

## Weaving: Needles

### EQUIPMENT: What you will need

Short, straight, strong needles with a big eye are good for making baskets.

The eye needs to be big enough to thread raffia through it.

The shaft (body) needs to be strong enough to push through the grass coils.

The tip needs to be sharp enough to pierce the grass.

Some women like to use curved needles but most like to use straight ones.

Some older ladies like bigger needles that are easier to thread as their eyes are a bit weak.



You can even make your own needles if you like. This one is made from a tinned meat key.



Long and short needles



Short shaft needles



Packets of sail making  
needles

Needles you can use in basket making:

- No. 14 needles are used to sew sails for boats but they are good for baskets too.
- You can order these needles from the Tjanpi Office or ask the community store, Art Centre, Women's Centre or school to get them for you from the sail making company called Bainbridge.
- You can try other sorts of needles too, such as upholstery needles (for sewing material on furniture) and darning needles (for mending clothes made of thick material). Any needle with a big eye, a strong shaft and a pointed tip is good.

Keep your needles safe in a tin, pencil case or in your weaving so they do not go missing or hurt anyone.