

SIMPLE COILED FABRIC BOWL TUTORIAL

by Nanette S. Zeller

Remember making coiled bowls using snake-like rolls of clay? Well, coiled fabric bowls uses very similar techniques. After making your first simple bowl, you'll be ready to graduate on to more elaborate vessels and bags.

SUPPLIES

To make a small simple bowl, you'll need:

FABRIC

- 11 yds cotton* clothesline, 3/16" or 7/32" diameter
- ½ yd fabric, subcut into ¾" strips, for wrapping
- 1 strip x width of fabric (~42"), for binding

NOTIONS

- Glue stick, acid free
- Sturdy, straight pins with glass or flower heads
- Chalk marker/pencil
- Tape measure
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing thread, coordinating
- Sewing Machine needles, size 90/14 or 130/75 (Jeans, Topstitch, Universal, etc.)
- Sewing Machine, with zigzag stitch
- Hand sewing needles

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

- Walking foot
- Stiletto
- Emellishment options: decorative trim, buttons, beading supplies: Beads, Beading needles

Stash Buster Tip:

For a scrappy look, use a variety of fabrics cut into strips ¾" x width of fabric (~42").

You'll need about 28 strips, ¾" each.

Or just cut a large variety of ¾" strips from a variety of smaller scraps.

* Braided cotton clothesline with a synthetic core will work fine. Cotton clothesline, may be difficult to find in your area. Check with small local hardware stores or your local quilt shop. Do not substitute poly or synthetic clothline for this project.

INSTRUCTIONS

WRAPPED CLOTHESLINE USING ¾" STRIPS

This technique uses less fabric than the alternate technique (page 2) and is easy to prepare for sewing. The finished bowl will have a frayed appearance.

Note: remove all selvage ends from the fabric strips.

1. Apply glue stick to the end of 1 fabric strip. Place the clothesline on the strip, about a ¼" down from the edge, as shown.



2. Wrap the fabric diagonally around the clothesline. Do not fold the excess fabric over the top of clothesline.



3. Continue wrapping the fabric strips around the clothesline overlapping about ½ of the previous wrap. Apply glue to the fabric every few inches and on the ends. Secure the ends with glue and overlap the ends when adding new strips.

NOTE:

Before sewing, be sure to adjust the width and length of your zigzag stitch. The stitch needs to be wide enough to hit both sides of the clothesline as you sew. The length should be long enough to hold the coils together without wasting thread.

ALTERNATE WRAP TECHNIQUE: USING 2½" FABRIC STRIPS

This technique uses more fabric and requires patience and additional sewing to wrap the clothesline. The finished bowl will have a smooth, unfrayed appearance. This a great technique for using 2½" pre-cut strips (e.g., Jelly Rolls or Bali Pops).

1. Sew 2½" strips together end-to-end on the diagonal to create the desired length (a little longer than the length of clothesline).

2. Fold the strip in half lengthwise wrong side together. Fold each side edge inward toward the center fold. Fold under one short end about ½".



3. Insert the clothesline into the folded strip, as shown.

4. Wrap the clothesline within the fabric by overlapping the sides inward, as shown.



5. Stitch through the center of the clothesline to catch both sides of the folded fabric. Continue steps 4 and 5 until the entire length of clothesline is covered.

COIL TECHNIQUES

It is much more efficient to completely wrap the clothesline with fabric before sewing the coils. However, it is possible using the ¾" strip method to wrap and sew the coils at the same time. Sewing and wrapping at the same time might be helpful if you are trying to be specific about color placement within the design.

THE COIL BASE

1. Fold under the starting end of the wrapped clothesline. A shorter fold will produce a more round base and bowl. A longer fold will produce an elongated, or oblong, base and bowl.

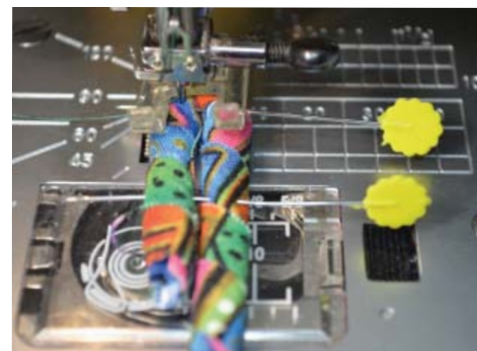


Tight fold
for round bowls

Long fold
for oblong bowls



2. Place the folded end of the clothesline under the pressure foot with the fold positioned toward the back of the foot. Start sewing the folded end with a zigzag stitch, back stitch to secure the stitches. Continue sewing along the folded end of the wrapped clothesline.



