

Accordion Plait Ring

Instructor/Designer: Doris Johnson

Designation for Project Use: Accordion Plait Ring is based on traditional plaits/designs in the public domain. Instructor grants full use of project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: I saw a diagram in one of the Russian books that at first looked like a spiral plait—but there were only four straws. When I tried it, it turned out to be a spiral that doesn't spiral! I then discovered there are different effects possible depending on which side is the third side, which has to remain consistent ...

Skill Level: Intermediate, Open

Size of Project:

6" x 6" x ½" depth

Prerequisites:

Clove hitch knot

Ability to count to 4!

Prework: Sort straws by diameter

Techniques Taught in Class:

Accordion Plait

Suggestions for lots of ways to use the plait.

The glossy ring makes a nice contrast to textured trims.

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Medium diameter straws suitable for spiral weaving.

Straws Needed:

50 medium diameter straws 12"-15" long

Supplies Needed:

Thread

Scissors

Needle

Additional Information about the Project:

Instructor will provide wooden formers. Plait is made on a core and then slipped off the former.

Kit: None.



A Star of David

ZOOM Class

Instructor/Designer: Marian Vavra

Designation for Project Use: A Star of David is based on a traditional design, so it is in the public domain. Instructor grants full use of project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: While I know Christmas is a Christian celebration, the Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah during this time of year. In fact, the "festival of lights" will take place between December 4 – 12, 2026. **The Star of David** was first officially adopted in the 17th century by the Jewish community of Prague, currently in the Czech Republic. It later became the central symbol on the flag of Israel and used on Jewish artifacts and prayer books. The symbol is a compound of two equilateral triangles. Join me as we plait the interwoven triangles of **The Star of David**.

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Size of Project:

7" x 7" x ½" depth

Prerequisites: None.

Prework: None.

Techniques Taught in Class:

Four-straw Whip Plait

Clove Hitch and Surgeon's Knot

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Good plaiting straw

Straws Needed:

36 total matched straws without heads around 12"-14" long
(24 for plaiting, 6 for core and inner star, and 6 extra)

The straws need to be soaked in water till the stems are soft and pliable.

Supplies Needed:

18 gauge wire – 6 each 7 ½" long

Thread – button or topstitching weight

Pins and pin board

C-clamp or spring clamp to provide tension while plaiting

Additional Information about the Project:

Instructor will provide clamps for classroom use.

Kit: None.



Toy Soldier Nutcracker

Instructor/Designer: Kathy Dailey

Designation for Project Use: The instructor grants full use of the project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: Several years ago I received a gift that was wrapped in nutcracker paper. Like a kid, I was as excited about the paper as I was in the gift. I thought then that they would be fun Christmas ornaments to make from wheat.

Skill Level: Open

Size of Project:

6.25" x 2" x 1/16" depth

Prerequisites:

Familiar with marquetry. Know how to split and flatten straw. Be comfortable and accurate with an exacto knife and small sharp scissors. Able to do small detail work.

Prework: None.

Techniques Taught in Class:

Review marquetry work.
Explain project directions.
Offer different hats and tunic styles and decorations.



Suggested Wheat for Project:

Flattened and ironed wheat or rye straw.

Straws Needed:

You will design your nutcracker's outfit. The parts can be any color you want. The boots do not need to be black. There is a wheat/rye straw to choose from in the kit provided (see below). If you have a specific color you want to use for a part, please bring it already flattened and ironed. I suggest approximately three 9" pieces of straw ribbons for each part. If available, please bring a couple of spun wheat threads for decoration.

Supplies Needed:

Container to hold straw strips, container for small parts, BIC mechanical pencil, sharp pointed exacto knife, cutting mat, metal ruler, Aleene's Tacky Glue, glue brush, glue dish, toothpick, damp rag, Hindenburg (or other flattening) tool, emery board, small sharp scissors, curved scissors (if available), small punches, small hole punch, a small work light (optional).

Kit: \$15.00 - The kit includes cardstock patterns with different hat and tunic styles, cardstock backing, idea paper, and white paper. The kit also offers wheat/rye straw in a variety of colors to choose from: natural, bleached, reds, yellow, oranges, blues, several greens, brown, black.

Glitz and Glamour Holiday Ready Earrings

ZOOM Class

Instructor/Designer: Stephanie Hammond Tetterton

Designation for Project Use: The project is based on traditional plaits/designs in the public domain. Instructor grants full use of project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: I originally created this "jewel" design element as an addition to a crown tree topper for the South Carolina State Fair. After consultation with Dianne Gardner she thought it might make a glamorous and dramatic pair of holiday earrings! While this earring may be large for some, my goal is to teach you how to make sequins and how to stitch them so that you may use this technique to create your own stunning earrings or develop other holiday design ideas.

