

French Bread Basket



Base: 16" x 4 1/2"
Top: 18" x 6" Oval
Sides: 3 1/2"

Materials: 4 pieces @ 27" - 5/8" flat reed (horizontal stakes)
 3 pieces @ 23" - 1/2" flat reed (bottom fillers)
 13 pieces @ 17" - 5/8" flat reed (vertical stakes)
 2 pieces @ 8' - #3 round reed (twined locking row)
 5 pieces @ 48" - 1/2" flat reed (weavers)
 2 pieces @ 8' - #3 round reed (twining)
 34 pieces @ 22" - #3 round reed (braiding pieces)

Soak all of the stake pieces, bottom fillers and twined locking row pieces for several minutes until pliable. Find the rough sides of the stakes and fillers, and mark the centers. Lay out the four horizontal stakes in front of you, rough sides up. Place the three filler pieces in between the stakes. Lift stake numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4, and slide the center vertical stake under them, (and **over** the fillers). Over and under weave six more stakes to the right of center and six more to the left. Square up the base to 15" x 4". Fold over the bottom filler pieces and tuck them into the third vertical stake from the ends, clipping the fillers if they are too long.

Begin twining around the base with two pieces of #3 round reed. Twine two rounds to form the locking row. End the twiners.

Upsett the stakes. Over and under weave five rows of 1/2" flat reed.

Soak and twine two rounds of #3 round reed. Fold and tuck all of the spokes into the inside of the basket.

Soak the 34 braid pieces for several minutes. Insert them one by one into the #3 round reed twining rows. Braid one braid on the outside of the basket rim and one on the inside. Clip the ends to 1/2"

Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*



diagram 1

SCALLOP: From the #3 round reed, cut as many 24" pieces as there are stakes or spokes. Soak all of these pieces for several minutes until very pliable. Insert them all one at a time into the two rows of twining, about 6" up. See **diagram 1**.

Now form scallops by taking the bottom end of each piece and inserting it upward under the twining on the second to the right stake. Find its partner and pull up the scallop. Be sure the tails and scallops are even. See **diagram 2**. The #3 round reeds are now in pairs. Keep them side by side as you continue working. (Do not allow them to twist.)



diagram 6



diagram 2

OUTSIDE BRAID: Starting with any pair of spokes, take one pair behind the next pair to the right and out to the front. See **diagram 3**. Repeat this step all the way around the basket rim. To do the last pair, gently loosen the very first loop you started with, take the last pair behind that loop and out to the front. See **diagram 4**. Go around the basket and even out all of the loops.



diagram 7

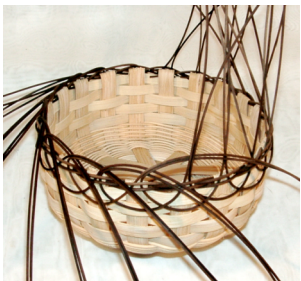


diagram 3

The next step involves tucking all of the pairs to the inside of the basket. Lift any pair to make an opening and tuck the left-hand pair into that space. Move to the right. Lift the right-hand pair to make an opening and tuck the left-hand pair into that space. See **diagram 5**. Continue all the way around the basket rim. Again, to place the last pair, loosen the very first pair and tuck the last pair into that space. See **diagram 6**. Even up this first outside braid.



diagram 8



diagram 4

INSIDE BRAID: Working from the inside of the basket, lift any two pairs. Take the right-hand pair under the left-hand pair and to the outside of the basket. See **diagram 7**. Continue counterclockwise around the basket until you have one last pair remaining. Loosen the very first pair and take the last pair under it and out. See **diagram 8**. Even up this round.

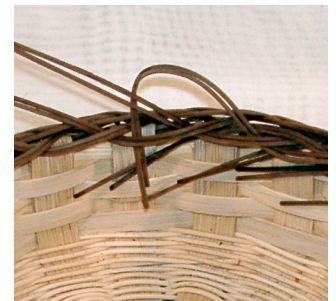


diagram 9



diagram 5

The last braiding step will tuck all of the pairs to the inside of the basket. As before, work counterclockwise from the inside of the basket. Lift one pair to make an opening and the pair to the right tucks down into that space. Move to the left. Lift the next left-hand pair and the right-hand pair tucks down into that space. See **diagram 9**. Continue all the way around. Again, to do the last pair, loosen the very first pair and tuck the last pair into that space. See **diagram 10**. Even up the inside braid.



diagram 10

Angle cut the pair ends 3/4" long so they remain securely on the inside wall of the basket.

Good job!

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