

OVBG Autumn Expression



Tested by Cathy Barnes, Shelly Rudnick and Vicky Nicolaci

Materials:

8 X 10" D handle

5/8" stakes – 7 stakes 25" long; 4 stakes 23" long – natural

3/8" filler stakes – 4 fillers 14" long - natural

1/4" locking row – 32" long - natural

1/4" weavers – 9 at 34" long dyed or smoked reed

3/8" weavers – 3 at 34" long natural

1/2" or 5/8" weavers – 2 at 34" long smoked

3/16" flat oval lasher – 85" long natural

1/4" rim row – 34" long

3/8" flat oval rims – inside 32" long; outside 36" long

Seagrass filler – dyed brown

Tie on (optional)

Tools needed: bucket for water, pinch clothespins or small clamps, tape measure, pencil, full size scissors, awl or small flat head screwdriver, old hand towel, spoke weight or another weighted device.

Soaking: Flat or half flat natural/smoked reed needs to be soaked in warm water for 2 minutes; dyed reed quick in and out of the water since the dye tends to bleed. Wipe dyed reed with towel after wetting.

Base: Find the rough side of all the stakes. The side that splinters when you bend it is the rough or wrong side. With a ruler and pencil, mark the center with a pencil line

Laying out the base:

Horizontal steps:

23” long stakes:

- Place the handle horizontally on the table.
- Take the 4 - 5/8” stakes that are 23” long
- Wet your stakes.
- Place 2 of these stakes horizontally above your handle.
- Place 2 of these stakes horizontally below your handle.
- Make sure your center marks are lined up together.
- Use a spoke weight to keep your reed and handle flat on the table.
- Leave about 1/2’ space between each stake/handle.

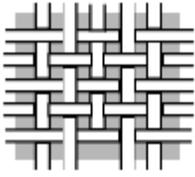
14” long filler stakes

- Wet your filler stakes
- Place your 3/8” long filler stakes between each 5/8” horizontal stake and handle.
- Make sure your center marks are lined up together.

Vertical steps:

25” long stakes:

- Wet your stakes.
- Now vertically weave in your 7 remaining 25” stakes starting at the center.
- Take your first stake.
- Start at the center pencil marks and vertically weave **going over the stakes and under the fillers.**
- On each side of the center vertical spoke weave a stake **going under the stakes and over the fillers.** See the drawing below to give you the idea.



- Next set of 2 vertical stakes beside the set you just wove in will weave **going over the stakes and under the fillers.**
- Last set of vertical stakes beside the set you just wove in will weave **going under the stakes and over the fillers.**

Finishing the base:

- Make certain there are no spaces between the horizontal stakes/fillers/handle.
- Leave approximately ½” space between the vertical stakes.
- Leave approximately ¼” space between the vertical stakes and the side of the handle.
- Wet filler stakes where the weaving stops.
- Bend the filler stakes inward toward the base.
- Two options here: regular or chicken feet
 - **Regular:** Tuck each side of the filler stakes under the inside third stake.
 - Use a flat head screwdriver or packing tool to slightly lift the vertical stake to tuck your filler underneath.
 - The end of the filler stake should be hidden and not sticking out after tucking.
 - **Chicken feet:** (Example photo on next page) Use scissors and cut the filler stake end in half vertically from the end to right against the vertical stake.
 - The ends will fold over the first and second vertical stake, extend out and on either side of itself.
 - Tuck under the third upright stake on either side, creating a V-shape, what is called chicken feet.
 - Use a flat head screwdriver or packing tool to slightly lift the vertical stake to tuck your filler underneath.
 - The end of the filler stake should be hidden and not sticking out after tucking.

- This photo is an example of what the chicken feet base looks like when tucked under the second stake.



