

The Reed Reader by Bright Expectations

Basket Weaving Patterns * Ready Made Baskets * Custom Created Baskets

Happity Hoppity Easter!

Celebrating Easter can be extra special for a basket weaver. It's the one time of the year that your handmade basket can be appreciated by every boy and girl you know. Or course, they are usually only interested in the CONTENT of the basket on this happy day, but hopefully the heirloom basket will be treasured one day and maybe passed on to their child.

It's probably the only time of the year that I enjoy weaving with pastel colors as I'm not a huge fan of clear stain (and I stain EVERY basket). Using an oak or walnut stain on pastel colors turns them a very unpleasant shade most usually.

I hope your Easter is a blessed one and that amidst the children's laughter and excitement during the egg hunt and the festive family gathering and meal that you remember this holiday celebrates the risen Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the reason - not the bunny.



Please remember that when viewing the newsletter from your computer, that clicking on anything shown in blue will link you directly to the correct website referenced.

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You can find me at:

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What's New this Month >>

Iris, Tessa, and Valerie Patterns

Articles and Tidbits >>

It's All About that Base!

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Let's Roll - A Border That Is

Bright Expectations LLC

is weaving in either
Mt. Vernon, IL or Naples, FL

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Featured Basketry Suppliers

FEIX FAMILY BASKETS

Home of the "Footed" Bases - And so much more! Pam is a busy lady - she is a co-coordinator of the Stateline Friends Weaving Retreat. Will be seeing her in April for my first convention.

www.feixbaskets-crafts.com

V.I. Reed

*Basket Weaving Supplies - Reed, Cane, Tools, Kits, Books, and More
"Like" them on Facebook and get a coupon to use on your order!*

basketweaving.com

Are you a supplier or vendor of basketry related items? I would love to feature your store or webpage here. If you can provide a discount to "The Reed Reader's" followers that would be great! Even a small discount for a limited time can encourage a new shopper.

Counter Tray with Many Possibilities - "[Iris](#)"



I was asked by a customer to weave a pretty counter basket to hold her husband's many medications. He was quite sick and she wanted to be able to bring his medicine to him bedside in a pretty tray. The neutral colors in her granite and black cabinet hardware inspired the pattern and design.

The pattern for "IRIS" includes many pictures and a *very interesting use for Chinese chopsticks* that work perfectly in this basket. Intrigued?

*To purchase this basket PATTERN,
please click below.*

["Iris"](#)

"[Tessa](#)" - Josephine and Handle Butterfly Knots

This pattern is a bonus deal. Written instructions with pictures are included for BOTH the Josephine Knot and the Butterfly (or Interlocking V) Knot.

While they can be added to any basket you weave, they accentuate this market with a woven base and add understated elegance. "Tessa" is an eye catching basket at craft shows.

Learn the techniques and experiment with adding them to other baskets.

*To purchase this basket PATTERN,
please click below.*

["Tessa"](#)



"[Valerie](#)" Large Gathering or Laundry Basket



I've been weaving this very popular weaving basket for a long time. It's one of my very best sellers. It's big enough for a bushel of dirty clothes, all of the little one's toys, or to hold several throws and afghans in the living room.

It's a fun basket to weave and it finishes out pretty fast. The leather strap handles will handle a heavy load and the wood base makes it extra sturdy.

Weave one for yourself and one for your mom. Mother's Days is coming up soon ... is your gift ready?

*To purchase this basket PATTERN,
please click below.*

["Valerie"](#)

It's ALL About that Bass (Base)

OK. I admit it. I'm a Meghan Trainor fan. I love walking in the early morning to her songs - it's a beat thing. But this song always makes me smile and pick up my walking pace a bit. Plus it's got pretty good lyrics and I can identify 'cause I sure ain't no size 2 and my booty shakes whether I want it to or not (hehe :o)). And oddly, while listening to this snappy tune while the sun rises, I often let my mind wonder to ... of course, basket bases. This month's newsletter theme is borne.

Getting a good base for your basket is key - whether it's a wood base or a woven one. So sit back, get your cup of coffee or glass of wine (depending on the time of day), and read on. Because it's all about that base. Oh, and if you would like a little background music, crank it up my friend, 'cause it's Meghan time and ["It's All About that Bass"](#) (click it for the YouTube link).

