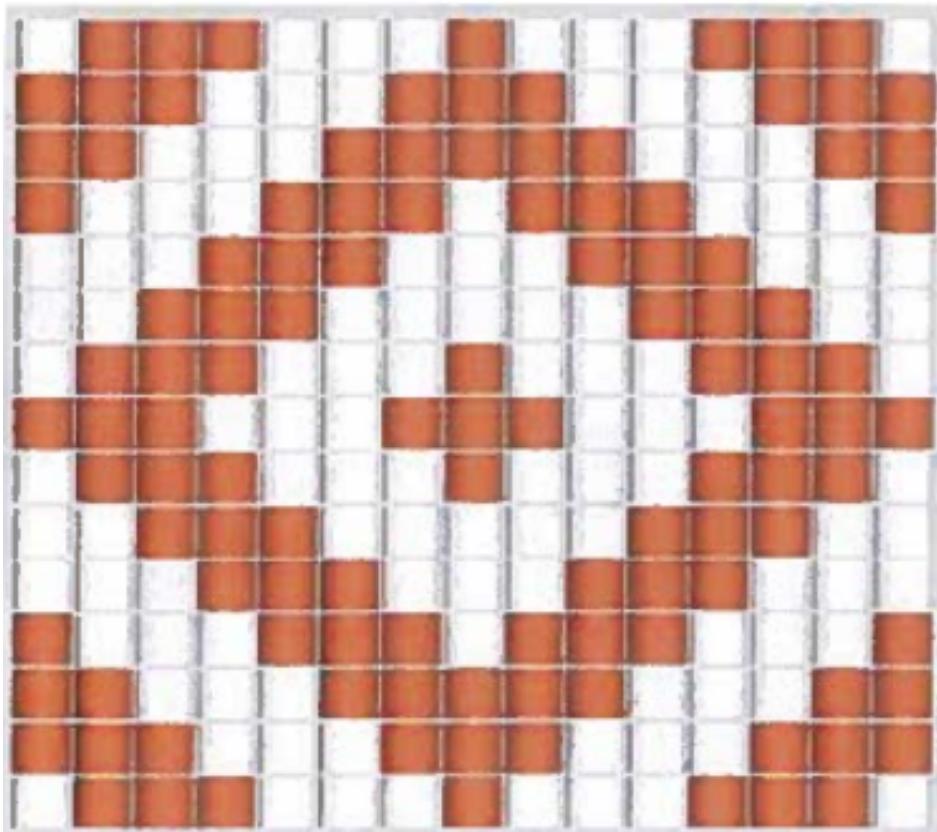


Cherokee Nation's Community & Cultural Outreach's 2025 At-Large Annual Meeting Make & Take Craft

"Cherokee people use materials gathered from nature to make flat reed to weave into mats and baskets. Common materials used are white oak and river cane. Cherokees gather these materials and scrape them down into flat pieces that are then dyed and woven together. The "Chief's Daughter" pattern is comprised of diamonds." – Gilcrease Museum



Flat Reed Coaster Tutorial

Kit includes:

30 quarter inch flat reeds, 15 smoked color and 15 natural color

Artificial sinew

Instructions

Chief's Daughter Pattern (pictured above)

You will need:

Warm water in a bowl or bucket

A piece of masking tape or large rubber band to keep reeds in place when starting
Scissors

Starting the Tutorial

Hover over the QR code with any smart device's camera. You do not need to take a picture, just hovering over the QR code with your camera should create a link you can tap. Tap the link to load the video of this tutorial. Wado!

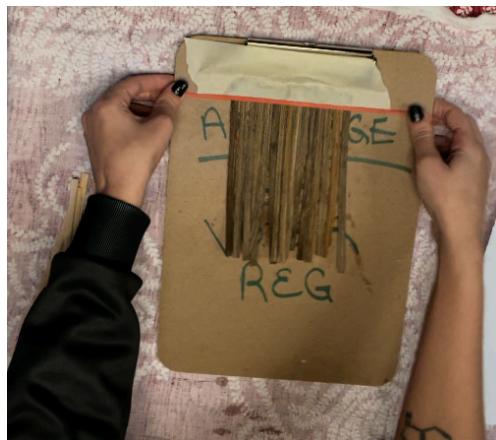


Huge wado to Pam Bakke, Cultural Outreach Officer, for planning and designing this craft, Yazzie Lewis, CCO Clerk, for kit assembly, & Matt Anderson, Cultural Specialist, for sharing his knowledge with reeds which enabled Seli Stewart to create a better video for this tutorial. Wado to Maggie Glory for letting me borrow her clipboard.

& a special wado to people like you, doing this craft now!

Soak all 30 reeds in the warm water for a few moments. These reeds are thin, so they do not have to soak long. If you will be using tape to secure your reeds, you will need to try to keep the tips dry or dry them very well by squeezing out any excess water and then gently squeeze them in a towel. They just need to be damp enough to work with, but if you are using tape to hold them together, too much water can make it difficult for the tape to stick. This is also why I like using a large rubber band and a clip board sometimes, like I did in this video tutorial.

You will need to lay out 15 of the same color reeds, vertically side by side as pictured below on the left. I secured the top half inch of the reeds under the rubber band and the tape. You can also just tape your work to a table or desk.



Next remove your other 15 reeds from the water, gently squeezing away any excess water. We will be referring to our pattern, adding one horizontal row of reeds at a time. I always weave from the left to the right, but it doesn't super matter with a small coaster like this.

