

Basket Weaving

Baskets have been around for tens of thousands of years. While they once served countless purposes to people in everyday life, today they are mostly used as decoration. Basket weaving is a bit of a lost art, but it is still being done world wide and locally. Baskets vary greatly in size, in material they are made from and also in the manner with which they are made.

Baskets can be made of many fibres. Generally baskets are made from pine needles, animal hair, grass, thread, reed and thin strips of wood. No matter what is used to make the basket, the fibre may be left natural, or sometimes they are dyed or painted before weaving. In some cases the baskets are even painted or lacquered afterwards to help create a waterproof shield.

There are four primary types of basket weaving that are used throughout the world. A coiled basket is one where a bundle of fibres or thin rod of fibre is coiled and stitched to form a basket. A twined or waling basket is one where two or more flexible fibres are used to encircle a base. A woven basket, which is the type most of us are know, is a basket made from inflexible spokes and a flexible fibre that is woven in and out between the spokes. The fourth type of basket is plaited; in this type of basket the stakes and weaving fibres are identical and woven together at right angles, often creating a checker or diamond pattern.