

Basket for Janice

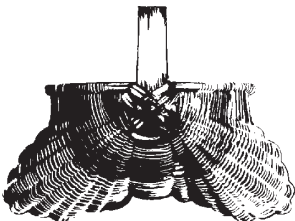
by Beth Hester



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The Basket Maker's Catalog

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Basket for Janice

Generously sized with 2 beautiful 12” Oak Swing Handles, this basket is easy to make and recommended for beginners. Designed for my special friend Janice Walden—a gardener, basket maker and champion quilter—it has a filled bottom and is woven in plain weave with smoked and natural reed.

Finished size: 12” x 18” x 8”.

Hints

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your Flat Reed, soaking a few minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Soak the Round Reed and Flat Oval Reed for 5 to 10 minutes in warm water. If reed becomes dry while you are weaving, resoak or spray until pliable.
2. Do not over soak your reed; it will become mushy.
3. Thickness and flexibility of reed will vary. When possible, use thicker pieces for stakes and softer, more flexible pieces for weavers.
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. Work with the smooth side of the reed to the outside of the basket.
5. Keep your weaving even and the rows touching as you make your basket.
6. As you weave, gently move the stakes to keep them vertical and to maintain equal space between stakes. Adjusting the stakes as well as the tension on the weaver will assure the swing handles fit well.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

Materials

75 ft.	3/4” Flat Reed	20 ft.	3/8” Flat Reed
40 ft.	5/8” Flat Reed	40 ft.	11/64” Flat Reed
40 ft.	1/4” Flat Reed <i>Smoked</i>	10 ft.	1/2” Flat Oval Reed
2	12” Oak Swing Handles with Ears	5 ft.	#6 Round Reed
12 ft.	1/4” Flat Reed		

Notes

Read all directions before beginning your basket.

Read each step all the way through before beginning that step.

Supplies / Tools

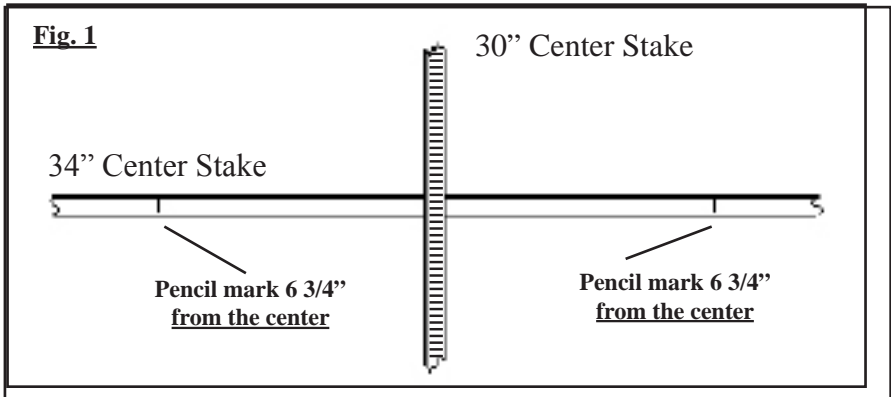
Scissors or Shears	Pencil
Chip Carving Knife or Hand Plane	Clothespins (spring type)
Container to hold water	Measuring Tape
Basketry Packing Tool or Bone Folder	Plastic Twist Ties or Cable Ties
Old Towel	Spray bottle for water
Sandpaper	

Weaving the Base

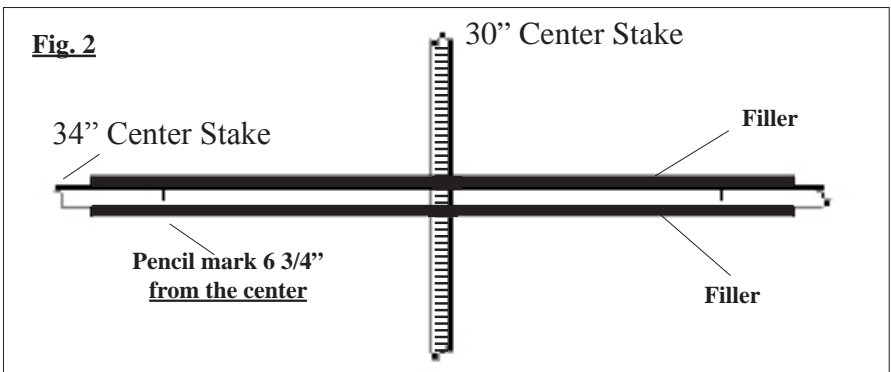
Cut stakes as follows from 3/4" Flat Reed (thicker weight): 9 pieces 34" long and 11 pieces 30" long. On the rough side of every piece make a slight pencil mark in the center. On the 34" stakes only, also make a mark 6 3/4" from the center toward each end.

