

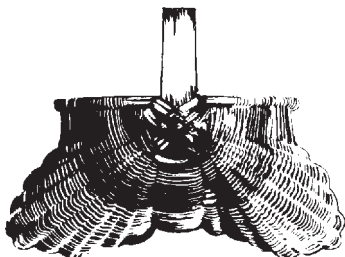
Apple Basket with Swing Handle



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The Basket Maker's Catalog
521 E. Walnut St. • P.O. Box 621
Scottsville, KY 42164
1-800-447-7008 • 270-237-4821
www.basketmakerscatalog.com

Apple Basket with Swing Handle

Our Apple Basket is a spoke construction basket featuring a double bottom and a 12" Round White Oak Swing Handle. The plain weave basket measures 12 inches in diameter and 7 inches in height.

Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your flat reed, soaking 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. If reed becomes dry while you are weaving, dip it in water for a few seconds. Soak the Round, Flat Oval and Half Round Reed for 5 to 10 minutes in hot water.
2. Do not soak your reed too long; it will become mushy.
3. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.
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 in half. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side.
5. Keep your weaving and tension even as you make your basket. When weaving the sides, do not leave spaces between the rows of weaving.
6. When shaping your basket, do not pull the weavers too tightly as this will cause the basket to become misshapen.
7. As you weave, gently push or pull on the spokes to keep them vertical and to maintain a pleasing shape.

Materials

40 feet	1/2" Flat Reed (Spokes)
135 feet	1/4" Flat Reed (Weavers and Lashing)
4 feet	3/8" Flat Reed (Top Row of Weaving)
1	12" White Oak Swing Handle with Ears
4 feet	1/2" Flat Oval (Inside Rim)
4 feet	1/2" Half Round (Outside Rim)
4 feet	#6 Round Reed (Rim Filler)

Notes

Please read all directions before beginning your Apple Basket and read each step all the way through before beginning that step.

Supplies

Scissors or Shears	Chip Carving Knife or Handplane
Clothespins (spring type) or Clamps	Pencil
Measuring Tape	Container to hold water
Bone Folder or Basketry Packing Tool	Ruler or Basketry Leveling Tool
Plastic Twist Ties or Cable Ties	Towel

Weaving the Base

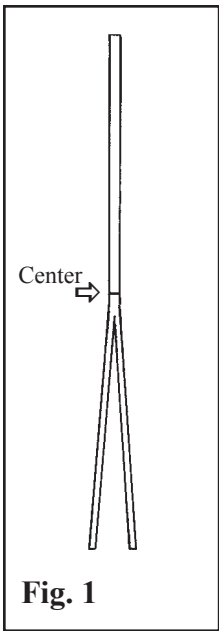


Fig. 1

1. Cut 16 pieces (Spokes) 27" long from the 1/2" Flat Reed. Mark the center of each spoke, on the smooth side of the reed, with a pencil. Dip spokes in water then lay them on a towel and allow them to sit and absorb the water for several minutes. Use scissors to cut one of the spokes lengthwise to within 1" of the center. See Fig. 1. This split spoke makes an odd number of spokes allowing you to weave continuously.

2. Sort through your 1/4" Flat Reed and select several of the longest and most flexible pieces. Set aside about 20 feet to use as your lashing when you attach the rims. Soak one of the other flexible pieces.

Starting with the split spoke, crisscross 8 of the spokes as in Figures 2A-2D. Place the smooth side of the reed up and cross the spokes on their centers.

3. With the soaked weaver, you'll begin weaving counter-clockwise. The smooth side of the weaver will face upward. Leave about 2" of the weaver free at the beginning to tuck in later. (Secure this weaver to Spoke #8 with a clothespin if necessary.) Place the weaver under the right-hand side of the split spoke and over the next spoke (Spoke #7). See Fig. 3.

