

WEAVING GREEN

The following is a compilation of tips to save material, time or money. Thanks to all who donated their ideas, especially to Bonnie Krist moderator of Weavers Words, a weekly digest of basketry related events, news and exchange of ideas. weavers_words@yahoo.com

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Make a Reed Diffuser Out of Scrap Materials

A fun money saving craft you can do with your leftover round reed scraps is to make your own reed diffuser. This is a popular item in the stores and with candle home parties. Reed diffusers can be costly in the stores and we can make them for pennies with our scraps. Use a narrow mouth bottle and fill with potpourri fragrance of your choice. Tie a pretty ribbon around the bottle and you're good to go. Makes a great hostess gift or gift for the holidays.



Nancy Jacobs, Rio Rancho, NM
<http://basketmasterweavings.blogspot.com>

NOTE: I took this one step further and used some old perfume oil that I don't wear any more but didn't want to throw away. Pattie

Ways to Recycle Scraps

A very good weaver friend of mine in North Carolina pulled out a lot of the scraps of reed, seagrass, etc. from the garbage cans at the NC convention last year and created a great random weave basket. She received a lot of compliments on it when she brought it back to convention this year. A lot of people will also use the scrap reed to weave bird houses.

Pat Moritz, St. Louis , MO

Using Scrap Reed

I used to make random weave baskets out of my scrap material. I mostly used round reed but adding some flat would speed up the job. Almost any shape and size of basket can be accomplished with the random weave. These styles of baskets require less skill than the other methods and a pattern is not necessary; only a general idea of the type and shape of basket one wishes to make. Just create a basic framework and fill it in. Larger baskets need heavy material for the framework. Also, using fine material can extend the project by many hours. They are really more of a sculpture, or a birds nest, than a woven basket.

Harold Evans
Zirconia, NC

Going Green

I weave a great deal and found that I couldn't throw the little blue ribbons away that hold a coil of reed together. So, I use them to tie on my business card and prices to the baskets I sell. Not a huge contribution to going green but every little bit helps.

Dot Hutchins
Maine

The Scrap Bucket

Weaving Level: Beginner

Designed by: Jennifer Rhodes

Finished Dimensions: 6" diameter x 6" high

This basket is made mostly with scraps from the scrap bin, hence the name. This is a great way to use up small dyed scraps and 3/8" flat scraps. Use whatever colors you have. You can vary the weaving with dyed 11/64 if you prefer. Change the look with a different handle. Weaves up quickly and is fun to do



Material List

4" slotted round base
1/4" flat or flat oval dyed (spokes)
1/2" flat dyed (rim)
3/8" flat (spokes and false rim)
11/64" flat or flat oval (weavers and lashing)
#2 round reed natural (weave and chase)
Seagrass
Wire bean pot handle 5x4

Soak materials before using;
soak dyed materials separately
DO NOT soak seagrass

STEP 1

- Cut 8 spokes 10" from 3/8 flat reed.
- Cut 16 spokes 10" from 1/4 Flat or flat oval.
- Find bad side of reed and mark end of stake.

- Insert 3/8 flat spokes, bad side up splitting up the base into quarters.
- Insert remaining 3/8 spokes in the middle of each quarter.
- Insert two 1/4 spokes in between each 3/8" spoke.
- Weave and chase three rows.

STEP 2

- Split one of the 3/8 stakes down the middle until you reach the weave and chasing.
- Taper a long piece of 11/64 flat or flat oval and insert it between the split 3/8 spoke and begin weaving over/under gently bringing up the sides. You will be weaving continuously around the basket. Weave about 34 rows. Tapering the end of the last weaver and ending in the same place where you began.
- Weave one row of start/stop weaving with 3/8" flat reed as your false rim row.

STEP 3

- Cut your inside spokes and tuck the outside spokes under two rows of weaving. Insert your "ears" for the wire handle. Rim with 1/2 flat dyed reed. (I used scraps for these pieces also so the inside and outside pieces are two different colors.) Insert seagrass and lash with 11/64 flat oval reed. Slip wire handle through "ears".

Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do or Do Without

This was planned to be a market basket, but it could be adapted to other designs. Just take your stash of different sizes, colors, etc. Pick up a piece of whatever your hand finds and begin to weave. If the piece is a bit short, end it, pick up another piece and finish the row. Continue this way until you are satisfied with the woven height of the basket. Rim, apply seagrass or round reed. Trim fuzzies and stain. No real plan and every basket will be the only one like it in the WHOLE WORLD.

I have been threatening to do this basket for years and now I just might!

Marilyn Salling
NC

The "Whatever Basket"

This is called a "Whatever Basket" because it MUST be made with "whatever" is available in the scraps box (yours or the club's.)

Throughout the pattern, whenever you see *** it means "whatever" so use what is available, and we'll see what happens!

Cut 11 spokes 12 inches long and 3 at 18 inches long from ***, 3/8", 1/2" or ***. This will make a basket 3" X 10" X 3". If you prefer, cut 9 spokes 12" long and 5 spokes 17" long for a less narrow basket, or ***. (Try 7" X 7" at 15" for a square.)

Lay out base, 3 spokes by 11 spokes, Adjust to measure about 2 1/2" by 9 1/2" or ***. If you change the # of spokes, lay out accordingly, just make sure you leave 1/4" between spokes.

