

Sarah's Wedding Basket

by Colette Brann & Beth Hester

8491 PATTERN SHEET—
Sarah's Wedding Basket



Sarah's future Mother-In-Law, Colette, wanted something special for the upcoming rehearsal dinner party. So, Beth suggested they weave a basket around their antique Blue Mason Jars.

This quick and fun project makes a very attractive flower vase. By only weaving the bottom and top the blue jar shines through.

I think the guests will be impressed with the handmade woven touch!

A special thanks to Judy Sims for her lovely hydrangeas!

Materials

1/2" Flat Reed	35 ft. Stakes
1/4" Flat Smoked Reed	15 ft. Weavers

Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your Flat Reed, 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Soak the Flat Oval and Round Reed about 10 minutes in hot water. As needed, re-wet reed when weaving.
2. Soak smoked reed separately, rinse well and wipe with towel before using.
3. Do not over soak your reed, it will become mushy.
4. Flat Reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side. Create the basket with the rough side of the Flat Reed to the inside of the basket.
5. As you weave you'll want to maintain an equal space between stakes by gently adjusting the stakes to keep them vertical as you weave the lower rows. Bring stakes together to weave the top section.
6. On the sides of your basket, weave so each row touches the previous row.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

NOTE: This pattern gives you some good ideas for weaving on a Blue Mason Jar; it may be adapted for a variety of containers.

Weaving the Base

Cut 10 pieces of 1/2" flat reed about 30 inches long. Soak these base pieces (stakes) 1 minute in warm water.

Weave a base about 5" square with the rough side up. This size may vary depending on the size of your jar. The flat reed extending out from the base should all be about the same length. See Photo 1.

Place the jar onto the base. The base should be close to the size of the jar bottom. Adjust if necessary. See Photo 2.

Crease each stake at the edge of the base to upset the basket around the jar. Use a couple of rubber bands to hold the uprights in position. See Photo 3.

Photo 1

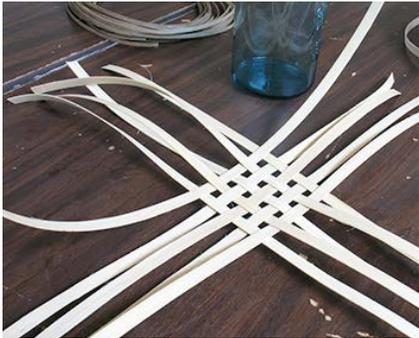


Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



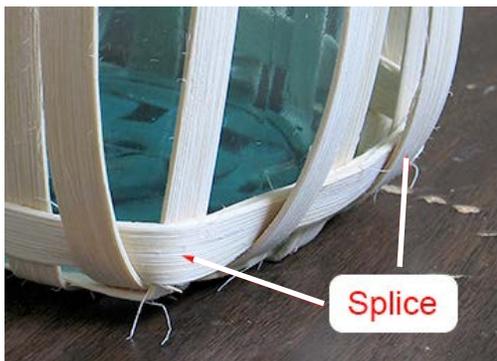
Weaving the Sides

Start weaving with a wet piece of 1/2" flat reed, smooth side out. This piece should be long enough to weave around the jar plus 5". The extra 5" is for the overlap or splice. See Photo 4.

Note: The first 6 rows are start and stop rows. To finish a row weave over the beginning and tuck the end behind the fourth upright making a 4-upright overlap or splice.

Trim the end of the weaver to hide behind the upright. See Photo 5.

Photo 5



Start row 2 on the opposite side of the row 1 splice.

The rubber bands hold the uprights in place as you weave. This is nice but the rubber band also makes weaving a little difficult.

Feed the weaver's end behind an upright and pull the weaver into place.

Photo 6 shows how you may need to put a big loop in your weaver as you weave.

Photo 6



Pull the loop tight and push row 2 down so it touches row 1 as seen in Photo 7.

Finish row 2 with a splice as described above.

Adjust the uprights so they are evenly spaced and vertical.

Weave row 3 with 1/2" Flat Reed.

Photo 8



Rows 4 - 6 are woven with 1/4" Smoked Flat Reed.

These are all start and stop rows. See Photo 8.

Photo 7



At the top of the jar you'll use a continuous weave.

First group the uprights by twos. Start weaving under two, over two, under two, etc.

As you near the end of the first row you'll weave under one stake, over one stake then continue weaving by twos. See Photo 9.

You will have to make this weaving correction on every row. Pull the weaver tight as you weave to help hold the basket against the top of the jar.

Photo 9

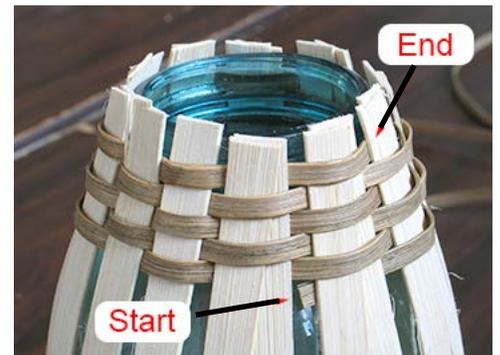


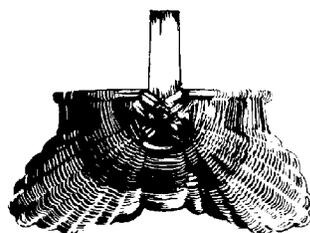
Photo 10



Finish the last row by hiding the weaver behind a stake. See Photo 9.

Trim the uprights flush with the top of your jar as shown in Photo 10.

Fill the jar with water and fresh flowers and enjoy your Sarah's Wedding Basket!



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