

RAFFIA COILED BASKET

Materials Needed:

- Raffia Paper
- Wide Eyed Needle
- Scissors
- Optional:
Cotton Cording
(5mm-8mm thick)



Scan the QR code
for video
instructions!
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Source image by Jane Haselden



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Explore your artistic side and spend some time with art during MW Gallery's "Creative Summer" series, featuring free hands-on activities in the gallery through August.

Find more creative ideas for summer online at m-wc.org!

Raffia Coiled Basket Instructions

1. To start off your raffia basket, grab several strands of raffia or the 5mm-8mm cotton cording for your core. The pictures show about 5-6 strands of raffia, but materials vary and depending on how thick you want your rows to be you may want to use more.
2. Choose a color raffia you want to start off your basket with. Leaving about 1 inch of the end of the core bare, wrap some of the colored raffia tightly around it as shown in the pictures below.



Image by Jane Haselden



Image by Jane Haselden

3. When you have wrapped a section roughly 1 inch long, bend the bare end of the core around to join the rest of the length – making a loop. Now carry on wrapping with your color, so that you bind in the ends. Stop after ½ inch and thread the end of the raffia through the loop, using the large eyed tapestry needle.



Image by Jane Haselden



Image by Jane Haselden

4. With that done, you have completed the fiddly part of the basket. The rest is simple.
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5. Continue wrapping your coil with your chosen color about 5 times, and pass it through the central loop again. Repeat this 2 or 3 more times – until you have gone around the whole loop.
6. Carry on making the basket in exactly the same way, except now when you join thread the colored raffia through the previous row of coil. You want to make the joins about 1/2 in. apart and place them in between two joins on the previous round.



Image by Jane Haselden



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7. Changing color is easy. Take a length of the new color and lay about 2 inches of it with the core strands. Wrap the existing color around it 3 times and then put the end of it with the core strands. Take up your new color and continue to wrap.



Image by Jane Haselden

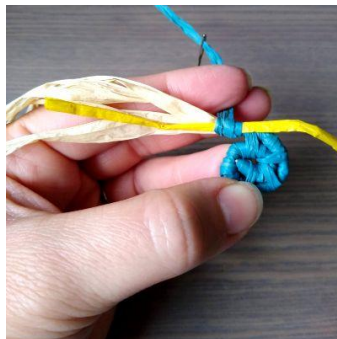


Image by Jane Haselden



Image by Jane Haselden

8. If you are starting to run low on core strands just lay some more with the existing ends and keep wrapping.



Image by Jane Haselden

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9. When you have made the base of basket as big as you would like it to be, start holding the coil on top of the previous round to start the sides. This can be done gradually over a number of row levels.
10. Once you are working on top of the base, just continue in the same way, steadily working upwards until you have reached the desired height.
11. Now you are ready to finish off your basket.
12. Cut away a few of your core strands, to make your core thinner.
13. Wrap another ½ inch and make a join.
14. Now cut off the remaining core, leaving about ½ inch to finish.



Image by Jane Haselden

15. To finish the basket, wrap with a join until the ends are completely covered.
16. Then using the needle pass the end of your colored raffia through a section of the previous row and cut the end of the raffia close to the basket. And you're done!



Image by Jane Haselden



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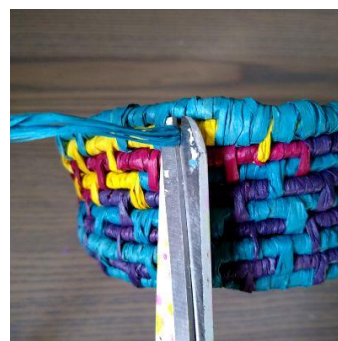


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