Working with Wood Bases:

* Choose a good supplier for your wood bases. There are many options for standard sized bases. Before buying 24 from a new supplier, order 2 of different types of wood or shapes. Check the slot size and measure the base for accuracy. That way you will know what to expect when you order 24. My two faves for *custom* sized wood bases are [Basket Bases by Rusty](#) and [Basket Bees](#) (hi Debbie!). They are *consistently* good. This is important because you know what to expect when you have an unexpected custom basket request.

* For goodness sakes, sand your darned base. I don't know how many baskets I have picked up at craft shows and the base is either rough as a cob or has saw marks in it.

* Gonna get feedback here probably - *In my opinion, I prefer*, (qualifiers there folks) to not only sand my base (and handles), but to also stain it and give it a polyurethane seal.



The picture of basket on the far left was #13 (where has the time went?) on my chronological list of baskets woven. The twill weave with the **pine** base is one that I weave quite often (usually on a 10x15 base). Do you see a difference? Which would you pay more money for? Which looks more luxuriant? This is the same type of wood base - different preparatory treatment!

How many spokes are required for an even layout on a wood base?

This was posed as a question recently on Facebook regarding a 6" round base. While I have always just used the "stick 'em in and see what looks good" approach, I was surprised to see a scientific formula for it. This is copied and pasted from [The Country Seat](#)'s website ... "*Measure the circumference of the base. Multiply by .25 (for 1/4" space between spokes) and round this off to the next highest number (ex: 6.25 becomes 7). Subtract this number from the circumference and divide the balance by the width of the reed for the spokes (ex: 1/2" = .5). Remember, you want to have an even number of spokes for start stop weaving, odd number for continuous weave so you may have to subtract one spoke from your total.*"

Even spoke placement is key for an evenly woven basket. I like to make a library of templates using recycled USPS Tyvek mailing envelopes (these are tear and water resistant). Trace your base shape and fold it in half. Clip the corners. Unfold it and fold the other way lining up the clips and clip once more. Repeat as many times as you choose making sure to line up the previous clips. Mark your template with the base size, width of spokes used and number required, even a particular pattern used. Your library of templates will save you time and effort when placing spokes. This works for *ANY* shape of base.

Tip: If your wood based basket will have a handle, choose the handle spokes with are at the *ENDS* of the wood grain for the best finished basket look.



Disclaimer ... The following are simply website links or photos that can be easily found on the internet and are NOT necessarily my own designs. As always, I make every attempt to give credit to the weaver or source. I apologize profusely if I have omitted someone or the information is incorrect. There are many sources for the same information, I have randomly selected these links.

I could reinvent the wheel and create tutorials for the basics in woven bases. But, they would most likely not be as well done as those that are on the websites of these amazing weaving artists. It is so kind of them to take the time to create these tutorials. Be sure and thank them!

[Joanna's Collections](#) has a great website. I have truly admired her weaving talent (and am totally jealous of her workshop) since I made my first basket. She posts a free pattern often and her website is just ... classy. Here are a few links relating to tutorials she has done on woven bases:

- * [Laying out an Unfilled Base](#)
- * [Laying out a Filled Base](#)
- * [Weaving the Locking Row](#)

[Prairie Wood Basketry](#) (Annetta Kraayeveld, [The Basket Teacher](#)) has been rebuilding her website and it is packed with tremendous resources and she continues to add to it. I have several of her patterns and just WOW - love them! She recently did a Blog post about the importance of squaring a woven base. Not only is this very informative for a new weaver - but great advice for the seasoned weaver too. Plus - there's a great base with an "X" at the bottom of the post! [How to Square the Base of a Basket](#)

OK ... you've got the basics on a woven rectangle and square bases. We'll cover round baskets in another newsletter. Now it's time to explore *accentuating* the base. Adding dyed reed to your spokes and/or fillers can create an entirely different look. Adding diagonal spokes is another idea. These pictures are of bases to inspire you to experiment.



Pinterest has a plethora of images to get your creativity going. These pics found there are randomly selected. If the source of the basket is known, simply click on the picture and it will link you to the contributor.

