



Wedding Basket

Date
1900-1920

Primary Maker
Dine (Navajo)

Medium
Three-rod coils, sumac, vegetal dyes

Description
Dine (Navajo) baskets such as this one play a central role

in wedding ceremonies. The bride makes cornmeal using red, blue, and white corn, which respectively symbolize health, happiness, and wealth. The cornmeal is placed on the basket and positioned between the bride and groom. The bride’s father sprinkles corn pollen, a symbol of fertility, in a quartered cross pattern over the cornmeal and around the edge of the basket. The couple then eats cornmeal and pollen from the quartered cross and the center. The quartered cross relates to the four cardinal directions, and the center of the basket refers to the Dine (Navajo) creation story, representing the center of the earth from which the first Dine (Navajo) people emerged.

Dimensions
Overall: 3 × 14 1/4 in. (7.6 × 36.2 cm)