



Biscuit Basket

Supplies Needed: 6" Square Notched Handle
3-1/2" x 5-1/2" Rectangle Base
1/2" or 5/8" Flat
11/64" Flat Oval for lashing
3/16" or 1/4" Flat Oval Reed
1/4" Flat Oval Dyed Reed
7mm or 1/4" Flat Oval Reed
1/2" Flat Oval Reed
#2 Round Reed
#2 Round Dyed Reed
#6 or #7 Round Reed

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1. Out of 1/2" or 5/8" flat, cut 2 handle stakes 10" long. Out of 7mm (or 1/4") flat oval, cut 14 stakes 10" long and out of 1/4" flat oval dyed reed, cut 16 stakes 10" long. Mark the midpoint on every side of your rectangle base.
2. Insert the two handle stakes (rough side up) at the midpoint on the 5-1/2" long side. Insert a 7mm stake (rough side up) at the midpoint on the 3-1/2" long side of your base. Evenly space 7 stakes in each quadrant. Be sure to alternate stakes, 1 natural one and then 1 dyed one with all the rough sides facing up.
3. I used 3/16" flat oval (you can use 1/4" flat oval if you like). The first row should weave on the outside of the handle stakes (or under them since you're weaving around the base with the rough side of the stakes up). Overlap the ends for 4 stakes. Start another row in a different place. Weave a total of 4 rows and then upset your stakes.
4. The basket gets a bit bigger with each row for the first two inches. After weaving about two inches up the basket, clothespin the square notched handle to the inside of the handle stakes. This will help you shape your basket. Weave around the handle until you get to the top 5 rows. These rows weave around the handle stakes only. The top 3 rows of twining are twined around the handle above its notch.
5. Weaving Pattern:
 - 15 rows 3/16" flat oval or 13 of 1/4" fo (last row weaves on outside of handle)
 - 2 rows #2 dyed round twined
 - 1 row 1/2" or 5/8" flat (weave outside handle)
 - 2 rows #2 dyed round twined
 - 5 rows 3/16" or 1/4" flat oval (first row outside handle)
 - 3 rows #2 round twined
6. Cut the two handle stakes off so the ends are hidden in the top 3 rows of twining. Cut and tuck all the other stakes. Cut stakes off straight across and tuck under 2 rows of weaving. Line the tucked end up behind the stake so that you can't see it from the outside of the basket.

6. Soak the 1/2" flat-oval reed and the #6 round reed in warm water for at least 1/2 hour. Face the top 3 rows of twining with the 1/2" flat-oval, one strip on the inside and one on the outside, flat sides against the basket. Overlap the ends and make sure any ends that show are between stakes so that you'll cover them up with your lasher. I do this at the handle, one on each side. (Also, thin the overlapped ends so that they're not too thick.) Overlappings should be at different places and not in the corners. Notch one end of the #6 round reed (you'll notch the other end when you've gone around the basket and meet the end you just notched). I start on an end of the basket. Take the end of a wet long piece of your lashing material and insert it into the basket between the top row of 7mm flat oval and the 3 rows of twining and tuck about 3" of the lasher behind the inside piece of 1/2" flat oval. Now start wrapping the piece of #6 round reed with your lasher. It should take 2 to 4 wraps until you're at the next space between the stakes. When there, wrap around the whole border as shown in the diagram below. (Be sure to pull tight, unlike the diagram, but like the picture beside it.) When you get to where the #6 round reed meets, cut a notch to match the first one and continue until you get completely around the basket. Tuck the end up of your lasher up into the border if you can, or hide it under a stake or weaver. You're finished. I hope you enjoy this basket.

