



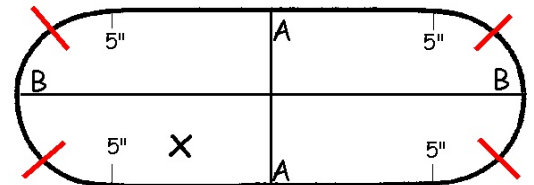
French Shopping Basket

Supplies Needed:

8"x8" Round Notched Handle
 5"x14" Oblong Base
 7mm Flat Oval Reed
 3/4" Flat Reed
 3/16" Flat Oval Reed
 #2 Round Reed

1. Out Of 3/4" Flat reed, cut 2 stakes 10" long; out of 7mm Flat Oval reed, cut 75 stakes 10" long. Trim the last 1-1/2" of one end of 32 of the 7mm stakes so that they look like a sharpened pencil and put these to the side to use last. Soak all your stakes for 1 minute.

2. Draw a line down the middle of your base in both directions, so that you have 4 equal quadrants. Put an "x" in one of the quadrants. On the long side, mark 5" from the midpoint in all 4 quadrants. (See diagram)



3. Insert the 2--3/4" stakes at the A midpoints. Insert a 7mm flat oval stake at the B midpoints. Insert 10 of the 7mm stakes in the "x" quadrant between the 5" mark and midpoint A. Insert 9 of the 7mm stakes between the 5" mark and midpoint A in the other 3 quadrants. Insert 1 of the 7mm stakes at each of the red marks in the above diagram. You have 8 "holes" left on your base (4 on each end). Insert 4 of the sharpened stakes in each of these "holes". All the oval sides should be facing up and the flat sides facing down.

4. In the "x" quadrant, start counting with the 7mm stake that is beside the 3/4" stake and mark stakes 15, 16, and 17. In the other 3 quadrants, count the same way and mark stakes 14, 15, and 16. Take a long and flexible piece of 3/16" flat oval and trim one of the ends down for about 4". This is the end you'll start weaving with. Weave in a clockwise direction starting under stake 8 in the "x" quadrant. Weave under 1, over 1 until you get to the stakes you just marked. Weave over all 3 of these stakes and then resume under 1, over 1 until you get to the next marked stakes, then weave over those 3 stakes. Continue until you have woven 1 complete row around the basket. You have an odd number of stakes, so you should be able to continue weaving over 1, under 1 as you start row 2.

5. With row 2, the "over 3's" should all weave closer to midpoint B with only 3 under 1, over 1 weaves in between them. Upset your stakes after row 3, but don't weave straight up because the basket gets larger for about 5 rows. On row 4 there are no "over 3's", instead you will weave one "over 5" on each end of the basket. Row 5 will be the same as row 3. Row 6 is the same as row 2. Row 7 is the same as row 1 and after that, continue weaving the over 3 pattern that you have going until the "over 3's" meet again at the handle. Then you'll weave the "over 5" row again. Don't forget to shape your basket! The sides should be going straight up by row 8 or 9, and this is when you put the handle in the basket behind the 3/4" wide stakes. Clothespin the handle in place until the weaving holds it in for you. This will help you shape the sides of the basket. (When weaving the top 8 rows of the basket, don't weave around the handle, just the 3/4" wide stake.) I wove for 35 rows. You can weave a few more or a few less. Finish off by trimming the 3/16" flat oval weaver for 4" and end it behind or near the stake you started behind in row 1.

6. Twine 4 rows with #2 round reed (around the handle this time). Tuck all the 7mm stakes. Cut the 3/4" stakes off so that the ends hide under the 4 rows of twining. Now is when you should wrap your handle if you want to.
7. To do a Gretchen Border, cut 39 pieces of #2 round reed 55" long. Soak these in hot water for 15 or more minutes. These are inserted from the outside of the basket to the inside of the basket, going between the top row of 3/16" flat oval and the 4 rows of twining. They will wrap around every-other stake, so that you should have 1 piece of #2 round reed that is 25" long sticking into the basket between each stake. BUT, since we have an odd number of stakes, you're going to have 1 space between stakes that has 2 pieces of 25" long #2 round reed in it. It's okay, cause once you weave the first row of the border, you won't notice the extra piece.
8. A Gretchen Border is just a series of rows, woven 1 at a time. Start anywhere by taking one of the 25" pieces of #2 round reed and weave it under the 2 pieces to its right. Weave the next 25" piece of #2 round reed on the right under the next two pieces to its right, and so on until you have woven under 2 all the way around the inside of the basket. This row should be tight, so once you've finished it, run your fingers over it to tighten it up. You'll do this after each row.
9. Now for row 2. Use your left thumb as a table. Starting anywhere, slide your left thumb under 3 consecutive pieces of #2 round reed. The piece on the left weaves over the 2 on the right and slides under your thumb. Now you have 2 pieces of #2 on top of your thumb, add the next one on the right so that you have 3 pieces of #2 round on your thumb. The piece on the left weaves over the 2 on the right and then slides under your thumb. Keep doing this until you've gone all the way around the basket weaving over 2 and then under your thumb. You'll have to thread the last 2 pieces of #2 into the proper holes, you can find them. Tighten this row. You've done 2 rows of the Gretchen border. The rest of the rows are woven like row 2. I did a total of 6 rows on the inside of the basket (or handle), and then 7 rows on the outside of the basket (or handle).
10. When you've finished your last row of weaving you should still have 1" or more left of each piece of #2 round reed. Lay your basket on its side and cut the pieces of #2 round off so that the ends hide under the border, but not so short that the last row comes unwoven. You've finished your basket.