

WE612X

Raffia Basket (Pk/24)

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**Kit may contain silicone gel packets, which should be removed before use.**

Item Number

WE612X

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**Raffia Basket (Pk/24)**

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING



**YOUR KIT CONTAINS:**

- Cardboard Basket Templates
- Assorted Raffia
- Plastic Needles

**AGE GROUP: 9 and up**  
**PROJECT TIME: 60 minutes**

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Scissors
- Materials to Decorate the Cardboard Base (optional)

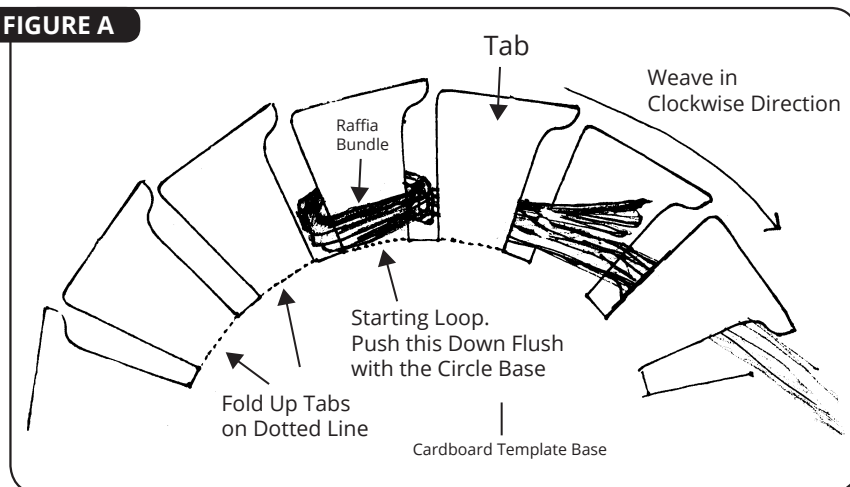
## INSTRUCTIONS:

Each person will need one cardboard basket template and approx. 20 long hefty strands of raffia in various colors.

1. a. Carefully press the circular basket template out of the cardboard backing.  
b. To make the sides of your basket, bend tabs up toward the center in a 90° angle so they all stand upright (brown side facing up).
2. Decide which colors of raffia you want to use to weave your basket bowl. You need approx. 20 strands in various colors.  
**TIP:** Untangle the mass of raffia. Try to carefully pull out the long thick strands. It helps to pull the separate colors apart into smaller piles, so each person can pull out their 20 strands.
3. a. Bunch 2-3 strands of raffia together matching up the ends on one side. They can be all the same color or a mixture.  
b. Tie the even ends together with a simple overhand knot, leaving a loose loop for now.  
c. Slip this loop over one cardboard tab and tighten the loop as you push it down to the bottom (see Figure A).

4. a. Once your first bundle is tied to your first cardboard tab, make sure the loose raffia strands go to the right (the same clockwise direction as the small bump on the top right edge of each tab).  
b. Hide the knot behind (brown side) the first tab. Weave the raffia to the front (white side) of tab #2.  
c. Alternate front and back, front and back between tabs as you weave clockwise.  
**TIP:** Inbetween each tab, pull the raffia toward your body and down tight to the base of your basket (see Figure A).  
d. Stop weaving around when the end of your raffia becomes short, approximately 3 inches.  
e. This is when you can change colors as you bunch 2-3 more strands of raffia together, making your second bunch.

**FIGURE A**



5.
  - a. Join and overlap the start of your 2nd bunch with the short loose ends of your 1st bunch and continue on your basket weaving mission.
  - b. Repeat this process with 4-5 more bunches (2 strands of raffia each) weaving tightly as you form the sides of your basket.  
**TIP:** If you have messy loose ends of raffia popping out as you weave, don't worry. You can just trim them off with scissors when you are done.
  - c. Finish weaving the sides of your basket bowl leaving approximately 1/4 inch of the cardboard tabs exposed at the top edge of your bowl.
6.
  - a. Lastly you need to finish off the baskets' top edge. Take a thick single strand of raffia and thread it onto your plastic needle. Slide to the middle, folding the piece in half.
  - b. Starting on the inside top wall of your basket, loop the needle up through a few strands of raffia from the top bunch.
  - c. Pull the length of the raffia strand all the way through, leaving just a few inches.
  - d. Take this short end and tie a simple overhand knot to hold the end of the raffia strand in place as a starting point.
  - e. Over-sew tight neat loops (approximately 4 stitches per tab) around the top edge of your basket, looping over the top edge alternating from the brown (inside) to the white (outside) walls of the tab working clockwise once again.

**TIP:** You're not threading your needle through the cardboard, just covering it up. Take your time finishing the top edge, making sure you cover up any exposed cardboard as you over-sew. You may want to even double-loop over some areas to hide the cardboard, especially inbetween tabs.

7.
  - a. Use your last few strands of raffia, repeating the process explained in Step 6 to finish your top edge.
  - b. Take your scissors and cut off any loose ends and your basket is done! Or is it? Hmmm...
  - c. If you want, decorate the inside brown cardboard base of your basket with crayons, markers or paint. You can even glue on strips of extra raffia, decorative paper or felt. Get creative!