You will weave under one spoke, over one spoke, etc. to complete one row of weaving. The weaver will 'cup' abit; that's just the nature of this process—we're taking a flat material and bending it into a circle. Make one stitch at a time, place the weaver where you want it, and hold

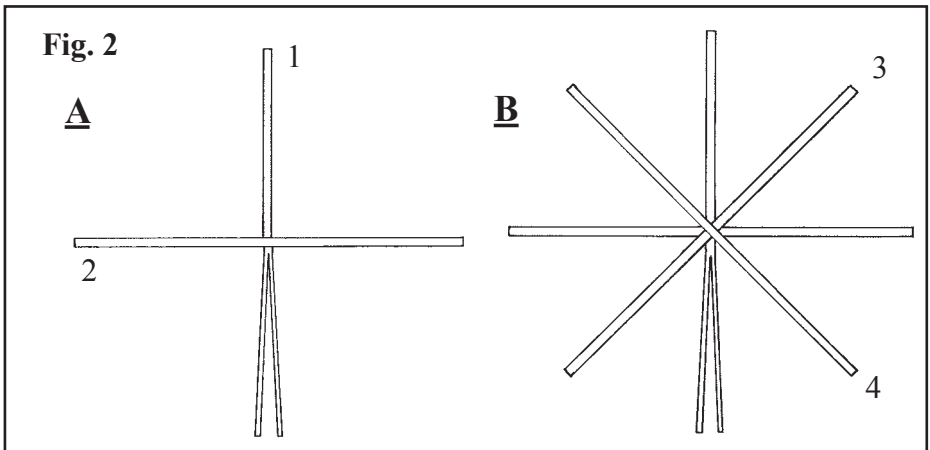
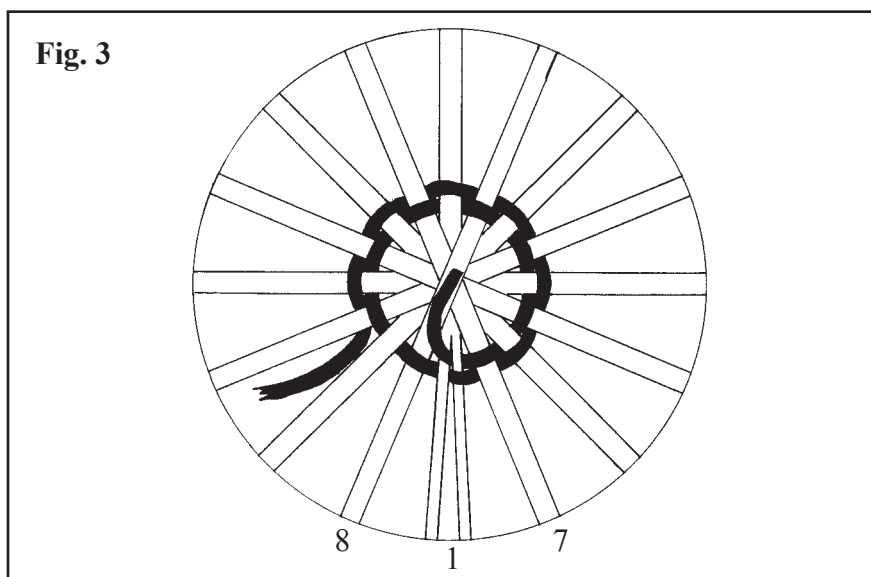
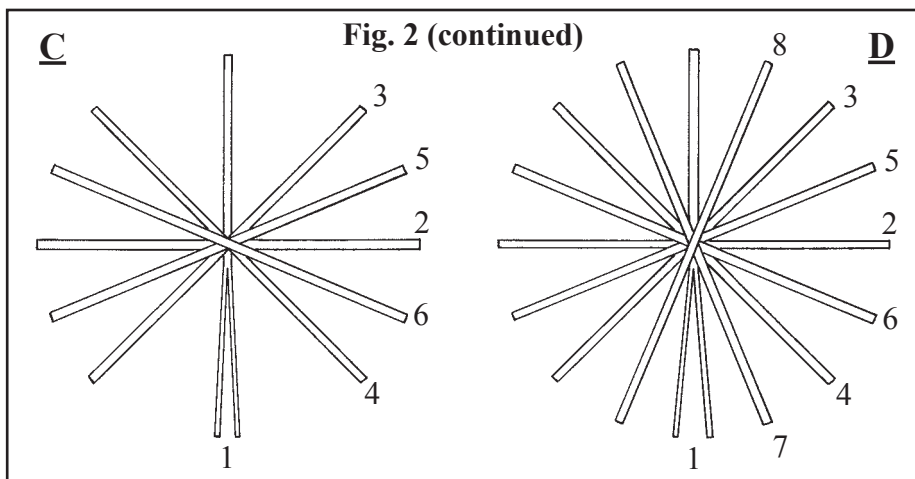


