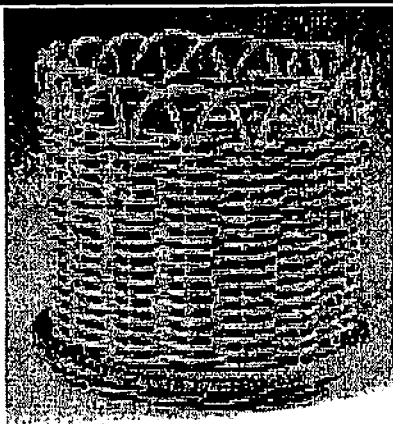


## Cute Posey Basket



This is a very easy basket. All you have to do is weave the sides and a simple border. A very popular first basket.

### Materials needed for this basket

- 1 ea. 4" Round Basket Base 5" OK
- 17 ft. No. 4 Round Reed
- 32 ft. No 3 Round Reed
- 1 ea. Caning Awl (for use by an adult only is recommended)

**Important:** For the best results, read all of the instructions first before you start.

*If you have to stop work on your basket before it is completed, be sure to take out all reeds soaking in water. Over-soaking (about 8 hours) will discolor the reeds and cane. Re-soak reeds when you start work again on your basket.*

### Terms:

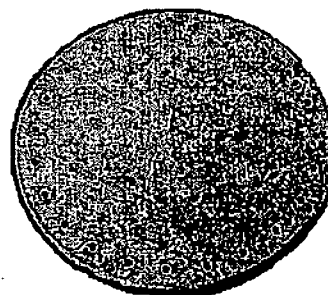
**Stakes or spokes** - The material used as a foundation for the weaving.

**Weavers** - Usually the same size or smaller than the stakes. Used for the weaving which is usually worked from left to right.

**Border** - The method of securing the ends of the stakes.

### Step 1

Note that there is an odd number of holes drilled into the basket base. The odd number will allow you to continue weaving row after row instead of stopping and starting at each row. The holes are drilled to fit the No. 4 round reed. The round reed is a soft material and may not fit the holes exactly. Use the caning awl to enlarge the hole slightly.



### Step 2

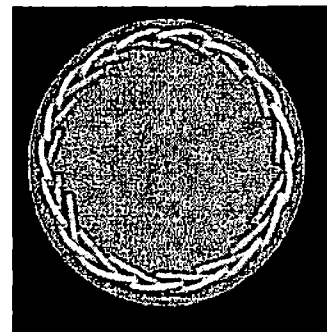
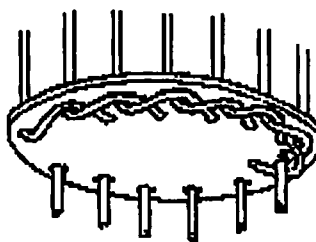
Cut 17 pieces of No. 4 round reed 9" long. (Save any left over No. 4 round reed to replace or repair any broken spokes.)

Soak the 17 pieces in lukewarm water for 5-10 minutes.

Push each piece through the drilled holes in the basket base so that about 2 1/2" inches is sticking out on one side of the base.

Place the basket base in front of you with the long ends pointed away from you. You will be weaving a foot border with the short ends. The foot border secures the ends on one side of the basket base so that the long spokes will not pull out.

Take one of the 2 1/2" long reeds and bend it in front of the reed to the right of it and then behind the next one to the right. Continue to do this all the way around until one piece remains. Use the awl to lift up the reed of the first piece so you can bend the last reed in front of the first one and slip the end in between the first reed and the base.



Use scissors to cut any excess reed on the underside of the basket. Be careful not to cut them too short, or the reed can pull loose.

Press the ends down firmly against the base and draw the spokes tightly all around the base.

### Step 3

Soak the No. 3 round reed in lukewarm water for 5 - 10 minutes.

Place basket up right in front of you with the long spokes up. Take one strand of the soaked No. 3 round reed and put one end behind one of the spokes. Leave about 1/4 to 1/2" of the end on the inside of the basket.



Bring the rest of the reed in front of the next spoke to the right and then behind the next spoke to the right. Continue weaving in front of one spoke and behind one spoke until you get back to where you started. Push down the weaver so it lays flat against the basket base. Because there is an odd number of stakes you just continue to weave. You will notice that you will weave in front of the first stake in the second row. Keep weaving around the basket and push the weaver down against the last row after each row.



If the stakes get dry , resoak the stakes in water for 2-3 minutes.

When you come to the end of the reed you are weaving, you will need to continue with a new piece. There are two ways to do this. Both are considered traditional methods. Fig.1 may be the easier of the two, since you simply let the ends criss-cross behind a spoke and trim the ends close after the basket is done. The other technique is to trim the old piece of reed about 1/2 inch past the spoke and then insert the end next to the spoke as shown (Fig.2). The new piece is inserted next to the spoke on the other side.



Fig. 1

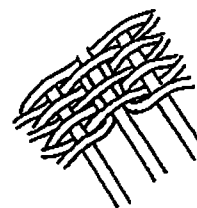


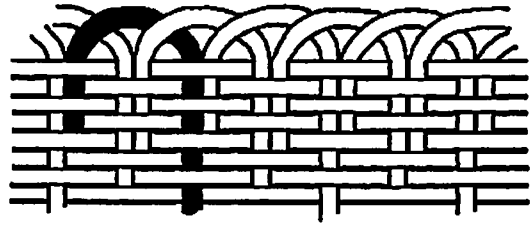
Fig. 2

#### Step 4

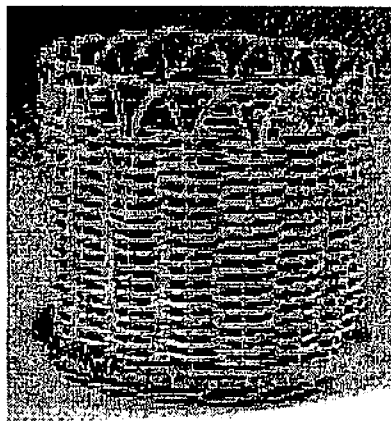
When you have woven 33 rows or about 2 3/4" high, re-soak the spokes for 5 to 10 minutes.

The border of this basket is very simple. You take the spoke in front of the spoke to the left and then down into the weaving (next to the spoke) left of that spoke. Use the awl to make room for the end of the spoke if necessary. The awl has a sharp point which makes it a very useful for getting in between the weavers.

This is not a tool for young children and should be done by an adult.



When all of the ends of the spokes are inserted into the weaving the basket is now completed.



Note: Because flat reed is a soft material there will be little "hairs". These will wear off with use, but you can singe them off with a match. Be very very careful. It doesn't take much heat. This should be done only by an adult.

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