

Summer Shoulder Bag

by Beth Hester

8493 Summer Shoulder Bag
—PATTERN SHEET

As women we often find ourselves hauling an extra load — be it books and papers as we head to a gathering, snacks as we watch children practice or perform, our tablet or laptop, knitting/handwork (just in case we find some time during the day), or our current favorite book from the library.

When designing this Shoulder Bag I was thinking of the summer ahead, upcoming travels and family gatherings. In addition, I wanted to use up some short ends of dyed reed that had accumulated from classes and other projects. This basket's size is 3" x 13" x 13" tall and each row of weaving is about 3 feet in length. I'm giving you the 'Recipe' I used, but I encourage you to think of your particular needs, get out your leftovers, add a pound of 5/8" Flat for stakes and some weavers, gather your rim materials and choose the style handle that appeals to you!

Those of you who are **Seasoned weavers** will know where to go from there.

Beginners: If you'll be making a size other than what's given here, I advise you to first decide on the size base you want and then decide on the basket's height. If planning to hold a tablet or notebook, I'd want the base to be 2 inches wider and 2 inches longer than the device.

To make the Summer Shoulder Bag shown, cut stakes 43" and 34" long -- see page 2 'Weaving the Base' for details.
If you're making another size, follow these guidelines: To determine the length of your stakes, add the height (x2) + the base dimension (length or width) + 5" for tuckover.

For Example if the size base you want is 3" x 10" and height is 12" tall:

Long Stakes: 24" (height x 2) + 10" (base length) + 5" = 39 inches.

Short Stakes: 24" (height x 2) + 3" (base width) + 5" = 32 inches.

The number of stakes you'll need is determined by the size of your base and the width of your stakes. Have fun!

Materials

5/8" Flat Reed	100 ft.	Stakes/Weavers
11/64" Flat Reed	15 ft.	Lashing
#3 Round, Dyed or Natural Reed	18 ft.	3-rod wale at base
1/2" Flat Reed, Dyed Reed	21 ft.	Weavers
1/4" Flat, Dyed Reed	30 ft.	Weavers
11/64" Flat, Dyed Reed	6 ft.	Weavers
3/8" Flat Reed	3 ft.	Rim Row
1/2" Flat Oval Reed	7 ft.	Rims
Leather Purse Strap & Filler	1	Handle & Rim Filler
Thread to attach the handle	1 yard	4-ply Waxed Linen



Base: 3" x 13" Height: 13"

Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your Flat Reed, 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Soak the #3 Round Reed about 3 minutes and the Flat Oval Reed about 10 minutes in warm water. As needed, re-wet reed when weaving.
2. Soak dyed reed separately, rinse well and wipe with towel before using.
3. Do not over soak your reed, it will become mushy.
4. Flat Reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side. Create the basket with the rough side of the Flat Reed to the inside of the basket.
5. As you weave you'll want to maintain an equal space between stakes by gently adjusting the stakes to keep them vertical.
6. On the sides of your basket, weave each row of Flat Reed independently, overlapping the ends of each weaver across 4 stakes. Pack the rows as you go.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

Photo 1



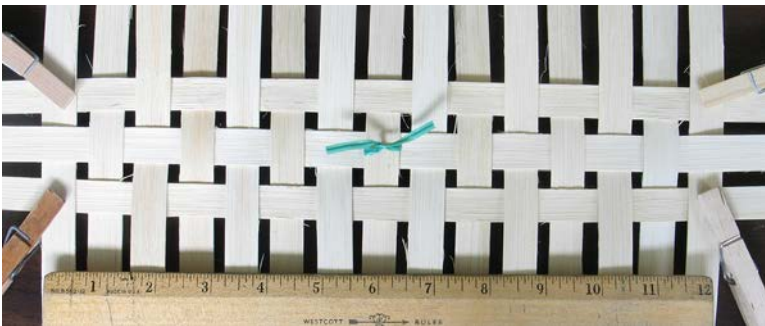
Weaving the Base

Notes: You'll be using 5/8" Flat Reed for stakes and also for some of the weavers. Sort through your 5/8" material and cut your stakes from the heavier weight pieces.

From 5/8" Flat Reed cut 15 pieces (stakes) 34" long and 3 stakes 43" long. Soak stakes. Mark one 43" stake in the center *on the rough side* of the reed with a pencil. Find the center of one 34" stake and tie a twist tie around the center spot, rough side up.

Place all three 43" stakes horizontally on the table, rough side up; the center stake of these three stakes is the marked stake. Weave the 34" twist-tied stake under the two outside 43" stakes and over the center 43" marked stake at a 90° angle, aligning the centers. See Photo 1.

Photo 2



Weave remaining 34" stakes into the base, (7 stakes to each side of center). **Check size of base: the woven area should measure about 2.5" by 12" with stakes extending fairly evenly from the edge of the base on all sides.** Place a clothespin in each corner of the base. See Photo 2.

Notes:

- *The twist tie identifies the center-point of the base—the place where the two center stakes intersect.*
- *Weave all stakes rough side up; as you add each stake to your base, align its ends with the ends of the center stake.*
- *The space between stakes is a bit larger than 1/4".*

Soak 3 pieces of Dyed (or Natural) #3 Round Reed. *Turn the base so the stakes are smooth side up* and weave 2 rows of three-rod waling keeping your weavers as tight as possible against the base. After completing the second row, *turn the base with rough side up* and tuck ends of Round Reed under a base stake (on the inside of the basket) to secure.

