

Little Leather Handled Tote Basket



Base: 4 ½" x 11" Filled
Sides: 8 ½"
Handles: Leather Strapping

Materials:

- 5 pieces @ 33" – ½" flat reed (horizontal stakes)
- 9 pieces @ 27" – ½" flat reed (vertical stakes)
- 4 pieces @ 19" – 3/8" flat reed (bottom fillers)
- 1 piece @ 38" – ¼" flat reed (locking row)
- 14 pieces @ 40" – ½" flat reed (weavers)
- 1 piece @ 40" – 7/8" leather (weaver)
- 1 piece @ 40" – 3/8" flat reed (last weaver)
- 2 pieces @ 38" – 5/8" flat oval reed (inside & outside rims)
- 1 piece @ 36" - #6 round reed (rim filler)
- 2 pieces @ 8' – 11/64" flat oval reed (lashers)
- 78" – 7/8" wide riveted leather 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 – 33" 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 the fillers and their stakes. (Always treat the bottom fillers and the stakes in between the fillers as single stakes when over and under weaving.) 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 4" x 10 ½". Crisscross 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 ¼" locking row around the stake pieces. Upsett 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 7/8" leather weaver. Over and under weave 13 rows of ½" flat reed. Clothespin the handles up to the stakes and weave the one row of 7/8" leather, one more row of ½" flat reed, and the last row of 3/8" flat reed.

Fold and tuck all of the outside stakes into the inside of the basket. Clip the remaining inside stakes flush with the top row of weaving. Soak and fit the inside and outside rims overlapping the ends 3" on opposite sides of the basket. Sandwich the #6 round reed rim filler in between the rims. **Double-lash** the rims and filler tightly with the 11/64" flat reed lashers.

Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*