Fig. 2

A

B

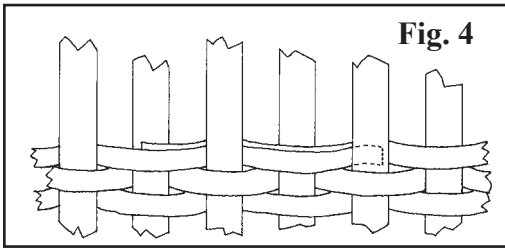


that stitch in place while you take one more stitch. As you proceed, adjust the position of the spokes to keep them equidistant apart.

After completing the first row, begin the second row by weaving under the left-hand side of the split spoke, over the right-hand side of the split spoke and under Spoke #7. Refer again to Fig. 3.

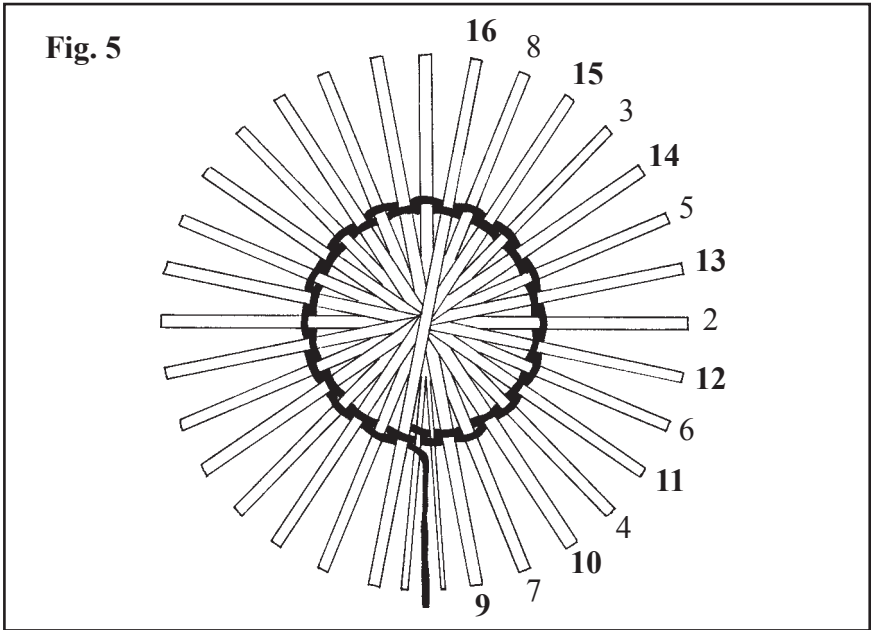
NOTE: When you reach the end of a weaver, cut the end as it travels over a spoke. Overlap the new weaver for a distance of 4 spokes, hiding its end behind a spoke. See Fig. 4.

4. Tuck the end of your beginning weaver under the spokes where they cross at the center. Weave 8 complete rounds until you have enough



space between each spoke to add a new spoke. **NOTE: Before adding the other spokes you must be on a row where the weaver is under the right-hand side of the split spoke.** Lay Spoke #9 in the space to the right of the split

spoke, align its center mark, and weave over Spoke #9 then under Spoke #7. Push this weaver against the previous row. Align the center mark of Spoke #10, add Spoke #10 in the next space and weave over Spoke #10 and under Spoke #4. You may notice that the relationship (of the over one—under one pattern) between this row and the previous row differs from the other rows you have woven; this is due to adding the extra spokes. Continue adding spokes, weaving over the added spoke and under the next spoke to the right, until you have woven a complete row and you have a total of 16 spokes. Weave around one more complete row. See Fig. 5.