Cut 8 pieces 18" long from 3/8" Flat Reed (thinner weight) for your base fillers. These pieces (stakes and base fillers) will form the base of your basket.

Soak the stakes and fillers in water. Using the pencil marks as guides, and laying the pieces with the rough side up, lay one 34" stake horizontally across your table. Place one of the 30" stakes perpendicular to and on top of the 34" stake matching the center marks. See Fig. 1. This intersection is the midpoint of your basket's base. To identify the midpoint, as you build the base outward evenly in all four directions, place a twist tie around the top stake.

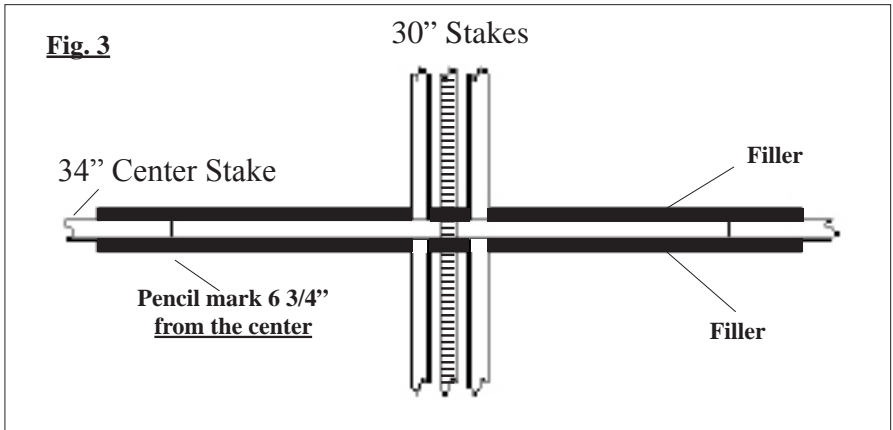


Center two 3/8" base fillers parallel to the 34" stake, laying them over the 30" stake. Position the base fillers to touch the 34" stakes, leaving no space between. The base fillers are shorter than the stakes. See Fig. 2.



Next, weave one 30" stake to the right of the center 30" stake, and weave one 30" stake to the left. Weave each stake over the filler, under the horizontal stake and over the filler; align the center pencil marks along the 34" stake. See Fig. 3.

Place all 30" stakes about 1/2" apart. As you add the remaining 30" stakes across the base, continue the alternating over one, under one pattern from row to row. The pencil marks that you made on the 34" stakes 6 3/4" from the center are your guide-lines for the outside edge of the base. Adjust stakes to make the spaces as equal as possible.



At this point all 11 of the 30" stakes are in place. To complete your base you'll alternately weave the remaining 34" stakes and fillers into the base using your pencil marks as guides. *Hint: As you continue to add stakes, raise the stakes (the ones already woven into the base) up off the table as you slide the 34" stakes (and fillers) into place. This technique makes it easier to weave a tight base.*

Horizontally you have a center stake then alternating filler, stake, filler, stake, etc. (for a total of 4 fillers and 4 stakes) both above and below the center. All the horizontal stakes and fillers will touch each other, leaving no space between pieces.

