



a natural state

Artist: Nancy Basket

Video 2: Basket Process, Part A: Beginning

Basket: Split them like this. I'm not bending them in the middle, I'm just making them even on one end. The needle's over here like this. You hold it really tight, so when you pull it through, it won't pull out of the basket. The end is over here...the end of the raffia. You put your thumb on the raffia. And this is the way you start anything that's coiled, whether it's pine needles, kudzu, or even horsehair. Did you know that you can do horsehair baskets?

You want to put the needle through the end of what you've wrapped right here. You pull it toward your nose. I just wrapped the start of the basket. I pulled the needle through here. Now, we're going to treat it as an oval braided rug. It's not braided, but it's oval.

And you're going to lay the raffia away from you. Stitch here in the corner. This is a curve. You have to have stitches on your curve. Right here. You are going to put the needle between the spaces here and pull it through. Lay it away from you. Stitch to the left.

[Singsong] Lay the raffia away and you hold it with your finger. Put the needle to the left and pull it through. That's all you do.

You have to play a little bit. And that was my r-a-p, not w-r-a-p.

At this end, that's the second bend...curve. You have to bend it a little bit and stitch it a little bit. You want your three stitches here on the end. One. Two. I'm stitching right here in the same place. And the third one.