Locking row for the base

- Wet your ¼” locking row reed.
- **Remember your handle is considered a stake so you will weave it in the locking row.**
- Tip: always start the locking row somewhere left of the center on the long side. You don't want to end the 2 or 4 stake overlap around a mitered corner. This is true when weaving the sides also. You don't want to overlap around a basket corner.
- Find a vertical stake in the upper left side of the base that is over the horizontal stake at top. Place the end of the reed on top of that stake.
- Weave over and under from the left to the right (opposite if left handed, weave from right to left doing the same) until you reach the first corner. Fold a miter corner by creasing the ¼” in a 90° angle.
- Weave over and under all the way around the base repeating the 90° miter on each corner. On two corners you will fold the miter over and on two corners you will fold the miter under.
- Upon returning to the place where the locking row started, overlap the ¼” reed by four stakes. This is done by weaving on top of the weaving you have already done on the last four stakes.

Upset your stakes

- Carefully bend up/upset the wet stakes by gently laying your hand flat where the stakes will be bending and bring the sides up, at the base perimeter. This makes the upward weaving easier.

Weaving the sides

- Weave one row at a time, over one/under one.
- Weave your first three rows with your basket base on the table.
- Weave with the good side of the reed (smooth, less splintery side) towards the outside of the basket.
- Place the end of the reed on the outside of a stake. Weave all the way around - over one/under one - using lots of clothespins/clamps to hold it in place. The more clothespins/clamps you use, the better shaped basket you will get.
- To finish a row, overlap your piece of reed by two or four stakes and cut it off. If woven correctly, both ends will be hidden. The end of the weaver will slip into weaving at the beginning of that same row. After 3 rows of a four stake overlap, an overlap of 2 stakes is adequate.
- Consecutive rows are opposite the row before it (if over/under, then under/over).
- Be sure to rotate your basket so that all your row start/stops will not be on the same side.
- Try to start your weaver far enough to the left on each side, so that you don't have to "overlap by two/four" around a corner.
- Be sure to pack down the rows as you weave so that there are no spaces showing between the rows of weaving.
- Watch so the stakes aren't angling into the basket; it will affect your shape.

Row 1: 3/8" flat natural reed

Row 2: 1/4" flat smoked reed

Row 3: 3/8" flat natural reed

Row 4: 1/4" flat smoked reed

Row 5: 1/4" flat dyed reed

Row 6: 1/2 or 5/8" flat smoked reed

Row 7: 1/4" flat dyed reed

Row 8: 1/4" flat smoked reed

Row 9: 1/4" flat dyed reed

Row 10: 1/2 or 5/8" flat smoked reed

- Row 11: ¼" flat dyed reed
- Row 12: ¼" flat smoked reed
- Row 13: 3/8" flat natural reed
- Row 14: ¼" flat smoked reed
- Row 15: ¼" flat natural rim row

Pack your weavers for a final time.

Cut and tuck process of turning the spoke ends back into the basket so that the rim will not pull off

- Wet the unwoven part of the stakes with your spray bottle.
- Notice that every other stake is on the outside of the last row of 1/4" reed, and the rest are on the inside of the 1/4".
- Begin by measuring the outside stakes by folding them to the inside of the basket.
- You want to tuck the stake into rows of weavers.
- Cut the stake to the length needed to fit behind the weaver on the inside of the basket.
- Using a flat tipped basket tool, open up a space behind the inside weavers to tuck the folded stake.
- Do this with each outside stake, be sure to push the stake down to fit snugly over the rim row.
- For the inside stakes – cut each stake off level with the top of the rim row.

