

# Random Weave Notes



## Description:

### Materials:

Long strong fibres for the frame and handle – most vines – not too fleshy, grass etc. See what you have available and give it a try!

Filling the gaps can be woven with more of the same – easier if the vines and grass stems are flexible. I have also used lomandra, African dietes, raffia, iris, lily – again try what takes your fancy. Be sure to dry these first and then rehydrate them as they will become loose and create gaps when they dry.

### Method:

Random weave refers to a weave that is not repeated – organised.

1. Long fibres are used to create a frame by making a circle, and then winding the fibre around itself to make a wreath-like frame. More fibres are then wound around this circle to make it strong.
2. Take time to get to know your fibres and let these plant beings tell you what they are able to do for you!
  - a. Take a vine and bend it into a circle. Notice how small a circle it will make comfortably before beginning to crack.
  - b. Is the vine fleshy or woody? Thick or thin?
  - c. Notice how your vine is constructed. Vines and grass stems often have a pith centre surrounded by fibres. If they are dry, the pith is hard and will break the fibres if you bend the fibre too much. See if you can squash the vine with your fingernail or a pair of pliers. This will crush the pith allowing the fibres to bend without breaking if they aren't too dry; in which case they may need to be soaked.
  - d. Notice how the vine has grown. Some put out curly hands to cling onto other plants. Some grow new branches from their leaves. Some behave like a python

and curl around branches or itself. Noticing how the plant has grown will tell you what it can do and how you might use it in your random weaving.

- e. Depending upon the vine's natural circle, you will aim to make your next weaving move closer or further away from where the vine has emerged. If you want it to be closer – a tighter circle, you may need to 'crack' the pith with your fingernail to help it turn where you want it to. Curling your vine around others as you go will make it strong.

3. If using a bowl or like shape as a mold, then this circular frame will be bigger than the mold so that the mold can sit inside it.
4. Tie string so that it crosses the circle frame so that the bowl will not fall through the circle frame.
5. Weave your long fibres from the frame on one side to the other over the top of the bowl.
6. When you have enough structure you can remove the string and the bowl and continue weaving. Notice where you need to strengthen your basket and use techniques such as:
  - a. Going under or over as is necessary
  - b. Winding the vine around previously woven vines to strengthen joins
  - c. Weaving the vine back on itself so that it doesn't pull out easily.
  - d. Threading it through narrow spaces or pull the vines to make a space to thread a vine through so that it becomes trapped.
  - e. Use your intuition to decide what and where to go with your vine, noticing the path it is creating and how best to finish the end and whether it needs some help from another vine to stay anchored!
7. Attaching a handle: You may like to create a handle during this stage. Simply use long vines



twisting three or four around each other in the middle leaving long ends at both ends. Take an end and weave it into the basketmaking sure it winds back on itself, so it won't pull out. Do this with all of the ends so that where the vines are twisted together forms a handle. Weave more vines over the handle and into the basket to



make it strong.

8. Continue with the same materials or introduce thinner more flexible vines or other fibres to fill in any spaces in your basket.

