

Snowman Basket (3-tiered)

Design by Bob Gleason



Dimensions:

Height – 14”

Width – 8”

Supplies:

#4 round reed – natural

#3 round reed – natural

#2 round reed – natural

#2 round reed – color (will be hat color – red looks good)

#3 round reed – same color for hat

Small pieces of flat-oval and dark #3rr for face(eyes, nose, mouth)

Five small black buttons

Scarf (can be any material) and buttons or dark reed for eyes and buttons

Preparation:

Bottom section:

- Cut 10 natural #4 rr spokes 32 inches
- Cut 4 natural #3 rr – 12 inches for 4-rod coil

Middle Section:

- Cut 10 natural #4 rr spokes 32 inches
- Cut 4 natural #3 rr – 12 inches for 4-rod coil

Top section:

- Cut 8 natural #4 spokes – 32 inches
- Cut 4 colored #3 rr – 10 inches for 4-rod coil (top of hat)
- Cut 16 colored #3 rr – 8 inches, for hat brim spokes

Bottom Section (lower snowball)

Make a five-over-five overlaid base: cross five 32” natural spokes over the other five spokes at the mid-point of both making a cross. Tie in the slath by wrapping a #2 rr weaver over and under each group of five spokes - total of four times completely around the entire cross. Then begin weaving Japanese weave to separate spokes going over two – under one spoke. Be careful to make the weaver bend over and under the spokes – do not let the spokes bend.

Dome the base away from you slightly as you weave.

Weave this to a diameter of 4 ¼”.

Soak, pinch spokes and bend them away from you (upset), then weave a 4-rod locked coil (in front of three and behind one) with four natural #3 rr.

Sides: weave a 3-rod wale with #3 natural weavers for the entire side, weaving out at a 45 degree angle until you reach diameter of 8 ½”, then curve back in to a diameter at the top of 5”.

Weave a Basic Rolled Border at the top:

Soak and pinch spokes, then weave these three rows:

- Behind two and out
- In front of three and in
- Over two and down

Middle Section (middle snowball)

Make a five-over-five overlaid base: cross five 32” natural spokes over the other five spokes at the mid-point of both making a cross. Wrap a #2 rr weaver over and under each group of five spokes - total of four times completely around the entire cross. Then begin weaving Japanese weave to separate spokes going over two – under one spoke. Be careful to make the weaver bend over and under the spokes – do not let the spokes bend.

Dome the base away from you slightly as you weave.

Weave this to a diameter of 3 ¼” (check to see if this base will easily fit down inside the top of the first/bottom basket section you wove first. This base should be at least ¼” smaller than the opening of the bottom section before you weave the 4-rod coil)

Soak, pinch spokes and bend them away from you (upset), then weave a 4-rod locked coil with four natural #3 rr

Sides: weave a 3-rod wale with natural #2 rr **straight up for 5 rows.**

Then angle out 45 degrees to a diameter of 7 ½”, then curve back to top diameter of 4 ¼”
Weave a Basic Rolled Border (same as Bottom Section)

Top Section (snowman head/hat)

Weave a 4-over-4 overlaid base using the 8 natural spokes (32”), tying in the slath with 4 rows, same as the other two sections but this time use **#2 colored rr** ; then weaving a Japanese weave with **#2 colored rr** to a diameter of 2 ¾” – weave this completely flat (no dome).

Soak, pinch and bend spokes away from you, then weave a 4-rod locked coil with **#3 colored rr**.

Weave 3-rod wale using three #2 colored rr – weave this straight up for 2” (this forms the side of the hat).

Insert 16 #3 colored spokes (8”) into the spaces between the natural base spokes.

Soak the newly placed colored spokes, pinch and bend at a right angle straight out.

Weave 3-rod wale using three #2 colored rr for 5 rows (this forms the brim of the hat).

To finish the brim weave a border of:

Behind 2 and out

In front of 2 and in.

Trim excess carefully under brim of hat)

Continue weaving on natural base spokes using three #2 natural weavers , angling out at 45 degree angle (as close to the underside of the brim as you can) .

Weave out to diameter of 5 ½ - 6 inches, then curve back in to diameter of 3 ¼”.(this is the head)

Bend spokes and weave 3-rod wale straight down for 3 rows, then weave border:

Behind 2 and out

Over 2 and in

Check to see that this fits down into the top of the middle section basket. If the fit is too tight you can soak the border of the middle basket and gently “stretch” it outward to enlarge the opening. A snug fit is good so the baskets don’t separate too easily.

Painting:

Before adding any embellishments to the face (eyes, buttons , etc) paint all three sections with a water-based white paint – be careful to NOT paint the hat. I used a children’s non-toxic water-based project paint. You can water the paint down slightly to give it a bit of a white-wash effect. Be careful not to use thick paint that will form clumps.

Allow this to thoroughly dry before the next steps.

Face, buttons:

The eyes can be made using two small black buttons. Attach the buttons using a #2 dark-colored piece of rr, insert both ends in the front of the head and tie or secure on the inside
Nose: bend a small piece of orange flat-oval reed and insert this for the nose.

Mouth: cut and gently curve a short piece of orange or brown #3 rr, then attach it to the face by using small pieces of dark rr U-shaped pieces that are inserted into the heads side weaving.

A scarf is optional – can be woven or use a small piece of felt or fabric. Glue the top of the scarf to the lower sides of the head so the scarf will remain with the head when the top section is lifted off the middle section.

Can also bend a 6” piece of dark #3 rr to form glasses

Make 2 buttons on front of middle section (same as eyes) and one on the lower section.

Feel free to vary these face and accessory decorations and make the snowman your own!

Patrick's initial "concept" drawing (somewhat along the lines of a minimalist Picasso drawing)...this is how the idea started

