reed under your basket rim that is long enough to extend across the handle with an extra inch or two to tuck inside the basket rim on the other side. Alternate wrapping the handle with a single wrap over the accent dyed reed and then a wrap under it.

There are lots of variations that can be spun from this technique, i.e. two 11/64" accent pieces laid side by side and alternating the wraps over one of the dyed reed pieces and under the other.

I wish I could give proper credit to the originator of this idea but alas, this photo has been all over the internet for a long, long time and I can't trace it back to its creation. It is a great idea for quick referencing different handle wrap techniques – some basic and some much more advance. You can easily hold the wrapped ruler up against your basket and visualize how different handle wrap designs will compliment your basket. Build your own library of favorite handle wrap options. Experiment trying round reed accents and caning.



Splices are often necessary in wrapping a handle and are the least obvious if done on the top, underside of the handle (near where your handhold would be). A great tip is that after you have chosen a long piece of reed, place a mark on it at its center point. If you reach your mark on the wrapper reed before the halfway mark on the handle, it's not going to be long enough to wrap the entire handle. Cut and splice the wrapping reed while you are at the upper part of your handle.

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