

Stair Basket

\$4.00

Measurements are listed with each basket

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The Basket Maker

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Materials

3/8" flat

1/2" flat

5/8" flat

3/16" flat oval

1/4" flat oval – dyed optional

5/8" flat oval

#2 round

#3 round - dyed optional

6" x 20" D handle or swing D

8" x 20" D handle or swing D

10" x 20" D handle or swing D

sea grass

I have included dimensions for all three sizes of stair baskets. Swing-D handles may also be used. Be sure to check the height of the stair riser and the depth of the stair tread before forming the step section of the basket. I like the lower portion of the basket to be 1/2" higher than the stair riser. This allows for variations in form and shape of the basket but still allows the step section to sit on the riser without the lower section tipping up off the floor. You may need to adjust the size of the base. Vary the weaving pattern up the sides however you wish. My design is only a starting point, be creative! Keep in mind the stairwell opening when choosing your handle size. The wider the stairs, the larger the basket that can safely be used without blocking passage up and down the stairs.

6" Stair Basket

base 6" x 8"

height approximately 13" (excluding the handle)

Base

From the 1/2" flat cut 7 spokes 38" long, 7 spokes 50" long, and 8 spokes 23" long. Mark the centers of all the spokes. Set the 23" spokes aside for now. These are the spokes used in the step section of the basket. You will need to wet them later. Mark the center of the base of

the D handle. Soak the 38" spokes and the 50" spokes and some #2 round. When the spokes are pliable lay the 50" spokes vertically on the table, marked side up. Weave the handle across the center marks having the first vertical spoke go over the handle. Weave 6 of the 38" spokes below the handle making sure each spoke is woven opposite of the one before it. Weave the one remaining 38" spoke above the handle. True the base to 5 1/2" (across the handle) by 8". Twine 2 rows around the base using #2 round. Wet the spokes if they have dried and upsett.

Sides

The sides are woven in a basic over 1/under 1 weave, starting and stopping each row and ending with a 4 spoke overlap. The first row of weaving up the sides should be on the outside of the handle. Weave 16 rows of 1/2" flat natural.

Soak the remaining 23" spokes. Spray the basket spokes again before weaving in the 23" spokes for the upper base of the step section. With the end of the basket that has the single 38" spoke in front of the handle facing you, weave the 23" spokes into the 50" spokes, keeping the 50" spokes vertical. True this new base section to about 6" x 8". I find it helpful to clothespin the corners so the base doesn't shift. Carefully bend the new base down along the last row of weaving to form the upper step. Check the base measurements again. Upsett the new spokes and continue to weave all the way around the basket. I rest the new base on a box to balance the basket and make it easier to weave. Weave the remaining basket in the following pattern:

3 rows 1/2" flat natural

5 rows triple twine using #3 round dyed

3 rows 1/2" flat natural

1 row 3/8" flat natural

Wet the spoke ends and cut and tuck.

Rims

From the 5/8" flat oval cut a length to go around the outside top circumference with a 2" overlap and a length to go around the inside top circumference with a 2" overlap. Scarf the ends of the rim pieces so when they are overlapped they are the thickness of one layer. Soak the rim pieces and a long length of 3/16" flat oval. Clothespin the rims around the top edge of the basket having the overlaps on the same side of the basket but not in exactly the same place, stagger the ends a bit. Position a length of sea grass between the two rims. I usually cut the sea grass at the handle using two pieces. Lash the rims in place using 3/16" flat oval.

8" Stair Basket

base 8" x 8"

height approximately 13" (excluding the handle)

From the 5/8" flat cut 7 spokes 40" long, 7 spokes 50" long, and 8 spokes 25" long. Mark the centers of all the spokes. Set the 25" spokes aside for now. These are the spokes used in the step section of the basket. You will need to wet them later. Mark the center of the base of the D handle. Soak the 40" spokes and the 50" spokes and some #2 round. When the spokes are pliable lay the 50" spokes vertically on the table, marked side up. Weave the handle across the center marks having the first vertical spoke go over the handle. Weave 6 of the 40" spokes below the handle making sure each spoke is woven opposite of the one before it. Weave the one remaining 40" spoke above the handle. True the base to 7 1/2" (across the

handle) by 8". Twine 2 rows around the base using #2 round. Wet the spokes if they have dried and upsett.

