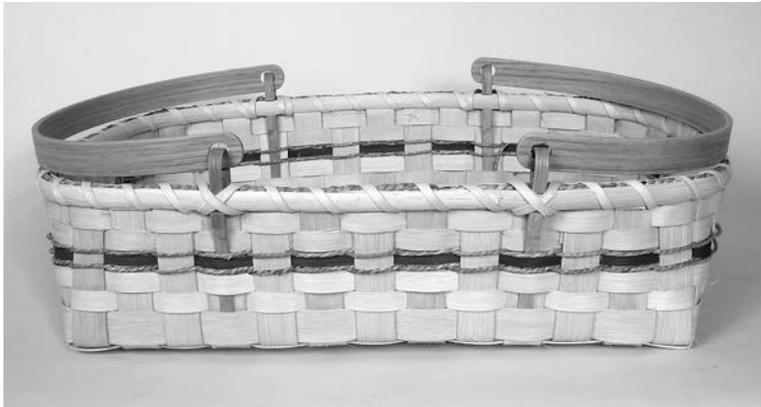


Gracious Goodness Carrier

by Beth Hester • *The Basket Maker's Catalog*

8390
PATTERN--
Gracious Goodness

In the Spring of 2009 a group of friends requested I design a basket that would be perfect for carrying casserole dishes of food and other items to community potlucks and church socials. They love the generous size of this Carrier and especially appreciate the two beautiful white oak handles, handmade in our shop in Scottsville, Kentucky, that lay flat on the rim for serving. Size: 11" x 16" (base) x 4 1/2" (height)



Materials

1" Flat Reed	70 ft.	Stakes/Weaver
1/2" Flat Reed	20 ft.	Weavers
1/4" Flat <i>Dyed Reed</i>	5 ft.	Weavers
#0 Seagrass	25 ft.	Weavers
3/8" Flat Reed	5 ft.	Weaver
1/2" Flat Oval Reed	10 ft.	Rims
#3 Seagrass	5 ft.	Rim Filler
1/4" Flat Reed	13 ft.	Lashing
12" Oak Swing Handles & Ears	2	Handles
Cable Ties	25 or so	

Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your flat reed, soaking 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible; seagrass needs only to be spritzed. Soak the Flat Oval Reed for 5 to 10 minutes in hot water. If reed becomes dry while you are weaving, dip it in water for a few seconds.
2. Soak dyed reed separately and, to minimize the possibility of "running" or "bleeding," rinse it several times. Wipe with a towel before weaving.
3. Do not over-soak your reed; it will become mushy.
4. Flat reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed in half. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side.
5. Keep your weaving even as you make your basket. When weaving the sides, do not leave spaces between the rows of weaving.
6. As you weave, gently push or pull on the stakes to keep them vertical and to maintain a pleasing shape.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

Weaving the Base

Sort through your 1" Flat material and choose the heavier weight pieces for the stakes. Cut 9 pieces (stakes) 30" long and 13 stakes 25" long from 1" Flat Reed. Soak all the stakes. Mark two stakes—one that's 30" long and one that's 25" long, in the center *on the rough side* of the reed with a pencil.

Place a twist-tie around the center mark of the 25" marked stake and lay it on top of the 30" marked stake at a 90° angle, aligning the marks. See Photo 1.

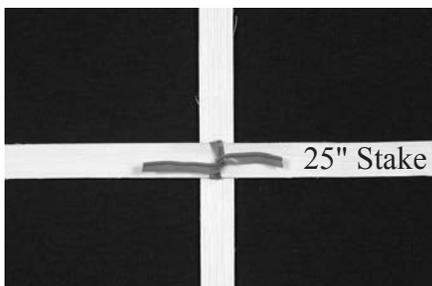


Photo 1

NOTE: The twist-tie identifies the center of the base. All stakes will be woven rough side up and placed about 1/4" apart; as you add each stake to your base, align its ends with the ends of these center stakes. Weave all 25" stakes parallel to the center 25" stake; weave all 30" stakes parallel to the center 30" stake.

