

# EATING IN PUBLIC

[nomoola.com](http://nomoola.com)

## [ basket weaving 101 ]

Across the planet the commons was incrementally taken from us - destroying our ability to survive so that we could be turned into a labour force for capitalists. With much help from the state, capitalists have and continue to take more and more that was common and turn it into private and public (read: state) property.

Along with the everyday realities of survival (land, food, water, etc) we have also been purposefully deskilled so that all our needs would have to be met through the capitalist marketplace with its focus on consumption and a perverse system of planned obsolescence.

This thread of Eating in Public's work is a small gesture of re-learning and repairing. Part of our larger goal of reclaiming the commons, we believe that we must learn to be commoners so we can reclaim it from capitalists and the state and make it ours.

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## [ basket weaving 101 ]

A common detritus of global capitalism, bale straps are found around nearly every box shipped across the globe, binding box to box, paper to paper, everything to pallets. They are used only once and only a tiny fraction of them are even recycled. The rest goes into the waste stream.

We have found straps on the streets as well as cultivated relationships with businesses who are happy to save them for us - distribution companies, bookstores, dry good stores, green grocers, appliance stores, vendors of building materials, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc.



**This set of instructions explains how to make a small basket with repurposed bale straps, approximately 8" (height) x 4/5" (width) x 11.5" (length).**

**You will need:**

**height - 13 straps @ 42"**

**width - 7 straps @ 42"**

**length - 19 straps @ 32"**

**and for the handles:**

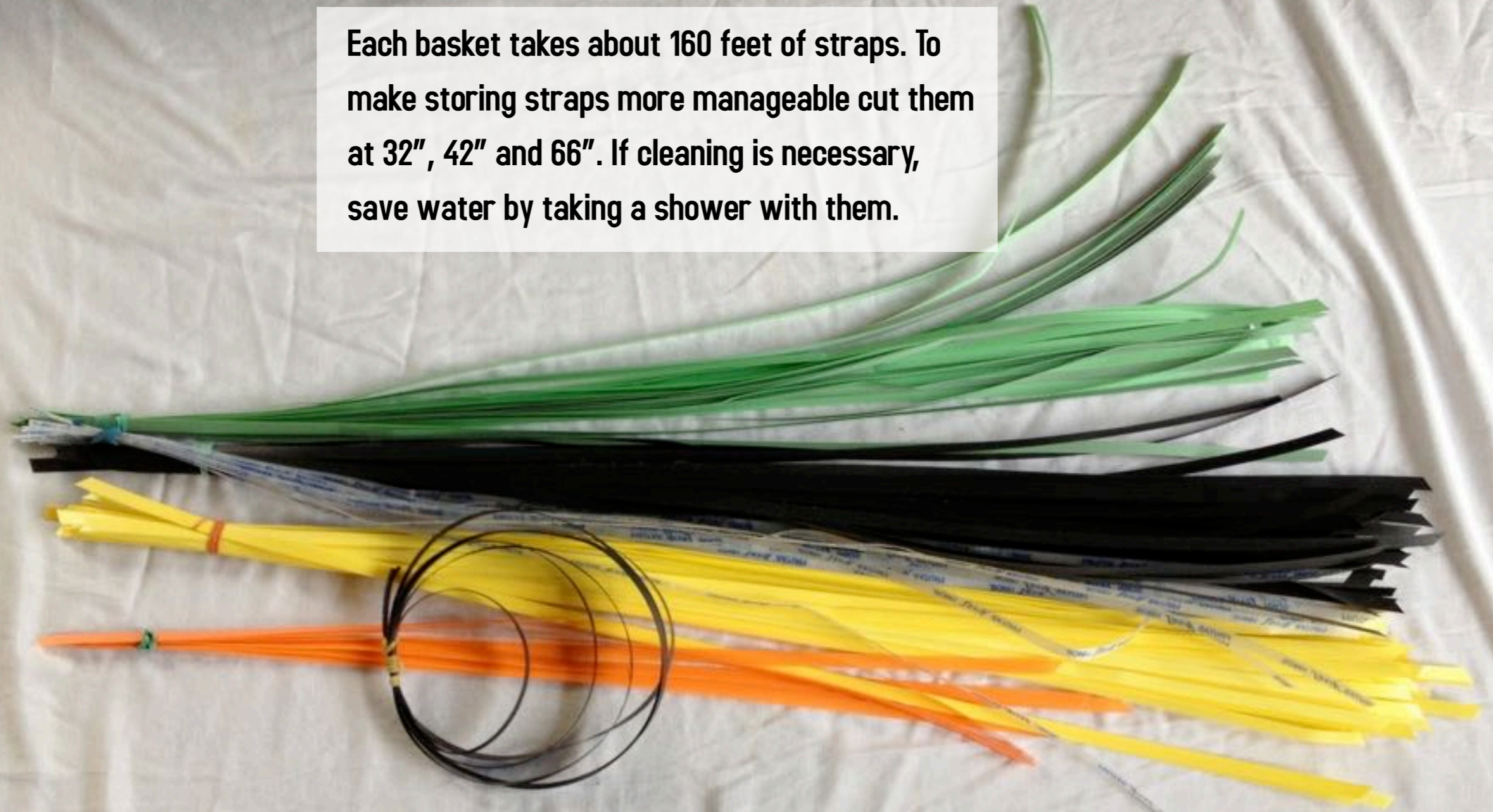
**2 straps @ 42" , 2 straps @ 32" , 2 straps\* 66" = 280"**

**\*the 66" straps should be those that are not too stiff**



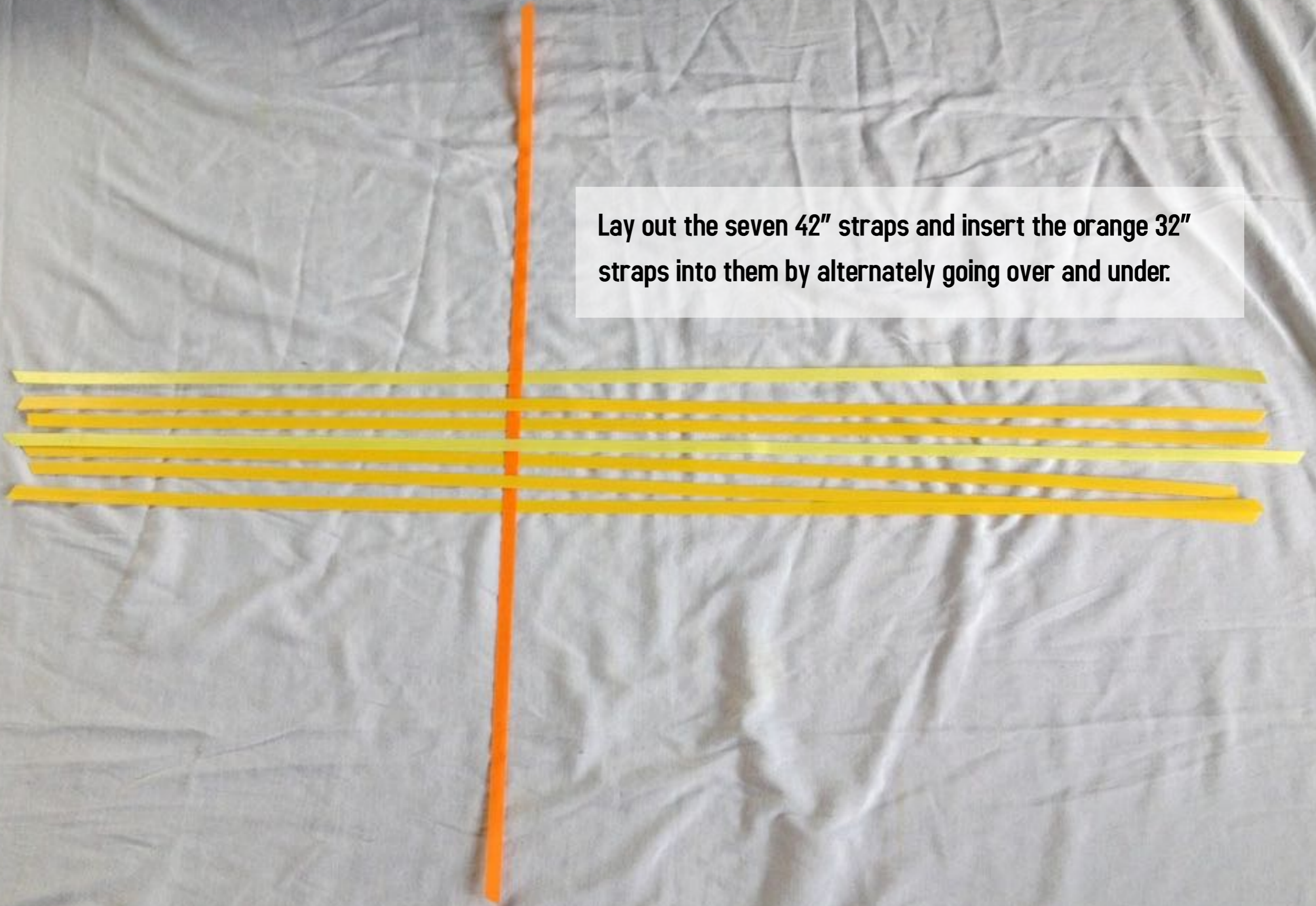
**Tools needed: scissors, measuring tape, and pliers**