Skill Level: Open

Size of Project:

4.25" long x 1.25" wide

Prerequisites:

Review YouTube Video on Stitching Sequins:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ZruZ889Wpq8>.

Prework:

Prepare straw marquetry 9" x 4.5" to create approximately 100 sequins. Instructor suggests Mi-Teintes #340 Oyster Color Paper from Hobby Lobby to match straw.

Techniques Taught in Class:

3-straw Catfoot Plait
2-straw Rose
Stitching sequins

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Larned

Straws Needed:

6 Straws for two 3-Straw Catfoot Plait 3" (stretched to 3.5")
6 Straws for two 3 -Straw Catfoot Plait 3.5" (stretched to 4")
2 large diameter wheat or rye straws split and flattened for 2-straw rose
Marquetry (pre-prepared) 9" x 4.5" to create approximately 100-125 round sequins and 10 Laurel punch sequins



Supplies Needed:

Thread to match straw

Needle for Stitching Sequins and Embellishments

Aleene's Original Tacky Glue & E-4000 glue

Scissors

3/8-inch circle punch

1.5mm Hole punch

Laurel Shaped Punch (made by Punch Bunch). This is the same punch used in Doris Anderson's class in 2023 Bloomington.

Long needle and wine bottle cork to make the 2 Straw Rose.

Additional Information About the Project:

Instructor will bring hole punches to demonstrate the sequin punching technique. It is recommended for students to bring hole punches, if possible. It takes time to punch 100 sequins and sharing punches may take too long to be able to finish the project.

Kit: No charge. The kit includes the following items: Wooden backing (you may use felt if you choose, but I think the wood gives a more polished & finished look), 2 earring posts and pinbacks, embroidery/cross-stitch hoop, linen cross-stitch fabric,

Nativity Ornament

Instructor/Designer: Doris Johnson

Designation for Project Use: The Nativity Ornament is based on traditional plaits/designs that are in the public domain. Instructor grants full use of the project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: I like to play with a technique. This is the result of an effort to make the whole piece using the tied star as the basis for all the parts.

Skill Level: Intermediate, Open

Size of Project:

3" x 3" x 1" depth

Prerequisites:

Clove hitch knot

How to make an 8-point tied star

Pework: None.

Techniques Taught in Class:

8- and 16-point tied stars

Star from 2 splits to crown stable

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Medium diameter straws

Straws Needed:

30 medium straws 12" length

The ornament can be made larger if you like.

Supplies Needed:

Thread

Scissors

Additional Information About the Project:

Instructor will supply strips for the top star and sheath for clothing and hair.

Kit: None



Plaited Straw Star with Wheat Head Catherine Wheel

ZOOM Class

Instructor/Designer: Jill McCullough.

Designation for Project Use: The Catherine Wheel is based on Doris Johnson's circular Arabic Cage design from *The Complete Book of Straw Craft and Corn Dollies* by Doris Johnson and Alec Coker. The original artist retains full rights on their project/copyright project. NAWW members must obtain written permission from the artist to use the project other than for person use.

Instructor's Comments: I had plaited a star out of paper roping using a variation of the Belarusian leaf plait that I used for the seat of the Penny Farthing project for the 2024 NAWW Convention. I thought it would make up lovely in straw, but I switched to the one-sided leaf design for this project. It turned out even prettier!

Skill Level: Intermediate

Size of Project:

7" x 7" x 1" depth

Prerequisites: Belarusian leaf

Techniques Taught in Class:

Arabic Cage using Catherine Wheel design by Doris Johnson from *The Complete Book of Straw Craft and Corn Dollies*.

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Good plaiting straw.

Straws Needed:

At least 35 straws with matched length heads, 4" length of straw. 40-50 straws no heads with matching diameters. The larger the diameter, the larger the star will be.

To be completed before class:

Sort at least 35 wheat straws with heads of matching lengths. Leave 4" of straw on each.
Sort 40-50 straws (no heads) with matching diameters.
Bring all straws and heads damp to class.

Supplies Needed:

Tapestry or curved needle, Typical straw workers "kit" (scissors, thread, etc.). Pinning Board, T-pins or Quilt Pins, Tweezers

Additional Information about the Project:

Instructor will provide tie material, ring to create wheat head wheel around, wire.

Kit: None.



