

How to Weave a Locking Row with Flat Reed

Learn how to lock in your basket base with flat reed in this picture tutorial.

Attic Treasures Basketry

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*Square and rectangular bases are the foundation of many great baskets. Once the base of your basket is woven, it is often necessary to have some kind of keeper row around the base to hold it in place as you start your weaving. There are a few different ways to do this. The method that we're exploring in this tutorial is the **flat reed locking row**. Let's get started!*

We've put together the base of our basket and we're looking at it with the rough sides up or what will be the inside of our basket.

To start the locking row, take a soaked flat reed weaver and start it on top of a stake. We're starting on the long side of a rectangular base where it will be woven opposite of the outside base stake. Our mission is to lock this base in tight, so snug it up close.



We've now completed the first side of the basket base with the locking row. We're ready to round the corner.

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Bring the flat reed weaver over the first corner stake and under the next corner stake.

Pull the weaver snug and flat, shaping it into a miter on the corner.



Continue to work around the basket base doing a miter at each corner. Remember to keep the weaver for the locking row tight against the base of the basket.

Once we've reached the point where we started, we're ready to finish our locking row.



The arrow in the photo shows a pencil mark over the 4th stake from where we started our locking row. In the same way that we do start-stop rows in weaving, we're going to do a 4 stake overlap.

Clip the weaver at the pencil mark and “overlap” or cover up that original weaver going over where we started, under the next stake, and over the third. Tuck the end under the 4th stake to hide it. There will be a sort of double thickness, but this will secure the locking row.