5. After weaving 2 complete rounds with all 16 spokes in place, you will shape the base of the basket on your knee. This shaping creates a hump (raised bottom) in the inside of your basket.

Turn the basket over and, with the added spokes touching your knee, place it on your knee and push down on the spokes. See Photo 1.



Photo 1

By pushing on the spokes you force that nice flat base into a cone shape and put a 'hump' in your basket's bottom. Weave *only* 2 rounds with the basket on your knee, pulling the weaver slightly tighter, to 'set' the raised base on the inside of the basket.

6. Place the base on your work surface (hump up) and continue to weave until the basket measures about 10" in diameter. Gently press downward as you weave. These rows of weaving should be flat and the hump should remain in the middle as you complete the base.

Cradle the basket in your arms coaxing the spokes upward with your chest and arms. To create the wonderful curve between the bottom and the sides of this basket, continue to cradle the basket in your arms as you weave the next several rows and pull slightly tighter on the weaver as you weave. See Photo 2. To help set the hump, occasionally push it upward from the outside while weaving.

After weaving 3 or 4 rows, the basket will begin to take shape. Pay careful attention to your weaving tension so your basket does not become too small or too large. In order to assure a good fit of the 12" Swing Handle, I like to take the inside rim piece (1/2" Flat Oval), soak it for several minutes and then bend it into a 12" diameter circle, clamping the overlapped area with clothespins. As you continue to weave your Apple Basket, use this 12" diameter circle as a size guide.

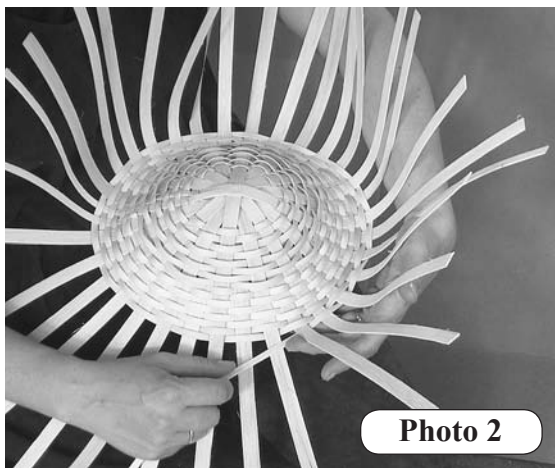
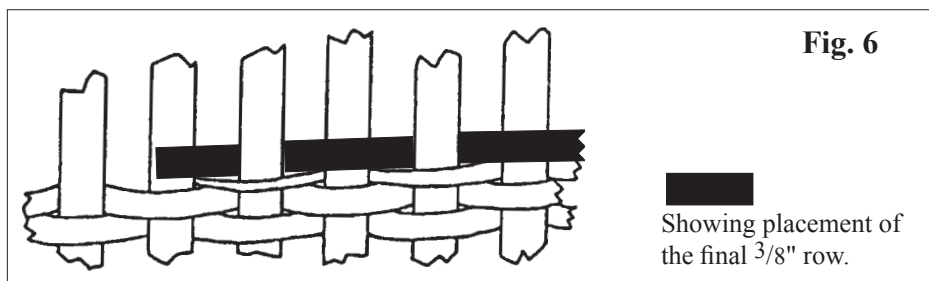


