

Mule Skinner

by Lynne Ferguson & Beth Hester

8489 PATTERN SHEET—
Mule Skinner



Base: 7" x 11" Height: 14"

A full 14" tall, this beautiful basket brings to life the "days on the trail" of the pioneers. With the adjustable leather mule bridle, made in Allen County, Kentucky, carrying your favorite gear is easy and comfortable. Hang it from your wagon or put it to work for your lifestyle today. It's a great intermediate-level project featuring shadow weave with natural and dyed reed, a filled bottom with twined perimeter, the beautiful bridle handle, and a double lashed rim. Thanks to Joanne Dunaway, friend and fellow Kentucky basket maker, and to Lynne Marrs Hammer Ferguson, Artist in Residence, Kentucky Museum at Western Kentucky University, for their inspiration in developing this pattern.

Materials

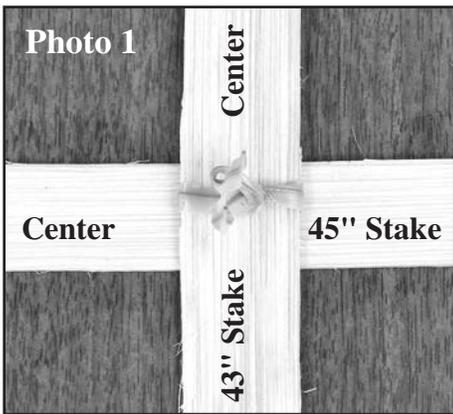
3/4" Flat Reed	85 ft.	Stakes/Weaver
1/4" Flat Reed	55 ft.	Base Fillers, Weavers & Lashing
#3 Round, Natural	8 ft.	Base Twining
5/8" Flat Reed	70 ft.	Weavers
#3 Round, Dyed Reed	35 ft.	Weavers
3/8" Flat Reed	4 ft.	Rim Row
1/2" Flat Oval Reed	8 ft.	Rims
#6 Round Reed	4 ft.	Rim Filler
Mule Bridle	1	Handle

Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your Flat Reed, 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Soak the Flat Oval and Round Reed about 10 minutes in hot water. As needed, re-wet reed when weaving.
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. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side. Create the basket with the rough side of the Flat Reed to the inside of the basket.
5. As you weave you'll want to maintain an equal space between stakes by gently adjusting the stakes to keep them vertical; square the corners *slightly* as you weave each row.
6. On the sides of your basket, weave each row of Flat Reed independently; overlapping the ends of each weaver across 4 stakes.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

Weaving the Base

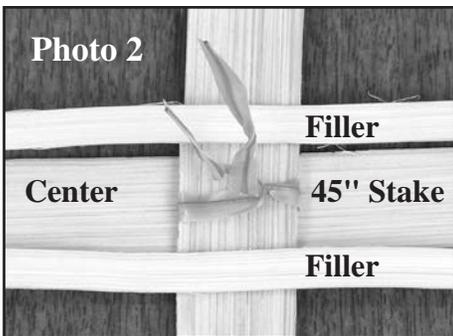
From 3/4" Flat Reed cut 7 pieces (stakes) 45" long and 11 stakes 43" long. From 1/4" Flat Reed, cut 6 base fillers 18" long. Soak stakes and fillers. Mark one 45" stake in the center *on the rough side* of the reed with a pencil. Find the center of one 43" stake and tie a twist tie around the center spot, rough side up.



Place the marked 45" stake horizontally on the table, rough side up. Lay the 43" twist-tied stake vertically and on top of the 45" marked stake at a 90° angle, aligning the centers. See Photo 1. Next, center 1/4" base fillers above and below the horizontal 45" stake; place fillers tightly against the stake. See Photo 2.

NOTES: The twist tie identifies the center-point of the base—the place where the two center stakes intersect. Weave each stake and filler rough side up; as you add each stake to your base, align its ends with the ends of these center stakes respectively.

- Weave all 43" stakes parallel to the center 43" stake spacing stakes about 1/4" apart.
- Weave all 45" stakes parallel to the center 45" stake, adding a filler between each 45" stake and positioning stakes and fillers to touch.



