

Rope Baskets and Trivet Instructions

Materials

- Cotton Clothesline – I use Ben-Mor Cotton Clothesline – 3/16" (4 mm) that I buy at Canadian Tire
 - Fabric – cut into 3/4" strips
 - Glue stick, bamboo skewer
 - Sewing machine with a strong needle. I use a Topstitch needle.
1. Remove the clothesline from the packaging and rewrap in a ball. Place it in a container on the floor to the right of your machine.
 2. Cut the end of the clothesline to eliminate any frayed ends.
 3. With the glue stick, apply glue to the first inch of the wrong side of your fabric strip and position the clothesline at a 90 ° angle onto the glued portion of the fabric. **Allow the fabric to extend beyond the clothesline.** This will allow you to fold over the tip with no clothesline inside, helping to fill the very centre of the coil that is formed.
 4. Wrap the fabric strip around the clothesline at an angle so that each wrap covers a portion of the previous wrap. Hold the starting point in place with a pin or a clip.
 5. Glue the fabric in place about every 5" or so. When you have about 8" wrapped, secure the end of the fabric with glue and pin or clip it in place. Stitch from the beginning down the middle for about 5" so the starting point of the fabric is secure.
 6. Start creating a tight round coil with the wrapped clothesline until you have about a 1 3/4" coil. Place pins into it to secure it, then go to your machine and straight stitch across the coil, backstitching at both ends of the seam. Then sew across the coil in the other direction. It is important to have a tight and secure centre coil. Remove the coil from your machine.
 7. With your coil, **and the tail of the cord coming off the right side**, position it under your presser foot. Begin zigzagging from the centre, pivoting and following the line where the coils meet. This will be challenging at first but as the coil gets bigger, it becomes easier. As the coil increases in size, holding a bamboo skewer along the right side of the coil as you sew helps hold it snug and in place.
 8. I usually "wrap as I go" – about a couple of feet ahead of where I am sewing. Continue wrapping and gluing the fabric strips around the clothesline at an angle with each wrap covering a portion of the previous wrap.
 9. Once your coil is the size you want it, you can begin to form a basket by tilting it with your left hand to start creating the sides. However, before doing this, backstitch and cut your thread then remove the base coil from your machine, leaving the extra clothesline attached. Use a piece of tape and mark a point where you are beginning to form the basket. This will help you to keep the sides equal at the end.
 10. If you are making a trivet, simply keep going until you have it the size you want it.
 11. To finish up, you need to leave an inch or two of fabric beyond the end of the rope so you can wrap the end and sew it into the outer edge, backstitching to secure.
 12. Sometimes I sew a binding around the top edge, similar to a quilt binding.
 13. To make an oval shape, the clothesline will need to be wrapped and folded back on itself at the beginning and will involve some math if you want a specific size.