Rim and lash

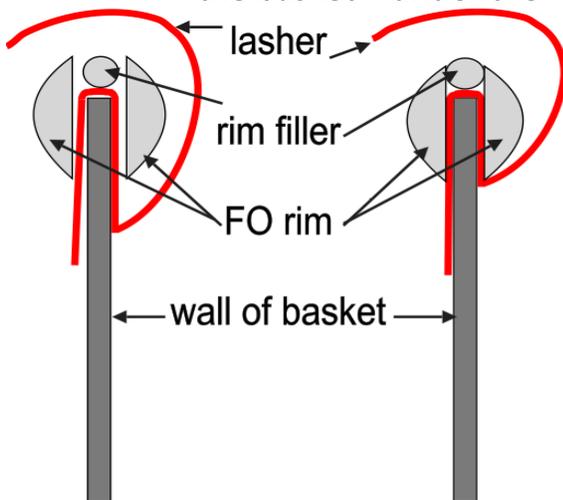
- For your future use - First, cut a piece of rim material for the inside rim and the outside rim. The outside rim will be the outside diameter of your basket (on the rim row) plus about 4-5 inches. The inside rim will be the inside diameter of your basket (on the rim row) plus about 3-4 inches.
- Rim material is usually flat oval or half round. It can be wet or dry when scarfing, depending on personal preference.
- You have a cut inside and outside rim in your kit.
- Scarfing or shaving down rim pieces will give a polished look to your basket. The goal of scarfing is to make the section where the two ends overlap the thickness of a single piece. When done well, it is difficult to find where they join.
- This can be done in many ways with several different tools. Many weavers use a sharp knife and put a piece of thick leather on their lap to protect

themselves. Others use a trim plane or a pocket plane or a Stanley Surform Shaver and shave on a cutting board.

- Put the outside piece around the basket and pencil mark where they overlap.
- Pencil mark on the top of the piece that slides under and pencil mark on the under side of the piece that sits on top.
- Next prepare the inside piece of rim material. Put the piece around the inside of the basket along the rim row. If you are working dry keep the rounded side against the basket for measuring and marking. Mark on the top of the piece that slides under and on the under side of the piece that sits on top.
- Now that both pieces are marked, you will shave them down. You will only shave the side that is marked, this means one end will be shaved on the flat side and the other will be shaved on the oval or round side. If you are using a drawknife work with the beveled side down.
- After shaving, trim and sand the end that will be on the outside and your rims are ready to add to your basket.
- Add the seagrass rim filler first before securing your rim.
- Secure inside rim, rim row, rim filler and outside rim using cable ties/clips/clamps. Now you are ready to lash.

- **Lashing**

- The best way to start and end a lasher is to hairpin it over the side of the basket – under the rim and the rim filler.



- This gives a secure anchor for the lashing. You will repeat this technique at the end of the lashing as well.
 - This is also called a fish hook.
 - Anchoring the lasher can be accomplished using an awl to open up the spaces.
 - You will thread the lasher between the inner rim and rim row from bottom to top, smooth reed side facing the outside of the basket.
 - Then thread the reed between the rim row and outer rim from top to bottom to the outside of the basket leaving a tail that will be cut off after lashing is complete.
 - Single lash the basket.
 - Insert the lasher into the space between two stakes and between the rim row and top row of weaving.
 - Pull lasher taut.
 - Go up and over the rim while bringing it one spoke to the right (if right handed) and left (if left handed).
 - Insert it into the next space between two stakes and between the rim row and top row of weaving.
 - Continue until you get to the handle.
 - You will want to make an X across your handle. Once you lash one side of your X you will need to lash by going back to outside of your basket to lash to the front of your basket to complete the X. Your teacher will help you with this.
 - Continue single lashing and double lash both sides of your handle until you get back to the beginning.
 - End your lashing with the fish hook technique.
 - Go from the inside out between the inside rim and rim row.
 - Go below the seagrass between the rim row and outer rim.
 - Pull the lasher taut.
 - Cut the beginning and end tail of your lasher flush to the rim.
- Optional tie on
 - Use a piece of waxed linen to tie on your wreath.
 - Secure the wax linen around the wreath.
 - Find where you want the wreath on your basket.
 - Put one wax linen end through a weaving row gap into the inside of your basket.

- Put the other end either above or below and through a different weaving row gap to the inside of your basket.
- Tie the two ends into a knot against the inside of your basket.

Enjoy your basket!