

Basket Quiver Build Along

This will be a quiver about 23" long. Mike asked for 22" but because of the tapered end, I've added an inch.

The first step is to get the materials. I use mostly Chinese reed, which is available at any basket making supplies vendor. For this quiver, I'm using 1/4" flat, 3/8" half oval (rounded), 3/4" flat,



1/8" round,



and 3/16" bamboo chair cane.



You buy this stuff by the pound, and in Seattle, it costs about \$9.00/lb



Okay, the first thing to do after buying the material, is to prepare the amount that you need. For this quiver, we'll use eleven 25" uprights of 3/8" half oval. Since ten of them are

symmetrical, we can combine them into five, 50" pieces, plus one 25" piece. You always need an odd number.

Determine the amount of flat, round, and cane material you need according to whatever pattern you've chosen. I usually guess on the long side, as the the stuff's cheap enough, and it's a pain to prepare more if you come up short.

Put all the material in a tub or sink and soak it in hot water. How long depends on your reed, your water and the temperature. Go eat lunch or prepare your stains while the reed softens. Be sure to allow enough time, the reed is very brittle when dry, and soaks up a lot of water. You can't overdo this step, so take your time



The stains I use are water based aniline dyes available at any woodworking store, or online from Rockler, or Woodcrafter. I use the water based because I think they have a more muted color than the alcohol based dyes.

Alcohol based dyes are more color fast, and a whole lot easier to use because they don't bleed as much when working the wet reed. I just can't get used to their vibrant color. It seems to me that an accessory used in the woods should have a woodland color and not some brilliant eye popping hue that looks out of place.

Okay, enough soapbox. Use alcohol based dyes, and save yourself some hassles. Maybe I just need to learn to mix them better.

Dye the reed you want for color. I put mine in the microwave to heat it up a bit and it seems to make the water based dyes penetrate better. I'm not sure I'd try that with the alcohol based dye, it probably doesn't need it anyway.



Oh yeah, wear gloves, or you'll have the dye bleeding out of your fingers when you handle the reed, and then you will really have a mess.

So, after the half oval uprights have soaked enough to become pliable, they need to be trimmed in the center to allow enough room for them all to come together at the tip. I usually trim about 5-6" out of the center, from the FLAT side of the reed. Trim down to about half the thickness.



The reed cuts easily when wet. Don't try this without soaking it first, or you'll screw it up, and I can't help you with it. Follow instructions, okay?

After you've trimmed the centers of the 50" pieces, it's time to put them on the form. The form I use to make a 3" diameter quiver, is a piece of 2 1/2" schedule 40 PVC pipe.



Notice that the edge has been eased with a rasp. About a 1/2" champher will do, more might be nice. The pipe should be about 3" longer than the length of the quiver you want to make. The holes in my form are from another use, and are not necessary.

I use a 2x2" mounted in my vise, to put the form on. The form rotates freely so that I can get to any point on the quiver that I need.



The uprights are folded around the end of the form and held in position with rubber bands. Try to bring the folds together at a point and space the reeds evenly around the form. The

last, odd upright should be inserted when everything else is even and looks good.



Next, dig the bamboo chair cane out of the sink, and stick it under one of the uprights and start weaving over and under around the form. Pull it up snug , but not tight enough to deform the shape of the quiver. Make sure that each row is snug against the last.



It's a good idea to work over a clean floor, because the long end of wet cane, or reed, will pick up any dirt, sawdust, or table scraps you've left lying around. And try not to step on it will ya?

Work your way around, and be careful to maintain the shape that you want the thing to have. As you work further, be sure to roll the rubber bands down ahead of you. If you have the bands too close, it will tighten the circumference too much, and it'll just be a pain to work as well.



About the time you get to the edge of the form, and the end of the tapered section, It's time to change to the 1/8" round reed. It's a good idea to overweave a small section with both materials to ensure that the ends are well secured.



The round stuff, although stiffer, is much easier to weave 'cause you don't need to worry about keeping any twist out of it. I make about eight circuits around the form with the round before I change to the next material.

Back to work! I'm skipping ahead a little. My last post suggested eight circuits with the 1/8" round reed after the chair cane.

Assuming you've done that, I add a few circuits with the 1/4" flat reed. You'll notice that the 1/4" flat is really easy to soften. It's also less ridged when dry, so I try only to use it for accents.

After the flat accent, I repeat the eight circuits with the round. The round reed makes a very strong basket, but at only 1/8", it goes pretty slowly, and without some contrast it would be pretty boring, IMHO. Some of you might think that my patterns are too busy, well fine then, make your own damn quiver! You should be able to when we're done with this.

Next, I start a run of the 3/4" flat. The important thing here is that we're going from 1/8" round to 3/4" flat. That's big difference, so we're going to have to taper the flat to make a smooth transition. Remember to cut it after it's soft, or you'll screw it up.



