

Reedcraft Kit and Supplies Instructions

Instructions:

The materials needed are a wooden basket base, heavy reed (#4) for the spokes or uprights and thinner reed (#2) for the weaver.

SPOKES:

If your basket stems from a 3" base (625AX), cut each spoke 6" long.

If your basket stems from a 5" base (625BX), cut each spoke 7" long.

If your basket stems from a 5" x 8" base (624X), cut each spoke 7" long.

WEAVING:

The reed with which you weave should be as long as possible, while simultaneously providing comfort and ease of manipulation.

Step 1:

Place the reed in a container of water and allow it to soak for about one half hour. Keep the reed moist while working with it, especially the spokes, as dry reeds might break while making sharp bends.

Step 2:

Push the spokes through the holes in the base. Let them extend about two inches on the underneath side.

Step 3:

Beginning with the number 1 spoke, weave the 2 inch lower part around the outside of number 2 spoke and lock it in front of number 3. Weave the number 2 spoke around number 3 and lock it in front of number 4. Continue this until all spokes are locked into place. Press woven spokes firmly against the bottom of the base.

Step 4:

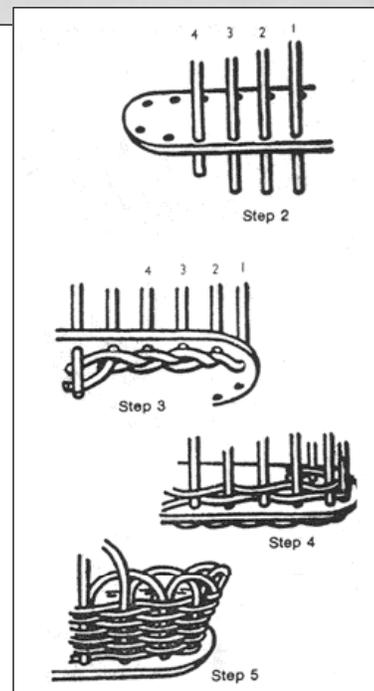
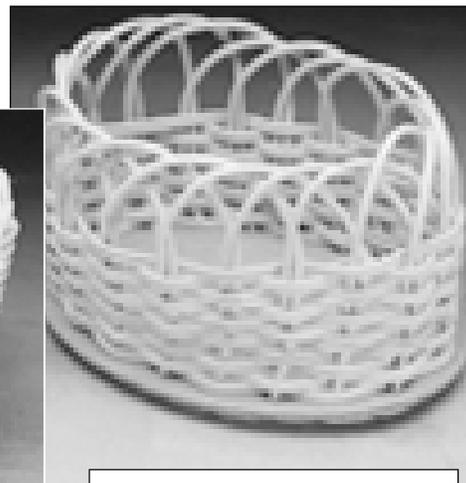
Next bend the spokes slightly outward so the sides of your basket will slant. Weave the thin reed in and out around the spokes, making sure that the ends of each reed are inside the basket. Variations of the primary weave can be made by weaving with two reeds together instead of singly.

Step 5:

You are now ready to finish the basket. Take the end of any spoke, number 1 for example, loop it over and push the end down alongside of spoke number 3. Push the end of number 2 down alongside of number 4, etc., until the edge is finished.

Step 6:

The basket may now be decorated and preserved with a coat of enamel or shellac.



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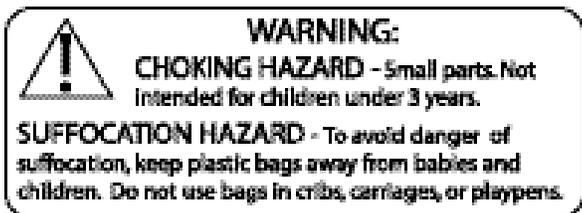
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