

Oval Market Basket



Base: 6" x 11"
Top: 10" x 15" oval
Sides: 6 1/2"
Handle: 13"

Materials: 5 pieces @ 28" - 3/4" flat reed (horizontal stakes)
 4 pieces @ 19" - 3/8" flat reed (bottom fillers)
 9 pieces @ 24" - 3/4" flat reed (vertical stakes)
 1 piece @ 38" - 1/4" flat reed (locking row)
 14 pieces @ 48" - 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
 2 pieces @ 46" - 5/8" flat oval reed (inside & outside rims)
 1 piece @ 44" - #6 round reed (rim filler)
 1 piece @ 9' - 3/16" flat reed (lasher)
 10" span push-in round handle

Soak all of the stake pieces and the locking row piece for several minutes until pliable. Find the rough sides and centers of the stakes. Lay out the 5 horizontal stakes in front of you, rough sides up. Place the 4 filler pieces in between the stakes. Lift horizontal stake #'s 1, 3 and 5, and all of the filler pieces. Slide a vertical stake underneath the three lifted stakes into the center position. (Always treat the bottom fillers and the stakes in between the fillers as single stakes when over and under weaving.) Over and under weave four stakes vertically to the right of center and four more to the left. Square up the base to 5 1/2" by 10 1/2". 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 stake. Weave the locking row around the base. Upsett the stakes slightly. Flip the base over on the table. Soak the weavers.

The first three rows of weaving will be done while the basket is flat on the table so that the sides flare outward gradually. Do not make crisp corners as the basket will take on an oval (rather than rectangular) shape as it is woven. Over and under weave a total of 6 rows - 3/8" flat reed. Clothes pin the handle to the center vertical stakes to help shape the rest of the weaving. Weave 8 more rows of 3/8" flat reed, (rows 11 - 13 can be done in color if desired).

Tuck the outside stakes down into several rows of weaving inside the basket. Clip the inside stakes flush or a bit below the last row of weaving.

Soak the rim pieces and lasher for several minutes. Fit the inside rim overlapping 3 inches. (The inside rim sits on the notch of the handle.) Fit the outside rim overlapping 3 inches. Sandwich the #6 round reed rim filler between the two rims clipping it on either sides of the handle. Single lash everything tightly making an "X" around each side of the handle. Sign and date your basket. *Good job!*

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