

**Weaving: Making your basket bigger.** Some ways to make your basket bigger.

**EQUIPMENT: What you will need**



Grass



Scissors



Needle



Raffia



Wool

## Making Your Basket Bigger

### Building up from the centre

Once the raffia centre is finished, its time to add grass into the basket to make it strong.

Separate some grass from the clump.

- Cut the grass ends square.
- Slide the grass under the raffia tail and hold firm.



## Sewing

Loop the raffia over to the back of the basket.

- Hold the loop firm over the grass coil.
- Pierce the edge of the grass coil below with the needle.
- Pull the needle through to the front.



## Oversewing

- Pull the raffia tight.
- Repeat this action until you run out of raffia.

This action is called oversewing.



## Add grass

When you run out of grass, add more in by slipping a new bunch of grass under the old one as it starts to thin out.

- Keep oversewing and adding grass and watch your basket grow!



## Add more raffia thread

When the raffia gets too short to sew with easily, it's time to add more raffia

Cut the needle free.

- Leave a tail of raffia hanging inside the basket.
- Thread some new raffia.
- Pierce the coil with the newly threaded raffia at the place where the last colour ran out.



## Pull new thread through

Pull the new raffia through to leave another tail.

- Lie the two raffia tails along the top of the grass coil and hold firm.



## Oversew the raffia tails

Oversew with the new raffia to cover the two tails and the grass coil.



### Shape the baasket

The shape of your basket depends on how you position the coils as you are sewing them together.

Your basket will be flat like a plate if you position the new coils side by side.



Your basket will have straight sides if you position the coils on top of each other.



Your basket will have sides that slope inwards if you position the coils a little on the inside edge of the one below.



Your basket will have sides that slope outwards if you position the coils a little on the outside edge of the one below.



## Tips: Building your basket up

### Adding Coils

Some women make baskets with thick coils, others use thin coils. You will find it easiest if the grass coils are the same thickness as the raffia coils you started your basket with.

### 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.

### Making a strong basket

It is important to make sure that the raffia oversewing stays tight so that your basket is strong. If you cut raffia too close to the edge of the basket before you have tucked the tail under, the raffia may come loose and start to unravel.