

## English Ivy Gathering Basket (Booty basket, egg basket)



Make an Egg Basket  
with **Ivy**

### Materials needed:

- 2 hoop for rim and handle, made ahead of time and dried in hoop shape. One should be slightly larger than the other for example one 10" hoop and one 12" hoop
- Weavers - At least 90 feet of about 1/4 inch thick material that is willing to wrap around your finger without snapping or crackling. The thinner your weaver, the more length you'll need, and vice versa for wider material. Ideally they have been dried and resoaked Weavers can be split, scraped, or round. Cordage can also be added in.
- 12 ribs. 6 primary and 6 secondary to be added in at different times. They should be either withies or thicker unsplit vines. Withies are ideally semi-green. Vines can be dried and resoaked for making the ribs.
- some kind of string for initial hoop lashing

### Tools:

snips, clips, spray bottle, towel, stock pots

### Steps:

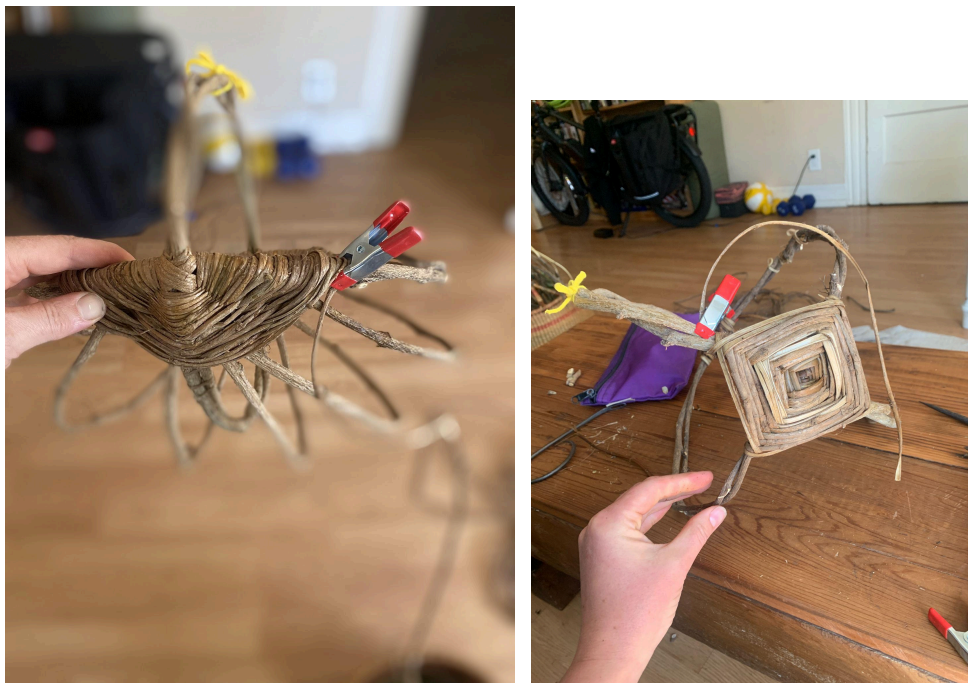
### Rim and Handle Hoops:

Insert larger hoop into smaller hoop and lash them together with twine, waxed linen, or artificial sinew thread whatever you have around :) its nice to have about  $\frac{1}{3}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the handle hoop to be below the rim so theres plenty of storage space and its easy to get your hands into the basket.



### Lashing hoops together:

You can choose to either do a god's eye lashing or an x lashing.



(above left is x-lashing, right is gods eye lashing)

To start your lashing hold the the two hoops with cross connection facing you and now you can decide whether you want to do a god's eye lashing or an x lashing. Youll need

two coil of super flexible weaving material for your lashing. One coil for each cross connection on each side of the basket.

X lashing:

-Lay the end of the lasher across the joint or cross connection. Tip to bottom left and the rest to the top right. Wrap diagonally across. then diagonally across again slightly overlapping your first diagonal wrap.

-then come straight down behind the rim to the bottom right side of cross connection. Pull tight and repeat the pattern on the left side. Slightly overlapping the first layer with the second. And then straight down again behind the rim on the left side of the cross connection.

You now have an X. And you will begin the x lashing pattern that will create two pockets on each side of your basket that will hold the ribs you will add later.

X-lashing pocket Pattern:

Starting from the bottom left of the cross- wrap horizontally in front of the bottom of the handle hoop.

Then vertically up from behind the right rim to the front.  
Wrap horizontally across the back of the bottom of handle hoop  
Then up over the front of the left rim to the back.

You should now be back where the pattern started. Repeat over and over, overlapping layers slightly and building your pockets with the pattern. See above photo for reference of what the pattern should be looking like! You can alternative which side of the lasher is facing out in a pattern for color contrast or just keep one side out for a solid block of color.

God's eye lashing:

Diagonal across (tail starting bottom left moving toward top right), and the repeat again diagonally across laying beside it slightly overlapping

Then straight down (behind right rim)

And diagonally across the front the other direction (toward top left)

THIS IS WHERE IT DIVERGES from x lashing- then to the right around behind the top handle,  
and down moving diagonally across the front to the bottom left  
Straight up behind and around the rim,  
And over top to the next hoop counterclockwise.  
We are moving around each hoop in a counterclockwise direction,  
around the back and the across the front of the next hoop,  
around the back and across the front to the next hoop etc.

- You can turn the pith forward to create color contrast
- Keep in mind you will need to hold the tension with your non-dominant hand as your dominant one moves the weavers around in the god's eye
- If your weaver runs out you can add one by laying the new one underneath the old at a hoop and weaving them together for awhile



#### End the Lasher:

if long enough save your weavers you can use them when you start weaving the next step. (you can clip it to a hoop for the next step). You'll start the weaving on the left side of the rim so you can end and clip it there.

- If its not long enough you can tuck the weaver in a few places

#### Add the primary ribs:

-If using withies, soak them in warm water. Bend them a little at time along the whole length into a U shape to increase flexibility before bending them into place in the basket.

- Cut the end to a point so I can poke into the pocket corners.

For God's Eye lashing the ribs will sit using tension to hold them in place inside the lip of the eye like photos below.

It's a little difficult to keep them in place until you have locked them in with weavers. I had to keep putting them back in as I went.



- X-lashing has a pocket to set them into which helps hold them in place.

-Can be good to alternate the thick and thin side of the withie or vine (rather than having the thick ends all at one side of the basket).

-Length of these ribs will decide the shape of basket. Do you want it to have a booty? A flat bottom to sit on?

#### Lock primary ribs in place:

Do one side then the other side

Start weaving at the left side of the rim, moving right. Its a simple straight weave. Over, under, over, under. Be careful, if you miss one you likely have to go back and redo everything after it.

- You'll need to twist the weaver over at the rim to KEEP the color the same. No extra twist results in stripes as the bark and pith sides naturally alternate. Up to you!

- Weave a few inches to lock ribs into place then do the other side.

Add the secondary ribs:

Add one rib next to each rib that's already there. Use an awl to make space.



Lock secondary ribs in place:

Do one side then the other

Weave to lock each side in place. Can be good to switch color here to distract from change in weave as new ribs are now in.

Think about design with switching between pith and bark.. You can create bands of color of different widths or do back and forth the whole way. UP to you!

Switch backs:

Do one side then the other

Can turn back at 3rd rib from rim, then 2nd, then one closest to rim (one way to do it). Pay attention to how many you need to straighten out the weave.

Home Stretch:

Do it!! Might need to switch to finer material to fit into tight space.