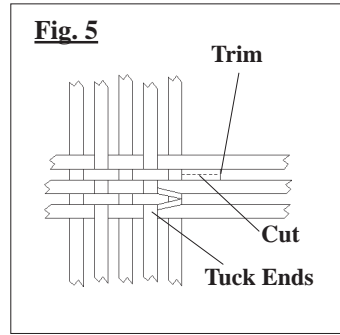
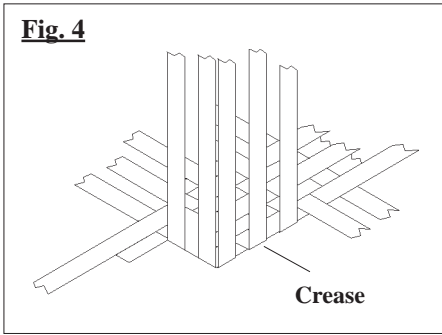
Vertically you have a center (30") stake with 5 stakes to the right of and 5 stakes to the left center (for a total of 11 vertical stakes spaced about 1/2" apart).

The woven base should measure 13.5" x 9.5" and the end of each stake should extend approximately 10" beyond the base (base filler pieces are shorter). Adjust stakes a bit if needed. The vertical stakes should be equal distance apart and the horizontal stakes and fillers should be touching each other.

Measure the base in 3 places for length and 3 places for width. Adjust stakes so the base measures 13.5" x 9.5". Place a clothespin in each corner of your base.

Soak the base for about 2 minutes in warm water. At the edge of the base on all 4 sides, gently "upset the basket" by bending each stake and filler upward at a right

angle to the base (rough side to inside). The stakes may crack and splinter as you crease them; do not worry as long as they do not break completely. See Fig. 4.



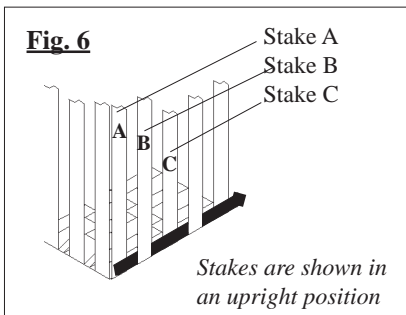
Trim a base filler piece to a length of 1 3/4" from the crease. Cut the filler through the center to the crease making 2 narrower ends. Spread the 2 ends apart and tuck each end under the second 30" stake from the edge of the base (to either side of that base filler). See Fig. 5.

A bone folder or basketry packing tool is very helpful when tucking. Trim, cut and tuck both ends of each base filler.

Weaving the Sides

Soak a piece of 5/8" flat reed (weaver) in water. This piece should be long enough to weave completely around the basket plus 4 or 5 inches for overlap. Use the most flexible weaver possible.

NOTE: The first weaver should continue the alternating weave found on the long sides of the basket's base. In order to accomplish this, choose a 30" stake (Stake 'A') that passes under the edge of the base. Begin your weaver on the **outside** of this stake. See Fig. 6.



Begin the first row by placing the weaver outside Stake 'A' and securing with a clothespin. (Make sure the rough side of the weaver is facing the inside of your basket.) Allow the next stake (Stake 'B') to remain on the work surface and weave above it. Bend the next stake (Stake 'C') upward and place the weaver outside of this stake; secure with a clothespin. See Fig. 6 (illustrating all stakes in an upright position).

Continue to place the weaver above one stake (stake remains flat on the table) and outside the next using a clothespin on each vertical stake to hold the weaver in place. Every other stake will remain on the work surface. Your second row of

weaving will “pick up” the stakes that were missed by the first row of weaving.

When you have woven around to the beginning of the first row, complete the row by overlapping the start and finish of the weaver across 4 stakes, concealing the end of each. See Fig. 7.

Start and finish the second 5/8” Flat Reed weaver on the adjacent (preceding) side of the basket. The second weaver will be outside a stake while the first weaver is to the inside of that stake. See Fig. 8. Weave the third row of 5/8” Flat as described above.

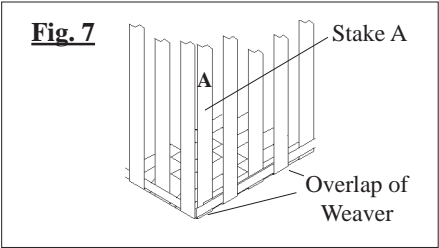


Fig. 7

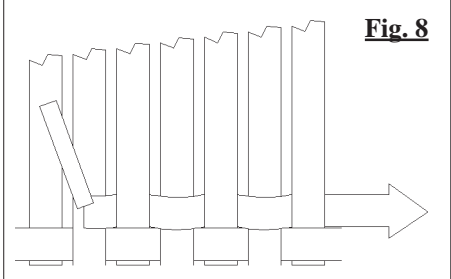


Fig. 8

Note: To assure the handles fit the basket, keep the space between stakes consistently just slightly larger than 1/2” as you work up the sides, making the basket’s circumference about 48” to 50”. Keep all the stakes vertical. The corners of your basket will become slightly rounded as you weave.

