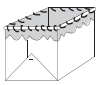
ATHABASCAN BIRCH BARK BASKET



1. Cut out the square along the outer thick black line.
2. Fold in sides along the white dotted lines, and then open the paper up to a flat big square again.
3. Fold along the short black dotted lines to centerlines A & B on each end of the basket to create triangular flaps. The fold of the flaps should make the basket sides stand upright.
4. Staple the triangular flaps to the sides to complete the box shape.
5. Cut out the decorative trim strips and wrap around the upper edge on the outside of the basket. Tape in place.
6. Punch holes in the upper edge of the basket through the black dots.
7. Use 1/4-inch cord to make a rigid rim: Wrap dental floss or string around the 1/4-inch cord and through the holes in the upper edge of the basket to attach the rim

Decorative trim (2 strips)

Skill level 10 yrs and up

fold

centerline B

fold

fold

centerline A

fold

INSIDE OF BASKET

ATHABASCAN BIRCH BARK BASKET

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In the boreal forests of Interior Alaska, Athabascan people have gathered bark from birch trees for hundreds of years to make many objects ranging in size from baskets and cradles to canoes. Birch bark is gathered in the spring when the sap is flowing in the trees and the bark comes off easily. The bark is heated over a fire or soaked in hot water to bend and fold it. Spruce and willow roots are used to make a rigid rim and for sewing some baskets together.