

Mexican Basket weave – Round Braid

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1. Drill holes around top of gourd $\frac{1}{4}$ "down and $\frac{1}{4}$ "apart. Drill holes with $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill bit.
2. Cut leather 9 times the length around the top of gourd.
3. First use Leather Balm to condition the strip. I have used Beeswax applied with a cotton round.
4. Choose any hole to start – this starting hole becomes #1 and 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 follow consecutively
5. From the outside of the gourd go into hole 1, finished side down. Leave a tail approximately 1 inch long.
6. Over gourd into hole 4 from outside of gourd, finished side down
7. Over gourd into hole 2, finished side down.
8. Over gourd into hole 5, finished side down.
9. Over 5th stitch, under 4th stitch and into hole 3, finished side down.

**From the inside of gourd go under nearest stitch, over gourd into hole 6, finished side down. Over gourd and over closest stitch, under the next stitch and into the hole where the lace came out or the 3rd hole from your last stitch. (This will be the second time a stitch is in that hole.) This completes the first complete stitch.

**Continue around the gourd in the above manner until there are approximately 4 holes left. Pull the stitch out of #1 hole and lay it behind the rim of the gourd. Continue with stitches catching this tail as you go. You are finished when each of your starting holes has 2 stitches in them. Your last stitch through will be into hole 1, come out midway between leathers and cut remaining leather.

Helpful hints:

1. Going from outside in, have the finished side down.
2. Going from inside out, have the finished side up.

Sequence: 1-4, 4-2, 2-5, 5-3

1. Insert leather from outside into hole 1
2. from 1 over into hole 4
3. out of hole 4 over & into hole 2
4. out of hole 2 over & into hole 5
5. out of hole 5 over 5th stitch, under 4th stitch & into hole 3