Alternate sides where you start the rows in order to prevent all overlaps from being in the same area of your basket. Determine which stakes the handles will later be placed on and make as few overlaps as possible across those stakes when weaving the rows of smoked and narrow reed.

Remember: Keep your weaving tension even as you weave your basket. Continually adjust the stakes making them vertical and equidistant apart. Also, bend (or weave) the weaver around the stakes. You can accomplish this by holding the previous stitch securely in place with one hand and weaving the next stitch with the other hand—bending the weaver around the stakes as you weave. The lower edge of the current weaver should touch the upper edge of the previous weaver leaving no space between. See Fig. 8.

Weave all remaining rows as described above. Follow this chart to determine what size reed you need for each row of your basket, packing well after Row 5, Row 18 and Row 21. Measure the basket’s circumference (48” to 50”) at several points, pushing inward or pulling outward on the stakes as needed.

Rows 1 - 5	5/8” Flat Reed
Row 6	1/4” Smoked Flat Reed
Row 7	11/64” Flat Reed
Rows 8 - 18	Alternate: 1/4” Smoked Flat and 11/64” Flat
Rows 19 & 20	5/8” Flat Reed
Row 21	3/8” Flat Reed

Finishing the Top Edge

When you have woven all the rows of your basket and packed the rows, soak the ends of the stakes that extend above the weavers in warm water for several minutes. Note the stakes where the top row of weaving is on the inside of the basket. Crease each of these to the inside of the basket.

Trim your stake to length then tuck the stake so that it is hidden behind the third weaver from the top and is not visible on the inside of your basket. A bone folder or basketry tool will help open the weaver to accept the stake. Cut the remaining stakes level with the top of the basket. See Fig. 9 *view from inside*.

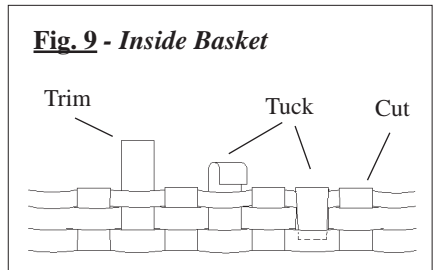
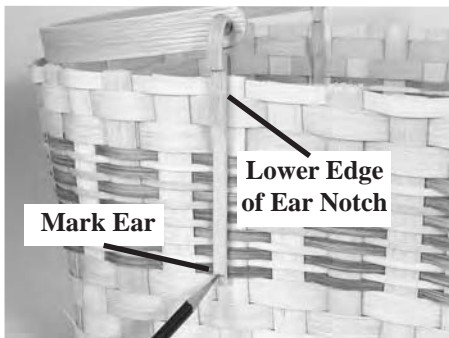


Fig. 9 - Inside Basket

Attaching the Handles

Place ears into handles. You'll want to position the handles so they rest on the top of the basket's rims (and not fall into the basket). With a 48" to 50" circumference you'll be locating handles on the 4th stake from each end on the long sides of your basket. To attach the handles, the handles' ears will be inserted behind some weavers on the *outside and inside* of the basket.

Photo 1



Customize the ears, before attaching the handles, by trimming a bit off the end of each ear as follows: Lay one 'leg' of an ear over the 1/4" Smoked weavers on the outside of the basket (along the chosen stake) until the lower edge of the ear's notch is level with the lower edge of the top row of weaving. See Photo 1.

Mark the outside leg of the ear at the lower edge of the first row of 1/4"

Smoked. See Photo 1. Also mark the ear's notch and the corresponding stake so you can reposition them after trimming the ear. Repeat for each ear. Remove handle from basket and cut the outside legs to length.

