

Basket From Newspaper Straws

Difficulty: ★★★★★ - Somewhat difficult

Time: 1.5 hours



Materials

- Newspaper
- Scissors
- Round popsicle sticks, or bamboo skewers, or pencil
- Glue or tape
- Paper clips or clothespins
- Paint (optional)

Steps

1. Cut long strips of newspaper about 3 inches wide. The number of strips you need depends on the size of the basket you want to weave. We'll be using 10-15 strips in the instructions to make a small basket, approximately 4" x 4".



2. Place the stick on a corner of the newspaper strip at an acute angle (this will give you a long tube). Tuck the corner under the stick and start rolling the paper.



3. You can roll the paper in various ways, but make sure to get it as tight as possible.



San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

520 South First Street | San Jose, CA | 95113 | www.sjQuiltMuseum.org

One of the ways to do this is by rolling the paper around the stick with one hand, while carefully holding the tube with the other hand.

Note: That's okay that your tubes have one end slightly narrower than the other. This will help us to join the tubes together later.

4. When you reach the end, apply glue to the corner to secure in place.



5. Repeat until you make 10-15 newspaper straws.

6. Take four paper straws about the same length. Lay two vertically in front of you and put the other two horizontally on top of them, centering them to create a cross.



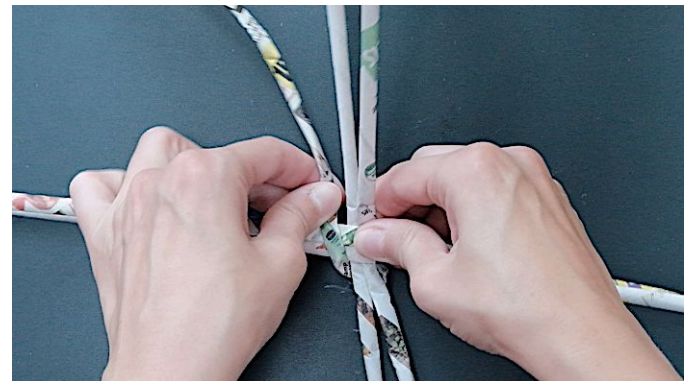
7. Now it's time to start weaving the base. Take a new paper straw and place its end **under** the two spokes that are underneath.



8. Moving clockwise go **over** the next pair of spokes (they were on the top in the initial cross). The straw you just wove in is called '**weaver.**'