Didukh

Traditional Ukrainian Wheat Sheaf

ZOOM Class

Instructor/Author: Kseniia Koshykova

Designation for Project Use: The Didukh is a traditional Ukrainian wheat sheaf and is based on traditional plaits and designs that are in the public domain. Instructor grants full use of the project to NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: Didukh – a beautiful and symbolic wheat sheaf traditionally made for Christmas in Ukraine. Didukh, meaning 'grandfather,' represents the spirit of the ancestors and brings their blessings into the home. As the saying goes, "Didukh in the house, trouble out of the house."

Skill Level: Open

Size of Project:

18" x 6" x 3.5" depth

Prerequisites:

Rustic plait.

Two-straw plait.

Pework: None.

Techniques Taught in Class:

Construction of the didukh.

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Rye (wheat) straws with heads

Straws Needed:

117 pcs of rye or wheat straw with heads. 17 inches long.

10 oat straws. 10 flax straws.

20 straws without heads 8 inches long.

7 straws without heads 5 inches long.

Supplies Needed:

Scissors. Thread. Sewing needle. Jute cord.

2 push pins. Red embroidery (or crochet) thread.

Kit: None.



Mini Swiss Lace Tree

Instructor/Designer: Beth Robbins Keller

Designation for Project Use: The Mini Swiss Lace Tree project is based on traditional plaits/designs that are in the public domain. NAWW members have full use of the project.

Instructor's Comments: This little Christmas tree has so many possibilities but for this class, we are focusing on Swiss Lace. It is an open class, everyone is welcome. If you have something you would like me to show you, other than what's listed, I will do my best to help you. This little tree could have a garland, a string of miniature lights, small woven straw pieces, the ideas are endless!

Skill Level: Beginner

Size of Project: 12" x 6"

Prerequisites: None.

Prework: A 2 1/2" x 4" piece of natural straw marquetry, on manila file folder, to cut 2 tree top stars from, straw applied on one side only. The direction of the straw does not matter; you will be able to turn the stars to find what direction pleases you when gluing them to your tree.

Techniques Taught in Class:

- Weaver's Knot
- Looped Needle Rose (Plait Insert)
- Basic Spreuer
- Wantele
- Bulrush
- Two Needle Daisy (Rose)

Suggested Wheat for Project:

- Rye straw for straw splits, Spun straw threads

Straws Needed: N/A.

Supplies Needed:

- Fast Grab Tacky Glue
- Low temp hot glue
- 3/2 needle tool
- Dog tooth comb
- Round pencil with eraser,
- Wire cutters
- Needle nose pliers
- Ruler
- Pinning board and pins
- Small clothespins



Kit: \$33.00. The kit includes:

*12" tall mini artificial Christmas tree, with a 7 ½" square of material to cover the base, the material is tightly secured with a rubber band.

*Pattern for tree top star, you will be cutting 2 from your straw marquetry.

*6/0 red seed bead, 2 dozen.

*Gold metallic thread,

*Needle for gold thread.

*36"-1/8" red Offray ribbon for straw bows.

*35 straw threads.

*30 straw splits, 1/8" wide, 12"-15" long.

*Sinew, for tying spreuers together.

*Cork with a 3" fat needle.

*Toothpicks for spreading glue on Swiss Lace elements.

*Two-1/2" circles punched out of card stock to stabilize your flower with 2-needle rose center and seed beads.

*Two-1/4" circles punched out of card stock to stabilize your 5-spreuer flowers.

Additional Information About Project:

I will have extra dog tooth combs and 3/2 needle tools available for use in class. They will be available for purchase.

I will not be offering extra class kits, but I will have extra Christmas trees available for \$7.00 each.

Please contact me by April 15, 2026, if you are interested.

Phone: 1-651-380-3922. Email: bethrkeller@hotmail.com

Straw Window Ornament

ZOOM Class

Instructor/Designer: Ksenniia Koshykova

Designation for Project Use: The Straw Window Ornament is based on a traditional design that is part of the public domain. Instructor grants full use of the project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: This Ukrainian Christmas tradition has almost been forgotten, but I'm excited to share it—along with some straw art and a bit of its history—with the NAWW community. The first steps can be a real challenge (you basically need a third hand!), but once you get the hang of it, the process becomes smooth and incredibly rewarding. It's not just about the final piece—it's about connecting with tradition, patience, and creativity along the way.

Skill Level: Open

Size of Project: 17" x 17"

Prerequisites:

- How to flatten straw
- Wrapping technique

Prework: Flatten straws

Techniques Taught in Class:

- Construction of the straw window ornament

Suggested Wheat for Project:

- Good weaving straw. Length affects the size of the project.