Taper the cut end of each ear with a knife or sandpaper so it will more easily slip into position. Repeat for each ear. Inserting the handles is much easier if the sides of the basket are completely dry.

On the outside of the basket, using a packing tool to pry the weaver, insert the leg of an ear behind the top row of 1/4" Smoked. Now, on the inside, (prying with the

tool) push the leg of the ear behind the top row of 11/64" Reed. Continue working the ear behind a weaver on the outside and then on the inside of the basket, pushing the legs downward behind one row of weaving at a time to the proper depth.

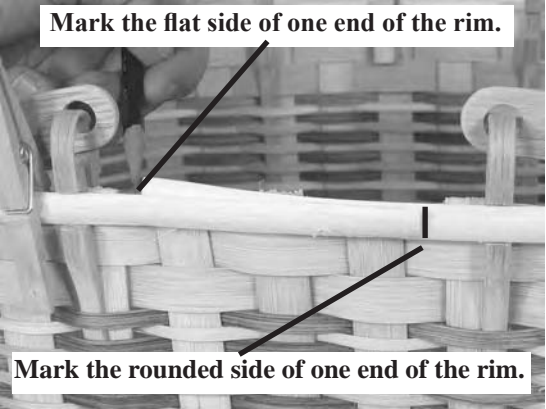
Insert this handle's other ear and double check the handle's placement. Align the lower edge of both ear notches with the lower edge of the top row of your basket. Attach the second handle to your basket and check placement.

NOTE: The top of the ear's notches should be slightly above the top of the basket.

Basket Rims

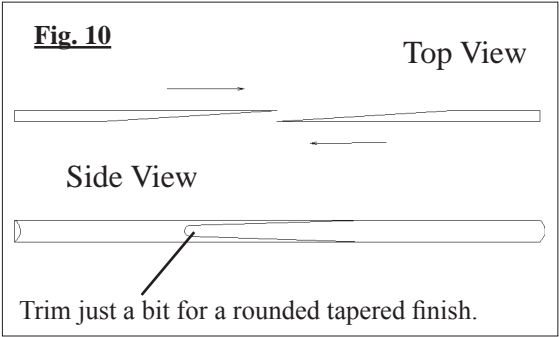
Measure the outside of your basket around the top row, placing your measuring tape through each ear notch, to determine the basket's circumference. Cut a length of 1/2" Flat Oval Reed 4" longer than the circumference for your outside rim. Cut a length of 1/2" Flat Oval 2" longer than the circumference for your inside rim. Cut a length of #6 Round for your rim filler the same length as your inside rim. Sand the rounded side of each rim. Soak the rims and filler for 5 to 10 minutes.

Photo 2



In order to form a smooth joint where the rims overlap you need to carve some of the thickness from both ends of each rim.

To determine exactly where to carve, attach the outside rim around the top of your basket (with clothespins). Mark the rim where it overlaps—marking the rounded side of one end of the rim and the flat side of the other end. See Photo 2. Remove the rim.



Carve the rounded side of one end at an angle and the flat side of the other end at the same angle using a carving knife or hand plane forming a smooth overlapping joint as shown in Fig.10.

Repeat this procedure with the inside rim and the rim filler;

clothespin each in place, mark the overlap, remove the piece and carve the overlapped sections. Note: Place the rim filler through the ears to get an accurate measurement; allow an overlap of about 2". See Photo 3.

Photo 3



After carving the rims and rim filler resoak for a few minutes. With scissors, trim just a bit from one end of each rim creating a rounded tapered finish as in Fig. 10.

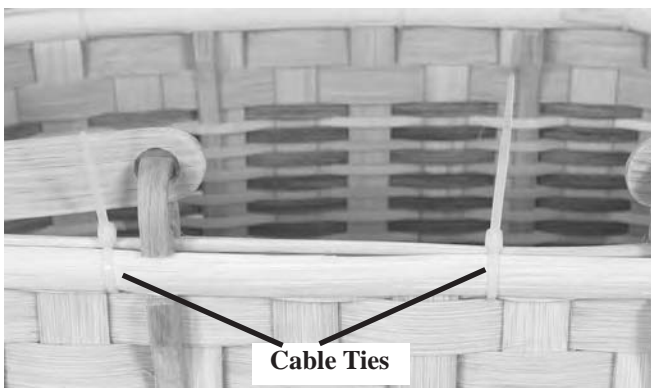
Now that the rims are carved you'll attach them permanently to the basket. The inside rim and outside rim overlaps should be

placed on the same long side of the basket. As you look at the basket from the outside, the inside rim overlap will be to the left of the left-hand most handle and the outside rim overlap will fall between the handles.

