The Reed Reader by Bright Expectations

Basket Weaving Patterns * Ready Made Baskets * Custom Created Baskets

What is Your Favorite Weaving Tip?

I just love it when I have an "aha moment". And I have them a LOT. We get stuck in a rut of doing (weaving in our case) something the same way over and over and then when someone says "why don't you ...?", the little light bulb over our heads goes on. and it's "Gees! Why didn't I think of that??".

Seldom do I follow an existing pattern for weaving. I'm always thinking of a new basket to try. It's hard when you are starting out to get an idea of how many spokes to use (and cut). I read this the other day and had a sudden realization of how simple this process could be.

We all have scraps of reed that are too small to do anything with. I cut them up into 6" pieces - I have "sets" of each size 3/8, 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, 7/8. Then, when I want to figure how many spokes per side, I lay my ruler down, and place my scraps of whatever size reed I want to work with, along the ruler to see how many spokes will work for the size of the base I'm trying to make. I can space them out how I like, and then I know exactly how many spokes to cut.

The same concept could be used with natural and dyed reeds to create a pattern/design and determine the finished height of the basket before weaving it (nice when fitting in specific area). So save those scraps!!

If you have that secret way of doing something - share it with me and I'll include it in the next newsletter.

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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Or by email ...

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Basket Pattern

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HANDLES - It's a WRAP! Next Month >>

It's All About that Base

Bright Expectations LLC

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

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Featured Basketry Suppliers

THE LOFT - "Country from Me to Thee"

Unique "Home-Spun Style" D Handles and Tie-Ons www.theloftbaskets.com

KULP'S CUSTOM CRAFTS

Actual SLATE mined from a local Pennsylvania quarry made into small basket tie-ons. They can be painted on or engraved. How cool!

www.kulpscrafts.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.

Organization for those Recycled Plastic Bags - "Zelda"



AVAILABLE AS A PATTERN ONLY OR AS A FULL KIT!



Recycled bag holder "Zoey" has a new relative in the store ... meet "Zelda", her cousin with the slightly checkered past ;o)

By laying out your spokes in a specific pattern and weaving the rows in a particular order, "Zelda" shows off in bold alternating squares. The almost plaid design is continued on the back side too.

Learn how to create this basket with lots of detailed photos and supply resources. This basket is one of our best sellers at art and craft shows, as well as an excellent bridal shower or housewarming gift.

To purchase this basket PATTERN, please click below.
"Zelda"

To purchase this basket KIT, please click below. "Zelda"

Oh "MIA" and Oh "MYA" - What Pretty Vases!

I love weaving with a friend, don't you? One of my weaving friends is left handed (I'm a righty). It's a long story (and I'll abbreviate, lucky you), but we planned on weaving a specific basket pattern together one day. The purchased pattern had a serious error (wrong size base in materials list by THREE INCHES) and we soon realized we would not weave that particular basket with the base we had. Plunging ahead with our weaving plans, we just let "Mia" and "Mya" create themselves. And what beauties they turned out to be.

My righty, Mia (on the left) was woven counter clockwise and her lefty, Mya (on the right) was woven clockwise. We used slightly different materials and chose different amounts of flare. What a fun day and love how the outcome, while not what we expected when we began, turned out great!

The pattern includes BOTH vases, but you must have knowledge of completing a rolled rim (or another of your choosing) as it is not detailed in the pattern.



To purchase this basket PATTERN, please click below. "<u>Mia and Mya</u>"

Be sure to download and print the FREE pattern "THERESA'S NECESSITY BASKET" that was attached to your email as a PDF download. Thanks so much to the Dixie Weavers and Beverly Ashton!

HANDLES - It's a WRAP!

Sometimes a plain wooden handle just won't do. Your finished basket doesn't look, well ... finished. Your awesome woven creation needs just a bit more ... something. Wrapping a handle can give a basket an entirely new look, or just complete the look you intended.

I weave with a couple of awesome ladies who are slightly intimidated with the process. And it certainly can be frustrating. It's either crooked or uneven. And then the reed breaks or cracks. And then out comes the scissors, you whack it off in a fury, and you vow to never attempt that again. Ever. (It's kind of like weaving ribbed baskets, but that's a future issue :o)

I hope to inspire you to at least *TRY* to wrap a handle. And chances are, you are not going to love the first one you do. But maybe, just maybe, you will try a second and a third. And a new love story will begin.

Some simple tips to keep in mind:

- * Choose a long, good quality piece of narrow reed. Clean the reed of any obvious "hairs". Good sizes are 11/64", 3/16", or 1/4". For some designs, caning is your best option and it is available in many widths.
- * Your reed must be very damp but not soggy soaked. Having your wrapping reed very pliable will keep it from splitting or cracking. Keep your spray water bottle handy and spritz it often. Some patterns take a while to do and your reed can dry out.
- * More often than not, you will need to splice your wrapping reed before you finish. Learn how to do this neatly and choose to splice on the underside of the handle *in the top arched area*. Your splice will be much less visible.

