

Directions on how I dye my reed.

- Use a large enamel pot and work outside on an outdoor propane burner.
- Fill the pot about 1/2 full of water (which in my case is about 2 1/2 gallons of water).
- Bring the water to a boil
- Add one box of powdered Rit dye, 1 cup table salt and 1 cup white vinegar. (Powdered costs less than the liquid, but liquid is fine.) Salt and vinegar to help get the color to really set well.
- Reed will fade if placed in direct sunlight, most dyes will but the salt and vinegar just seem to help keep it from having any natural fading. This recipe gives really rich colors.
- Once the water is boiling, turn off the heat and add reed.
- Add 2 1/2 pounds to this mixture. Any more than that, it just doesn't get the intensity of color.
- Dye 1 pound of 3/8" flat and 1 pound of 1/4" flat. Then use 1/2 pound of another size of my choice. (This works best for me.)
- Open up the reed and submerge doing one pound at a time.
- Barbecue tongs help push the reed down into the water. Sometimes it wants to float, turn it to be sure it gets complete coverage.
- Have plenty of newspaper on the ground to catch drips and to lay the reed on to dry.
- Getting the color usually only takes a few minutes, but you can let the reed soak for up to an hour.
- **Dying reed** is a simple process, I don't wear gloves, but I do wear old clothes.
- Don't dye it in your kitchen. Accidents can happen too easily and oh, what a mess!
- Also, be sure to visit <http://www.ritdye.com/> for color charts, techniques and ideas.

Baskets of Blessings,
Nancy