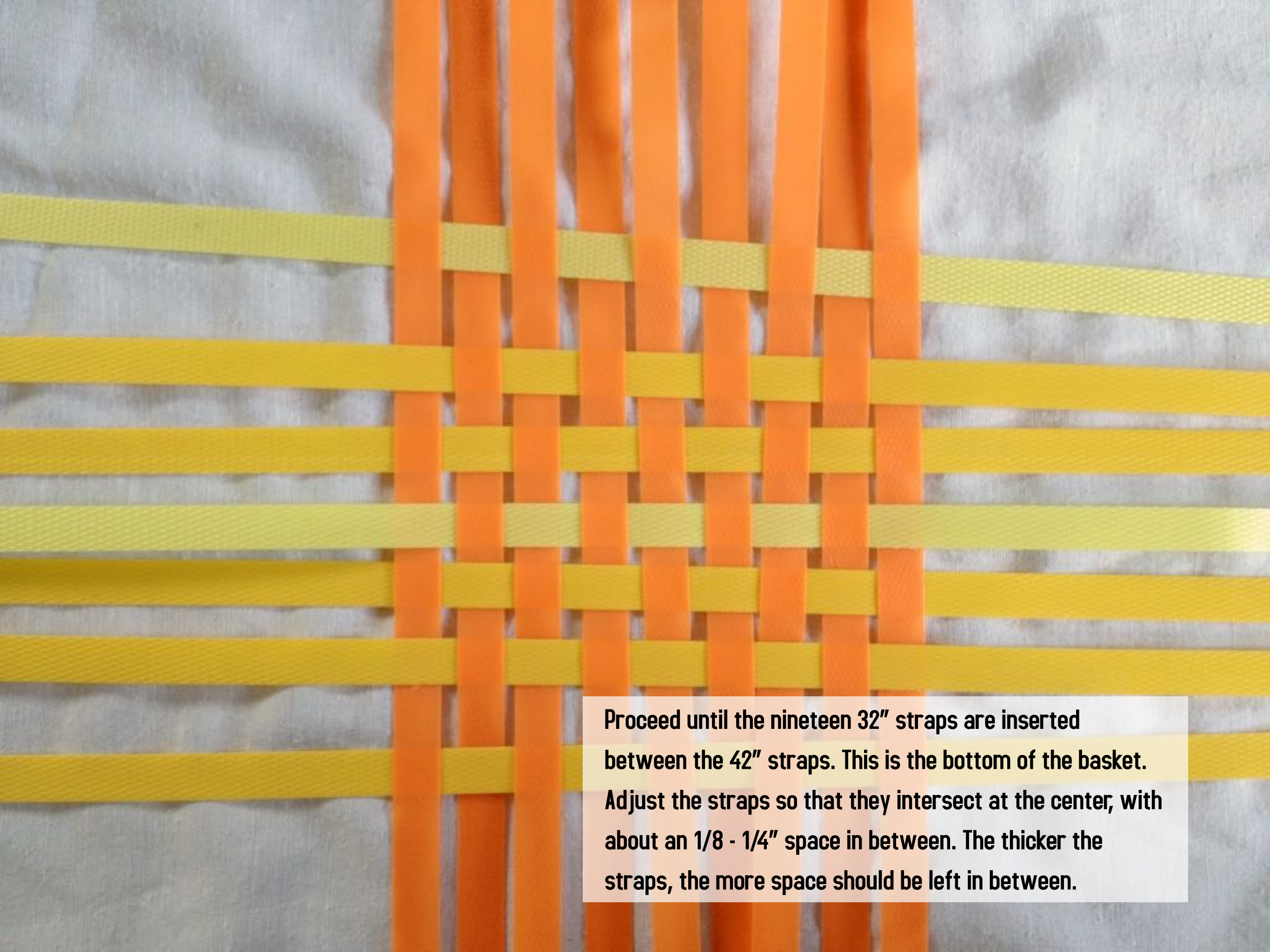
**Each basket takes about 160 feet of straps. To make storing straps more manageable cut them at 32", 42" and 66". If cleaning is necessary, save water by taking a shower with them.**




