

**Weaving: Starting a basket.** This is one way to start a basket.

## Starting off a Basket

### Starting with raffia

Stiff grass can be hard to bend around tight corners so most women start their baskets with raffia which is softer and easier to bend into tight coils.

- Pull 5 – 10 strands of raffia from the hank.
- Make a loose loop.



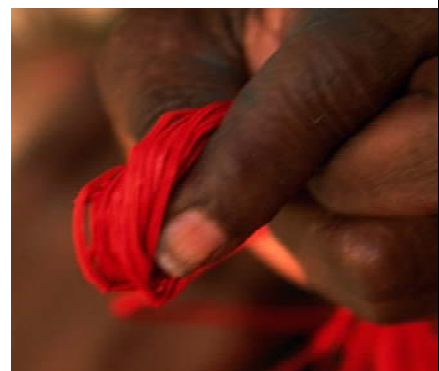
### Twisting

Find the middle of the raffia and twist tightly.



### Looping

Bend the twisted raffia around your finger to make a loop.



## Spiral centre

Twist the loop around to make a circular spiral shape.



Hold the circular shape firm and sew with raffia from the centre to the edge all the way around to make it tight.



Keep winding and sewing the raffia around the circle.



Now you have a strong, flat circular shape with a raffia tail.

- This is the centre of your basket.



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## Tips: Ideas that will help you

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### Loops

Some women make a small loop, some women make a large loop, and some women sew the loop shut. The shape of this first loop influences the shape of the basket as the coils follow the shape of that first loop around and around.

### Oversewing

Sometimes the raffia can get tangled and make oversewing difficult, so it's a good idea to keep the loop of raffia you are sewing with away from the ends of the grass. Try and work keeping the loop to the opposite side of the grass and towards the back of the basket.