



Hose2Habitat Fire Hose Basket

Adapted from instructions submitted for the Hose2Habitat Enrichment Contest
Permission for publication and use granted by Lauren Culley

"I based this design off a primitive fish basket. Inspiration comes from everywhere, and Naked and Afraid really spoke to me." ~Lauren Culley



General Information:

From Lauren Culley: The enrichment device was first created as a sleeping area, but evolved into a reusable basket that foraging items could be placed inside. I've put different foraging substrates with treats inside for our marmosets to pick through. I made a larger basket for the marmosets, bush baby, and ferrets to sleep in. It's nice that it's durable and washable! Depending on the size and shape of the basket, it can be used for smaller primates, ferrets, hedgehogs, tenrecs, possibly some other less destructive animals that want a comfy place to rest! If the basket is woven very loosely, it can also make for an interesting browse device for small herbivores (muntjacs, etc.).

Safety Concerns:

Safety concerns are standard issues of possibility of caught limbs depending on how tightly the basket is woven. Ensure that the animal it is being used with can't ingest any hardware or zip ties.

Items Needed:

- Fire hose (amount depends on size of the basket being made)
- Tool to cut fire hose
- Connectors (hardware or zip ties)



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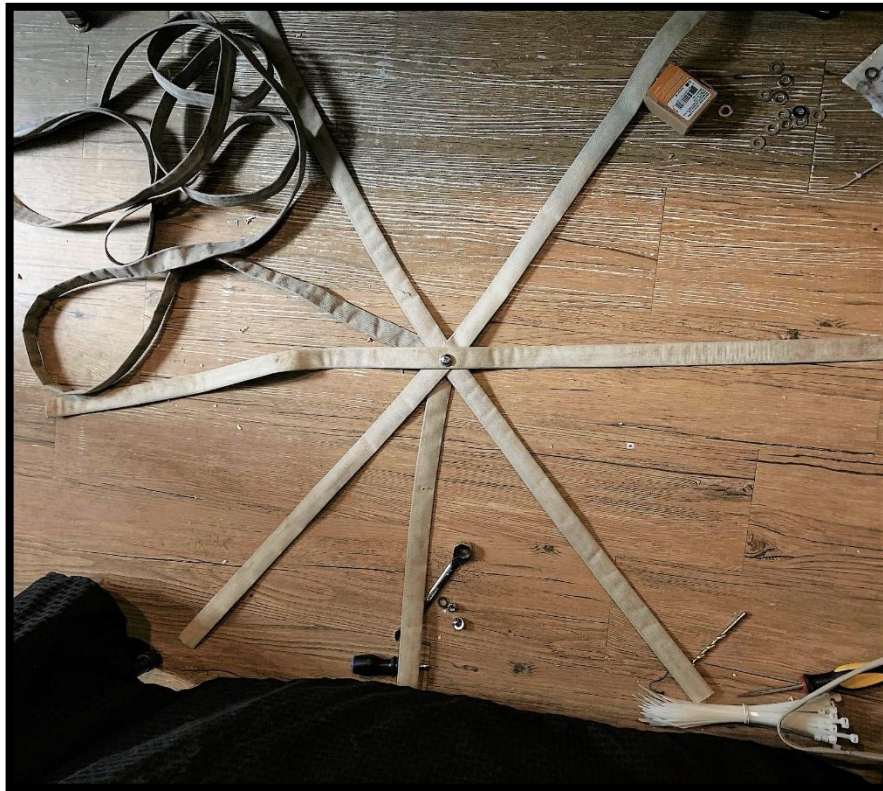
Instructions

Step 1

Cut 3-4 pieces of fire hose that will serve as the "spines" of the basket. Each spine should be at least twice as long as the desired height of your finished basket. If you want a wider basket, you'll lose some length, so plan accordingly! In the picture below, 4 pieces of fire hose were used.

Step 2

Find the center of each strip and loosely connect the strips with a bolt as shown in the picture below. Cut one of the strips at the bolt, leaving you with an odd number of equal pieces. You must have an odd number of spines to weave the basket.