**Cut ends at an angle. Bundling straps with rubber bands facilitates easy cleaning and storage.**

**Lay out the seven 42" straps and insert the orange 32" straps into them by alternately going over and under.**






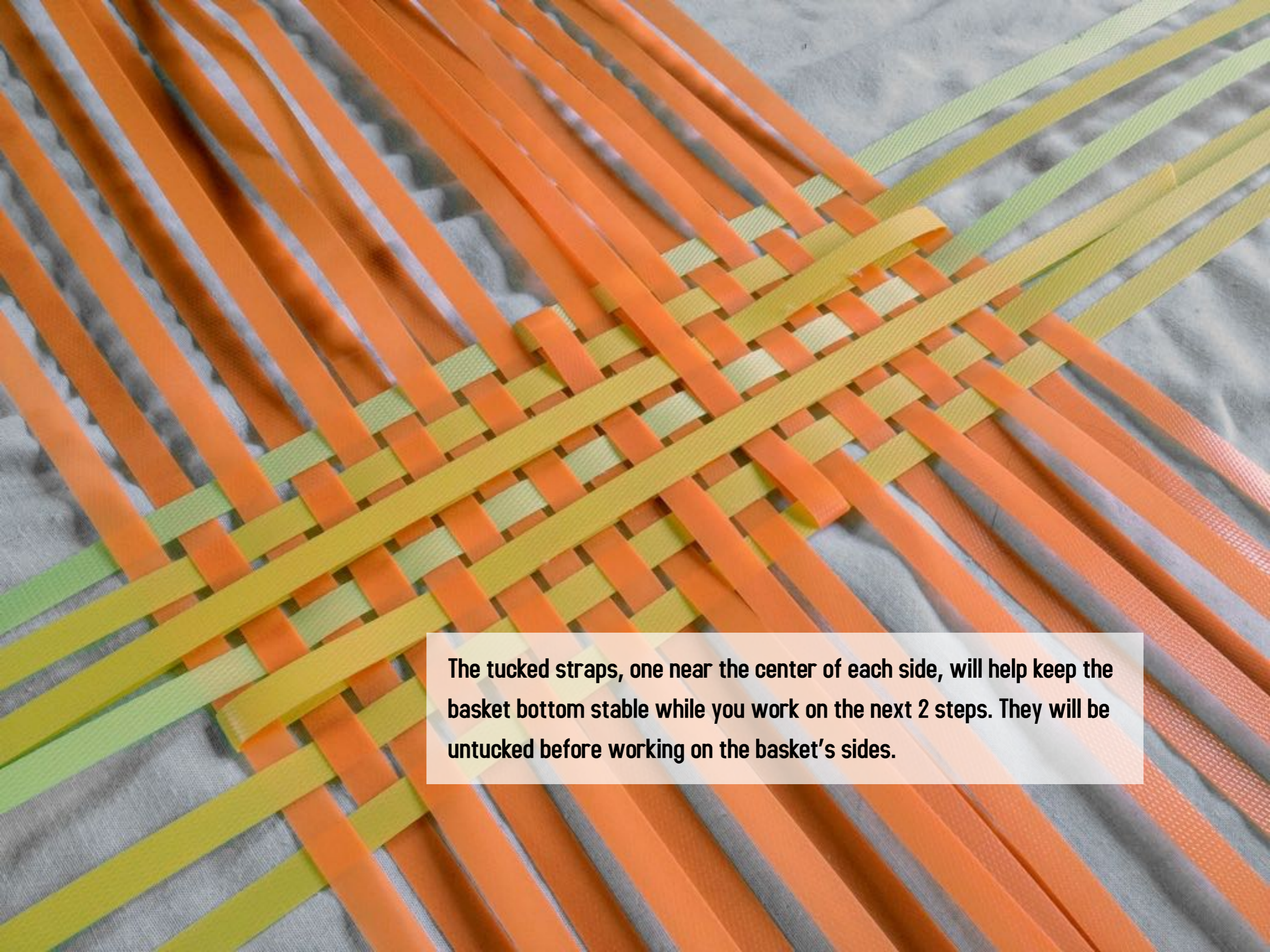
**Proceed until the nineteen 32" straps are inserted between the 42" straps. This is the bottom of the basket. Adjust the straps so that they intersect at the center, with about an 1/8 - 1/4" space in between. The thicker the straps, the more space should be left in between.**



**Once you are happy with the straps' positions, provisionally tuck one strap (near the center of each side) into itself. This will anchor the straps and prevent them from moving during the next few steps.**

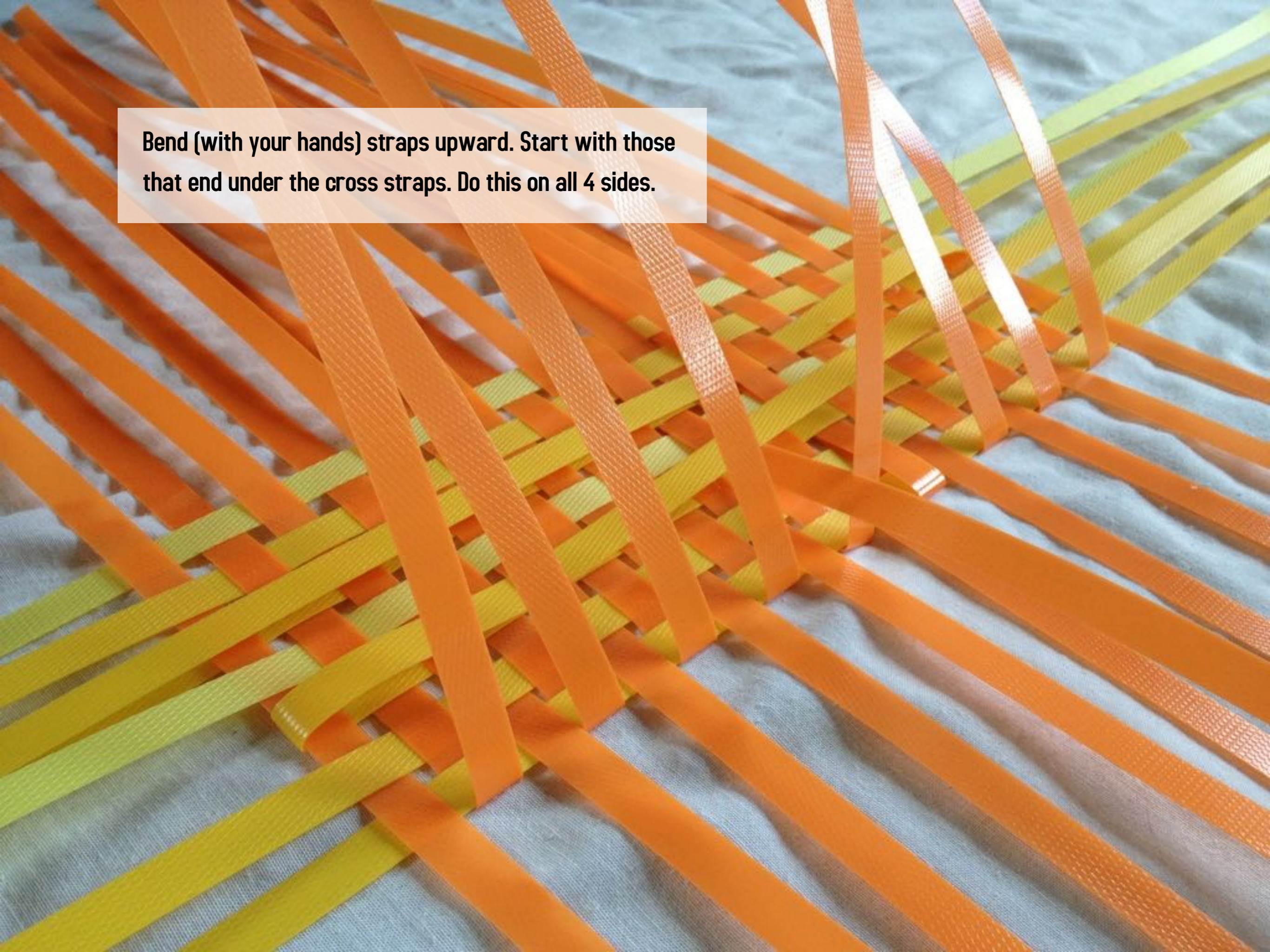
A close-up photograph of a woven fabric. The fabric is composed of two main colors: a vibrant orange and a light green. The ribbons are woven in a diagonal, basketweave pattern. The orange ribbons run from the top-left to the bottom-right, while the green ribbons run from the top-right to the bottom-left. The ribbons have a slightly textured, woven appearance. In the center of the image, there is a semi-transparent white rectangular box containing the text "Fold and tuck to secure." in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Fold and tuck to secure.**



**The tucked straps, one near the center of each side, will help keep the basket bottom stable while you work on the next 2 steps. They will be untucked before working on the basket's sides.**