Photo 2

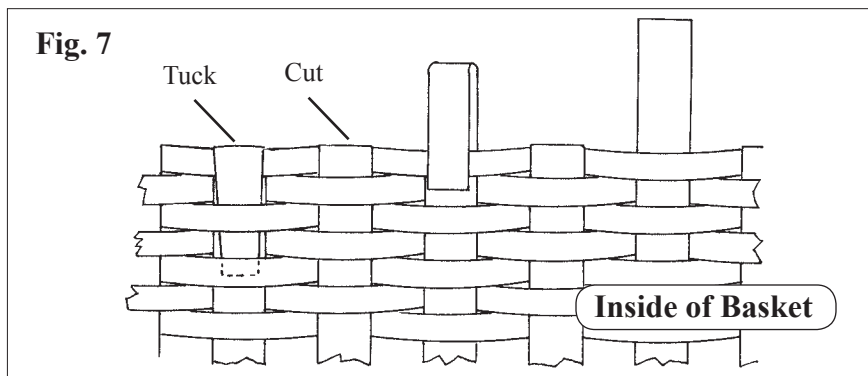
7. When your basket is about 6 1/2" tall, stop weaving at the split spoke but do not cut your weaver. (The ends of the spokes should extend about 2" above the last row of weaving.) Pack the rows of the basket beginning at the lower edge of the basket's side by systematically pulling each and every stitch toward the bottom.

Before ending the weaver and adding the final rim row, you need to see if your top row of weaving is level. Take an eye-level look at this top row. Continue the weaver on around if necessary to level the top or pack a bit more vigorously in one area if needed. You may want to use a ruler or basket leveling tool to mark the same height on each spoke and weave to that mark. The point is, do your best to level that top row and leave a minimum of 2" of the spokes extending above the last row of weaving.

Taper the last 6" of your weaver and leave the end behind a spoke. See Fig. 6. (You'll catch this last stitch when you lash on the rims.)



Add the final rim row using 3/8" Flat Reed. Begin the weaver on the outside of the spoke with the tapered end, weaving *behind* the spoke to the right of the tapered end. See Fig. 6. Weave one complete round, from left to right; end this row by weaving behind two consecutive spokes and overlapping the weaver onto itself for a distance of 2 spokes. Your rims will cover this top row of weaving.



8. Soak the ends of the spokes that extend upward beyond the weavers in warm water for 2 minutes. Some of your spokes are on the outside of that top row of weaving and some are on the inside. Working with the spokes on the outside of the weaving, crease, cut to length, then tuck each spoke to the inside of the basket going over the top 3/8" rim row and under the next 2 weavers. Use a bone folder or basketry packing tool to help open the weavers to accept the spoke. Cut the remaining spokes level with the top of the basket. See Fig. 7 showing the *inside* of the basket.

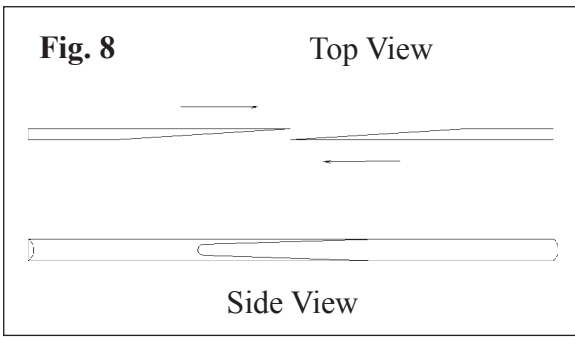


Photo 3

9. Locate two spokes, one on either side of the basket, on which to position the handle. Do not choose the split spoke. Mark the chosen spokes with a pencil and double check that these spokes are the best place for the handle. Place ears into the handle and, beginning about 2" from the top of the basket, insert the tapered ends of the Swing Handle's ears behind the weavers along one of the marked spokes. Place the ear behind the weavers on the inside and the outside of the basket, pushing the ear downward behind one row of weaving at a time. Insert the other ear and double check that the handle is centered in the basket. Position the bottom of the ear's notch level with the bottom of the rim row. See Photo 3.