WEAVING EVENTS

WooHoo! I'm going to Stateline Friends Weaving Convention this year!
This is my first ever convention in which I'm taking classes and I'm so excited. If you are there - please find me and introduce yourself. I'd love to meet each and every one of you.

APRIL, 2016

2nd-3rd: LLBWA Spring Fling at Palos Park, Illinois llbwa.com/events

8th -9th: Wolf River Basketry Guild Spring Workshop in Shawano, Wisconsin. www.wolfriverbasketryguild.com

14th -16th: Stateline Friends Weaving Retreat in Richmond, Indiana. www.statelinefriends.com

15th: Etched Birch Bark Basketry at North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN. northhouse.org

15th - 17th: "Weavin' Up North 2016" at the Finnish Language Village Salolampi in Bemidji, Minnesota. nationalbasketry.org/events

MAY, 2016

5th -8th: Western Pleasure Basket Retreat w/Jill Choate in Sandpoint, ID. squareup.com

6th-7th: Twining with Iris, Day Lily, and Cattail Foliage w/Matt Tommey in Asheville, NC. hmattommey.com

27th-30th: Black Ash Pack Basket at the Woodspirit Workshop in Odanah, WI. woodspirithandcraft.com

JUNE, 2016

6th-10th: Stowe Basketry Festival in Vermont. roundhearth.com

10th-12th: "Weave In" with Upper South Carolina Basket Makers Guild. www.orgsites.com

24th-26th: "Weavin' In Winona" in Winona, Minnesota. www.mbwg.org/events

JULY, 2016

TBA: Kentucky Basket Associations 20th Convention. www.kentuckybasketassociation.org

10th-16th: Traditional Cherokee Basketry w/Larry Croslin in Taos, NM. taosartschool.org

15th-16th: Black Ash Basketry with Alice Ogden in Scottsville, KY. basketmakerscatalog.com

20th-23rd: Tennessee Basketry Convention in Alcoa, TN. Contact Fran Sorrell at 901-409-8649 or fwsorrell@ael.com. www.tennesseebasketryassociation.org

AUGUST, 2016

4th-7th: Missouri Basketweavers Guild 25th Annual Convention. www.basketweavers.org

25th-27th: Heritage Basketry Guild Fall Weave Retreat in Dayton, OH www.heritagebasketryguild.com

SEPTEMBER, 2016

9th-11th: Camp Tuck-A-Basket in Normal, Illinois. llbwa.com/events

TBA: Columbia Basin Basketry Guild in Oregon. www.basketryguild.org

15th-18th: Weaving Odyssey in Central Pennsylvania. basketry.homestead.com

16th-17th: NCBA "Hooked on Baskets" in Swansboro, NC. ncbasketmakers.com

23rd-25th: Wolf River Basketry Guild Fall Workshop in Shawano, Wisconsin. www.wolfriverbasketryguild.com

OCTOBER, 2016

19th-23rd: Michigan Basketweavers Annual Convention "Weavers Wonderland". www.michiganbasketmakers.com/events

TBA: Oklahoma's Basketweavers Guild 17th Annual Weavers Weekend.

NOVEMBER, 2016

4th-6th: WVBA 2016 Convention in Clarksburg, WV. wvbasketweaversassoc.com

JANUARY, 2017

19-22: Texas Basket Weavers Assoc. To be held in Houston. texasbasketweavers.com or [click here](#).

TBA: Northwest Basket Weavers Retreat Workshop "Weave in Winter". www.nwbasketweavers.org or [click here](#).

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

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



["Beatrice"](#)



["Makayla"](#)



["Daphne"](#)



["Yasmine"](#)



["Cassie"](#)



["Sue"](#)



["Harbor"](#)



["Gabbie"](#)



["Kelsey"](#)



["Jaclyn"](#)



["Zoey"](#)



["Fiona"](#)



["Mia & Mya"](#)



["Zelda"](#)



["Betty"](#)



["Mary"](#)



["Gloria"](#)



["Paisley"](#)



["Olivia"](#)



["Valerie"](#)



["Randa"](#)



["Minnie"](#)



["Lucy"](#)



["Reba"](#)



["Isabella"](#)