

These baskets were made by home economic students at Iowa State.

## Baskets Which Will Lead Long Useful Lives

By VIOLA JAMMER

**U**NDER and over, under and over the weavers go until soon there is a basket. You may make baskets that will lead long, useful lives if only handled rightly from the start. Perhaps you can interest your little sister or daughter in making reed baskets, lamps, or any of the number of reed or raffia articles, for one is surprised at the satisfactory results of this handicraft.

Reed may be purchased at shops by pounds or bales. It comes in various sizes depending on the diameter of the reed. The purpose for which the article is intended determines the weight of the reed necessary. Usually a slightly heavier reed is used for the spokes than for the weavers. The more delicate and slightly used articles require the finer or smaller reeds while the large substantial reed is used for corresponding articles.

It would fill many pages to describe all the details of all the articles that can be produced from reed. The principles for making a reed lamp and shade are the same as those applied to a much simpler article, such as a flower basket. Therefore let the details of one basket suffice for many.

What makes for the best results is a clear idea of what you want your basket to look like when it is finished. Draw your plans in shape, size and color on a chart and follow this. We must decide now in order that we may proceed.

The first basket, to be rather simple, substantial and of use on the porch, will consequently be of medium sized reed. It is constructed over an old milk bottle to keep the form true. This is not necessary in later works when one has become accustomed to shaping vases and baskets.

Soak the reed until it is saturated. When it may be easily bent without breaking or cracking, it is ready for use. The spokes may have been cut from the dry reed of a heavier size. Sixteen is a good number, since it can be conveniently quartered, coupled and singled when desired. The spokes are twice the height plus the diameter of the bottom and eight more inches allowed for curves, depending upon the plan. More curves mean

longer spokes. These spokes are divided into four, six, or more, even groups and each group placed on top of the last. At this point, one must be careful that the division between the cross of the spokes is the same distance.

A long piece of soaked reed is taken for the weaver. Hooked over one group of spokes in such a way that it is not divided equally in the center (both ending at once would make a weak place of union) the weaving begins. The weavers are double now, that is, are woven as one and may be thruout the entire basket, but many times they are double only for the first two or three rounds, in order that the spokes may be secured firmly and tightly. The weavers are then singled, so that while one goes over the other goes under. To start a new weaver, drop the end used up, insert the new one along side of a spoke and proceed as before.

At this time it is important that the base remain very flat. It must not be moistened, altho the weavers are continually dampened. If the work which is the base of the basket, becomes rounded or warped, the basket cannot be expected to stand straight. Give it a chance. The bottle is set on the base. It is left inside for a vase, or may be removed if not desired. At some period of the making of the vase, sub-divide the groups of spokes. This is necessary where the article becomes larger and may be done as often as desirable.

To turn the spokes from the base to make the sides requires careful manipulation, for reed is easily broken if not sufficiently soft. Each spoke must be bent the same amount, (right angles are the most convenient) without curving the base. Weaving then follows the line of the bottle.

It is to be remembered that this is the simplest shape, for the base could have been extended beyond that of the bottle and brought back to the sides of the bottle by weaving along the curve made by the spokes. At any time, when the design indicates, the article could be made larger by inserting a larger form and removing it again, or vice versa.

When the basket is the desired height, the spokes are used to finish the edge. The spokes are commonly braided and the cut ends are inserted inconspicuously into the basket. The finished edge may be woven into a lacy design. Playing around with the spokes you may discover a very original edge which is neat, attractive and usable.

If our design called for a handle, we might twist several lengths of reed, or braid or wind them. In any case the handle is fastened securely to the basket by taking the longest spokes, which were not used in the finishing edge and working these into the handle for strengthening.

The natural reed, shellaced, is very attractive. Often times a color or a touch of color would make your basket more interesting and perhaps give life or relate it to other objects in a room. Any enamels will do satisfactorily for this when applied sparingly, allowing each coat to dry before applying the next.

Very similar to the reed baskets are the sewed baskets which are growing in popularity because of this very interesting procedure of closely sewing raffia over reed.

The number of articles that can be made from this are just as varied as from reed. Altho the plans be alike, for close sewed baskets and reed baskets the finished articles will present no similarity because of the difference in texture and handicraft.

Here, as with the reed problem, the article to be made is given a definite plan. The size of reed to be used as the foundation, and the colors of raffia are chosen. Raffia is a grass and comes in its natural color unless dyed.

It is very necessary that one draw a chart of the object to be composed, presenting all the details of size, shape, color and design. The best assurance one can have of success is that this plan be followed to the last stitch.

A little design or motif worked out by a change in color of raffia adds interest and personality to the article. Conventional designs and motifs are used ex-

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fering incense for Inez who rashly gave injury to the gods of Tact and Consideration. One night Mary had invited several school boy friends to come in and spend the evening dancing. Inez was allotted one whom the men called a regular fellow but who "certainly was not a sheik" in her words. She made little or no pretense to be interesting and barely managed to be civil. Both Mary and Betty sensed the situation and by keeping Inez and the unfortunate gentleman immediately within their group, they succeeded in covering up Inez's behavior. That evening Mary retired nearly exhausted with her nerves much the worse for wear.