Back to Photo 2: Add two more 43" stakes—one to either side of the center 43" **vertical** stake (weave under the 45" horizontal stake and over the fillers). Center these stakes and place about 1/4" apart. See Photo 3. Weave remaining 43" stakes into the base, 1/4" apart (5 stakes to each side of center). Measure the width and adjust to 11". See Photo 4.

Photo 3



Photo 4

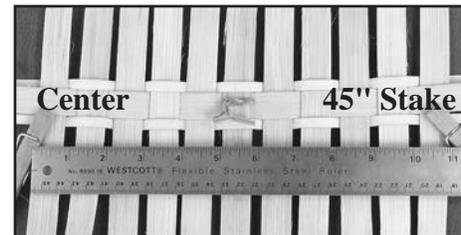
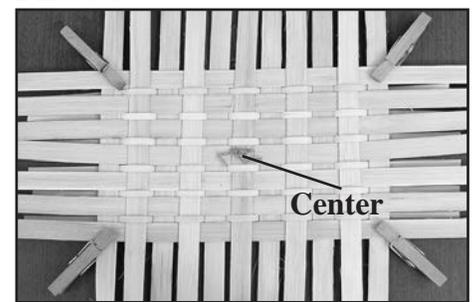


Photo 5



Add remaining 45" stakes and fillers. Alternate weaving 45" stakes and fillers horizontally, to each side of center, positioning stakes and fillers to touch each other (no space between). See Photo 5.



Check size of base: the woven area should measure about 7" x 11" with stakes extending fairly evenly from the edge of the base on all sides. Place a clothespin in each corner of the base.

Wet the stakes and fillers around the perimeter of the base. Crease fillers at the edge of the base, cut each to length, then tuck, on the inside of the basket, under the 2nd stake from each end. See Photo 6.

Soak the #3 Round Reed; twine one row, keeping your twining as tight as possible against the base. See Photo 7. Tuck ends of Round Reed under a base stake to secure.

Re-wet stakes at perimeter and upset the basket by creasing each stake upward at the edge of the base.



Weaving the Sides

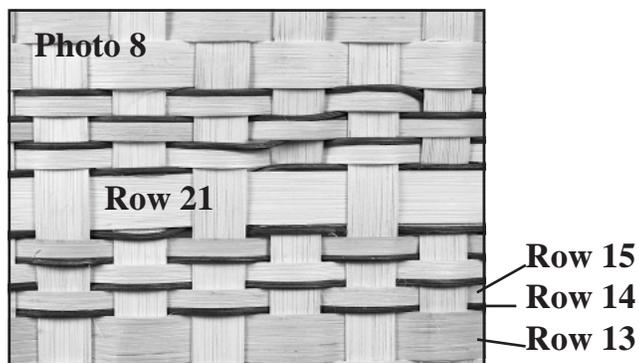
Notes: To create this tall shape and maintain the spacing from the base to the top of your basket, measure the perimeter of your base. Cut a flexible weaver that equals perimeter + 7". Record the total length here _____. Soak the weaver and complete Row 1. Take note of how much reed you trim off after weaving the first row and overlapping the weaver's ends across 4 stakes. Using these measurements as a guide, determine the length needed for each row and precut each Flat Reed weaver before soaking and adding to your basket. Do not precut the Dyed #3 Round Reed.

Weave Rows 1 - 13 in plain weave, alternating the over one, under one pattern from row to row.

Pay attention to the 4 corners of the basket; gently shape each weaver at the corners as you weave.

To maintain an equal space between stakes gently adjust the stakes to keep them vertical; square the corners *slightly* as you weave each row. Dampen stakes when needed. Pack rows as you go in order to minimize space between rows. Refer to photo of completed basket on page 1. Weave each row of Flat Reed, rough side to the inside, independently, overlapping the ends of the weaver across 4 stakes.

Rows 1 - 13 5/8" Flat Reed (**Position Row 1 to weave opposite of the outside row of the base on the long sides of the base.**) Pack all rows to eliminate space between rows.



Begin Row 14 with a long length of #3 Round Dyed Reed, leaving a 6" tail on the inside of the basket. After completing the row of weaving, anchor the beginning tail on the inside of the basket by wrapping it over and under the last two stitches of #3 Round. Trim tail; coil the long length of #3 leaving it on the inside of the basket while you weave Row 15 (1/4" Flat Reed) in the same over/under pattern as Row 14. See Photo 8.

