

# Painted Primitive Front Porch Basket



Base: 7" x 11"

Front: 13"

Back: 15"

Handle: Hardwood Bushel Basket

Materials:

- 5 pieces @ 47" - 5/8" flat reed (horizontal stakes)
- 4 pieces @ 18" - 5/8" flat reed (bottom fillers)
- 9 pieces @ 42" - 5/8" flat reed (vertical stakes)
- 1 piece @ 40" - 3/8" flat reed (locking row)
- 31 pieces @ 46" - 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
- 8 pieces @ 44" - 3/8" flat reed (stairstep weavers)
- 2 pieces @ 8' - #3 round reed (twining)
- 2 pieces @ 44" - 5/8" flat oval reed (inside & outside rims)
- 2 pieces @ 8' - 3/16" flat oval reed (lasher)
- 1 - hardwood bushel basket handle

Soak the stake pieces, bottom fillers pieces and locking row for several minutes until pliable. Find the rough sides and centers. Lay the 5 - 47" pieces out horizontally in front of you. Lay the 4 filler pieces in between the stakes. Lift horizontal stake #'s 1, 3 and 5, and slide the center vertical stake *underneath* the three lifted stakes and over stake #'s 2 and 4 with their fillers. (Always treat the bottom fillers and the stakes in between the fillers as single stakes when over and under weaving.) Weave four vertical stakes to the right of center and four to the left of center. Square up the base to 6 1/2" x 10 1/2". Fold the ends of the filler pieces and tuck them into the third vertical stake from each end on the bottom of the basket, clipping them to hide under the stakes. Over and under weave the 3/8" locking row around the stake pieces. Upsett the stakes.

Over and under weave 31 rows of 3/8" flat reed. (The basic shape of this basket is achieved by allowing the first half of the rows of weaving to very *gently* flare outward, and the second half pulls gently inward.) With your hands cupped, flatten the back of the basket and let the front bow outward slightly. The next 8 rows of 3/8" flat reed weaving are done in stair step fashion starting on the third stake from the right end of the front of the basket, around the side, back and other side of the basket, and ending on the third stake from the left end of the basket, (folding the ends over and tucking them under the 3rd stake to the inside of the basket). Each row is woven one stake to the right & one stake to the left LESS than the row before ~ see the picture above.

Twine two rows of #3 round reed around the top of the basket. Fold and tuck *all* of the stakes to the inside of the basket, clipping them if they are too long to hide down in several rows of weaving. Slip the tails of the bushel basket handle down into several rows of weaving on the back inside of the basket. The notches of the handle should be level with the bottom of the last row of weaving.

Soak the rim pieces and lasher for several minutes. Fit the inside rim overlapping 3 inches. (The inside rim fits inside the notch of the handle.) Fit the outside rim overlapping 3 inches. **Double-lash** everything down tightly with the 3/16" flat reed lasher.

The basket pictured above was finished by dipping it in medium walnut oil stain. When that was dry it was then sprayed with an oil-based spray paint. While that was still wet, the basket was rubbed with a cloth that had been dipped in boiled linseed oil, giving the appearance of being aged and weathered.

Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*