At this point in her review of events, Mary jumped up, "I'll wager I'm going to be careful how I act the next time I am invited anywhere," she emphatically announced. "I'll play pokey chess, I'll dance with a clodhopper, and I'll even eat spinach, but I'll not be the Black Fairy at any party!"

"Come, forget the party and rest yourself by taking tea with me," invited her mother.

## The Evolution of Home Economics at Iowa State

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it over the boys stairway where it was plainly visible by all the men and women as they entered the dining room.

Well of course the freshmen conspired to remove it, which was no more than might have been expected and it was expected. The sophomores kept a continuous guard to keep their work of art in the public eye.

So you see how the scrap began. A band of freshmen would mob the guard in the effort to secure the cartoon, but the sophomores were wary and had a way of coming to the aid of fellow sophomores even as today.

Well, the fight grew warmer with every year and the perils risked and the blood shed for the honor of freshmen in general deserves a brass monument. One year a daring and agile freshman with his aides surprised the guards unguarding and the cartoon disappeared. The guards set up a cry, the sophomores were soon rushing madly about searching in doors and out for the bone of contention. At the same time had they used their eyes they might have seen the agile freshman balancing along the ledge under the eaves of Old Main, the cartoon under his arm, and vanish thru a window.

Thus it went, other risks just as hazardous being taken and the fight eventually reached such a state of ardor that some years later fate intervened in the form of President Beardshear and reconciled the two warring factions. The white flag was flown and if you will believe me it ended by the sophomores giving the freshmen a party and—the freshmen went!

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## Baskets Which Will Lead Long Useful Lives

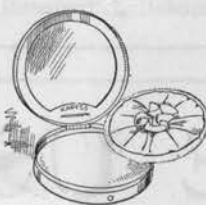
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tensively. These are drawn on the chart.

A sandwich tray is simple to make but yet allows for the principles of procedure for many structures. A long end of the reed is soaked until it is very easily bent. Dry reed is brittle, partially soaked it splits and cracks. A sponge is necessary to keep it damp at all times. The long end taken is shaved to a point and flattened on one side for the start. If the basket is to be round then the starter of reed is pressed tightly into a circle

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and from there the shape of the basket closely follows the line of the circle. For an oblong basket the end is left longer and the winding is the same as for the round.

The raffia is soaked. Since it comes in uneven widths, it is split into threads of one-eighth inch wide. Never allow this to become twisted for this spoils the appearance of the basket or tray. Thread a blunt needle with one of the chosen colors and connect or close sew the adjoining rows of reed.

With the sharpened end pointing toward you and the free end ready to be wound in anti-clockwise direction, the sewing is in order. Always turning the tray to work towards yourself, wind the needle over the first raw reed on the left side, insert the needle downward under the right reed and over and down between the right and left under the left and over again. "Second verse same as the first."

This is nothing more than a figure eight stitch and by inserting the blunt needle from the upper side of the work, the insertions are more apt to be direct.

You have noticed that this covers every reed twice and consideration is taken of this fact when placing the pattern which is changing colors of raffia.

If this were to be a hot plate holder you would simply finish it off with a simple border related to the main pattern. The finishing end could be shaved flat as the starter was, and gradually blended into the whole.

When the base is the required size and you are ready for the sides as would be the case in making trays or baskets, the reed is raised directly above the last row. This makes an edge perpendicular to the base. If it were to be bowl shaped, then the succeeding row is placed somewhat to the side of the last and raised slightly to give the slant required. The border is applied in this as it was in the hot plate holder.

To make handles, loops may be left and wound with raffia, then fastened securely into the sides or a gap left in the border into which the hand or a few fingers may be inserted.

A little of one's own originality always adds to the personal charm of the tray.

## Who's There and Where

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when she came—now she weighs 135 pounds. \* \* \*

"They all have insulin, of course, and some of the patients have a diet as high as 4,000 calories. One man had nearly 5,000 the last week he was here, but he was discharged just a short time after I came. We attend Dr. Sansum's lectures to his patients; also his chemistry lectures for the pupil nurses. He has had a great deal of teaching experience before becoming a doctor and he surely knows how to make things clear to everyone.

"La Vere McGoon visited here with Gladys Dodge one day and night this last week. A roll of 'Students' has just come from my mother and we four Ames girls had a regular reunion.

"We went on downtown and visited the autumn flower show. You never saw such gorgeous dahlias and chrysanthemums. I thought the big yellow and white ones at Ames were unsurpassed, but I hadn't seen these then.

"Ruth and I have been having some

lovely times together. We both love to take long walks out into the foothills, to the beach, or merely walking downtown and looking at the homes as we go. We're planning to spend the entire day Tuesday in the hills.

"You should see the new nurses' home which has just been completed. It is surely wonderful in its arrangement and furnishings. The rooms are all single, and furnished in mahogany. Bed, chiffonier, bedside table, dressing table, writing desk, chair and rocker. Can you imagine it? And rugs that cover nearly the entire floor, lovely chintz draperies, and even desk lamps with shades are furnished. It is all the gift of some wealthy friends of the hospital, Mr. and Mrs.

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