

"FRENCH RANDING" - Technique Tutorial



This tutorial is designed to teach the French Randing technique which places weavers in a diagonal pattern while weaving a basket. It is normally easier to start with a base row of twining, triple twining, or as shown in the picture to the left – triple twining with arrow (another tutorial is available for this). The row of twining will allow you to seat each piece of reed for randing into the round reed which helps hide the raw ends of reed plus will help keep the reed from slipping.

This instruction is for a right handed weaver – you may reverse the technique if need be.

Some patterns and instruction will provide a specific length for your randing pieces. I prefer to use a longer piece of reed and simply cut it appropriately as I place it. Either is acceptable and it's just a matter of whichever is easiest for the weaver. I also prefer to rand with DRY reed until the last few pieces (see note later on).

To begin randing, insert the end of your reed into the row(s) of twining on the INSIDE of the basket, behind a spoke. The photo on the right is looking to the inside of the basket to show placement. For this instruction we will be using a "seven spoke" randing or going under/over a total of seven spokes. The spoke that you place the reed behind is "Spoke #1".



Weaving from the outside of your basket, counting the spoke the reed is seated behind as Spoke #1, weave over / under for a total of seven spokes, at a diagonal angle. Cut your reed on the right side of the 7th spoke. It helps to slip the first randing reed in place (Figure #1). Once a few pieces are placed, clipping it is no longer necessary. You will be able to slightly adjust the randing and pack it down once all pieces are placed.

Your next randing piece of reed (blue arrow) is placed on TOP of the first piece (green arrow). You will be working counter clockwise (Figure #2).

Continue placing randing pieces of reed around the basket until you near the last few spokes. The last few randing pieces are a little more difficult to place as the spokes have randing pieces already on the upper part. It will be easier to weave these pieces back into the twining rather than seat them in the twining first. Note the direction of the yellow arrow on Figure #3 showing that I wove over / under a few of the spokes near to the twining row before placing the end into the arrow triple twining, going under the first placed randing pieces.









Tuck the end of the randing piece into the twining. Notice on the photo to the left that after this piece of randing, there is still one more piece to go (turquoise arrow). EACH spoke should have a piece of randing that begins behind it. The last piece is the hardest to place. It is helpful if the last pieces of reed are slightly damp and pliable to allow them to be manipulated in the over / under weaving without breaking or cracking them.

Once all the pieces of randing are in place, use your packing tool or bone awl to gently snug the randing reeds close together.

You may choose to duplicate your twining pattern above the randing pieces to conceal the raw reed ends trimming the length if necessary.

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