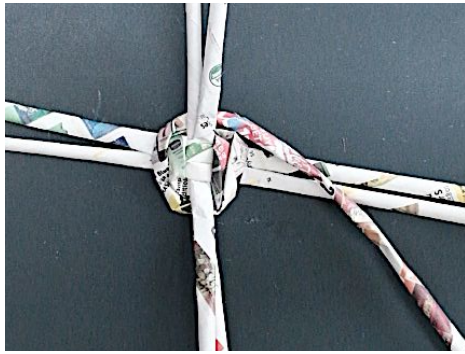


9. Keep moving the weaver **under** the pair of straws that is on the bottom, and **over** the pair that is on the top.

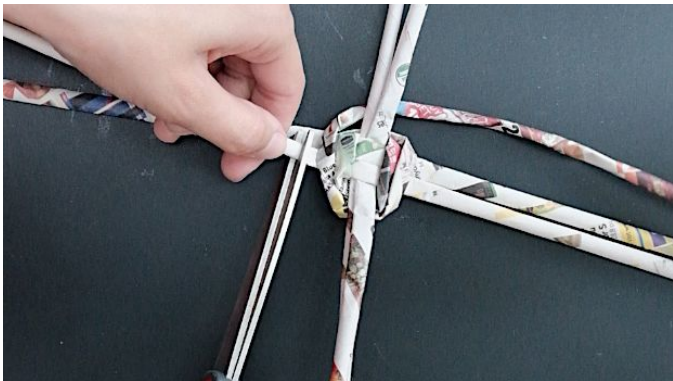


10. Repeat until you make 2-3 circles around the central intersection.



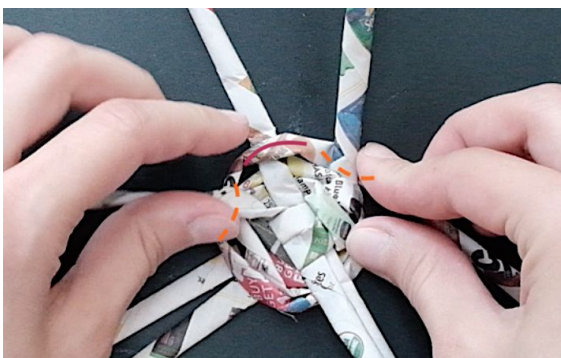


11. At this point you can split the pairs of spokes into single spokes, that will give you eight spokes. However, to make a spiral weaving work you need an odd number of spokes. Cut off one of the spokes, try to cut it very close to the weaver. That will leave you with seven spokes.



12. Separate all the spokes and keep weaving **under** one spoke and **over** the next, trying to space them evenly around the circle.

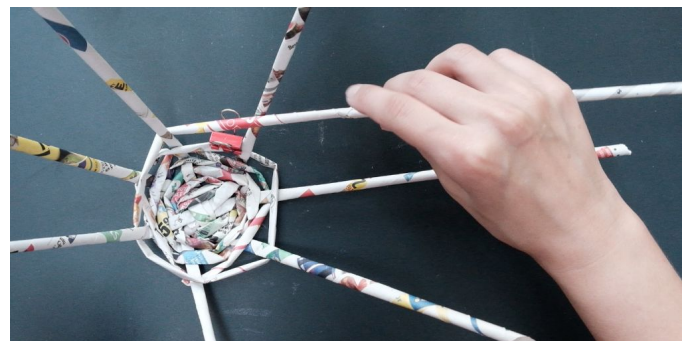
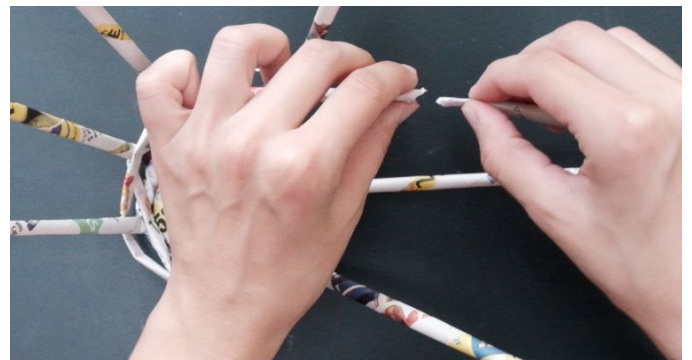
Note: Each new round of the over and under pattern will be an opposite to the previous.



13. After getting the right size base, start bringing the spokes upwards to form the basket shape. Use paper clips or clothespins to keep it all in place and make it as tight as possible.

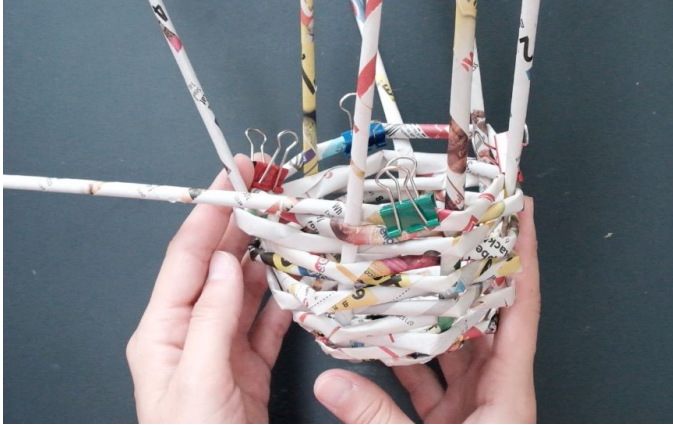


14. When you reach the end of a tube, take another tube and insert the narrower end into the end of the one you just used. Give it a twist and use glue to make sure they are joined securely. Use a paper clip to keep the new pairing intact as you continue weaving.