Side

The sides are woven in a basic over 1/under 1 weave, starting and stopping each row and ending with a 4 spoke overlap. The first row of weaving up the sides should be on the outside of handle. The weaving pattern pictured is as follows:

- 4 rows 5/8" flat natural
- 2 rows triple twine using #3 round natural
- 3 rows 1/4" flat oval dyed
- 2 rows triple twine using #3 round natural
- 6 rows 5/8" flat natural

Soak the remaining 25" spokes. Spray the basket spokes again before weaving in the 25" spokes for the upper base of the step section. With the end of the basket that has the single 40" spoke in front of the handle facing you, weave the 25" spokes into the 50" spokes, keeping the 50" spokes vertical. True this new base section to about 8" x 8". I find it helpful to clothespin the corners so the base doesn't shift. Carefully bend the new base down along the last row of weaving to form the upper step. Check the base measurements again. Upsett the new spokes and continue to weave all the way around the basket. I rest the new base on a box to balance the basket and make it easier to weave. Weave the remaining basket in the following pattern:

- 2 rows 5/8" flat natural
- 2 rows triple twine using #3 round natural
- 3 rows 1/4" flat oval dyed
- 2 rows triple twine using #3 round natural
- 2 rows 5/8" flat natural
- 1 row 3/8" flat natural

Wet the spoke ends and cut and tuck.

Rims

From the 5/8" flat oval cut a length to go around the outside top circumference with a 2" overlap and a length to go around the inside top circumference with a 2" overlap. Scarf the ends of the rim pieces so when they are overlapped they are the thickness of one layer. Soak the rim pieces and a long length of 3/16" flat oval. Clothespin the rims around the top edge of the basket having the overlaps on the same side of the basket but not in exactly the same place, stagger the ends a bit. Position a length of sea grass between the two rims. I usually cut the sea grass at the handle using two pieces. Lash the rims in place using 3/16" flat oval.

10" Stair Basket

base 10" x 9"

height approximately 13" (excluding the handle)

From the 5/8" flat cut 7 spokes 42" long, 7 spokes 50" long, and 8 spokes 26" long. Mark the centers of all the spokes. Set the 26" spokes aside for now. These are the spokes used in the step section of the basket. You will need to wet them later. Mark the center of the base of the D handle. Soak the 42" spokes and the 50" spokes and some #2 round. When the spokes are pliable lay the 50" spokes vertically on the table, marked side up. Weave the handle

across the center marks having the first vertical spoke go over the handle. Weave 6 of the 42" spokes below the handle making sure each spoke is woven opposite of the one before it. Weave the one remaining 42" spoke above the handle. True the base to 9 1/2" (across the handle) by 8 1/2". Twine 2 rows around the base using #2 round. Wet the spokes if they have dried and upsett.

Sides

The sides are woven in a basic over 1/under 1 weave, starting and stopping each row and ending with a 4 spoke overlap. The first row of weaving up the sides should be on the outside of the handle. Weave 13 rows of 5/8" flat natural.

Soak the remaining 29" spokes. Spray the basket spokes again before weaving in the 29" spokes for the upper base of the step section. With the end of the basket that has the single 42" spoke in front of the handle facing you, weave the 29" spokes into the 50" spokes, keeping the 50" spokes vertical. True this new base section to about 10" x 8". I find it helpful to clothespin the corners so the base doesn't shift. Carefully bend the new base down along the last row of weaving to form the upper step. Check the base measurements again. Upsett the new spokes and continue to weave all the way around the basket. I rest the new base on a box to balance the basket and make it easier to weave. Weave the remaining basket in the following pattern:

2 row 5/8" flat natural

2 rows 1/4" flat oval natural

1 row 1/2" flat dyed

2 rows 1/4" flat oval natural

1 row 1/2" flat dyed

2 rows 1/4" flat oval natural

1 row 1/2" flat dyed

2 rows 1/4" flat oval natural

1 row 5/8" flat natural

1 row 3/8" flat natural

Wet the spoke ends and cut and tuck.

Rims

From the 5/8" flat oval cut a length to go around the outside top circumference with a 2" overlap and a length to go around the inside top circumference with a 2" overlap. Scarf the ends of the rim pieces so when they are overlapped they are the thickness of one layer. Soak the rim pieces and a long length of 3/16" flat oval. Clothespin the rims around the top edge of the basket having the overlaps on the same side of the basket but not in exactly the same place, stagger the ends a bit. Position a length of sea grass between the two rims. I usually cut the sea grass at the handle using two pieces. Lash the rims in place using 3/16" flat oval.

Tested by Kelly Karter