

“Fall in Love” by Sheri L. Van Duyn



*Dimensions: Base- 3" x 3 ½"
Top-7 ½" round diameter*

Materials:

#2 round reed-twining
#3 round reed-dyed fall colors-yellow and tangerine
#3 smoked round reed
¼" flat reed-base fillers
3/8" flat-dyed fall colors-yellow, tangerine and brown
3/16" dyed caning
Seagrass
Gourd Leaf pieces and fall bittersweet foliage

Preparation:

Dye caning in a Rit brown dye bath. This will take awhile. Only the back side of the caning will take the dye and then “bleed” through to the front and look like a crackle effect. (I enjoy dyeing reed and caning, but I purchased the caning used here from Royalwood-please check this out along with other available caning at their Website www.RoyalwoodLtd.com

Dye #3 round reed in Rit yellow and also some pieces in tangerine. Then dye the 3/8" flat reed in these 2 colors along with brown. The way to do this is to tie up the reed with as many pieces as you would like to dye in a circle. Then take a coil of reed and put this first in a yellow dye only standing the coil up on 1 end. When this reaches the color desired; rotate the coil and put in the tangerine dye bath until you get the desired color. Then rotate 1 more time into the brown dye bath. The fun is seeing where the colors overlap and bleed into each other. Let dry. (This spaced dyed or variegated reed is available from The NorEsta-please check out this and other available colors by visiting their Website at www.noresta.com

Cut 9 pieces of dyed 3/8" flat at 20" long. Cut 2 pieces of 3/8" flat at 6" long. Mark the long pieces in the center at the rough side of the reed. Soak these pieces along with a piece of #2 round reed and 3 pieces of 1/4" flat reed at 10" long.

Construction:

Lay out 4 pieces of the dyed 3/8" flat and place the 3 pieces of 1/4" flat reed in between each-all with rough sides facing up. Then weave 5 pieces of 3/8" dyed reed into these spokes starting over the 3/8" pieces and under the 1/4" pieces. Weave this first piece on the center marks and then weave 2 pieces on either side of this central spoke.

Adjust the base to 3" x 3 1/2" and then weave the 1/4" pieces tucking them back towards the center spoke. You will have to trim these. Now twine 1 row with the #2 round reed to stabilize the base. Upset all the spokes.

Take 2 pieces of caning and taper both pieces for 6-8" making a long incline on the top side of the caning. You will begin chase weaving with both of these pieces. Start the first piece by starting on the 5 spoke side and tucking this end behind the center spoke and begin weaving by clothes pinning this as you weave. Go all around 3 sides. Then start the second piece by going over the same center spoke and tucking the tail behind the spoke on the left. Continue weaving and go around the basket; you will be weaving opposite the row below. Your first row is the leader and the second piece is the chaser. Never let the chaser get ahead of the leader. So when you come up to the leader weaver with the chaser; drop the chaser and start weaving on the leader again! Continue weaving around the basket pushing out the sides to flare as you are weaving to a 5 1/2" diameter for a total of 12 rows. Get back to the side where you started and taper back for the 5-6" so the top will be even.

Take the 2 pieces of 3/8" dyed flat and clothespin these to opposite corners. Take 3 pieces of #3 soaked round reed and begin to triple weave around the basket including these 2 new pieces-this will be difficult at first, but will help in continuing to spread the width of the basket. (I saw the addition of these 2 half spokes in an older basket and thought that it would be interesting to place here. Of course, you do not have to add these to the basket, but it does make the basket diameter larger.) Continue to flare out to a 7 1/2" diameter after 10 rows. If you run out of round reed, leave the piece in the inside and start another. (I started out with 2 pieces of tangerine and 1 piece of smoked round reed for 3 rows. Then I dropped 1 piece of tangerine and added a piece of #3 round reed yellow in this place for 3 rows. Then drop the yellow and go back to the tangerine for 2 pieces of tangerine and 1 piece of smoked for another 3-4 rows.) Leave all ends inside making sure that these weavers end on the same side as they started.

Weave 1 row of 1/4" flat. Then overlap the end spokes on the long side to create a "bushel" type handle. Do this on both sides. Then cut and tuck the remaining spokes.

Take soaked caning and crisscross the 2 handle pieces to secure. Tuck ends into the basket.

From the rim: Add seagrass on the top of the last row of weaving; start this at the handle. Add a piece of 3/8" dyed flat for the inside rim and the outside rim; overlap both pieces. Take a soaked piece of caning and lash all around the top of the rim. Tuck the ends and trim as necessary.

Finishing: Add Fall Bittersweet foliage. Then also add 2 leaf Gourd pieces. To make these, take pieces of gourd and cut using an actual leaf as your shape or pattern. Both of these pieces here are 4" long and were painted with acrylic paint. These can also be thrown in your dyed bath. Make a grouping on the side of the basket handle.

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