

Making Rope Bowls • By Candy Scott

Supplies:

- Rope – 3/16 to 5/16“ width
- Thread – Whatever you prefer.
- Needle – Jeans/Denim
- Fabric (Optional) – Strips 1/2 to 1” width of any length from 6” - WOF. Great use of thin scraps that you would normally toss.

Sources for rope: My preference is The Mountain Thread Company located in North Carolina. Katherine (owner) has high quality braided all cotton rope in both 3/16 and 5/16 widths. You can buy kits or just rope and she will ship promptly. You can find her them on IG. If you just want to play with rope, Lowes, Home Depot, or any local hardware store should have clothes line or window sashing cord.

Hint: if you are making a large bowl, I would suggest you pre-wind at least a couple of bobbins. The zig zag stitch uses a lot of thread and you will need more than one standard bobbin if you are making a bowl with 50’ of rope.

Some people cover the bowls completely with fabric. To do this, you will need to wrap at least the first 6-12” of the rope before you start to sew the beginning of the base. I use binding clips to hold the fabric and wrap several pieces around the rope, sew, then wrap a few more. Do not worry about frayed fabric, once you zig zag the rope together, the threads can be trimmed if they still bother you.

Bonus tip: If you decide you don’t like it when you are done, it is very easy to cut the thread, rip it apart and start over. Have fun!

Making Rope Bowls • By Candy Scott

How To Make a Rope Bowl:

Step 1: Make a small coil of rope on a flat surface with the trailing portion on the right. You will be turning the coil counter clockwise as you are sewing. If you do it the wrong direction, just stop, cut the thread and turn it over and continue sewing. If not, you will end up with the bowl in the hump of the machine instead of to the outside of the needle which will limit the size and depth of the bowl. I sew an X with a straight line to anchor the base. Most demos show a zig zag stitch, but I prefer a straight stitch.

Step 2: Start zig zag stitching the rope into a coil, feeding the rope from the front and turning the coil counter clockwise. Width and length of the stitch is personal preference and the size of the rope. Just make sure you catch the rows of rope together. If you are using a contrasting thread for color, the more dense the stitching, the more color will show.

Step 3: When the base is the diameter you want, start to lift the base on the left side of the needle as you continue to zig zag the rope. The more you lift the side, the more angled the side of the bowl will be. At first it might seem like nothing is happening, but you can look at the part you have just sewn and it should be a little angled, no longer flat to the sewing table. You will need to keep angling the base and holding it up off the sewing table as you sew to build the sides of the bowl.

Step 4: When you are happy with the size/dimension you can end the bowl in many different ways. Fold the end of the rope under the last few inches and make a loop and stitch it down, tie the rope and keep a section to unravel for a tassel, make a small coil and attach to the inside or outside of the bowl, the methods are many. Use your own imagination.

If you have difficulty with any of my directions, there are many tutorials on YouTube on how to make rope bowls/baskets/coasters/trivets. Beware, they are addicting.