Next, weave a stake above the center horizontal 25" stake and one below, placing each of these stakes under the center stake. Align stake ends. Next, weave 1 30" stake to the right and one to the left of the 30" center stake; weaving over the center stake and under the other 2 stakes. Space all stakes just about 1/4" apart and align the ends. Secure with clothespins as needed. See Photo 2.

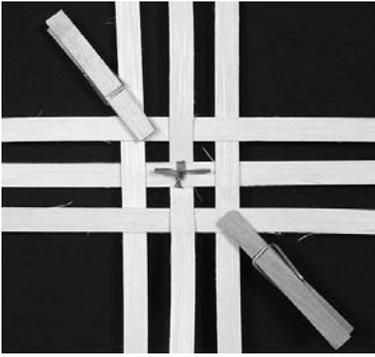


Photo 2

Continue adding stakes, working outward from the center, until you have interwoven all 22 stakes. The woven area (base) should measure 11" x 16" with stakes extending about 7" from the edge of the base on each side. Soak the base and upset the basket by creasing each stake at the edge of the base.

Weaving the Sides

Weave the sides in plain weave (rough side to the inside) according to the following:

Row 1*	1" Flat	Row 6	#0 Seagrass - <i>Twine this row</i>
Rows 2-3	1/2" Flat	Row 7***	1/2" Flat
Row 4**	#0 Seagrass - <i>Twine</i>	Row 8	1/2" Flat
Row 5***	1/4" Dyed Flat Reed	Row 9	3/8" Flat (top row)

- * Weave over/outside the fourth stake from each corner on the long sides (for handle placement later).
- ** If your Seagrass is in one long piece, fold the piece in half and begin twining—after completing Row 4, lay the length of Seagrass to the inside of your basket, weave Row 5 with 1/4", then bring the Seagrass to the outside and twine Row 6. Anchor all loose ends of Seagrass behind a couple of weavers on the inside of your basket.
- *** Weave Rows 5, and 7 in same pattern as Row 3.

Packing and Finishing

Pack rows. Crease, trim to length, then tuck each stake where the top row of weaver is on the inside of the basket. Hide each tucked end behind a row of 1/2" Flat (Row 7) on the inside of your basket. Cut all remaining stakes flush with the top of the basket.

To attach the handles, the handles' ears will be inserted behind some weavers on the outside and inside of the basket, along a chosen stake. With a circumference of about 54", the handles will fit into the basket along the fourth stake from each corner on the long sides (see photo of completed basket).

Before inserting the ears, cut off the "legs" of each ear so that the end of the "leg" on the outside of the basket will hide behind the weaver on Row 1. Taper the cut end of each "leg" with a knife or sandpaper so it will more easily slip into position. Repeat for each ear. If you haven't already done so, place ears into handles.

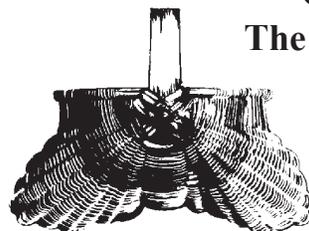
Inserting the handles is much easier if the sides of the basket are completely dry. Using a bone folder or packing tool to assist in prying the weavers along the selected stake, insert an end of one "leg" behind the top row of Seagrass on the outside of the basket. Now, look to the inside of the basket and, prying with the tool, push the inside 'leg' of that ear behind the rows of Seagrass. Work the ear downward behind the weavers, inside and outside, until the lower edge of the notch is level with the lower edge of the top row of weaving. Insert each ear as described.

Soak the 1/2" Flat Oval. Determine the rim lengths, allowing about a 4" overlap. Mark and carve each overlap.

Attach rims and #3 Seagrass rim filler to the basket with cable ties.

Using 1/4" Flat Reed, single lash the rims to the basket, creating a backstitch at each ear.

Enjoy carrying food and sharing with friends!



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