

Small Oval Basket

Stake and Strand Method



This basket is a wonderful first basket to make! It's small so you can weave it up and have the satisfaction of finishing your English Ivy basket in one sitting. There's also the potential to learn several techniques that can be easily applied to make other larger baskets with similar weaving methods.

When finished, it will be about 5 inches tall from base to rim, and the oval base will be about 5 inches by 8 inches.

Materials needed:

Spokes: 9 unsplit pieces of ivy 30 inches long that are similar in thickness (about ¼" or the approximate width of the fingernail on a pinkie finger) and pliable enough to wrap around your hand.

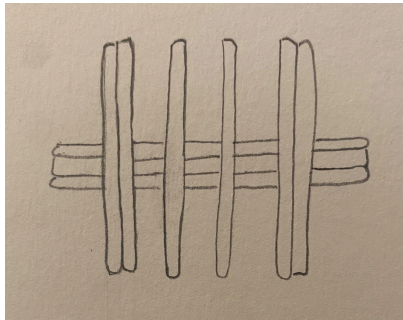
Weavers: About 55ft of split ivy weavers pliable enough to wrap around your finger.

Setting up your base:

Take 6 of your thickest spokes, find the center and open a space with a bodkin, awl, small knife or even a phillips head screwdriver can work.

Take your remaining three spokes and pass them through the space you just made in the other 6. Distribute them evenly and centered so that they are about an inch apart. With two spokes on

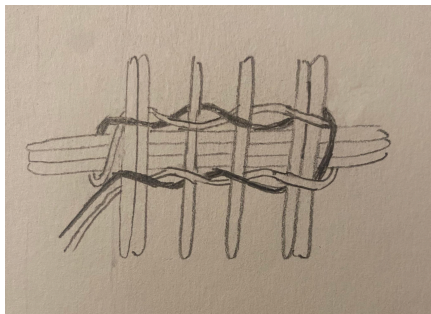
either end squeezed right up against each other as a pair and the other 2 about inch apart. Here's a drawing to illustrate how it should look:



Twining the base:

Take one long weaver and fold it in half. Wrap it over the three spokes that are inserted in the other 6. This gives you essentially two functional weavers emerging from around the spoke. Here is where you will start twining.

Twining is a weaving method where two weavers are wrap around a spoke or rib in a basket. As one weaver goes over a poke and behind the next one, the other goes behind and back out in front of the next one.



For the first 2 rounds you will twine around the two pairs on the ends as if they were one spoke. You want to hold a good tension here with your weaving.

When you start your third round, start twining around each individual spoke. This will start to separate all the spokes and you'll start to see your oval shape forming.

As you weave you also want to be trying to keep a bit of concave shape to the base. This will help with having a good base for the basket so its not all tippy.

Maybe add a spoke or 2?: Depending on whats going on with your basket you may want to add spokes here. You want a pretty equal spacing between each spoke and not too much space about an inch(ish)

Remember as you weave your want to keep the space between each spoke consistent. Continue going round and around until your base is about 7x5 inches.

Because we are about the transition to three rod wale weaving technique, you'll need to make sure that however many spokes you add that you still have an odd number.

[\(insert instructions for adding spokes\)](#)

Three rod wale:

Now you will do about 2 rows of the three rod wale

To Start: Fold a long weaver in half and run one spoke up the middle. So the two ends of the weavers are coming out of consecutive spaces. Then add a third weaver to the next space. This will create three weavers coming out the spaces between three consecutive spokes. To weave: Take the leftmost weaver, bring it over the two spokes in front of it, and then behind the next spoke, bringing it out to the front and continue on. For 2-3 rows. Make sure to continue holding tension so you have a nice tightly woven basket. But not too tight!

Turning up the stakes:

Flip over your base and go around on each stake, and using your thumb or a tool gently poke the spot on the spoke at the edge of your weave as you push the spoke up. Do this all the way around. Your spoke should now easily go up right, and you will wrap them with a rubber band for now to hold them in space. Now that the spokes are upright we will start calling the stakes.

Continue weaving

-Wale for 2 or 3 more rows

-Transition to straight weave

Once you have a few inches of weaving. You may find that the rubber band is no longer necessary to hold your stakes in place. If that's the case go ahead and take it off.

-continue straight weaving until basket is about 4 inches tall

Folding down the rim:

Braided method

Kink all the stakes to the right a thumb's thickness up

Round 1 Each behind two and back out front

Round 2 each under two to the right and in the hole that the second stake came out of

Trim with some wiggle room for drying

All done!

Make sure when you cut the ends off, you leave about an inch so that as it dried it wont shrink and undo itself. Once its dry you can get out your clippers and really cut it flash with the basket at a nice angele.