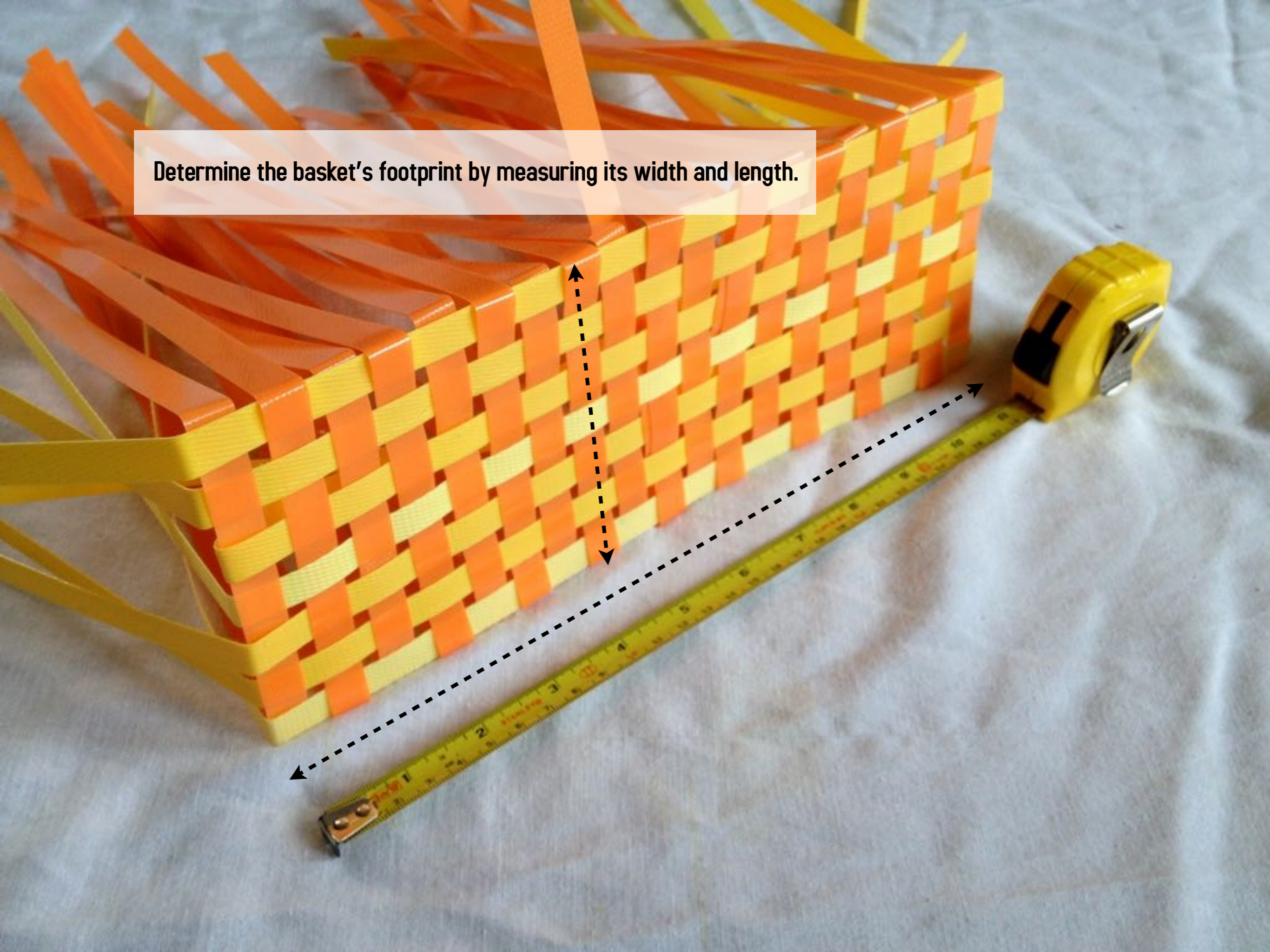
**Bend (with your hands) straps upward. Start with those that end under the cross straps. Do this on all 4 sides.**



