

# *Show Your Spirit Basket*

by Beth Hester and Lynne Ferguson

#8446 - Pattern  
Show Your Spirit



Size: 42" circumference at top    Height: 15"

*Show your Spirit! Carry this tall, striking basket to your favorite sports team's tailgating events, to the pool, to crafting classes or anywhere you are hauling a load. The wooden base adds to the durability and the Shaker Tape Handles are flexible and strong. Made of natural and dyed reed material. Special thanks to Lynne Marrs Hammer Ferguson, Artist In Residence, Kentucky Library and Museum / Western Kentucky University, for her inspiration in developing this pattern.*

## **Materials/Supplies:**

8" x 12" Oblong Slotted Base	1
5/8" Flat Reed	60 ft. Stakes
11/64" Flat Oval Reed	60 ft. Weavers
1/2" Flat Reed	95 ft. Weavers
1/4" Flat Reed Dyed Cherry	32 ft. Weavers
5/8" Flat Oval Reed	8 ft. Rims
#6 Round Reed	4 ft. Rim Filler
#3 Round Reed Dyed Cherry	4 ft. Rim underlay
1" Red Shaker Tape	2 yd. Handles
1/4" Flat Reed	20 ft. Lashing
3-ply Country Red Waxed Linen	2 yd. Sewing Handles

## **Hints in working with Reed**

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your Flat Reed, soaking 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Soak the Flat Oval and #6 Round Reed for 5 to 10 minutes in hot water. Rewet reed as you weave if needed.
2. Soak dyed reed separately, rinse well and wipe with towel before using.
3. Do not over soak your reed, it will become mushy.
4. Flat Reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed in half. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side.
5. As you weave you'll want to maintain an equal space between stakes by gently pushing on the stakes to keep them vertical and to maintain a circumference of 42 inches.
6. When weaving the sides, do not leave spaces between the rows of weaving. Weave each row independently; overlapping the ends of each weaver across 4 stakes.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

## **Weaving Your Basket**

Sand your slotted base and apply the finish of your choice; allow the finish to dry completely. Cut 36 pieces (stakes) 18" long from 5/8" Flat Reed. Trace the outline of the base onto a piece of paper. Cut out the shape; fold in half and in half again. Unfold and, using the crease lines as your template, mark the edge of the base in 4 places to indicate the 4 quarters. Soak all the stakes then insert each stake into the slot with the *rough side up*. Place 9 stakes evenly spaced into each quarter. *Note: If the stakes are a bit thick for the width of your slot you may want to sand the slot or pinch the ends of the stakes with pliers to flatten them before inserting.*

Weave 1 row with 11/64" Flat Oval, turning the rounded 'oval' side to the outside of the basket (the smooth side of stakes are to the outside of the basket). As you weave this first row, adjust the tension on the weaver so that the weaver lays tightly against the base. Weave 3 more rows, allowing the stakes to lie flat.

To check the security of your stakes, push each stake into the slot, reseating the stakes if needed. Dampen

the stakes just above these rows and gently roll each stake upward (rough side to the inside of the basket). Weave 3 more rows with 11/64" Flat Oval, putting a bit of tension on these rows so the weavers begin holding the stakes upward. You'll have a total of 7 rows of 11/64" Flat Oval. Next, weave 19 rows with 1/2" Flat (rough side of reed to the inside of the basket). As you weave, hold stakes upright, establishing and maintaining an even space between all stakes. To help gauge the needed circumference and maintain a consistent shape, you may want to pre-cut each weaver to 46". Pack all rows before weaving the next section.

Now for the Accent Rows\*:

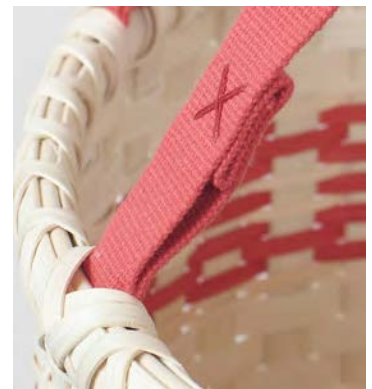
- Weave 2 rows 11/64" Flat Oval
- Weave 3 rows **dyed** 1/4" Flat
- Weave 1 row 11/64" Flat Oval
- Weave 1 row **dyed** 1/4" Flat
- Weave 1 row 11/64" Flat Oval
- Weave 3 rows **dyed** 1/4" Flat
- Weave 2 rows 11/64" Flat Oval

Weave 4 rows of 1/2" Flat.

Here's the overall plan:

- Rows 1 - 7            11/64" Flat Oval
- Rows 8 - 26        1/2" Flat (19 rows of 1/2" Flat)
- Rows 27 - 39      \*See Accent Rows above
- Rows 40 - 43      1/2" Flat

Pack rows. Soak stakes that extend above the top row for several minutes—do not rewet the woven sides of the basket. Identify each stake where the top row of weaver is on the inside of the basket; crease, trim to length, then tuck each of these stakes (tuck behind one row of weaving on the inside of your basket). Cut all remaining stakes flush with the top of the basket.



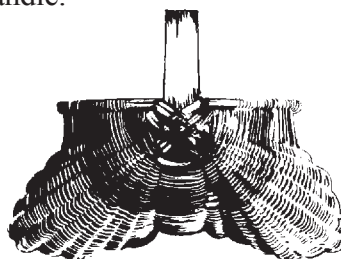
### Handle, Rims and Lashing

Locate two stakes on each long side of the basket, on which to position the handles. Use 1 yard of Shaker Tape for each handle. Fold the end of Shaker Tape around the top row of weaving on the chosen stake—leave a 5 inch 'tail' extending on the inside of the basket. These 'tails' of Shaker Tape will be folded twice and stitched to the handle with waxed linen after the rims are lashed (see photos for placement and stitching detail). Adjust handles so both are the same length.

Soak the 5/8" Flat Oval and #6 Round. Determine the rim and rim filler lengths, allowing about a 4" overlap. Mark and carve the overlap of each piece.

Attach rims and #6 Round filler around top row with cable ties or twist ties, placing the soaked piece of #3 Round Dyed Reed just below the outside rim. Sandwich the ends of Shaker Tape between the rims. Double lash the rims with 1/4" Flat Reed creating interlocking backstitches where each handle is attached. Fold and stitch loose ends of Shaker Tape, securing ends to handle.

Enjoy!



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