

Bright Expectations

Basket Weaving Patterns * Ready Made Baskets * Custom Created Baskets

First Issue of my Newsletter

July 2015
Volume 1

I've been weaving for about four years. That's not long when you compare to a lot of other weavers. I've not been taught by the greats - most techniques I have taught myself based on a lot of research and a lot of trial and error.

Unfortunately for some of us, logistics, prior commitments, or funds can keep us from attending the wonderful state guild meetings. I highly encourage you to attend one if you are ever afforded the opportunity - the great basket makers are there and weaving under their tutelage is truly an awesome experience.

This newsletter is for the everyday or hobby weaver - the one who weaves for fun or for their own use. Maybe you do an occasional craft or art show.

I want to provide tips and tricks that I've learned along the way.

I'll provide supplier information for basketry materials. Maybe you'll find a new source that will either save you money or provide a larger selection of items.

I'll provide some links to patterns from my Etsy store. And I'll also offer a free pattern every so often along with tips and tutorials.

The patterns that I share links to are of my own design and are in easy to read directions which include pictures. I also try to provide sources for all suppliers.

I have an ever increasing library available in my Etsy shop under a [basket weaving pattern section](#). Please continue to check back often.

I would love to meet you each and every one. But since that's not possible today, grab a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, and I hope you enjoy reading the first issue of the newsletter.

You can find me at:

www.brightexpectations.etsy.com

www.facebook.com/BrightExpectations

Or by email ...

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What's New this Month >>

"LUCY" Diaper Caddy

"CASSIE" Patriotic Bucket

Articles and Tidbits >>

Check out These Suppliers

Finishing Your Basket

Basketry Suppliers

There are a lot of basketry and weaving suppliers out there. Did you know about these?

Suzanne Moore's N.C. Basket Works, Inc.

Huge selection of all basketry related materials.

www.ncbasketworks.com

Wood Basket Bases by Rusty

Wood bases from all types of wood.

Check out his segmented wood options - a unique option!

www.basketbasesbyrusty.com

The NorEsta Cane & Reed Co.

Dyed reed that doesn't bleed (awesome) plus a full line of basket supplies.

www.noresta.com

"[Lucy](#)" Diaper Caddy and So Much More

Everybody loves Lucy! This super handy basket is perfect for Mommy or Grandma to keep diapers, wipes, and lotions close at hand.

A stationary, non-removable center basket will hold smaller items while each end is sized perfectly to hold several diapers and a box of baby wipes.

When the baby is potty trained, this basket continues to serve. Use it as a picnic tote filled with napkins, paper plates, and utensils.

As a craft or sewing basket, the center basket will hold scissors, needles, and tools. The ends will keep yarns and quilt squares neatly separated.

Weave this basket in natural colors or add your dyed reed or pattern to personalize for the recipient.



*To purchase this basket pattern,
please click below.
["Lucy"](#)*

"[Cassie](#)" Patriotic Bucket

Do you call it the 4th of July or Independence Day? At my house, we always say 4th of July. But however you refer to the celebration that honors our wonderful country - the United States of America - it usually involves a family picnic or barbeque. I love that this bucket style tote showcases the red, white, and blue and carries all your snacks and supplies too.

This would also be a great magazine basket or yarn bin beside your easy chair in your patriotic themed sunroom.

Or how about on your day to bring treats to your son or daughter's ballgame, you transport them in style.

If you are crafty, paint or stencil some white stars on the dark blue reed.



*To purchase this basket pattern,
please click below.
["Cassie"](#)*

Finishing Your Basket

Make a good first impression

I love looking at pictures of baskets. Any type of baskets. Call it a pet peeve of mine but as soon as I see one that is "hairy" - I'm on to the next one. It doesn't look finished. It looks like they finished weaving and said "OMG ... I have to hurry and post pictures. NOW!" and didn't take the time to complete the project well.

Weavers have differing opinions on many aspects of basketry. Should I stain or leave it natural (that's another newsletter topic coming); is a filled base or wood base better (another topic, stay tuned); or buy dyed reed or dye your own. But most weavers agree - finish your basket well and get rid of those little strands of reed fibers.

There are a lot of theories on what is the best way to "de-hair" a basket. Personally, I take the time (often it's a LOT of time) to use small nippers (purchased from a basket supply store) to clip each and every one. It's a tedious process and probably my least enjoyable part, but it's also what makes baskets look professional and finished.

Ideas from other weavers to "de-hair" a basket include using flat topped nail clippers or sewing scissors for clipping threads. There is also the singe technique that I find somewhat scary which uses a small butane torch (think creme brulee'), a long candle lighter, or even your standard Bic lighter. If you decide to do this particular method - do it before it's stained (there's a YouTube video that should be able to convince you of why this is necessary - it's POOF goes the basket). Dampen the entire basket and keep it out of direct flame. Keep water handy. I've heard of more than one basket going up in flames.

Whichever technique you choose to use - it's really a matter of preference. But do something to remove those pesky hairs. If I'm not stopping on your basket pictures to look at them, your customers probably aren't either.

Clip those pesky hairs off your finished basket. You worked hard - make it look professional.

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*If you paint in your mind a picture of bright and happy expectations, you put yourself into a condition conducive to your goal.
(Norman Vincent Peale)*

I love to create and weave baskets. There are endless possibilities for design options through color, size, and style. Baskets can serve so many functions - why shouldn't they be beautiful to look at too?

Bright Expectations creates handmade baskets using splint reed and utilizes traditional weaving methods. Most of my baskets are created to serve a particular function, but some are designed to hold your interest - not your objects, and compliment your decor and personal taste.

I began weaving in 2011 and shortly thereafter, sold my first basket. I opened my Etsy store in 2012 and have never looked back. Along with some good friends, we do an occasional art fair. I enjoy meeting the public and talking to other weavers.

In 2014, I decided to start documenting some of my own designs and offering patterns available by digital instant download in my Etsy shop.

I'm continually adding new designs - both in finished baskets and in patterns, so please check back often.

Pattern Library - Available in my [Etsy Shop](#)

Clicking on any basket name will connect you to the pattern listing.



["Amelia"](#)



["Madalyn"](#)



["Wyoming"](#)



["Yasmine"](#)



["Cassie"](#)



["Sue"](#)



["Harbor"](#)



["Gabbie"](#)



["Kelsey"](#)



["Jaclyn"](#)



["Zoey"](#)



["Fiona"](#)



["Darcy"](#)



["Adele"](#)



["Betsy"](#)



["Emma"](#)



["Gloria"](#)



["Patsy"](#)



["Olivia"](#)



["Valerie"](#)



["Randa"](#)



["Jenna"](#)



["Lucy"](#)



["Reba"](#)



["Isabella"](#)