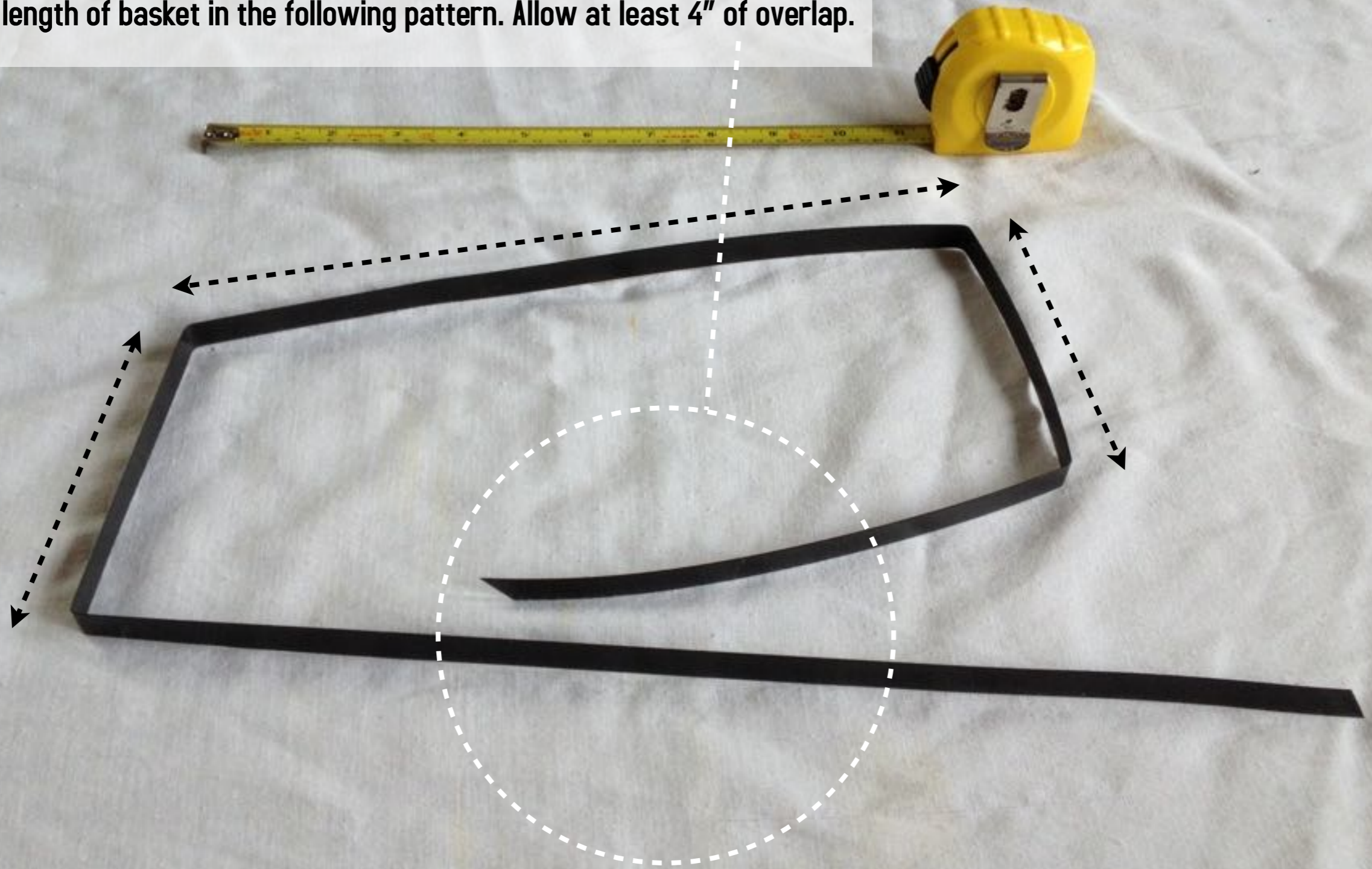


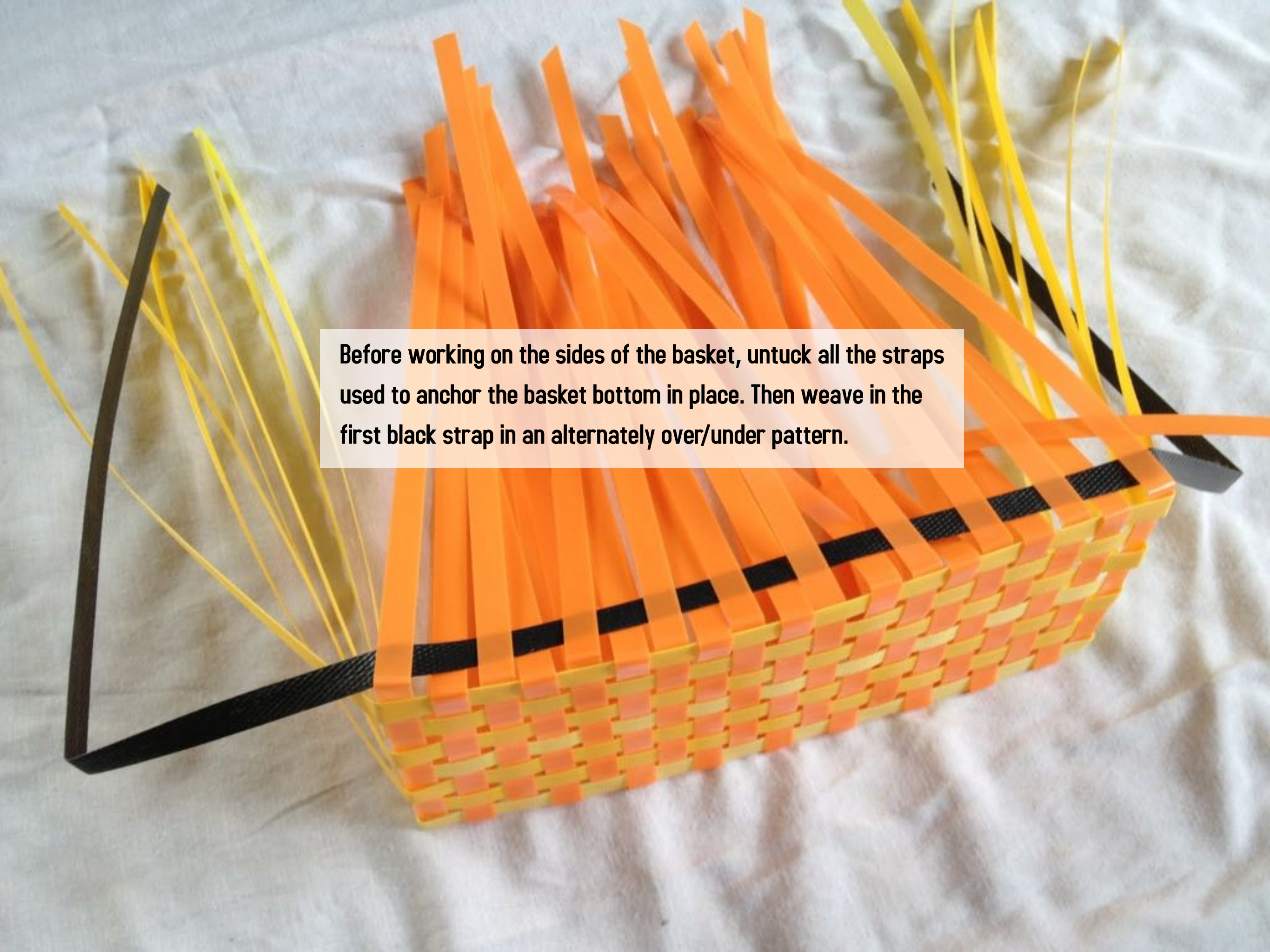
**Do likewise for the remaining straps on all 4 sides.**

Determine the basket's footprint by measuring its width and length.



**Bend (with your hands) 12 of the black 42" straps to the width and length of basket in the following pattern. Allow at least 4" of overlap.**






**Before working on the sides of the basket, untuck all the straps used to anchor the basket bottom in place. Then weave in the first black strap in an alternately over/under pattern.**

**To prevent slippage, provisionally tuck in one of the straps (near center) before moving onto the next sides.**






**Weave+tuck likewise on the short ends of the basket.**

A close-up photograph of a woven basket. The basket is made of orange and yellow ribbons. Several black straps with a white dotted pattern are wrapped around the basket. The straps are overlapping each other. A white text box is overlaid on the image, containing the following text:

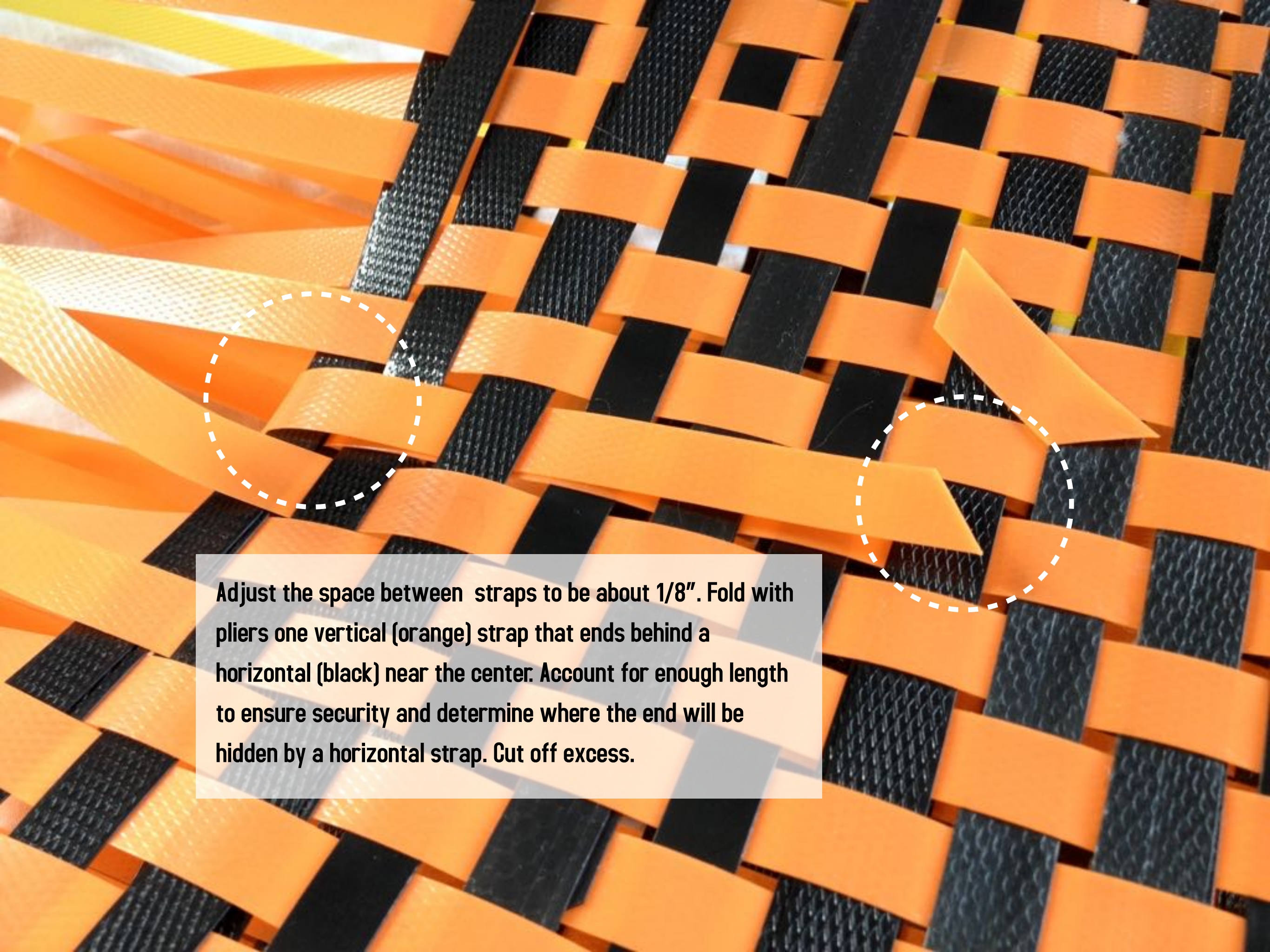
**When you arrive at the 4th side allow straps to overlap at least 4". Do not trim excess at this time.**



