

Handwoven Basket of Flowers

Supplies Needed

- One 12 x 12 sheet scrapbooking paper
- Ruler
- Scissors or paper trimmer
- Adhesive tape – can also use glue dots or double-sided tape
- 1 cube florist foam – about 2" x 2" x 2" or a little larger
- 16 pieces 20 gauge green florist wire cut in various lengths (3 ½ to 5 ½ inches)
- 16 small squares paper in floral colors (about 3" x 3")
- Pliers
- Hot glue (or craft glue)



Instructions

1. Cut sixteen 5/8" strips and two 1" strips from the scrapbooking paper. Set aside the two 1" strips for the rim of the basket.
2. Divide your remaining 16 strips into 3 piles, 10 in one, 4 in another and 2 in the third. The two strips in the third pile should be cut in half. This will give you 4 pieces about 6 inches each. Attach one half-strip to one full strip, overlapping them about ½ inch. Tape on the inside. Repeat for the last 3 strips. Set all 4 long strips aside to start work on the base of 10 strips.
3. You will use ten 5/8" strips to create the base. Start with 2 strips and cross them perpendicular to each other. Repeat by adding a contrasting strip to each side, alternating strips in the classic basket weave pattern until you have 5 strips alternated with another 5 strips perpendicular to them.
4. Move the strips together and to the center so they are even on all sides and tightly woven. Measure from the weave to the end of each side. Your measurement should be equal on all 4 sides. Once you have everything tightened and even, use small pieces of tape or glue dots to keep them all in position.

5. Now to create the sides of the basket. Take one of your longer strips and weave it through one side of your 10-strip base. When you reach a corner, crease it and continue to the next side. Continue on until you have woven your strip through all four sides, using tape wherever necessary. The two ends of your strip should meet and overlap a bit. Trim any excess and tape the ends together so it looks like one continuous strip. Make sure that this first row is pressed evenly down to the base before starting the second row. Start the second row by alternating the weave. Continue like the first row. Continue the rows until you have 4 completed rows, being sure to continue the woven pattern. Be careful at the corners. It's easy to miss the pattern there.
6. Once you have completed all four rows, you should have a small amount of the base strips sticking up all around. You can trim them all around or fold them over evenly in an alternating pattern to reinforce the top row. Once folded, tape the ends down if you want. If the excess extends beyond a single row, cut off anything that extends beyond the top row.
7. Combine your two 1" strips, overlapping about $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Fold this long strip lengthwise at $\frac{3}{4}$ " and place all around the top rim of the basket so that it covers the outside top strip. Overlap the strip where it meets. Use tape to attach it on the inside of the basket. Once everything is taped on the inside, you can add small pieces of tape on the underside of the outside pieces, if needed.
8. See separate instructions and templates for Paper Flowers
9. Once your flowers are created, prepare the wires for the flower stems. Using your wire cutters, divide each of the four 18" pieces of florist wire into 4 pieces of varying lengths, from $3\frac{1}{2}$ " - $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".
10. With your needle nose pliers, twist one of the ends of each piece of wire into a small loop and then flatten it so it can attach to the paper flower.
11. Using your hot glue gun, attach the wires to the center of each flower and let set.
12. Using your glue gun, attach the cube of florist foam to the inside of the basket and let set.
13. Place wired flowers into the florist foam to create a pleasing arrangement.