



Upcycling – turn a paper bag into a basket

If you've forgotten your reusable bags at home on a recent trip to the grocery store, there's a good chance you ended up bringing home paper bags. Instead of tossing those bags into your recycle bin, try upcycling them instead!

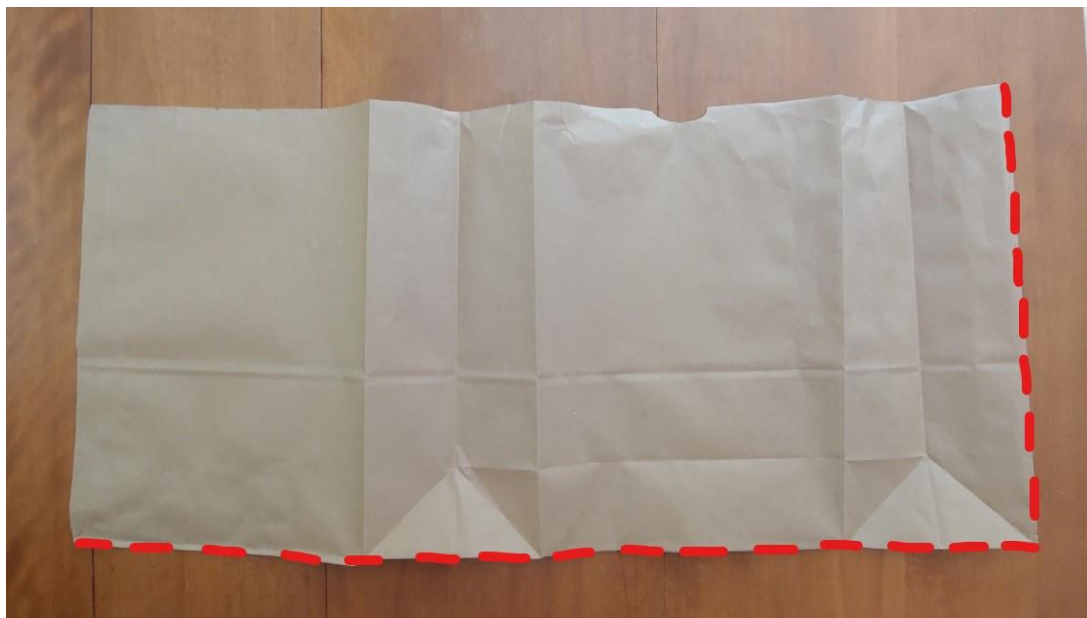
You will need:

- paper bag
- ruler
- scissors
- tape (hot glue also works)
- pen or pencil



Step 1:

Carefully cut the bottom out of the bag. Then, cut along one side of the bag, and lay the bag flat on your workspace (cut areas shown in red).



Step 2:

Using a pen/pencil and a ruler, mark every two inches along the bottom of the bag. Use these marks to draw lines, which will be your cutting guides. Then, carefully cut along each line, creating about 18 strips.



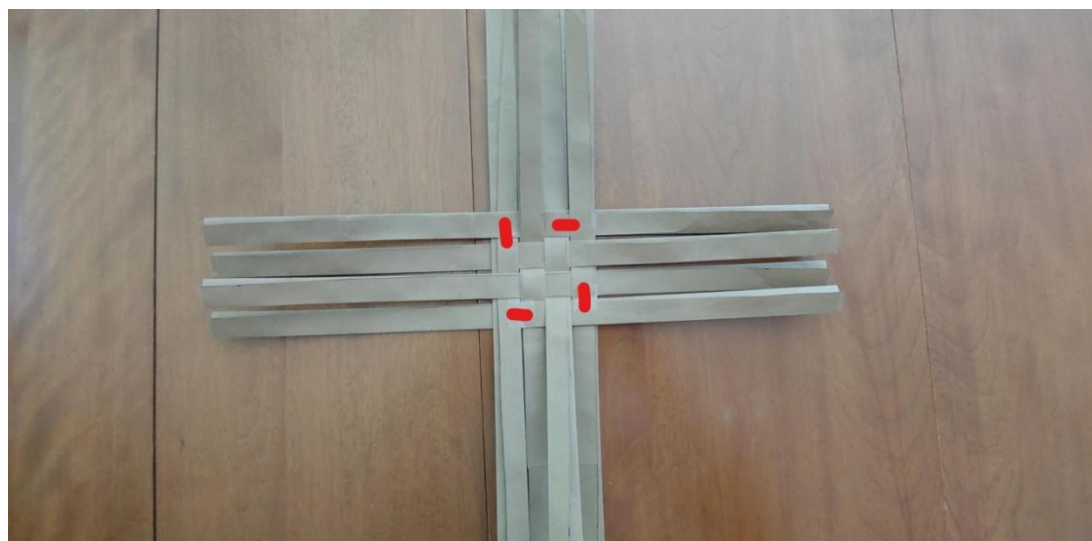
Step 3:

Fold each strip into thirds. This makes the strips thicker, which will create a stronger basket.