**Start weaving the next black strap on the side that the first row ended. Weave+tuck as you go.**



**This is what your basket will look like when you have completed the 12th horizontal (black) strap.**




**Adjust the space between straps to be about 1/8". Fold with pliers one vertical (orange) strap that ends behind a horizontal (black) near the center. Account for enough length to ensure security and determine where the end will be hidden by a horizontal strap. Cut off excess.**



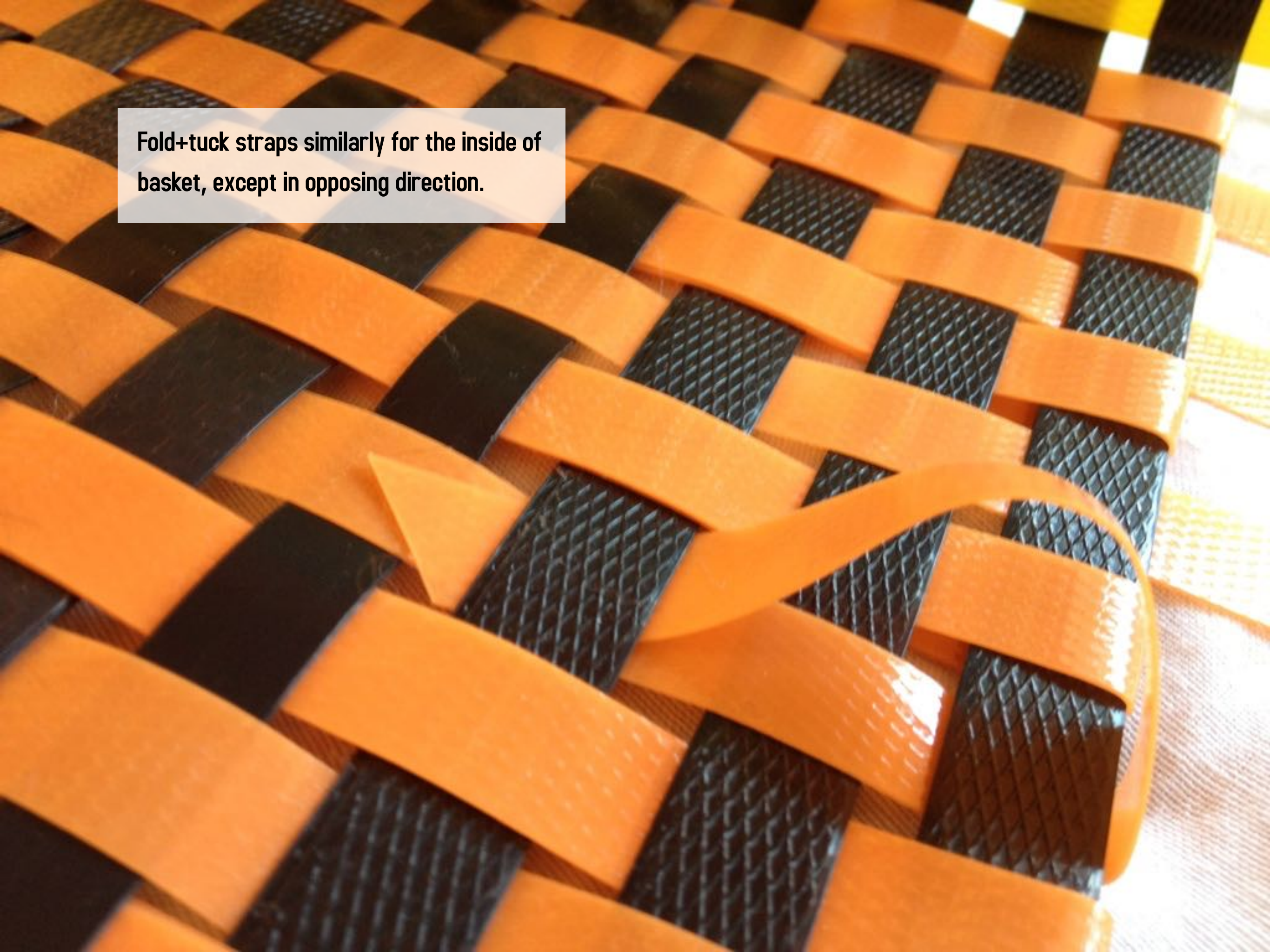
**Tuck into horizontal strap securely and hide end.**



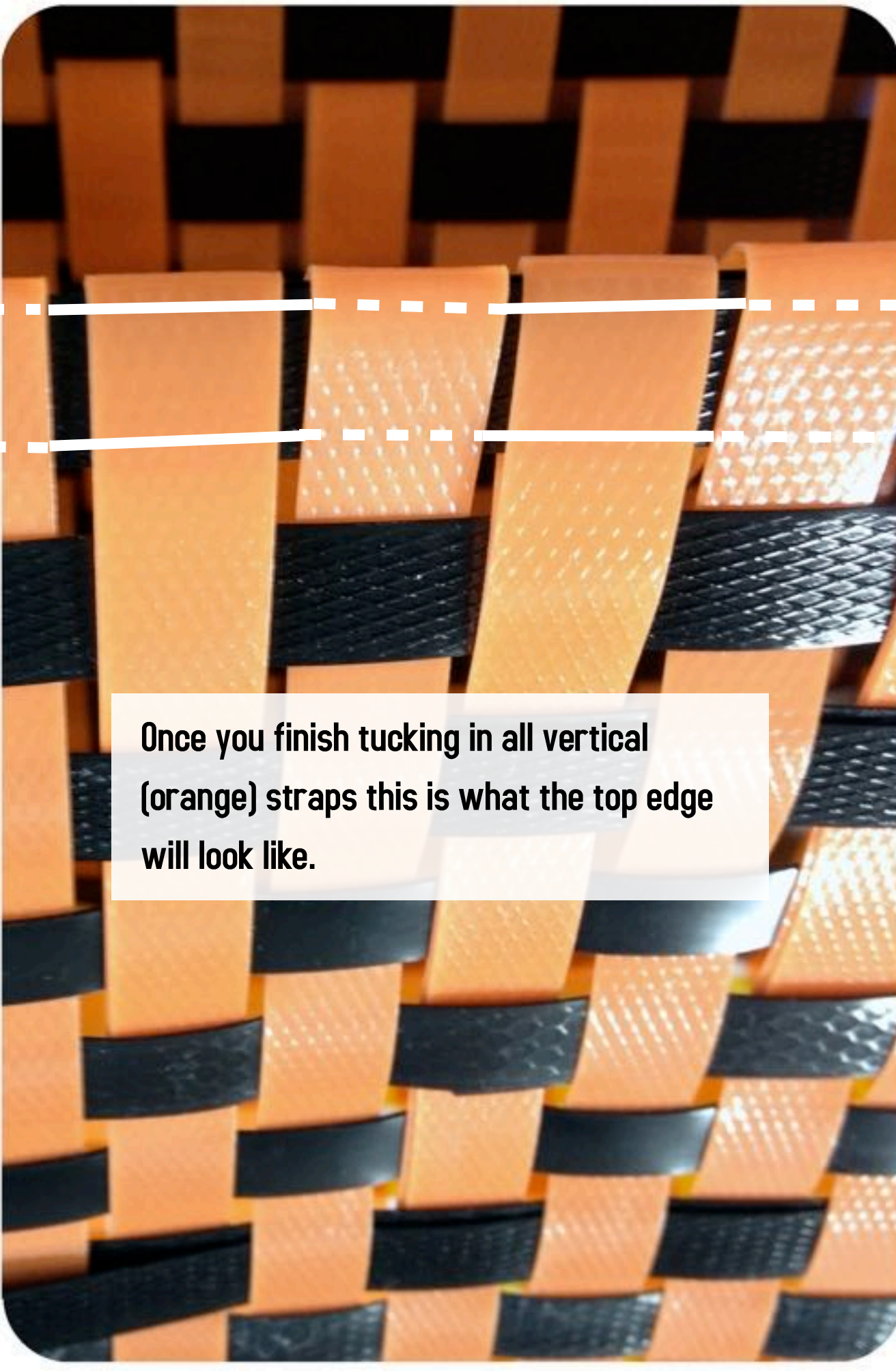
**Measure the height created by the strap just tucked.**