Place the inside rim around the basket (flat side touching the basket) into the ear notches securing with a few clothespins. Position the outside rim around the basket; secure with clothespins.

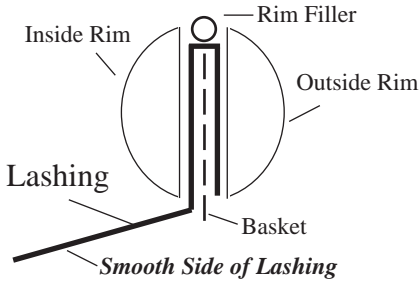
Beginning at the inside rim overlap, position the rim filler between the inside and outside rims and through each ear. Push the filler down between the rims and secure both rims and rim filler to the top row of weaving with twist ties, clothespins or cable ties every few inches. See Photo 4.

Photo 4



Lashing

Fig. 11 - Cross Section



Looking at the outside of the basket, locate a stake to the right of the outside rim overlap. The space following this stake is where you'll start lashing. Soak a long piece of 1/4" Flat and note its smooth side. As illustrated in Fig. 11, secure one end of the 1/4" Flat (in the identified space) under the inside rim, beneath the filler and under the outside rim.

Working left to right from the outside of your basket, bring the 'free' end of your lashing over the rims (smooth side out) and insert it into the space between the next two stakes just below the rims. Pull one arm's-length of reed through to the inside of

Photo 5



your basket. Now, insert the lashing's end between the next two stakes and pull the end to the inside until you have a small loose loop of reed around the rim. Repeat in the next several spaces. See Photo 5.

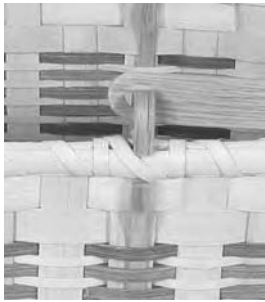
After making four or five loops around the rims and between the stakes, tighten the loops of reed—one at a time—from left to right by pulling the lasher to the inside. See Photo 6. Note: before tightening each stitch around the rims, retighten the previous stitch.

Photo 6



Repeat the looping process working your way around the basket. If the reed becomes dry, simply soak it again before continuing. Remove the clothespins (or ties) as you progress.

Photo 7

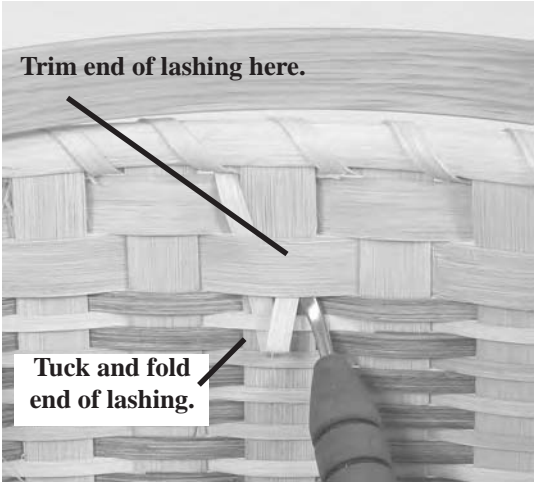


At each ear, lash twice in the space to the left of the ear, then lash diagonally across the outside rim (through the space to the right of the ear) and lash again into the space to the right of the ear before continuing to lash as before.

See Photo 7.

When your lashing reaches the place it began, insert the final stitch into the space where you secured the beginning of the lashing. Pull this stitch to the inside and tuck its end behind a couple of weavers on the inside of your basket, then fold the end upward, over the lower weaver, and behind the weaver above. Trim the end. See Photo 8 showing the inside of your basket.

Photo 8 - Inside Basket



Gently shape the rims if necessary.

Enjoy your Basket for Janice!