Tuck it in, and proceed as before. You'll notice that this is really easy stuff to weave, and at 3/4", you're really makin' tracks now.



When you get to the end, don't forget to taper it for the transition back to the 1/8" round. Yes, we're going back to the round, because it adds contrast, and strength in the middle of the quiver, and because I like it that way.



After the round, comes another section of the 3/4" flat, and then you should have something that looks like this.



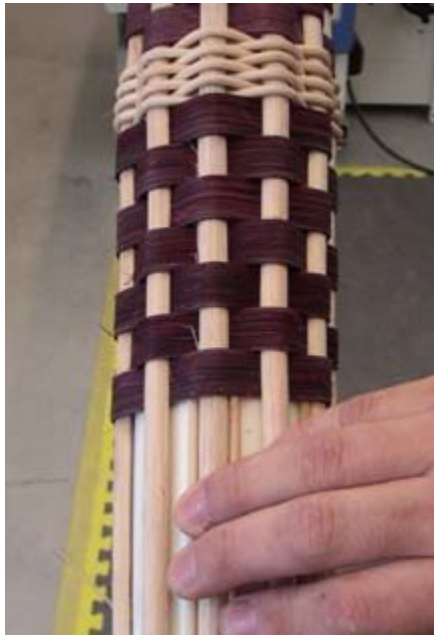
We're getting near to the end of the prescribed length, so it's time to plan for the end of this puppy.

I'm going to finish the top of this quiver differently than the way those in last week's post were finished. In the past, I've finished the top using a two part ring of half round that

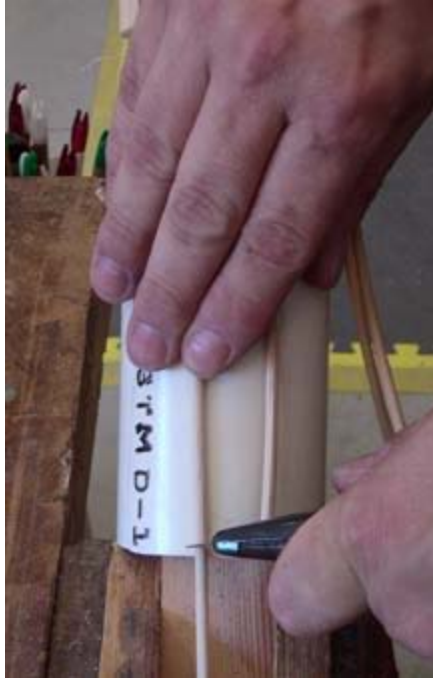
sandwiched the uprights, then I bound the assembly together with chair cane.

I'll give some tips on how to do that later, because I'm going to finish this one by transitioning to 1/8" round uprights, and doing a round over weave. I think it will make a stronger and more reliable top.

Start by inserting 1/8" round reed on either side of the outside uprights at the end of the last circuit



Cut them to about 14" length.



Then, weave a section of 1/8" round to finish the length of the quiver. Include the rounds with the half oval uprights as you go around. When you've reached the desired length, cut off the excess half oval.



We're now ready to start the top ring.

By now, you should have a quiver of the length that you want, with a bunch of 1/8" round uprights sprouting from the top at regular intervals all around. Now's the time that the quiver comes off of the form. This can be kinda tricky, because the reed shrinks as it dries. It might be a good idea to have someone help you pull it off. It also might be a good idea to wax the form before you start, but I've never tried it.

Once the quiver is off of the form, sit down, and hold it between your knees to do the next steps. You need to bend the uprights 90°, and around the next upright to the outside. Tuck it in behind the second upright, and repeat with the next upright behind the first.

You can do this either clockwise, or counter clockwise, it doesn't matter which way you go. I bend clockwise, and proceed counter clockwise, but I'm left handed, so do what's comfortable for you.



Once you've made your way around, you can continue to spiral the rounds around the adjacent pieces. lay them together like a cable, going out, around, under, and in.



Pull them snug, but not too tight, or you won't have room to get the next ones in. When you're done, snug them up all around, and cut off the excess. Don't cut them off too short, or you'll be pissin' and moanin' as the ends pull through.



When you're done, it should look something like this.



Now, you have a quiver, but no way to hang it, that's next.



We need to have a way to attach a strap to the quiver. What I like, is to make a couple of rings from 1/8" round reed, and weave them into the quiver. Your reed needs to be VERY soft for this step. If you can't bend it around your finger like this, don't start until you can.



I pick a spot on the quiver to put the strap. Usually, that's the upright where all the transitions are, since it will be against the wearer's back, and thus hidden from view when in use.

It's sometimes helpful to use an awl to open up the weave, so that you can insert the reed for the ring.



I like to make a double loop so that it's less likely to deform under a load of 800 grain arrows. Weave it in and out of the fabric of the quiver for a couple of courses, for each end, and tuck the ends in. Put a ring at each end, on the same upright, and you're done.



My source for reed and cane is
[The Weaving Works](#)