

STONY LANE BASKETRY

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Cracker Basket

Intermediate Skill Level



Size: 11" x 4" x 3 1/2" high excluding handle.

Weaving Level: Intermediate

Materials list:

- 4" x 9" "D" handle
- 3/8" flat for stakes, filler strips and weavers
- 1/4" flat for weavers and rim spacer
- 3/8" flat dyed for weaver
- 3/8" flat/oval for rim
- 3/16" flat/oval for lashing
- Cane for smocking (any size on hand such as "fine-fine (2.25 mm))
- seagrass for rim filler

1. From 3/8" flat cut:
 - 5 stakes @ 23"
 - 12 stakes @ 14"
 - 4 filler strips @ 15"
2. Mark the center of all stakes and filler strips on the "wrong", or "hairy", side. Dampen the pieces for a few minutes in water.
3. Lay out 4 of the filler strips horizontally.
4. Place the handle vertically across the filler strips on their center marks.

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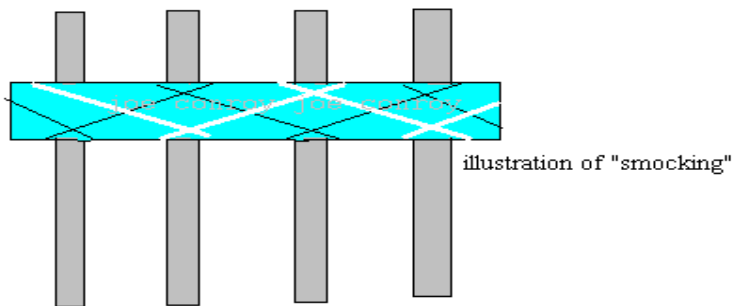
5. Place the 5 - 23" stakes horizontally on top of the handle. Arrange the stakes and filler strips so that they fill the width of the handle. top to bottom the layout should be stake, filler, stake, filler, stake, filler, stake, filler, stake.
 6. Going either to the left or right of the handle commence weaving in the 14" stakes vertically in an over/under pattern. Weave in 6 stakes. Space them so that the outer edge of the 6th stake is approximately 5 1/2" from the center of the handle. Rotate the base 180 degrees and weave in the remaining 6 stakes in the same manner. Check to ensure that the vertical stakes are evenly spaced.
 7. Position the basket base so that the filler strips are vertical. Split the filler strips down the center to the first horizontal stake. Bend the split ends in to center of basket. Spread the split ends left and right and tuck under the second horizontal stake. The split ends will form a "V". In the same manner split and tuck the remaining 3 filler strips. Rotate the base 180 degrees and do the same thing on the remaining filler strips. (Detail on last page)
 8. Dampen the base. Upsett all the stakes.
 9. All weavers are flat reed. Weave the following pattern over/under:
 - 4 rows 3/8" natural (first row is outside the handle)
 - 1 row 3/8" dyed with Smocking (see detailed instructions)
 - 3 rows 1/4" flat. (The last row is the rim spacer)
- Pack all weavers to get a tight basket.
10. Dampen the stakes. Cut off flush with the top of the rim spacer all the inside stakes. Cut all the outside stakes to a point and tuck them under the 3rd weaver down. We call this the picket fence routine.
 11. Using 3/8" flat/oval fit the inner and outer rims allowing for approximately a 2" overlap on each rim. Lash the rims with the 3/16" flat/oval. Use seagrass for a rim filler while lashing for a finished appearance.

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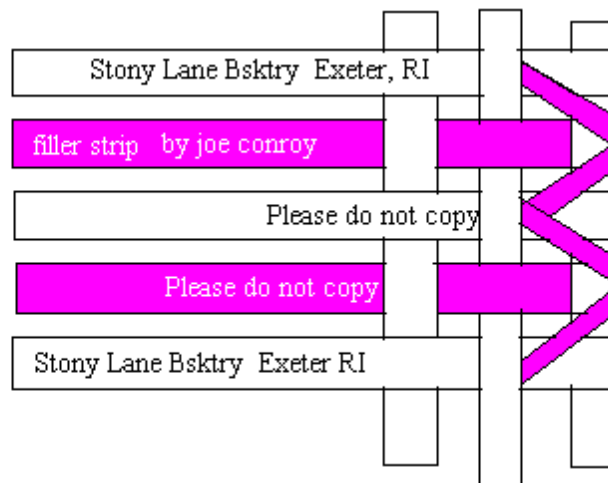
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12. Smocking details:

smock with narrow cane a single row of 3/8" dyed flat reed. Attach the 3/8" flat reed to the outside of the basket. This flat reed piece is layed on the exterior basket wall. **DO NOT WEAVE** into basket, simply hold in place with clothes pins. The ends should overlap by 2 or 3 stakes. Take a long piece of cane and anchor it behind one of the stakes above the 3/8" piece. Bring the cane, shiny side out, around so it passes over the 3/8" and bring it diagonally down and behind the next stake to the right. Wrap around, behind, that second stake and then go diagonally up and around the next stake to the right. Continue this process around the basket. Take a second piece of cane and do the same thing; starting one stake to the right, or left, of the 1st stake of the 1st row of smocking. A pictorial illustration is at the end of these directions.



Detail of filler strips



Note: This pattern has been tested by **Jean Weinrich**.