

1. To make a birch bark basket you will need a cardboard template of the basket outline. The basket could be any size as you can see from the picture. The cardboard template is needed to avoid any mistakes you may make if you decided to cut out the actual birch bark right away.

2. After you've traced and cut out the birch bark, keep in mind the naming of the flaps. Flap B, A, and C are identified respectively. So let us begin.

3. -flap A is folded first  
-flaps B and C overlap flap A

4. -hold flaps A, B and C in place with your hand  
-puncture a hole through all three flaps with an awl  
-do the same to the other side

5. At this time, insert wooden pegs in the holes to retain the shape of the basket.

6. While the basket is in place, make a hole in flap A and a hole in flap C  
-insert root into flap A (first hole) from the inside  
-pull the root through leaving a two centimetre excess  
-insert root into flap C (second hole) and pull *tightly*

7. -tie a knot using the two centimetre excess  
-when making holes with the awl always make sure to stay within flap A so that the basket will hold its shape

8. -make the third hole, with awl, about one centimetre away from hole 2, making sure the hole goes through both flap C and flap A

9. -insert root into the third hole from the inside and pull until *taut*  
-insert awl into hole 2 again to make it a bit bigger for the root to be reinserted

10. -insert root into hole 2 and pull *firmly*

11. -make the fourth hole about one centimetre away from hole 3 and continue the same process as above until you reach the top of flap A

12. -when you reach the top of flap A, tuck the remaining root through the *firm* stitching and trim

13. -once one side has been stitched together you may trim flap C

14. -continue the same stitching process with flap B,

15. -when stitching flap **B**, make sure to stitch within flap **A** so that the basket will hold its shape

16. -when all sides have been stitched the rim can be measured to fit over the top of the basket

17. -you may have to adjust the circumference of the rim  
-the willow is tied with string to hold its circular shape  
-untie this string to adjust

18. -the rim should fit snugly over the top of the basket - shown here

19. -the top of the basket is trimmed just above the willow rim

20. -the willow rim is held in place with clothes pins

21. -the first hole is made beneath the willow rim  
-a long piece of root is selected and inserted into the hole from the outside going in

22. -the root is pulled leaving a two centimetre excess  
-pinch the excess to the right beneath the willow rim – hold in place with thumb  
-loop the root (the longer end) back to the front and insert into hole 1 underneath the excess – pull until it is *firm*

23. -hold the excess in place with thumb  
-puncture the second hole beneath the remaining root and rim

24. -loop the root to the front and insert in hole 2  
-pull *tightly* and make sure the excess is in the loop so that it will not come undone  
-continue looping the root around the rim

25. -if you run out of root select another piece and insert, from the front, into the last hole made  
-pinch the excess pieces with fingers to the right  
-loop and insert the long end back into the same hole and pull *tightly*  
-continue looping the root and making sure to wrap the loops around the excess pieces so they are tucked in

26. -once you have looped the root all the way around, tuck the remainder into the loop you made when you started

27. -tuck the remainder a second time into another loop so that it does not come undone  
-trim off the excess

28. -the final step is to secure the sides so that the flaps do not bend back  
-make a hole with the awl through all three flaps near the center

29. -insert the root through the first hole  
-make a second hole about one centimetre from the first hole

30. -insert the root through the second hole, pull until *snug*  
-tie a knot with the excess and trim  
-do the same to the other side and you are done

31. There you have the final product. Depending on the size, you can use it for picking berries or to store treats and other items.

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### Materials needed:

#### Introduction:

The materials needed to make a birch bark basket include:

- birchbark
  - cardboard cut-out
  - spruce root to stitch with
  - awl to make holes
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- wooden pegs
  - peeled willow tree for the rim
  - clothes pins
  - Scissors