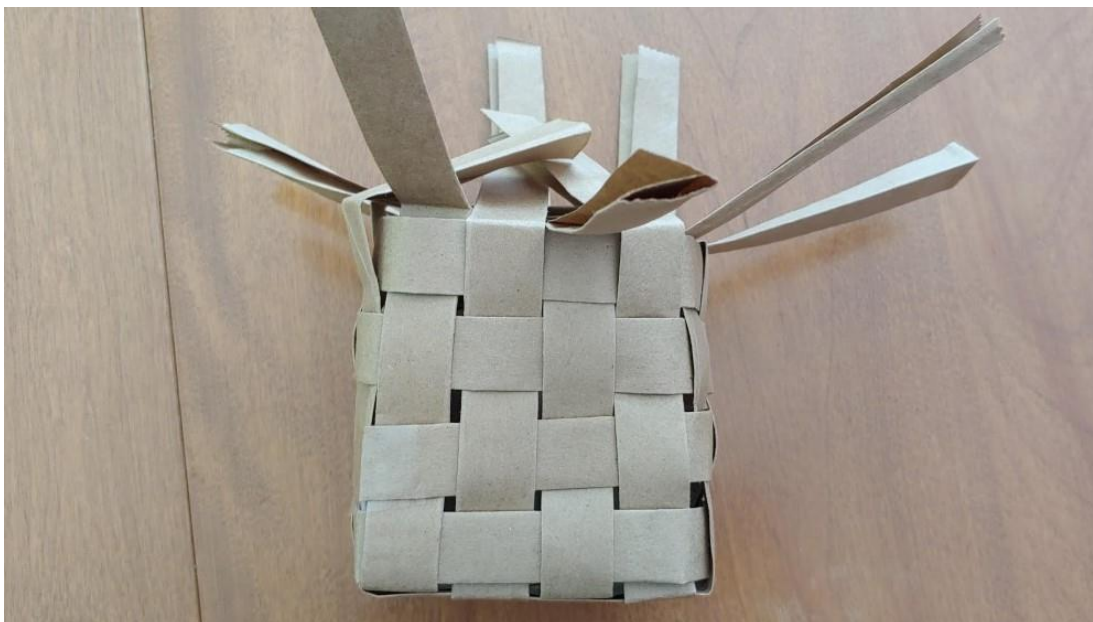
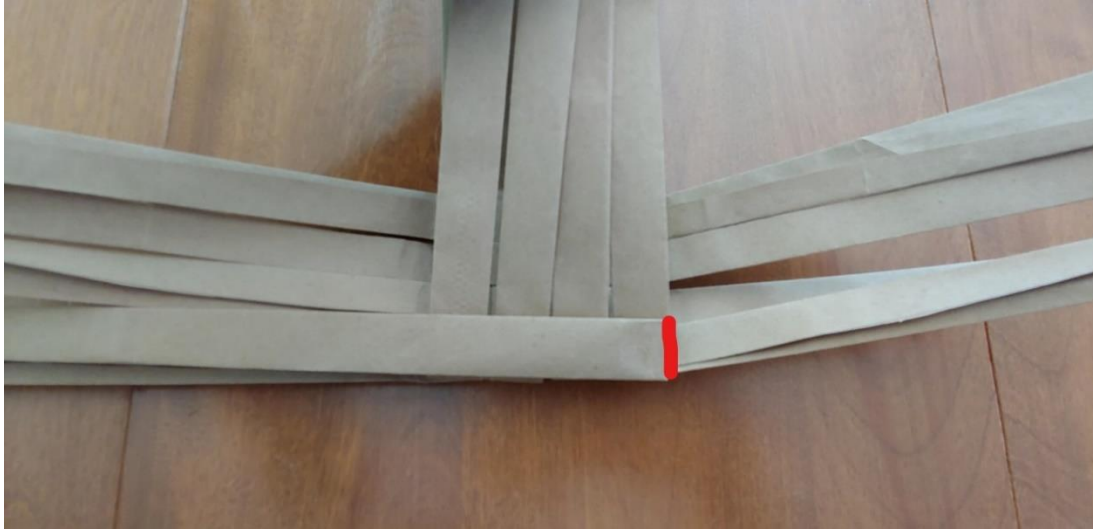
Step 4:

Lay out four strips horizontally, and four strips vertically. Weave these strips together, creating the bottom of the basket. Secure each corner with tape or glue (tape placement shown in red). Fold strips on each side along the woven bottom, which will help the sides stand up.



Step 5:

Now it's time to weave in new strips, which will create the sides of the basket. Using tape or glue, secure the end of a new strip onto one of your existing side strips. Once secured, weave the new strip through the existing strips on all sides, until you get back to the place you started. Trim any excess length from the new strip, and secure at the end with tape or glue (tape placement shown in red). Continue with additional new strips until your basket reaches your ideal height



Step 6:

Trim the excess paper from your side strips, leaving about half an inch extra to fold over the top edge of your basket. Use tape or glue to secure the end of each strip to the basket.

Great job, your basket is now complete! Feel free to decorate it, and fill it with things around your house. This project also works well as a small gift basket!