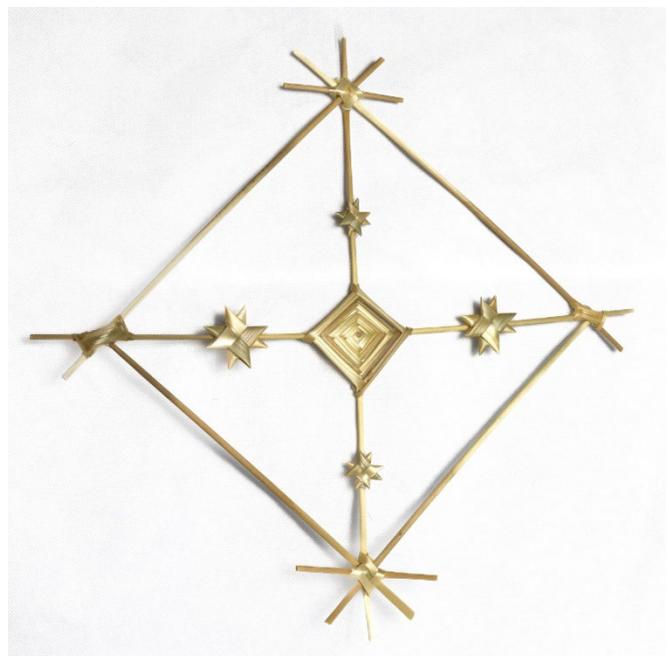
Straws Needed:

- 4 straws 17 inches long, 5 mm width (it will affect the whole size of the ornament)
- 2 straws 4 inches long, 8-10 mm width
- 8 flattened straws 8 inches long and 5 mm width
- 8 flattened straws 5 mm width
- 4 flattened straws 10 inches long 5 mm width
- 10 flattened straws 10 inches long 5 mm width

Supplies Needed:

- Hot glue
- Scissors
- Sprinkler/Spray bottle

Kit: None.



Oh Holy Night

Instructor/Designer: Joan Dulcey

Designation for Project Use: Oh Holy Night is the instructor's original design. Instructor grants full use of the project by NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: I came up with the shape of the project when using up plaits to get ready for a craft show. The tied star technique for the Holy Family figures is one Doris Johnson has taught.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Size of Project: 7" x 6" x 1" depth

Prerequisites: Basic plaiting skills
Helpful to know Hair braid and 2-straw plaits

Prework: None.

Techniques Taught in Class:

- Arrow plait
- Belarus leaf
- 2-straw rose
- Wrapped star
- Hair braid plait
- 2-straw plait
- Cat's paw plait
- Tied star technique (figures)

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Larned, rye for leaves if available, dyed rye

Straws Needed:

- 14 straws, 14" + long fine to med thickness for triangle base
- 6 second joint straws 7" for rays
- 12 straws 16" + medium thickness with natural green color for leaves
- 16 straws 8" fine to medium thickness for Mary and Joseph's body
- 8 fine straws 14" for arms and halos
- 6 fine straws 3" for Jesus' body
- 1 soft, thick straw for star, natural or slightly yellow
- 5 soft, thick straws dyed red or kept natural if your preference for roses

Supplies Needed:

- Hot glue
- Scissors and thread
- Sewing needle
- 1 -18" 22-gauge floral wire
- 1 piece - 1/2" diameter dowel, 2"-4" long

Kit: None.



No Place Like Gnome for Christmas

Instructor/Designer: Jessica Hemberger

Designation for Project Use: No Place Like Gnome for Christmas is based on traditional plaits/designs that are in the public domain. Instructor grants full use of the project by NAWW members.

Skill Level: Beginner

Size of Project: 6.5" x 6" x 3.5" depth

Prerequisites: None.

Pework: None.

Techniques Taught in Class:

- 6-straw Arrow Plait
- 6-straw Spiral Plait
- 5-point Star

Suggested Wheat for Project:

Straws suitable for plaiting/weaving.

Straws Needed:

- 15-16 long medium straws w/o heads
for mushroom trees and stars
- 30-40 medium straws w/o heads
for gnome hat
- 45 second joint straws for gnome body and beard

Supplies Needed:

- Scissors and thread
- Three 6" long wires for cores (trees and hat)
- Tool to split straws
- Hindenburg or other flattening tool

Additional Information About the Project:

Instructor will supply the cardboard platform/base, felt to cover the base, and nose for the gnome.

Kit: None