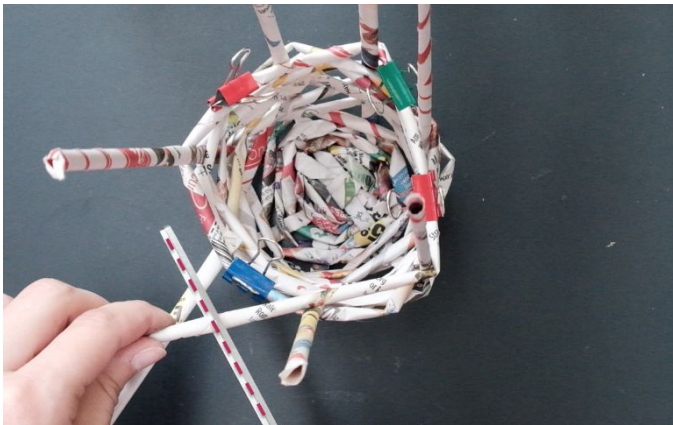


15. Keep weaving around and around. Once you get a few rows up, the spokes will stand up on their own, making it easier to weave the basket.

16. Continue to add rows until you reach your desired height.



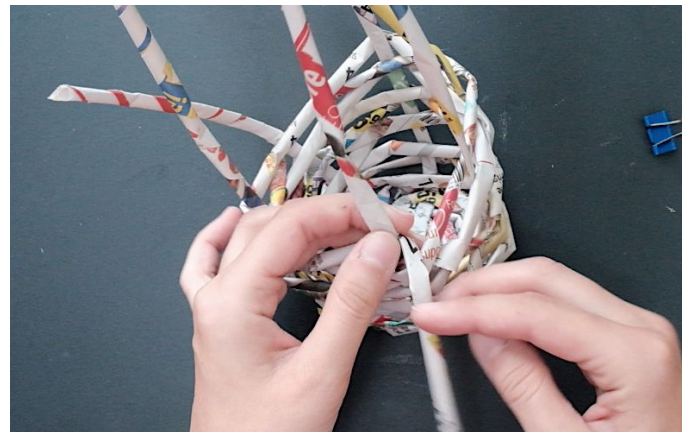
17. Cut the excess end of the weaver, leaving 1-2 inches of tail.



18. Tuck the tail into the basket. You can either secure it with glue, or lace it through the existing weave.



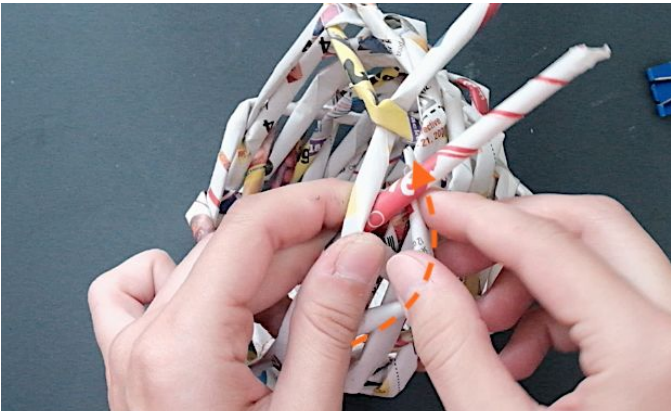
19. To finish the basket, bend each spoke around the spoke next to it to the right and outside the basket.



20. The last spoke should still go around the spoke to the right, you will need to poke through the slot.



21. Take each end of the spokes and tack them into the basket, going around the spoke next to it.



22. Pull it very tight and secure with glue inside the basket. You can trim very long ends.



Now your basket is finished! You can add some color with paint if you wish.



Enjoy using your handmade basket and see how many different items it can hold!



San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

520 South First Street | San Jose, CA | 95113 | www.sjQuiltMuseum.org