Twine one row with #2 or ***. Soak well, then upset spokes with a sharp crease. Twine one more row with #2 or ***.

Sides: 3 rows 1/4" flat, 3 rows 1/4" dyed flat or triple weave 3 rows with #3 RR or ***. 3 rows 1/4" flat. Use your imagination here. You can "do" curls, or "cross stitch", or ***.

Cut and tuck outside spokes, trim off inside spokes even with edge. Don't worry if some spokes are a tad too short to tuck --trim them flush. Just don't let it happen too often!

Rim: You have your choice between a tailored, lashed rim and a braided edge rim. This will depend on materials available in yours or others leftovers. Everybody share! Owner gets first choice, though.

Standard lashed rim: Cut 1/2" flat, or 3/8" flat or flat oval or *** to fit the outer circumference of the basket plus 3". Cut a second similar piece the inner circumference of the basket +3". Taper the thickness of each where they overlap. Clothespin these rims in place, lash with cane or ***.

(Author unknown)

Submitted by Kathy in MO

Eco-friendly Weaving Tips

Living in southern California we need to conserve water. We keep a bucket in each of our showers and when we run the water to heat up, we use the bucket to collect the clean, cold water. Once the water is running hot, the bucket is removed before stepping into the shower to keep the collected water from getting soapy. This is a great way to save a gallon or two of clean water with every shower rather than having it go down the drain. I then use the water to soak my reed and make dye and walnut stain for baskets. If I'm not weaving, the water is used for houseplants and potted plants, or filling pets' water bowls.

Alecia in hot and sunny California

Greener Weaving

One way to weave greener is to save scraps (10 inches or so long) of dyed reed of various colors. Instead of grouping by color, put together groups of various colors that are all the same width. When you have 'enough' use them to make a "randed basket". Any round basket can contain randing (sometimes called French randing) by doing over-under weaving 1/2 inch or more after upsetting, then inserting the colored 'scraps' at a 45 degree angle. Complete with more 'regular' over under weaving and a rim of your choice. The length of the randing pieces, the diameter of the basket, and the desired height of the basket determines how much 'over-under weaving you do.

Another way to weave greener involves making your own space dyed reed. After dyeing reed for a specific project, make a coil of one size of reed and dip about 1/3 of it into the dye bath. Proceed as you usually do. Save this until you dye reed again and then repeat with another third of your partially dyed reed. Interesting random color combinations can be obtained or you can be more systematic and do a combination of fall colors, Christmas, Valentine's Day, spring colors, or anything you think looks nice.

Elaine Bidstrup

Weaving Green

Since I am a pack rat and try to save almost everything, I have plastic bags (recycle those grocery bags) for specific sizes of reed i.e. 1/4" flat, 1/4" flat oval, 3/16 flat and flat oval, up to sizes 5/8. When I need a fairly short piece with which to weave, I go to the scrap bags and usually find what I need. I am fortunate enough to have a wall of peg board where I can hang the scrap bags in clear sight. This helps with clean-up. I gather up all of the reed that has fallen to the floor and file the pieces in my scrap bags. I generally do not save pieces shorter than 5". I am partial to white grocery bags since I can write the sizes on the bag with permanent markers. For clear plastic, I insert a recycled daily calendar sheet with the dimensions marked to show through the plastic.

Jane Wilson in SC

Don't Discard It, Put it to Work

Try coiling with plastic bags clear, or colored, cut, rolled or folded and stitch/coil with old music tapes, if you are like me you keep them for something. Use old Zippers, I like the metal ones if I can get them but the plastic look good in a small clutch purse. Next time you throw out that old Jacket tear out the Zipper first. Hey you might even cut the Jacket into strips and use it.

Dandelions, quack grass roots, grasses and iris leaves can all make great weaving materials. If you have to work at weeding or cleaning up your garden make your time useful. You probably know all the naturals to use.

The books by Mary Hettmansperger, *Fabulous Woven Jewelry* and *Wrap, Stitch, Fold & Rivet*, published by Lark Books have some good ideas.

Cheers Rae - Canada

Make Good Use of Your Guild's Resources

1. Resist buying supplies you probably won't use. Weavers have to have the newest and the best. Stick to a list and/or budget. You'll save money and all the packaging and shipping the supplier uses.
2. Reuse plastic bags and egg cartons as stuffing for your shipping. Places like GFS - Gordon Food Supply have great shipping boxes free for the taking.
3. Recycle old basketweaving magazines and books to fellow weaver/guild; or sell them to other enthusiasts on Craig's List or Ebay.
4. Organize and de-clutter – donate surplus supplies to schools, youth groups or free cycle. Duplicate patterns to your guild library. Plan a pattern or book exchange this Christmas!
5. Trade or exchange books, patterns, supplies
6. Guild newsletters, correspondence and convention brochures could be sent electronically to reduce paper waste and the cost of postage.

Bonnie Krist
Galloway, OH

Weaving Green

I get the reed for my shop in 25# units that are held together with the plastic strapping tape. I cut it at the metal clamps and save the straps until I have enough to weave a hamper! I use 1" stakes and then weave the sides with the 1/2" straps. Put a rim on which will include handle grips. That's less plastic in the land fill!

I almost have enough "scraps" to make another one.

Linda Hinkelmann
