

Small Circle 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 circle base will be about 9 inches in diameter

Materials needed:

Primary spokes/ribs: 6 unsplit pieces of ivy 35 inches long

Secondary spokes/ribs: about 6 unsplit pieces of ivy 20 inches long

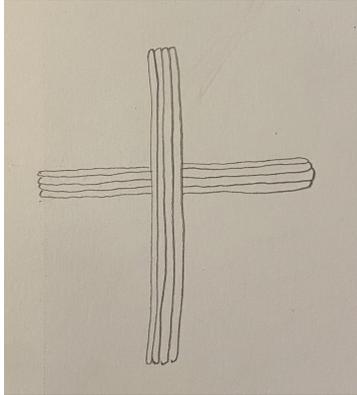
The spoke pieces should all be similar in thickness (about 1/4" or the approximate width of the fingernail on a pinkie finger) and pliable enough to wrap around your hand.

Weavers: About 65ft of split ivy weavers pliable enough to wrap around your finger.

Setting up your base:

Take 3 of your thickest longer primary spokes/ribs, 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/ribs, cut a taper on one end of each one, and pass the tapered end through the space you just made in the other 3. Here's a drawing to illustrate how it should look:



Twinning the base:

Take one long weaver and fold it in half. Wrap it over the 3 spokes that are inserted in the other 3. This gives you essentially two functional weavers emerging from around the spoke. Here is where you will start twinning.

Twinning is a weaving method where two weavers are wrapped around a spoke or rib in a basket. As one weaver goes over a spoke and behind the next one, the other goes behind and back out in front of the next one. Each time you bring a weaver from the back to front, bring it down toward the center of the basket and the next weaver goes over the top.

You want to hold a good tension here with your weaving. But not too tight!

Round 1: twine around all 3 spokes as one at each arm of the cross shape

Round 2: twine around 2 spokes as one all the way around

Round 3: around each individual spoke and continue going around until you have 2 or 3 inches of flat weaving on your base. This process will separate out all the spokes so it starts to look like a spider.

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 level base for the basket so it's not all tippy.

Adding secondary spokes:

At this point we need to make sure the base has an odd number of spokes. So you need to add at least 1 to your spider. But you might want to add more...

So take a look at your spider base. Are the spaces between the spokes kind of uneven? Do they seem kind of far apart for weaving? If so you can add a spoke in those larger spaces. Just make sure that however many you add that you end up with an odd number.

You add spokes by cutting a taper on one end and pushing it in alongside another spoke. You may need to use an awl or bodkin to open up space in your weaving for the new spoke to get in.

Once your spokes are added you can continue twinning around all the spokes individually including the new ones to lock them into place.

Once your base is about 7.5 inches in diameter. Stop and we will switch to another weaving technique called the three rod wale.

A note on joining weavers:

When you notice your weaver is getting kind of short like about 6-8 inches long it's about time to join a new weaver into your work. With split vine material the best way to do this is to:

- take your new weaver and sandwich it between the rib and your old weaver
- Weave with the weavers together as one for 3-4 ribs
- Snip the old weaver with a little bit of a tail (about an inch give or take) and continue weaving with your new weaver. You will do this at various points all throughout your weaving
- Sometimes it is helpful to scrape the end of a thick weaver so that it tapers in thickness and therefore sandwiches between the old weaver and the rib more easily. You can do this with a knife for your clippers.

Three rod wale:

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

To start: Three rod wale requires 3 weavers in 3 consecutive spaces between ribs. If you have two long weavers still from your twining, you can add a single third weaver. OR if one is almost done or you just prefer, you can tuck one weaver in and add 2 more at once.

To add 1 weaver: Cut the weaver to a point. Using an awl or similar tool you can make space to wedge it in down next to the next consecutive rib so it is secure. It should then come forward out the next consecutive space between ribs.

To add 2 weavers at once: Fold a long weaver and wrap around the next available rib after the one your current weaver is around. It's helpful if it's not folded exactly in the middle so that you don't have to join your next weavers at the same time (aka fold it so one side of the weaver is slightly longer than the other). The two ends of the weavers are then on either side of a rib and therefore coming out of consecutive spaces. There should then be 3 weavers each coming out through 3 consecutive spaces between ribs.

Double check: Look at your basket and check that there are three weavers coming out of the spaces between three consecutive spokes.

To weave: Take the leftmost weaver, bring it over the two spokes in front of it (and the weavers next the them), and then behind the third spoke and out to the front again. Again, take the leftmost weaver going over two ribs and the two weaver next to them and then behind the 3rd rib and again out the front. Continue this pattern 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! You want the bottom to be concave so the basket sits evenly and doesn't have a bulge in the center that causes it to be tippy.

You will now bend each rib up. It's good to start gently and if you find they are cracking, it may need a soak in hot water. Use your thumb or a tool to 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 the circle for each spoke/rib. Once they are turned up you can bundle the tips of your spokes together with a rubber band to hold them in place so they don't flop around while you work

Continue weaving / single weave

Wale for 2 or 3 more rows but now from the outside of your turned up basket shape so you are moving around the outside walls of your basket.

After you complete the first few rows of waling you may want to take the rubber band off. This will help your basket have a more splayed bow like shape at the rim if that's your preference. Otherwise you can leave the rubber band on for a little while longer after you transition to single weave. This will create a basket with more straight up and down sides and a rim that is about the same diameter as the base.

You then transition to single weave. Single weave means you will have one weaver going in front of one rib then behind the next and so on back and forth. You will need to tuck in the other two weavers from the 3 rod wale. This can be done by cutting the weaver to a few inches, cutting it to a point at the end and tucking it down in the weave next to a rib (using an awl or similar tool can be helpful). You can leave extra length inside the basket and cut it short later after your basket has fully dried.

One thing to keep in mind with single weave is that if you miss a rib (accidentally go over or under two at once, there will be a continuing problem in the pattern that will never resolve. It's best to go back and change your mistake even if it's a few rows before you notice. Keep a close eye to prevent this from happening.

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 single weaving until basket is about 4 inches tall

Folding down the rim:

For this basket we are going to do a really pretty and fun braided method.

-Kink all the stakes down and to the right about a thumbs thickness up from your last row of weaving (in a similar way to turning it up)

Round 1: Take each of your kinked stakes behind the next two to the right and back out front. Do this to each rib all the way around. The last couple are a little tricky. You do them the same as all the other except you will be going behind two stakes that are already bent and bringing it back front.

Round 2: Take each stake that been brought behind and and out front in the last step. Each one will go under the two to the right and in the hole that the second stake came out of. Go all the way around. Trim with some wiggle room for drying (leave about 2 inches to be on the safe side.

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 it's dry you can get out your clippers and really cut it flash with the basket at a nice angle.