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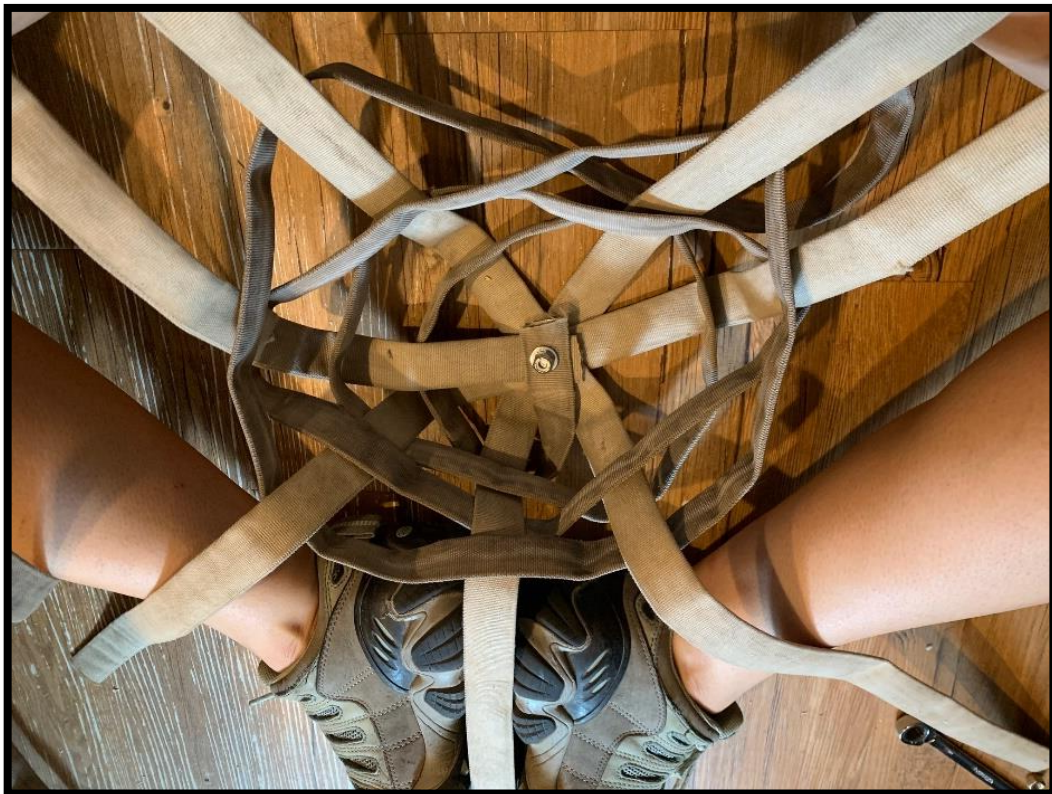
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Step 3 (optional, but recommended)

Make a hole approximately 1 inch from the end of the length of hose you will weave with. If using p hose (as in these instructions), you can make the hole 1 inch from the end of an entire roll of p hose. Attach that length/roll of hose to the connector that is holding the spines together. (You don't have to attach this strip you will be weaving, but it's hard to keep track of your end piece, weave, and hold the basket together if you don't have the end "tethered down".)

Step 4

Sit with the spines in between your legs, creating the best circle you can and start weaving the long strip/roll of hose around the spines horizontally. The weave may be loose by the time you've woven all the way to the tops of the spines. You can tighten the weave using the steps below if you want a tighter weave.





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STEP 5

If you want to add additional weaving length to make the basket with a tighter weave, attach all the "spines". Then attach the end of another long weaving piece to the same place/spine where you connected the end of your first weaving piece and continue weaving.





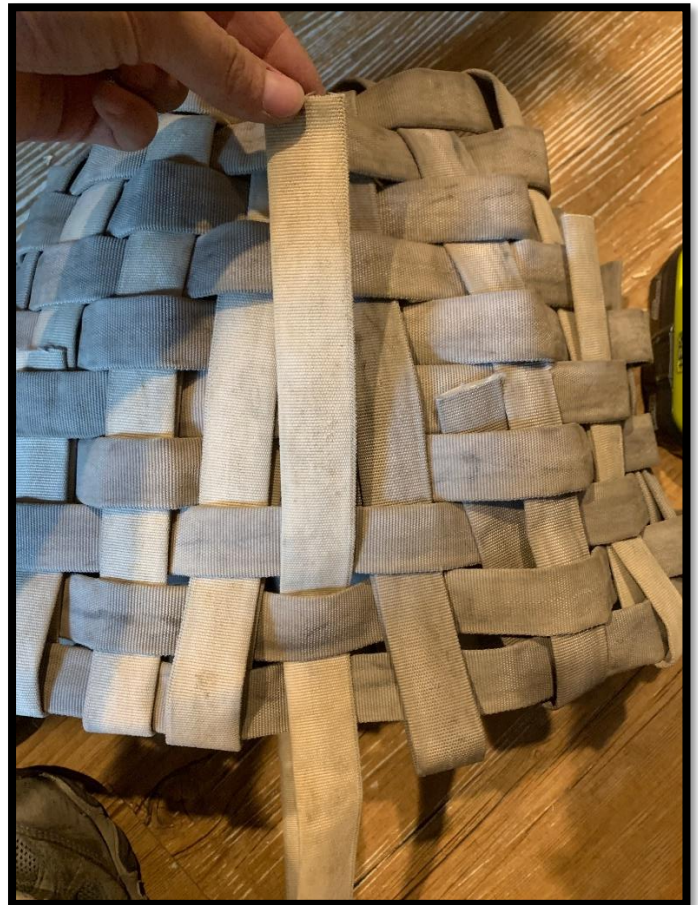
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Step 6

You can also make the weave tighter by adding "spines" to the center bottom connector and weaving the added spines vertically through the weave as shown in the pictures below.





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Step 7

After you've woven in enough vertical spines and/or horizontal length to make the basket as tight as you want it, attach the end of the spines to the top weave length of the basket as shown in the photo below and trim the extra spine length. It is normal to have a little asymmetry at the top (but frustrating for those of us that like things perfectly straight).





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Add a blanket or nesting material if desired. Happy weaving!