I LOVE this hint ... Mark the center point of your wrapping reed with a pencil mark. When wrapping your handle, if you have not wrapped past the center point of your handle by the time you reach this mark, you are going to need to splice the reed. Now you know if your piece of reed is going to be long enough and can choose to do the splice in the upper arched area.

Before you can run (all those fancy handles), you need to learn how to walk (easy peasy wrap designs). This is a popular Easter basket I weave (the pattern is called "Amelia" and is available in my Etsy store). This is a great handle to start with if you are just beginning.

Start with a 90 degree sharply creased bend in the end, tucking inside the handle under the rim row (Blue Arrow). Start close to the basket rim with the accent reed nicely tucked under the first row of wrapping.

Lay a single piece of dyed reed accent on the top of your handle and tuck into the rim.

Start the first row STRAIGHT. Subsequent rows will then be also. (The backside of the handle may be at a slight angle - but the front is what shows.) Lay each row BESIDE each other - DON'T OVERLAP.

Pull each row gently around the handle, easing it around the edges. Slow and steady. Alternate over / under the accent dyed reed on each row.

If you must splice (Orange Arrow), sharply crease a 90 degree angle leaving about 1" that the new reed will overlap. Clothespin that to the handle and prepare the new piece with another 90 degree angle that matches and lays beside the ending piece leaving a 1" tail on it also. You will wrap both of these 1" tails as you proceed. Use a strong clamp to flatten these to the handle while they are still damp.

End the wrapping with another 90 degree sharply creased end that is tucked into the rim row on the inside of the handle (Red Arrow).



arch.

Disclaimer ... The following are simply website links or photos that can be easily found on the internet and are NOT 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.

V.I. Reed on their <u>basketweaving.com</u> website offers this technique. Thanks for your great instruction with photos.

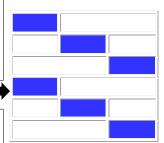




"If you have a nice wide handle like this one, you can insert three strands of reed and weave an impressive detailed handle. Variation: You can also insert three strands of reed on the *inside* of the handle and weave the handle pattern on the outside and the inside.

Or try this variation.

Or try substituting sea grass for one, two, or all three of the handle pieces!



This example of a herringbone wrapped handle uses five pieces of caning. It is fairly simple to figure out and use once you get started.

I love the contrast of this handle in natural cane against the super dark God's eye on this basket.

Ooh-la-la!





This is a great idea to have a reference of various handle wraps. Particularly, if you are a weaver who does a lot of custom orders and would like to provide a reference for your customers to choose their handle wrap.

Or just keep them in your tool bag to hold against your basket to see which gives the best finished look. How cool!

While technically this handle is not wrapped and following our theme this month, the knots and the interest they add garnered this handle a spot in the newsletter. The center knot is a usually called a Butterfly Knot. I'm not sure about the name of the other two (maybe someone can help?) - but WOW! When used together what an impact!





This wrap is shown using paper tubing. The same concept could be used with a piece of round reed (#4 or #5) across the handle and flat reed (1/4") to wrap - maybe using 11/64" to do the final detailing.



WEAR YOUR HANDLE - It's a Head Band!

Plastic or wood headbands can be purchased at any big box or dollar store. Take your favorite handle wrapping design and weave it onto the headband for a unique and one-of-a-kind fashion statement.

Wear the headband while vending at your local craft or art fair. This would also be a good and easy project for the events where you want to demonstrate weaving and you don't want to lug a bunch of tools or supplies with you.

WEAVING EVENTS

MARCH, 2016

3rd-5th: "Woven Together" Western Kentucky Basket Weaver's Retreat at Rough River State Resort Park in Falls of Rough, Kentucky. wtwky.shutterfly.com/2016retreat

11th-13th: Willow Weaving Weekend at the Amana Colonies, Iowa. willowridgebaskets.com

17th -20th: NCBA Convention "Dream Weavers" in Durham, North Carolina. www.ncbasketmakers.com

19th: Spring Into Basket Making at the Fletcher Farm School in Ludlow, Vermont. fletcherfarm.org

18th - 20th: LABG Retreat in at Camp Stevens in Julian, California. www.labasketryguild.org

APRIL, 2016

2nd-3rd: LLBWA Spring Fling at Palos Park, Illinois <u>Ilbwa.com/events</u>

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 Bemidgi, 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. hmatttommey.com

27thth-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. Ilbwa.com/events

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

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

Pattern Library - Available in my Etsy Shop Clicking on any basket name will connect you to the pattern listing.

Clicking

"<u>Beatrice</u>"



"<u>Makayla</u>"



"<u>Daphne</u>"



<u>"Yasmine"</u>



"Cassie"



<u>"Sue</u>"



"<u>Harbor</u>"



"Gabbie"



"Kelsey"



"<u>Jaclyn</u>"



<u>"Zoey</u>"



"<u>Fíona</u>"



"<u>Darcy</u>"



"<u>Adele</u>"



"<u>Betsy</u>"



"<u>Mary</u>"



"Gloría"



"Paísley"



"<u>Olívía</u>"



<u>"Valeríe</u>"



"<u>Randa</u>"



"Lucy"



"<u>Reba</u>"



"<u>Isabella</u>"

"<u>Jenna</u>"