

Guide to weaving a Pāpale Lauhala

A step-by-step guide

by

Jim Skibby

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Introduction

Since writing “How to Weave a Pāpale Lauhala in 2006, I have learned a great deal about hat weaving from countless kumu. As new skills have been mastered, I have attempted to update the directions that I provided in that book. The result has been a rather disorganized accumulation of weaving tips. The time is now right to reorganize that work and present the information in a more concise form. I also want to take advantage of technology to make the information available to weaving students in a digital format that is more easily distributed by electronic means. The result of this revision is the following set of directions--”Guide to Weaving a Pāpale Lauhala.”

As with my original manuscript, I would like to thank those who have contributed to my weaving skills. Chief among these are Josephine Fergerstrom and Ed Kaneko. We have been weaving friends for many years now and I owe them most of what I know of weaving.

I would like to remind the weaving haumana (student) that these pages are not cast in stone. There is no deity of lauhala that says, “Thou shalt....” This book simply will show you how, during a few weeks in 2011, I chose to weave a lauhala hat. Other weavers will say, “No, you should do it like this....” That’s fine. You are free to choose how to weave your hat. The main thing is that we enjoy the fellowship of weavers and keep this skill alive to enrich this place we love--Hawaii.

Basic Assumptions

Before we start, I would like to put forth some basic assumptions. These are intended to bring us to a common starting point in this project.

I am assuming that:

the weaver has experience gathering, preparing and weaving lauhala.

the weaver has prepared 50 to 60 half leaves and stripped them into approximately 1/8th inch strips. These strands should be sorted into three groups, namely short, medium and long. The actual length depends on the length of the leaves in hand. See Ch. 1

the weaver has the basic tool kit of lauhala weavers, namely scissors, bamboo knife, needle, thread, small clothes pins, stripper, water spray bottle, small shop towel, cotton kitchen string, 6” sewer’s ruler, cloth measuring tape, bee’s wax and etc.

the weaver is free to shun modern tools if he/she chooses, but this work will make full use of them.

the weaver has worked with a kumu and this book is a follow up project.

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