

# Bicycle Tote Basket



Base: 10 ½" x 5 ½"  
Top: 15" x 7 ½" oval  
Sides: 8 ½"  
Handles: Leather Strapping

Materials:

- 5 pieces @ 34" - 5/8" flat reed (horizontal stakes)
- 9 pieces @ 29" - 5/8" flat reed (vertical stakes)
- 1 piece @ 38" - 1/4" flat reed (locking row)
- 15 pieces @ 48" - 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
- 1 piece @ 48" - ¾" leather (weaver)
- 2 pieces @ 36" - 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
- 2 pieces @ 14" - 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
- 2 pieces @ 46" - 5/8" flat oval reed (inside & outside rims)
- 1 piece @ 44" - #6 round reed (rim filler)
- 2 pieces @ 9' - 3/16" flat oval reed (lashing)
- 1 - 84" x ¾" leather loop handle
- 2 - 11" x ¾" buckled leather straps

Soak all stake pieces for several minutes until pliable. Find the rough sides and centers, and lay out the 5 - 34" stakes horizontally in front of you. Lift stake #'s 2 and 4, and slide the center vertical stake under the two lifted stakes. Weave one vertical stake to the right of center and one to the left of center. Find the center of the leather handle and weave that in vertically **WITH** the third stakes right and left of center. Finish weaving two more vertical stakes to the right of the handle and two more to the left. Square up the base to 10" x 5". Weave the 1/4" locking row around the base. Upset the stakes.

Soak the weavers for several minutes. The leather handles will be left flat on the table and not woven into the sides until the row of ¾" leather weaver. Over and under weave 14 rows of 3/8" flat reed. Clothespin the handles up to the stakes and weave the one row of ¾" leather.

Now tuck the second stake from the right and the second stake from the left on the back of the basket down over the row of leather and into several rows of weaving. This will make the holes for the buckled straps to go through. Weave two-36" pieces of 3/8" flat reed around the sides & front of the basket from hole to hole, and two-12" pieces of 3/8" flat reed around the five center back stakes. Weave one final row of 3/8" flat reed all the way around the basket. This will be the last row of weaving to which the rim is attached.

Tuck all of the outside stakes to the inside of the basket. Clip the inside stakes flush with the last row of weaving. Soak the rims, rim filler, and lashing for several minutes. Fit the inside and outside rims overlapping the ends by 2 - 3 inches on opposite sides of the basket. Place the rim filler in between the rims and **double-lash** everything down tightly.

Upon completion, dip the whole basket ... leather and all ... in an oil-based woodworking stain. The leather will soak up the stain to be the same color as the reed but a shade darker. Wipe the buckles and rivets off with a rag. Allow the basket to dry in the sun and breeze a day or so to complete the curing process.

Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*

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