

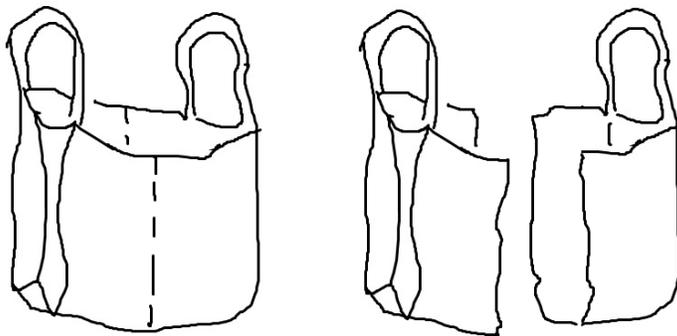
Instructions for a Plastic Bagsket

Jonathan Lansey, JCL7@njit.edu

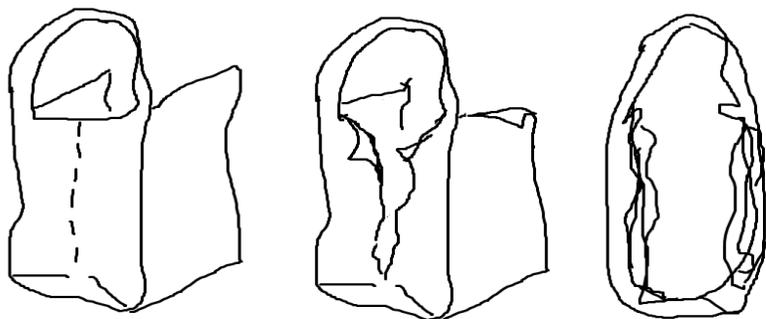
Disclaimer: I am not a graphic artist so these instructions don't really look so good. If anyone would like to redraw these and allow me to put them up here (with credit) it would be much appreciated.

Creating the thread

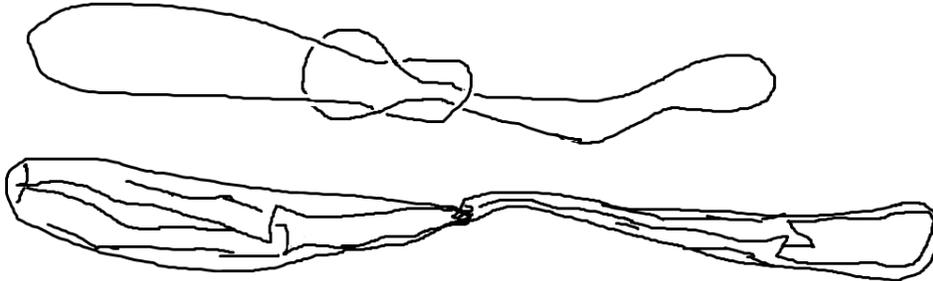
The first step to weaving a bagsket is creating a long thread. You will increase the length of this thread one bag-length at a time and you can get two thread-segments with each bag as shown below. Cut along the dashed lines.



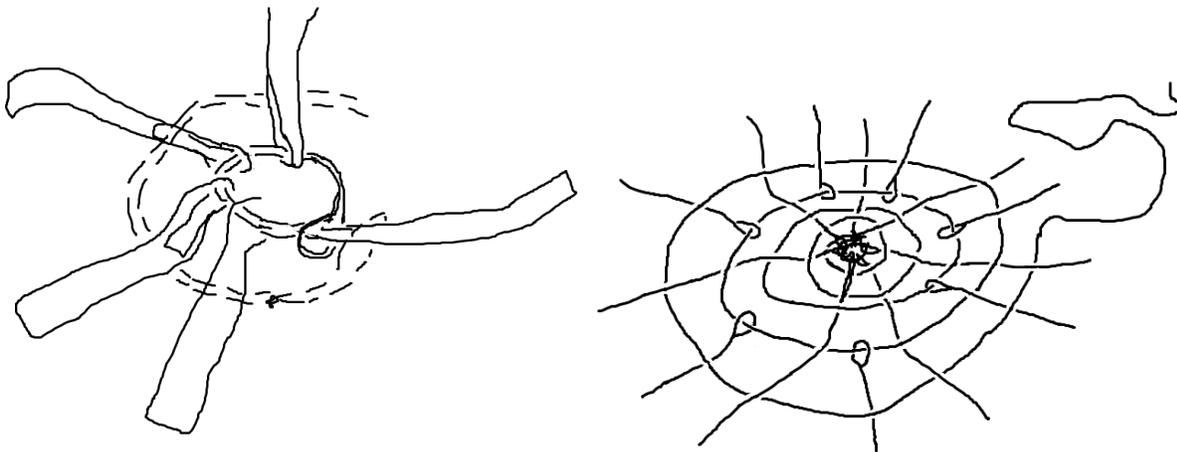
These is the only steps are the only ones for which a pair of scissors will be helpful. Cut again along the dashed lines making a strong loop of plastic out of each half bag.