**Apply the same height measurement to all 4 sides as you fold+tuck alternate straps - all vertical (orange) strap that ends behind a horizontal (black) strap.**

A close-up photograph of a woven basket. The basket is made of a dark, textured material, possibly black or dark brown, with a diamond-shaped weave pattern. Overlaid on this are several wide, flat, orange-colored straps. The straps are woven in a way that they cross over and under the main basket material, creating a complex, layered texture. The lighting is bright, highlighting the sheen of the orange straps and the texture of the black material. In the upper left quadrant, there is a semi-transparent white rectangular box containing black text.


**Fold+tuck straps similarly for the inside of basket, except in opposing direction.**




Once you finish tucking in all vertical (orange) straps this is what the top edge will look like.




Finish the top edge by weaving in a black 42" straps directly over the top horizontal (black) strap.



**Now that the top edge is done, finish the sides by trimming off the excess lengths. Like earlier, trim them where they will tuck beneath the vertical (orange) straps.**




**Insert a 42" strap into the 5th vertical strap counting from the outside edge. This will become the basket handle.**




**Do same with the other side. Adjust handle length to your liking. Leave the excess lengths for now.**



Each handle utilizes two straps. Insert a 32" strap on the INSIDE of basket similar to the outside. Adjust length to match the outside strap. Fold+tuck it upon itself to secure (detail on next page).



**(detail) Make the  
second handle the  
same way.**

A pair of orange-handled scissors is shown cutting a black strap on a white fabric surface. The strap is being cut lengthwise. The scissors are positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image. The background is a white fabric with some faint stains. A text box is overlaid on the image, providing instructions for cutting the straps.

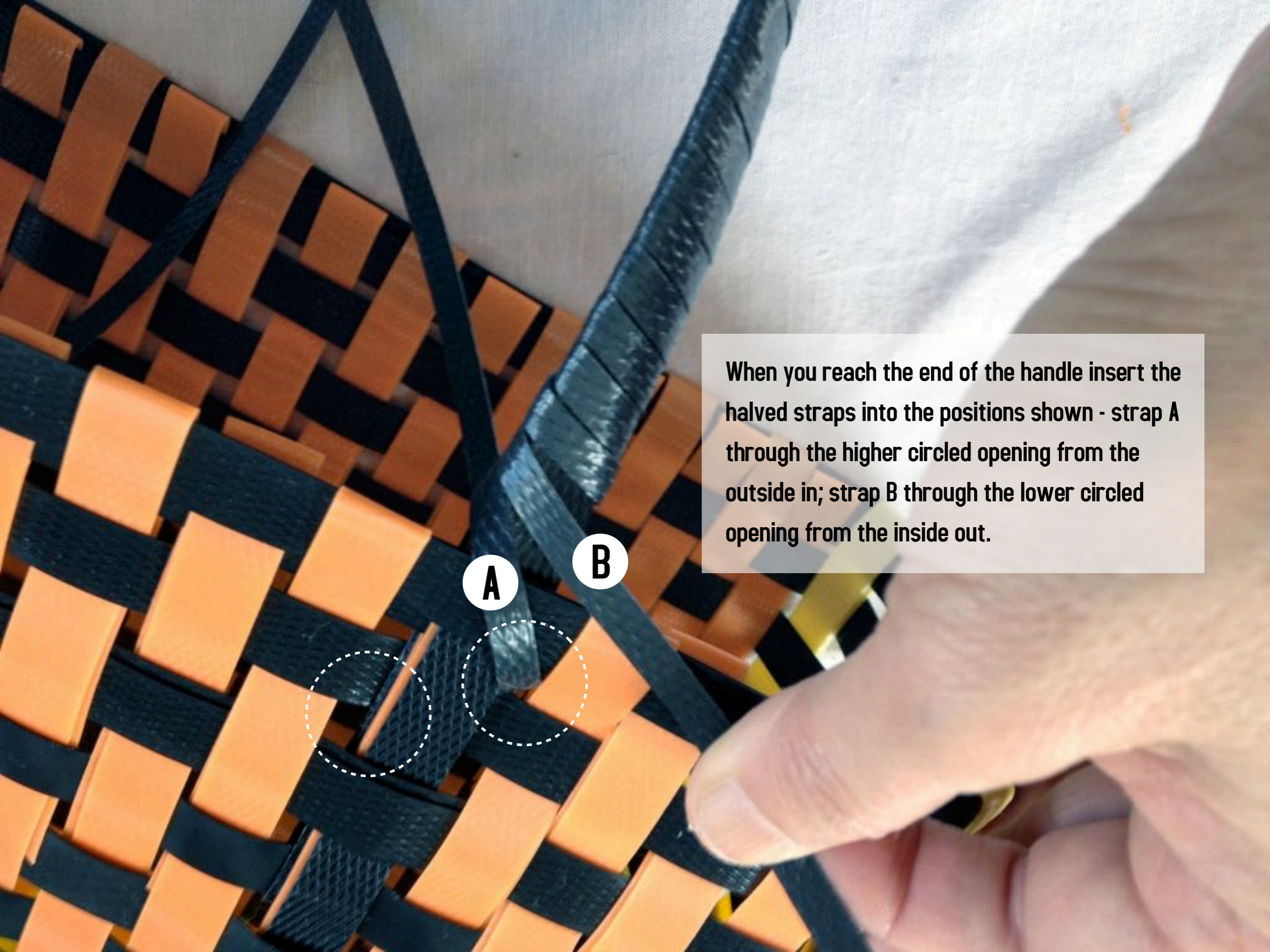
**Cut two 66" straps in half lengthwise for winding around the handle straps. These should be the more pliable type of strapping material.**



**Insert the halved straps into the positions shown above. Leave about 11" loose on the inside, to be used to tie in later.**



**Tightly wrap both halved straps at once around the doubled handle straps.**



When you reach the end of the handle insert the halved straps into the positions shown - strap A through the higher circled opening from the outside in; strap B through the lower circled opening from the inside out.

