

## MOTHER'S HELPER TOTE

By Sheila King

(This is the basket pattern that was woven at AMB 2008 convention and given to many agencies around the state who work with new mothers)



Dimensions: 12" wide x 6" deep x 8" to 10" tall

Materials:     1/2" flat reed or 5/8" flat reed - spokes  
                  3/8" flat reed - base filler  
                  1/2" flat oval - inside and outside rims  
                  Seagrass - rim filler  
                  Medium cane - lashing on rim  
                  Shaker tape for handle - 70" long  
                  Weavers can be any material you choose. For example -1/4", 3/8", 1/2", flat  
                  reed - dyed or natural, YOU CHOOSE!!

Cuts: From 1/2" or 5/8" flat reed cut the following

5 at 40" - horizontal spokes

11 at 33" - vertical spokes

From 3/8" flat reed - 4 at 20" long for base fillers

Base set up:

With WRONG side up, mark center of all spokes and fillers

Mark 20" from one end of the strap. Place strap under the center horizontal 40" spoke, (with wrong side of spoke up), matching center of spoke with 20" mark on strap. Clip

these together, they will be treated as one for the rest of the basket.

Lay out the base starting with the handle/horizontal spoke, and place a filler on either side of the handle/center spoke, treat all three as one (filler-handle/spoke-filler). Put a 33" vertical spokes under the group of three, one on each side of the center three, leaving 3/8" space.

Using simple over/under weave add one 40" horizontal spoke on each side of the center "three group", then a filler on each side copying the weaving of the spoke, then weave in the last two 40" spokes. Your horizontal base is as follows, SPOKE-FILLER-SPOKE-FILLER-HANDLE/SPOKE-FILLER-SPOKE-FILLER-SPOKE. Weave the remaining eight vertical 33" spokes, for a total of 11.

Square up your base, put a clip on each corner, weave around the base with a piece of cane, mitering the corners.

Side Weaving:

Weave the basket side as you desire, using any pattern and combination of weaver you would like.

Keep the fillers to the back of the upright spoke crossing behind the spoke. When you have woven a few rows you can trim off the sides of the fillers even with the sides of the spoke.

When at desired height, finish off with a 3/8" flat rim-keeper row.

Trim and tuck all spokes that go to the inside of the basket. Tuck spokes under at least two rows of weaving. Trim the other spokes level with the top of the basket.

Take the long end of the strap to the other side of the basket and follow the same path as the shorter end. Weave the strap down a couple of rows then back up to the top of the rim. Trim both ends even with the top of the rim row. Put a spot of glue on cut ends to prevent fraying.

Fit and lash on rim, using seagrass as filler and cane as lasher.

Use your imagination when weaving the sides, using colored and natural weavers, to create many different designs.