Re-wet the stakes around the perimeter of the base; *position the base on your table with the rough side up*, and 'upset' the basket by creasing each stake upward at the outside edge of the rows of waling.

Weaving the Sides

Notes: To create this narrow shape and maintain the spacing from the base to the top of your basket, measure the perimeter of your base. Cut a flexible weaver that equals perimeter + 5". Record the total length here _____. Soak the weaver and complete Row 1. Take note of how much reed you trim off after weaving the first row and overlapping the weaver's ends across 4 stakes. Using these measurements as a guide, determine the length needed for each row and precut each Flat Reed weaver before soaking and adding to your basket.

Notes (continued): To maintain an equal space between stakes gently adjust the stakes to keep them vertical; watch the space at the corner stakes to keep it the same width as the other spaces. Pay attention to the 4 corners of the basket; gently shape/round each weaver at the corners as you weave.

Dampen stakes as needed. Pack rows as you go in order to minimize space between rows. Refer to photo of completed basket on page 1. Weave each row of Flat Reed, rough side to the inside, independently, overlapping the ends of the weaver across 4 stakes. Alternate the over one, under one pattern from row to row (except where noted).*

Weave rows as follows using various widths in natural and dyed reed:

Rows 1 - 5 5/8" Flat Reed (**Weave Row 1 opposite of the outside row of the 5/8" Flat Reed base stakes.**)

Rows 6 - 26 These Rows comprise about 7 to 7 1/2 inches of pattern. Here's what I did:

- 6 & 7: 1/4" Sky Blue
- 8: *5/8" Natural (woven in the same pattern as 1/4" Sky Blue in Row 7)
- 9 & 10: 1/2" Oak
- 11, 12 & 13: 1/4" Moss Green
- 14: 1/2" Denim
- 15, 16 & 17: *Weave all three rows in same pattern—11/64" Cherry; 1/2" Oak, 11/64" Cherry
- 18: 1/2" Denim
- 19, 20 & 21: 1/4" Moss Green
- 22 & 23: 1/2" Oak
- 24: 5/8" Natural
- 25 & 26: *1/4" Sky Blue (weave Row 25 in same pattern as 5/8" Natural in Row 24)

Rows 27 - 29 5/8" Flat Reed

Row 30 3/8" Flat Reed (rim row)

Packing and Attaching Handle

Pack your basket to get rid of unwanted space between rows. Soak all stakes that extend above the top row of weaving. Identify the stakes that are to the ***outside of the top row of weaving***; crease these stakes to the inside, trim to length and tuck to the inside, hiding each tucked end behind a row of 5/8" Flat on the inside of your basket (tuck behind Row 28). The remaining stakes stand inside the top row of weaving; cut these stakes flush with the top of the basket.



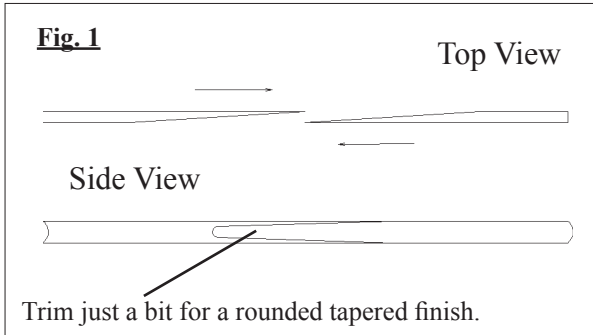
The leather purse strap has two holes punched near each end. At the fourth stake from the right at each end of your basket, attach the handle to the top row (rim row) with waxed linen thread; tie ends of thread. See Photo 3.

Photo 3

Rims and Lashing

Sand the 1/2" Flat Oval rims if needed. Soak rims.

Measure the perimeter of the top (outside) of your basket. Cut one piece of rim material 5 inches longer than your perimeter and cut one length 2 inches longer than perimeter—this allows for about a 4 inch overlap of each rim.



To create a scarf joint where the rims overlap you need to carve some of the thickness from both ends of each rim.

To determine exactly where to carve, attach the outside rim around the top of your basket (with clothespins). Mark the rim where it overlaps—marking the rounded side of one end of the rim and the flat side of the other end. Remove the rim. Carve the rounded side of one end at an angle and the flat side of the other end at the same angle using a carving knife or hand plane

forming a smooth overlapping joint as shown in Fig. 1. Repeat with inside rim.

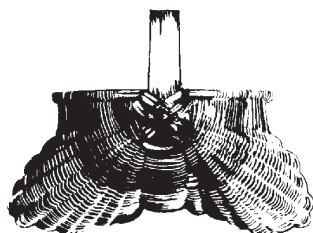
After carving the rims resoak for a few minutes if needed. Trim just a bit from the exterior end of each rim creating a rounded tapered finish as shown in Fig. 1.

When attaching the rims to the basket, position inside and outside rim overlaps just a few inches apart. With the rim's flat side touching the basket, place the inside rim around the basket securing with a few clothespins. Position the outside rim around the basket; secure with clothespins.

Thin the back side of one end of the leather rim filler for about an inch using your knife. Beginning at the inside rim overlap, position the rim filler between the inside and outside rims, placing it to the inside of the leather strap and leaving a "tail" at its overlap. Trim the leather rim filler overlap when you lash this area of the basket. Push the filler down between the rims and secure both rims and rim filler to the top row of weaving with twist ties or cable ties every few inches.

Using 11/64" Flat Reed, double lash the rims to the basket.

Enjoy!



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