Below is a schematic, and a sort of sketch of how to tie these long plastic rings together to make the thread. This sort of "knot" is great because it takes up very little volume, does not waste any plastic and takes only about 2 seconds to make.



Once you have a string of some length its time to start. You string the handles of an odd number of bags together on the thread and then tighten the thread. I used 11 bags for the first row, any reasonable number is fine but it cannot be an even number or the weave won't work out correctly. The diagram, and diagrams that follow show fewer bags to make the images clear. The dashed line shows how to start weaving the thread around the center of the bags.



As the bagsket grows outwards you need to quickly add more bags or they will be too spread out to get a nice weave. See the schematic below to see how to add more bags to the weave, the needle looking holes represent the holes in the bag handles. It is important to add bags at evenly spaced intervals around the center. As you can see below, I approximately doubled the number of bags each time by adding an extra bag in between every other. (You actually get N-1 extra bags). Note that fewer bags are shown here than the number of bags that were actually used.

When do I add bags?

Take all the numbers below with a grain of salt, this doesn't need to be perfect, in fact I'm pretty sure that I didn't do this perfectly

- Start out with 11 bags hanging off the central ring.
- Add 10 more bags to get 21 all around when you are about 7 rows out from the center.
- Add another ring of bags when you are about 15 rows out. The total bags all around should be near 41. For some reason my bagsket counts 39 bags going around - that means I didn't do it perfectly. Don't worry too much about being perfect, it can get *very* confusing. Just make sure you focus on anything I say that is actually important.

This is the first plastic bagsket of its kind, its a work in progress so feel free to improve on the design.

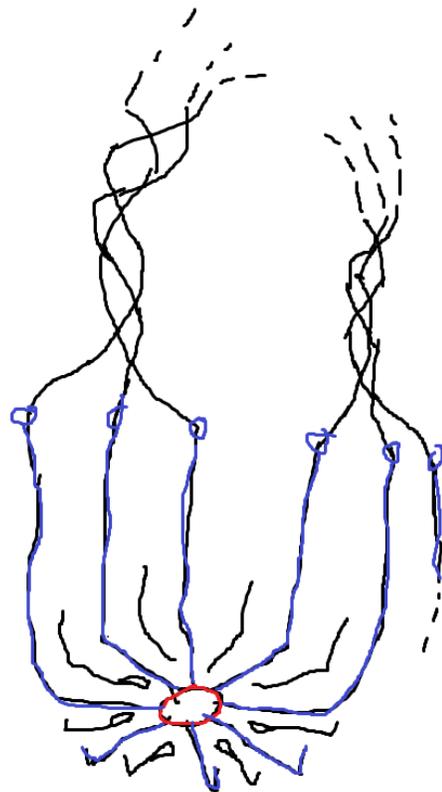
How do you make the bagsket turn up and take shape?

Creating the shape of the bag is all about keeping the right amount of length in the thread as you weave it around. If you weave the thread too tight then the bagsket will be constricted, too loose and it will billow out. When it is time to turn the bag vertical, make sure that each new row of the plastic thread has the same length around as the row one below it.

A good location to start turning the bag up is a rows after you added the last ring of bags, about 18 from the center ring.

What about the handles?

The handles are a very important part of the bagsket, if they are not done right then your bagsket could stretch and perhaps break under a heavy load. As you can see in the diagram below, the blue bags that loop around the central ring are the bags that the handles must be attached to. In this way you get a structurally solid bagsket. The extra bags that were added after the central ring are not really meant to be weight bearing.



The handles themselves are braided, a simple three braid for each half of the handle. The two sides of each handle should be braided into each other, I found this step too difficult to draw so please try to use your imagination. The extra bag ends that are not weight bearing can be woven into base of the handles for added strength. Don't stress about this step, just weave it in a way that feels right without any regular pattern.

You're done - time to go shopping!

If you have any questions or comments please email , JCL7@njit.edu