



—
1 hour
All seasons
Indoors

•• Adult assistance required

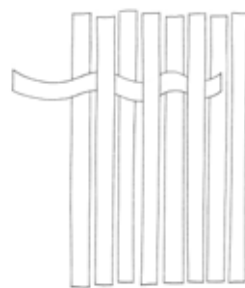
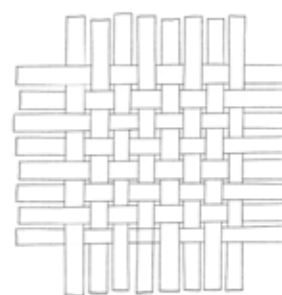
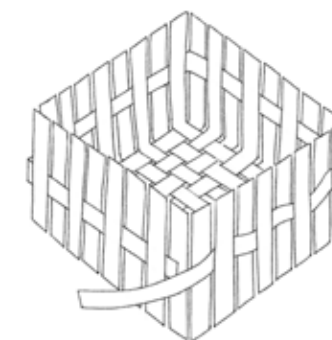
Weave a simple basket

Make a basket just like people have been doing for aeons.



GATHER TOGETHER

- . A roll of brown paper
- . A ruler
- . A pencil
- . Scissors (a child-safe version, or ask an adult to help)
- . Sticky tape

*Fig. 1**Fig. 2**Fig. 3***LET'S GO!**

Step 1. Prepare your strips. Using your ruler, mark out and carefully cut (or ask an adult to cut) 16 strips of brown paper each measuring 30cm long and 3cm wide. Cut out another 6 strips measuring 50cm long and 3cm wide. Fold each strip into thirds lengthwise.

Step 2. Form your base. Lie eight of the shorter strips side-by-side horizontally. Lie the other eight shorter strips vertically on top. Take the first vertical strip and weave it alternately over and under the horizontal strips (Fig. 1). Repeat with the other vertical strips, making sure the weave is as close as possible (Fig. 2).

Step 3. Add sides. Fold the strips up along each edge of your base as shown.

Starting from one corner, weave one of your longer strips over and under the loose side strips, creasing at each corner to form a sharp bend (Fig. 3). When you've done a complete row, take another strip and begin a new row above. Keeping adding rows until you have about 1cm of your original base strips still showing above.

Step 4. Tidy it up. Tuck loose ends inside your basket and use a small piece of sticky tape to stick them down as invisibly as you can. Voilà!

THE TECHNIQUES YOU'RE USING HERE HAVEN'T CHANGED FOR 27,000 YEARS.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Weaving is one of those ancient human skills that transcends place and time – any culture you can think of probably had a tradition of its own. Baskets were invaluable for gathering food, carrying babies, storing things and catching birds or fish, and they could be made using whatever materials could be sourced locally, like reeds, straw, leaves or bark. The techniques you're using here are virtually unchanged from those used to make the earliest known baskets, which date back to 27,000BC.

DEAR GROWN-UPS

As well as producing beautiful, functional objects at the end, the process of weaving is brilliantly meditative, easy to learn and swiftly gratifying. It's such a universal practice, but it can also prompt consideration for the ways in which cultures and humans throughout time are both distinct and different.