

Clothesline Coasters

Presented by Katina Repp

This technique is easy and fun and can be modified to change the look. This technique is also used to create bowls and baskets, but that is a topic for another Round Robin lesson.

Materials list:

- Cotton clothesline rope – any width or color will work. I use a ¼" width.
- Sewing machine with a zig-zag stitch.
- Denim or jeans needle.
- Basic notions: straight pins, ruler, scissors.

Steps:

- Prepare your machine by inserting a denim/jeans needle. Load the thread of your choice in the machine. Be sure to use a wide presser foot to accommodate the zig-zag stitch and to provide even pressure across the coaster while sewing. You can use two different colored threads if you want a different color on the top and bottom of the coaster.
- You will need about 4 yards of rope for a 5" coaster. Using less makes it smaller, using more will make it larger. I wind my rope into a ball and create the coaster from the ball. I cut the rope when I reach the width I want.
- You need to create the center of the coil by folding the clothesline on itself tightly. I cut the end of the rope at an angle and pull the core of the rope out a little bit and trim that off so that the woven cotton tube is hollow. I then fold the angled empty tube on itself to make the center as tight as possible.
- Hold the rope tightly between your fingers as you create the coil. When you have about three or four rounds, use the straight pins to hold the coil in place.
- It's time to start sewing. Set your machine to a straight stitch and place the coil under the needle so that the rope is coming off the top and down the right side. Stitch back and forth across the whole coil a few times. Stop with the needle in the down position and pivot to a different direction and repeat. Do this in a few directions to secure the center. Try a shape like a star or cross.
- Once you have secured the center, switch to a zig-zag stitch. Set the stitch length to 2.5 and the width to a setting to ensure that the zig-zag joins the adjoining pieces of rope in the coil. Start stitching slowing while using your right hand to hold the loose rope tight against the coil and your left hand to turn the coil. You may need to stop and turn the coil in the beginning. Using the needle down feature is helpful here. Keep the coil flat against the sewing table. Continue sewing and rotating until you reach the desired size. Periodically check with the ruler to know when to stop.

- When you reach the end, back stitch a few stitches. Cut the rope at an angle anywhere from 1" to 4" inches. Tuck the angled end back into the seam and continue the zig-zag stitch to secure the end. Trim threads and enjoy!

Variations:

- Use colored rope instead of the natural beige.
- Wrap rope in fabric and sew.
- Applique or sew fussy cuts of fabric to the finished coaster.
- Use variegated or colored thread to give your coaster some color variation.
- Use an embroidery machine to sew a on the coaster.
- Search for clothesline coasters and find multiple videos and sites with many more ideas.