3. At the end of the fold begin wrapping the clothesline around the end and up toward the left side of the first line of stitching, as shown below.

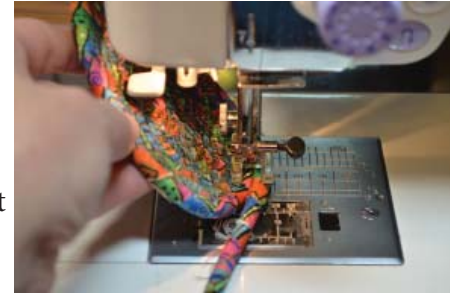
Continue sewing and wrapping the coil base, leaving the clothesline flush with the bed of the sewing machine. Stop sewing when the base is the desired size (about 3-4" diameter).



THE BOWL SIDES

1. Tilt the coiled base up and away from the bed of the sewing machine.

The greater the angle of the tilt the steeper the sides of the bowl. For a shallow bowl, keep the tilt low to the bed of the machine. For a deep bowl, tilt the base up until it touches the side of the sewing machine. Try combining tilts to create curves along the bowl sides.



2. Continue zigzag stitching around the bowl while maintaining the tilt and securing the coils in place.

3. Stop sewing when the bowl has reached the desired height. Sew the end down at an angle and backstitch to create a tapered finish. Or cut the end at angle and sew in place.

ADDING HANDLES

To determine the placement of the handles, visually find the center line of the base (first fold) and mark it with a pin on the bowl sides. Next, place a pin at the desired handle start point. Measure the distance from the start point to the center point. Use this measurement, to mark the same distance on the other side of the center point. This will be the handle end point. Mark the other side of the bowl in the same manner.

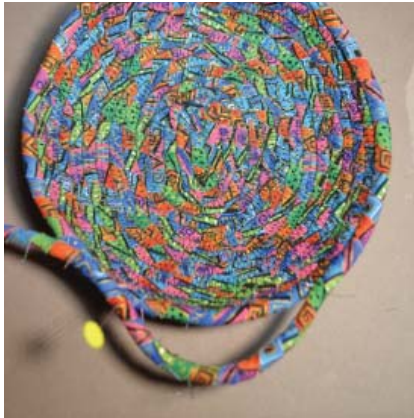


1. Sew the bowl sides as directed above. Stop sewing and backstitch at the handle start point.

2. Measure the distance between the handle start and end points. Add 2, or more, inches to this measurement.

3. Use the measurement from step 2 to measure along the length of the loose clothesline. Start measuring at the handle start point and place a pin at the desired length.

4. Pin the loose clothesline to the side of the bowl, matching the pin in the clothesline with the pin at the handle end point. At the pinned location, begin sewing the coils again, backstitching at the start to secure the stitches.



5. Continue sewing the coils until the next handle start point. Repeat step 3 and 4 to create the second handle, using the same measurements from Step 2.

6. Add at least one more round of coil before finishing the sides of the bowl.

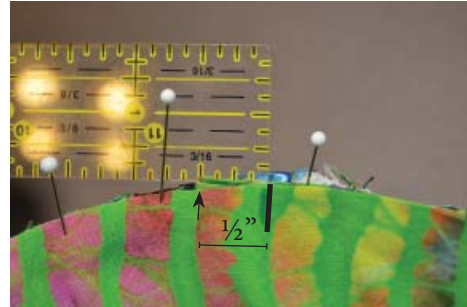
ATTACH THE BINDING

1. Fold the 2½” binding strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Press.

2. Pin the binding to the inside of the bowl, aligning the raw edges with the rim.



3. Place a mark where the binding end overlaps the starting end by ½”.



4. Trim the binding straight across at the marked line. Unpin the binding and sew the ends together using a ¼” seam allowance.

5. Repin the binding to the rim, then sew the binding in place using a ¼” seam allowance.



6. Flip the binding over the rim to cover the raw edge, then hand-stitch or machine sew in place.



Add Embellishments:

Make the bowl extra fancy by adding beads and trim while attaching the binding.