Begin Row 16 by bringing the #3 Round to the outside of the basket (crossing diagonally over a stake on the inside). Each time you complete a row with #3 Round, coil the remaining length and leave it to the inside of the basket. To end a length and begin a new piece of #3 Round, secure both ends by wrapping over and under a couple of stitches as described above.

Rows 14 & 15	#3 Round Dyed Reed followed by 1/4" Flat Natural <u>weaving same pattern</u>
Rows 16 & 17	#3 Round Dyed Reed followed by 1/4" Flat Natural <u>weaving same pattern</u>
Rows 18 & 19	#3 Round Dyed Reed followed by 1/4" Flat Natural <u>weaving same pattern</u>
Row 20	#3 Round Dyed Reed <i>NOTE: As you weave use clothespins to hold Rows 20-22 in position</i>
Row 21	<u>3/4" Flat Reed weaving same pattern as Row 20</u>
Row 22	#3 Round Dyed Reed <u>weaving Rows 20, 21 & 22 in same pattern</u>
Rows 23 & 24	1/4" Flat Natural followed by #3 Round Dyed Reed <u>weaving same pattern</u>
Rows 25 & 26	1/4" Flat Natural followed by #3 Round Dyed Reed <u>weaving same pattern</u>
Rows 27 & 28	1/4" Flat Natural followed by #3 Round Dyed Reed <u>weaving same pattern</u>
Rows 29 - 31	5/8" Flat Reed
Row 32	3/8" Flat Reed (rim row)

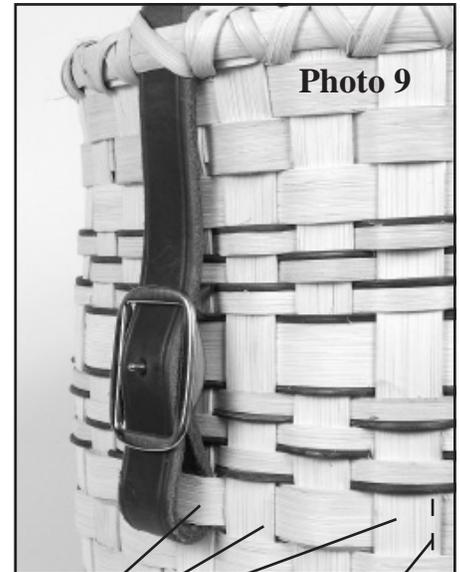
Packing and Finishing

Pack your basket. Soak all stakes that extend above the top row of weaving. Identify the stakes that are **outside the top row of weaving**; crease these stakes to the inside, trim to length and tuck to the inside, hiding each tucked end behind a row of 5/8" Flat on the inside of your basket. The remaining stakes stand inside the top row of weaving; cut these stakes flush with the top of the basket.

Center the handle on the outside of the middle stakes of the narrower sides, placing the "loop" ends against the basket. See handle position in Photo 9.

Attach handle to each side by securing "loops" to the basket with a length of 5/8" Flat Reed. See Photo 9.

Cut a length of 5/8" Flat Reed that's several inches longer than the width of your basket. Weave this 5/8" Flat Reed through the handle and under a couple of vertical stakes on each side of the handle; trim to hide ends behind the stakes farthest from the handle.



Run 5/8" Reed through handle and tuck 5/8" Flat Reed under stakes on both sides of handle.

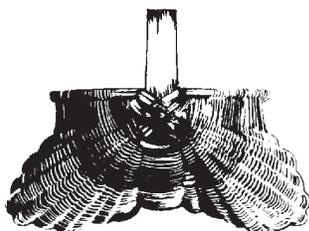
Trim 5/8" Flat Reed to hide behind stake.

Sand the 1/2" Flat Oval rims if needed. Soak rims and #6 Round rim filler.

Measure the perimeter of the top (outside) of your basket. Cut one piece of rim material 5 inches longer than your perimeter and cut one length 2 inches longer than perimeter—this allows for about a 4 inch overlap of each rim. Clothespin rims & filler to basket temporarily, positioning handle between basket and outside rim. Mark overlaps on rims and rim filler, remove from basket and carve each overlap.

Attach rims & filler to the basket with cable ties. Using 1/4" Flat Reed, double lash the rims to the basket.

Enjoy!



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