10. Measure the outside of your basket around the top row, placing your measuring tape into the ear notches, to determine the basket's circumference. Cut a length of 1/2" Half Round Reed 4" longer than this measurement for your outside rim. Soak the Half Round Reed for about 10 minutes in hot water then *bend it along its length—working up and down the length several times—to work out some of the stiffness*. Cut a length of 1/2" Flat Oval for your inside rim that is 1.5" shorter than your outside rim. Cut a length of #6 Round for your rim filler the same length as your inside rim. Soak the rims and filler for 5 to 10 minutes.

11. In order to form a smooth joint where the rims overlap, you must carve some of the thickness from both ends of each rim. Carve the round side of one end at an angle and the flat side of the other end at the same



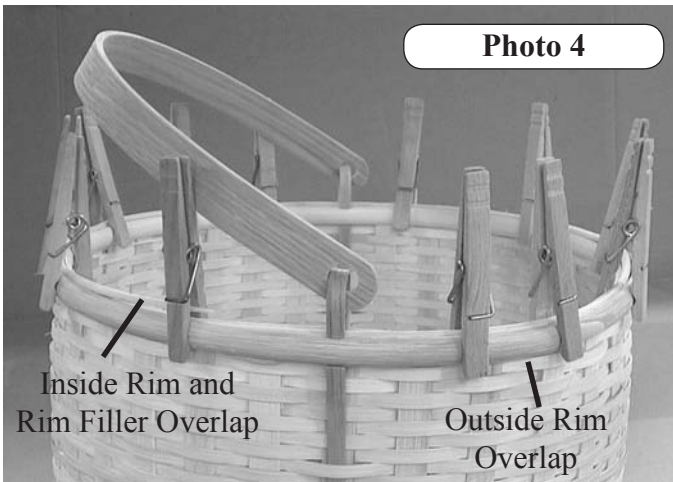
angle using a carving knife or handplane. See Fig. 8.

To determine exactly where you should carve, attach the outside rim around the top of your basket (with clothespins). Mark the rims where they overlap—marking the

round side of one end of the rim and the flat side of the other end. Remove the rim and carve the rim (carve the flat side of one end and the round side of the other end) to form a smooth overlapping joint as illustrated in Fig. 8.

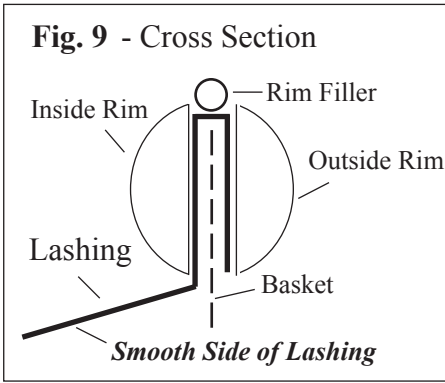
Repeat the above procedure with the inside rim and the rim filler—clothespin it in place, mark the overlap, remove the piece and carve the overlapped sections. Be sure to place the rim filler *inside* the ears.

12. After carving the rims and rim filler, make sure they are still pliable (if not, soak again). Bend the heavy outside rim a bit to remove some of its stiffness. I like to position my rim overlaps just a few inches apart with the inside rim overlap to one side of an ear and the outside rim overlap to the other side of that same ear. Also, I position the overlap of the rim filler at the same area as my inside rim overlap. With the rim's flat side touching the basket, place the inside rim around the basket and into the notches of the ears—secure with clothespins. Pin the outside rim in place using clothespins, twist ties or cable ties. See Photo 4.



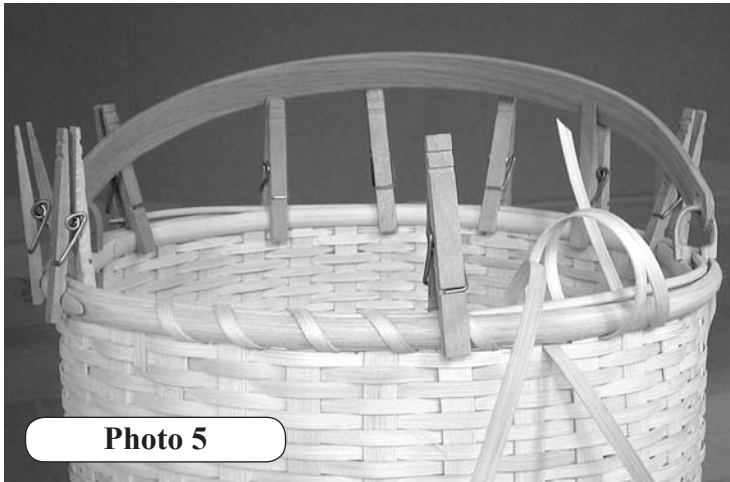
Beginning at the inside rim overlap, position the #6 Round filler between the inside and outside rims and through each ear. Push the filler down between the rims and secure with clothespins or twist ties every few inches.

