



# Fruit Basket

by Sylvie Bégot

Sylvie returns, thanks to this simple basket, to her passion for eco-basketry, something we can all do just by emptying our waste paper baskets!

## Material

Newspaper, scissors, wooden skewer, glue stick, a wooden board of 10 cm x 10 cm (4 x 4 inches), nails without heads, three coffee capsules...



... 40 cm (16 inches) of wire, two large rubber bands, plastic bowl of approximately Ø 22 cm (9 inches) and 10 cm (4 inches) high.

## Roll the rolls

Cut the newspaper along its length of the sheets into 12 cm (5 inches) wide strips. Using the skewer, roll the paper up into fine tubes. Start at one corner with the skewer at an angle of about 30° to the long side. Roll the paper around it to make long tight tubes.



Remove the skewer and glue the end to stop it from unrolling.



To make longer rolls, roll the tube three quarters of the way and then insert the end of a roll you have already made.



Glue the end of the paper as before.



### In brief...

These long rolls are used for the ribs and the short ones are used for the weavers as they are easier to handle.

**Trick:** Keep all your tubes lying flat so as not to damage the ends. This will make them easier join together when you are weaving.

**Wooden board:** Use a compass to trace a circle of 9 cm diameter and then place 16 nails at regular intervals around the circumference.

## Weaving the base

To make the base, prepare 16 long paper rolls and place them in pairs across the wooden board.



Flatten the centre of the rolls where they cross to block them. Fold a new short roll, 2/3 of the way along.



Start to weave a pairing/twining. Slide the folded roll onto a pair of ribs and then start to weave each weaver under and over the ribs crossing the weavers between each spoke.



## Additions

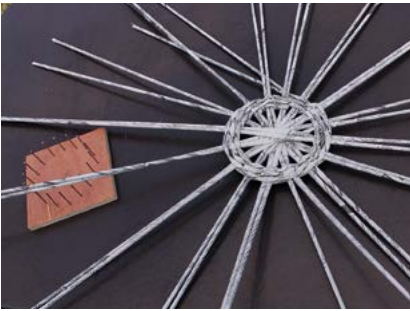
To add a new paper roll, just insert it by 3 to 4 cm (1½ to 2 inches) into the end of the one you are weaving. Trick: To make this easier, just flatten the end of the roll and fold it along its length.



Continue the weaving for three rounds.



Remove the base of the basket from the piece of wood and turn it over to keep the sense of the weaving.



### The sides

Turn the base of the weave back over onto the bottom of the bowl and keep it in place with the elastic bands.



Continue for 5 more rounds.



Separate the pairs of ribs and continue to weave for a further 10 rounds.

Separating the ribs will make the paper basket much more rigid.



Place the extremity of the paper roll into the weave to end the 10th round of weaving. This should be done in line with the start of the weaving on the base.



### The edge

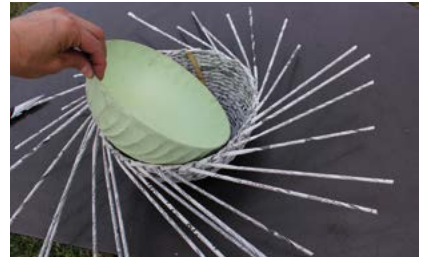
Successively fold down each rib behind its neighbor, so that they are all at the outside of the basket.



The last rib folded down is passed behind the first one you folded down.



Remove the elastic bands and the bowl.



To finish the border, fold the ribs inwards in front of two adjacent ribs.



Trim off the ends of the ribs, leaving only 1 cm (1/3 inch) from the edge of the border.



### Decoration/finishing

With the aid of a fine awl, pierce two holes in the coffee capsules and flatten them. Attach the capsules to the side of the bowl with the wire passed over a 2 cm (3/4 inch) length of the paper roll.



Paint the inside of the bowl with an acrylic varnish suitable for food contact.

# Upcoming dossiers

We hope that you have enjoyed this special “fruity” dossier and be assured, there will be more! We are sure there is more to discover and there is still time for you to send us your contributions. Here are extracts from three of the articles we are preparing.

## Carried on the backs of men...



... and women. Woven backpacks will be at the centre of this dossier and there are so many different kinds. The one from your part of the world? Is it special? Does it deserve to be more widely known? Let us know.



## Mushroom baskets

The mushroom basket is the “must have” basket! Each region has its own, be they, round, oval, deep, shallow, wide, the variations are endless.

Each of these baskets has its own story that we would like to hear, especially if your basket is the only, the unique, the original and the best! So what are you waiting for? Tell us about it.

- the grape harvests
- Basketry in the Pacific Islands (Polynesian Islands, Easter Island, etc.)
- flower baskets...



## A call for contributions!

Readers letters, articles, step by steps...

Do you want to be published in the LLC magazine? Send your stories and photos to the editors... You can also suggest themes and ideas for future articles.

We are always looking for new material and ideas about basketry across the globe.

Is there a material that you use for weaving which would be a good subject for a plant spotlight?

Share your knowledge!

### You can contact us by mail on:

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### Or by post to:

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