**A**

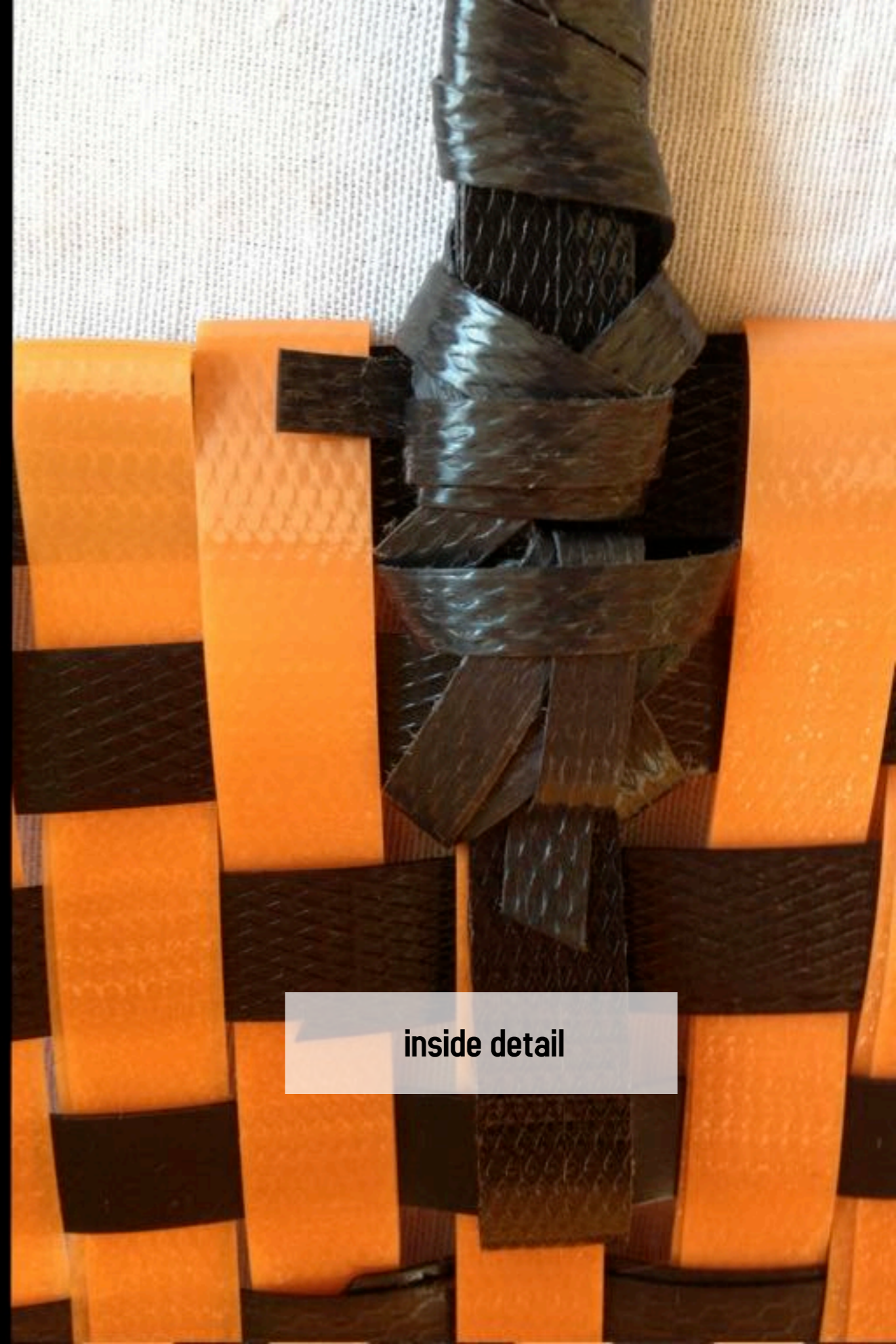
**B**



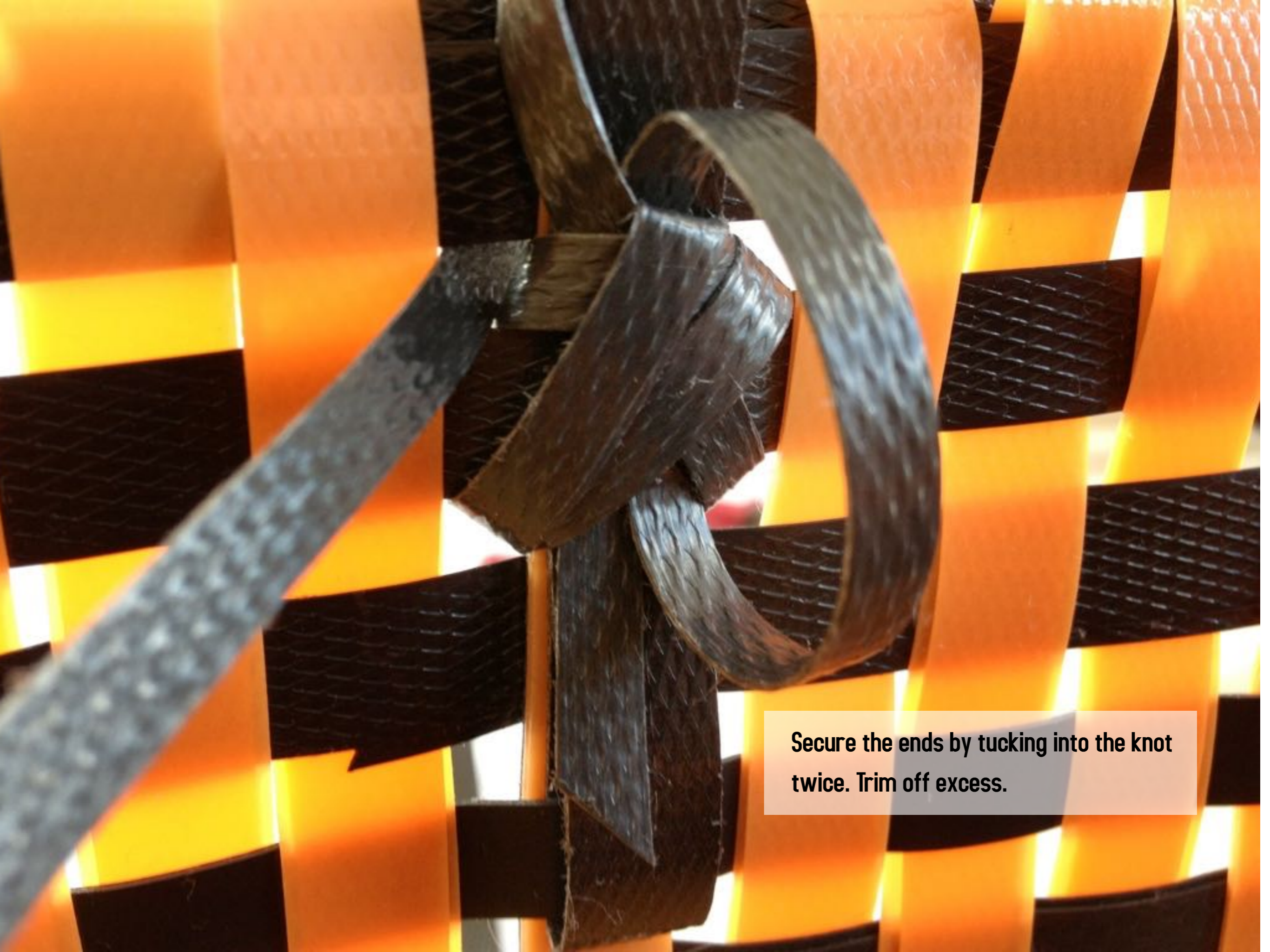
**Create [X]s. Details in the following two pages.**



**outside detail**



**inside detail**



**Secure the ends by tucking into the knot twice. Trim off excess.**



**Trim and tuck in handle straps at basket bottom.  
Do same for the other side of basket.**



**Done! But wait... baskets are not the only things to make.**



Repair furniture...



**Bike baskets.....**



Implement systems to bring back  
the commons...

# EATING IN PUBLIC

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TAKE = act without shame

LEAVE = share without condition

WHATEVAS = trust without apology

[ basket weaving 101 ]

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It is not a commodity. It is a shared idea.