13. With a wet piece of very flexible 1/4" Flat Reed, begin lashing just to the right of the outside rim overlap. (*Be sure to orient the 1/4" Reed so that its smooth side is to the outside of your basket.*) Secure one end of the 1/4" Flat Reed under the inside rim, beneath the #6 Round, and under the outside rim as shown in Fig. 9.



Working left to right from the outside of your basket, bring the other end of your lashing over the rims and between two spokes to the inside of the basket just below the rims. Pull one arm's-length of reed through to the inside of your basket. Now, insert the lashing's end between the next two spokes and pull it to the inside until you have a small loose loop of Reed around the rim.

After making three or four loops around the rims and between the spokes, tighten the loops of Reed—one at a time—from left to right by pulling to the inside. See Photo 5. Repeat the looping process working your way around the basket. *Remember to catch that tapered end of your 1/4" weaver with your lashing.*



If the Reed becomes dry, simply soak it again before continuing. Remove the clothespins (ties) as you progress.

At each ear, lash diagonally across the outside rim and continue lashing as before. See photograph on cover.

When your lashing reaches the place it began, simply lash in the opposite direction, completing the 'X' at each ear.

Chances are that one piece of lashing is not long enough to double lash your Apple Basket. To add-on another piece of lashing, simply secure the new piece of lashing, from the inside of your basket, under the rim and between the rim and the 'old' piece of lashing. See Photo 6. Use both the new and old pieces as you make the next lashing stitch—these pieces will lay directly on top of each other. Now, just continue the lashing with the new piece.

Photo 6

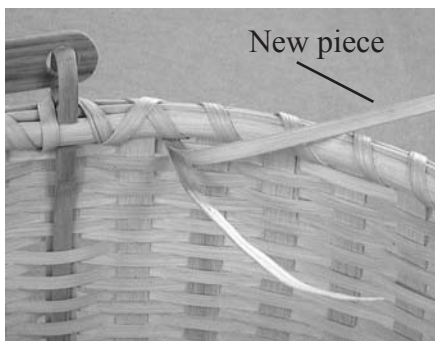
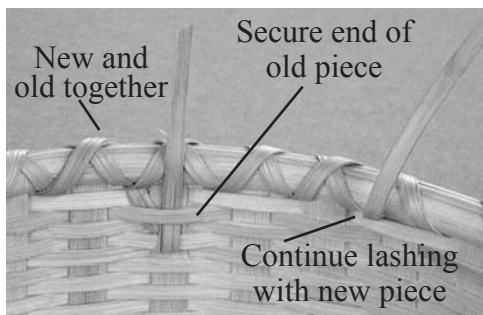


Photo 7

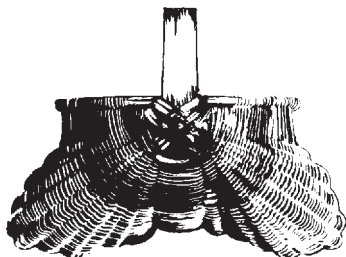


Secure the old end of the lashing behind two weavers on the inside of your basket, and then fold the end upward over one weaver and behind one weaver. See Photo 7. Trim the end.

When the lashing is complete, you'll secure the end on the inside of the basket as described above. See Photo 7.

Gently shape the rims if needed.

Enjoy your Apple Basket with Swing Handle!



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