

Pastel Easter Basket



Base: 7" x 10" Filled
Sides: 4 1/2"
Handles: 9 1/2"

Materials: 12 pieces @ 21" – 5/8" flat reed (horizontal & vertical stakes)
4 pieces @ 17" – 5/8" flat reed (bottom fillers)
50' - #3 round reed (base & top twining)
5 pieces @ 40" – 3/8" flat reed (weavers)
6 pieces @ 16" – 3/8" flat reed (stair-step side weavers)
1 piece @ 10' – 1/4" flat reed (looper lasher)
1 – 8" span push-in round handle

Soak all of the stake pieces, the bottom filler pieces, and the #3 round reed until pliable. Find the rough sides and mark the centers of five stakes and the four fillers. Lay them out horizontally in front of you. Lifting the four filler pieces, slide one vertical stake into the center position. Over and under weave three more vertical stakes to right of center and three to left of center for a total of seven vertical stakes. Square up the base to 5 3/4" x 8 1/2". 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 four rounds flat on the table. End the twiners and upset the stakes.

Over and under weave five rows of 3/8" flat reed being sure the first row goes outside the center vertical stake. The next three rows of 3/8" flat reed weaving are done in stair-step fashion first on one long side of the basket and then on the other, 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. Clip off the center handle stakes 1/2" above the 3/8" weavers. Slip the handle tails down into several rows of 3/8" weaving. A few drops of wood glue can help stabilize the tails of the handle.

Using two pieces of #3 round reed, twine three rows around the top of the basket. The twining should sit on the notch of the push-in handle tails. End the twiners. Fold and tuck all of the stakes into the inside of the basket.

Beginning anywhere with the 1/4" flat reed, lash around the twining between each stake. When you return to the point where you started, turn around and lash again back the other direction X-ing the previous loops. End and hide the lashing wherever possible.

The baskets pictured above was spray painted with Rustoleum 2X Painter's Touch.

Sign and date your basket. Good job!

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