

Williamsburg Crossing

Size: 13" Diameter x 6 High (approx.)
w/o Handle

Skill level: Intermediate to Advanced

Materials Needed:

- ½" Flat (spokes & weavers)
- ¼" Dyed Flat Oval (weavers)
- #3 Round Reed (Gretchen border)
- 7" Williamsburg Handle
(7" base x 12"-13" high)

Preparation:

- Cut: 17 Spokes of ½" Flat, 27" long

Base:

- Wet spokes (don't over soak) and mark center of all spokes on wrong (rough) side. Mark center of handle on the inside.
- Lay out 9 horizontal spokes rough side up. Place handle at center marks with spokes, 1, 3, 5 (center spoke), 7, 9 woven over the handle.
- Weave 4 vertical spokes over/under on each side of handle.
- Adjust base to 7" to 7½" square. Spacing between spokes should be approximately ¼".
- To form crossing base, unweave two spokes at each corner. These 4 corner spokes will form the inverted corner. (Figure 1)
- Thoroughly wet spokes at upset points along the base.
- Upset the four unwoven corner spokes on the 3rd spoke from each corner. Use clothes pins or clips to hold the corners. (Figure 2)



Figure 1

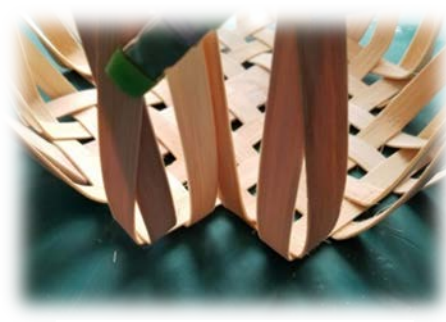


Figure 2

- Upset the two spokes on either side of the handle and five center spokes on the sides without the handle.

Weaving Tips:

- It is difficult to weave around the base if the weavers are too stiff. Choose ½” flat weavers that are light to medium stiffness.
- Weave rows using the handle’s bow as guide for flare of basket sides.
- Use clothes pins or clips to maintain the corners for the first few rows. The corners should gradually disappear and the basket will take on a round shape.
- Pack each row as you go and check the shaping every couple of rows.
- A tip for packing this basket is to pull up on the corner spokes while packing the ½” Flat weavers down. This will help to move the weavers closer to the base.
- Keeping the bottom flat helps in the shaping of this basket.
- To reduce bulk at 4 spoke overlap on ¼” flat oval weavers, shave the top starting weaver that will be under the 4 spoke overlap.

Weaving Sides:

- Wet weavers until pliable (don’t over soak)
- Row 1: ½” Flat - Weave 1st row over handle (under center spoke on side without handle). Make sharp inward and outward bends at the corners.
- Rows 2-5: ½” Flat
- Rows 6-19: ¼” Dyed Flat Oval
- Pack entire basket
- Twine 3 rows with #3 Round Reed.

Finishing:

- Spray spokes thoroughly and tuck all spokes to the inside of the basket.
 - **Tip:** For a pleasing look on the inside of your basket, tuck every other spoke into the same weaving row.

Gretchen Border:

- Cut 36 spokes of #3 round reed 68" long. Soak round reed spokes until pliable.
- On the outside of basket and under 3 twined rows insert a #3 round reed spoke around each spoke and each handle in hairpin style. Adjust each spoke so hairpin sides are the same length. All spokes will be on the inside of the basket.
 - **Tip:** Mist round reed frequently to keep the reed pliable while making the border.
 - **Note:** For left handed weavers reverse the following instructions.
- Weave 5 to 6 total rows on the inside of the basket and 5 to 6 rows on the outside of the handle (outside of basket). Each row will build on the previous row and roll upward on inside, over the rim and down on outside of basket.
- Mark the beginning of each row with a pipe cleaner or twist tie around the first and second spokes on the left. The marker will be removed when completing the row.

- Working from the inside, pick up three consecutive spokes in your left hand. Take the spoke on the left, go under the next two on the right, and up between the 3rd and 4th spoke. Pull tight to the upward position. The spoke under the two should be snug to the inside of the basket. Continue working the spokes around the basket. Tighten the braid next to the basket as the row is woven.
- At the end of the row with 2 spokes remaining, gently pull out beginning marked spokes to form an “M” shape. Insert the 1st left spoke from back through the first leg of the “M.” Insert the last spoke through the middle space formed in the “M” and then pull both marked weavers snug. (Figure 3)

→ **Tip:** After each row, pack each row with your hands to snug woven spokes against the previous row. In some cases, the weavers may need to be pulled tighter. For a pleasing looking Gretchen border you should have all rows even and touching.



Figure 1

Ending:

- **Option 1:** Trim ends about 1-2 inches. Tuck ends up under the braid and gently roll the braid to hide the ends.
- **Option 2:** Take two neighboring border spokes and push both ends to the inside through spaces between the basket’s spokes and under the hairpin border.

Then, with two border spokes together weave over 1 pair and down to lock the ends. (Figure 4)

When dry, trim the ends.

- Stain and let dry.
- Sign, date and enjoy your beautiful new basket!



Figure 2

Options for a simpler basket: Basket can be done with one of the following modifications:

- Square base and weave with only 4 corners.
- Instead of Gretchen border rim with 5/8” Flat Oval and lash with 11/64” flat oval



The original Williamsburg Crossing pattern written in 2006 and was inspired from the base of Anne Coleman’s Canterbury Cross basket. The pattern was revised in 2017 for a weaving project of Sunflower Basket Weaving Guild.