

Square willow tray.

This willow tray was made when I attended a course with Anna Turnbull from Bite About Arts at the Northumbria Basketry Group. 400 mm x 320 mm x 90 mm. the willow is soaked according to the type and kept wet throughout.

THE BASE



A frame is made and spliced together so the ends are flush to each other.



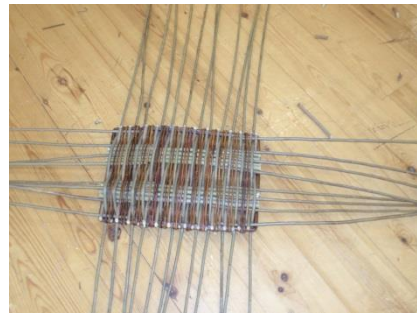
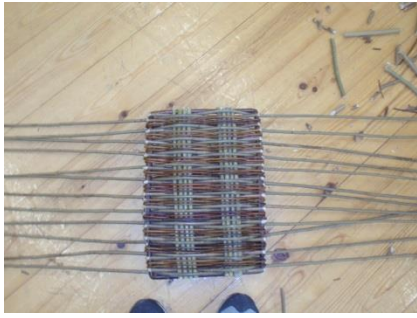
Eight rods are chosen at the same frame beneath making the thick and thin ends alternate to each other.



Choose weavers slightly thinner than chosen for the frame and the rods for the base but must be long enough to be able to weave five times across the width of the tray. Once the base rods are secure enough then now is the time to turn them so that the natural curve faces upwards. These are fillers.



Use stronger weavers to weave twice across the base as shown above and below starting with the butt end (the thicker end of the rod) leaving the tail (the thinner end of the rod) laid out as these are used to form the sides (UPSET) and the boarder. Continue to weave across the base taking off the adhesive tape at the splice once it has been secured with the weavers.
NOTICE TWO TYPES OF WILLOW ARE USE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO SEE WERE YOU ARE WHEN WEAVING THE TWO.



FITTING OF THE END RODS.

Use a bodkin to spread the willow to allow rods to be located in to the end of the base, these again to be used to form the sides (UPSET) and the boarder. Cut a slype to the butt end of the rods to make it easier to push in.



Once all in to position use a bodkin to press on the side of the rods which form the sides (upset) and the boarder and bend the rods upright and temporarily tie up.



THE UPSET. Three rod whale.

Lay three lengths of willow, which must be thinner than the rods used for the sides, on opposite sides and weave them through the rods, starting with the left hand side in front of two and then behind one. On the opposite side do the same but the two opposite sets of weavers

must not catch each other. A three rod whale is a strong weave used for the upset and between different types of weaves. A weight may be used inside to help stop the tray moving around while weaving.



THE BOARDER. Six behind two.

This involves the first six of the uprights, which is quite complicated, involving forming pairs and then dropping one from each pair off.



Cut off the ends of the rods.