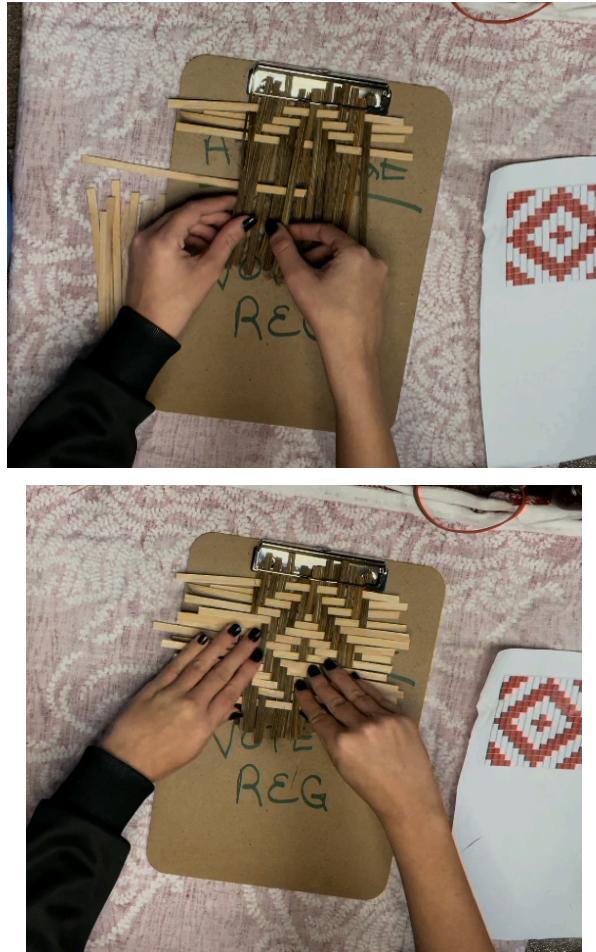
Anywhere that the pattern shows a white box, I will put my natural reed horizontally in front of the smoked vertical reed. Anywhere the pattern shows a red box, I will put my natural reed horizontally behind the smoked vertical reed.

EX: top row starts with 1 white box, three red boxes, 3 white, 1 red, 3 white, 3 red, 1 white

So I will take my natural reed, run it through the smoked reeds, in front of the first smoked, behind the next three smoked, in front of the next three smoked, behind the next one smoked, in front of the next 3 smoked, and behind the last smoked reed.

See the picture above to the right. Once you weave the horizontal reed in the correct pattern, slide it up to the top of the coaster by pushing the ends of the reed upward.

For each row on the pattern, you will continue to weave in the horizontal pieces following the pattern by going in front of or behind the smoked vertical reeds. You will do this until you reach the last horizontal row. You should use all 15 natural reeds across the pattern.



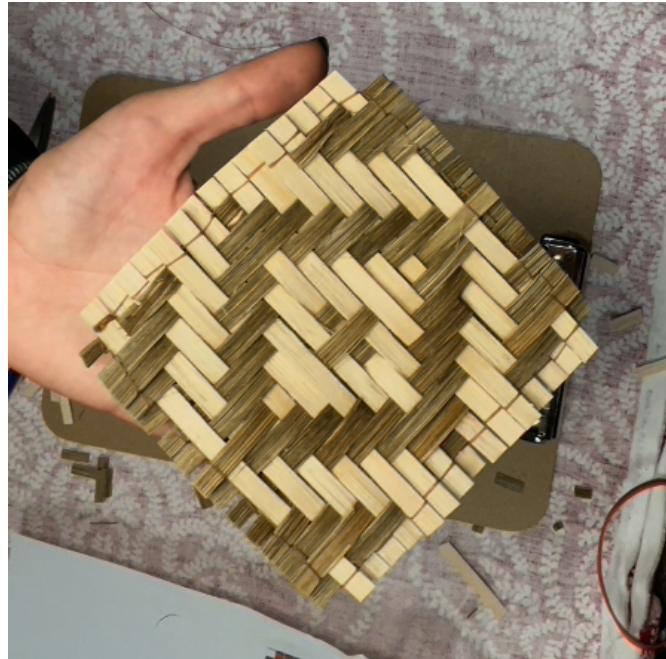
Once you get all your reeds woven into place, you can gently push together any gaps or adjust reeds as needed. Just be careful and don't push too hard because you don't want to pull out a reed. You will get better at closing in gaps the more you weave. Also, it can be handy to keep a spray bottle of water or re-wet your reeds while weaving, especially if it was a larger project than a coaster.

Next, take the sinew and tie it around one of the reeds sticking out around the outside. Knot it at least three to four times, leaving a four to six inch tail that we can tie off to when we're done. You will then start wrapping the sinew around the outside reed spokes, in front of one, behind the next, in front of one, behind the next, going all the way around the coaster.



Once you go all the way around the coaster the first time, go around it a second time, reversing the sinew. So, if your first reed has sinew in front of it, go behind it. After wrapping around the coaster a second time, each reed spoke should have a piece of sinew in front of and behind it. I will tie the remaining sinew to the tail and knot it three to four times before trimming the ends of the sinew. Then use a pair of scissors to trim off the excess reed ends.





Congratulations! You now have made a reed coaster. If your coaster is not as flat as you desire, submerge it in warm water, place it between some towels, and place it under a heavy book or object to keep it flat while it dries.

If you have enjoyed this tutorial, you can buy more quarter inch reed from Spider Gallery in Tahlequah or online. Wado for completing this tutorial!