



Pattern of the Month  
November 2015  
**COILED FABRIC BOWLS**  
By Evelyn George



**SUPPLIES -**

**CLOTHESLINE - BRAIDED COTTON, MEDIUM, 12 LB LOAD LIMIT -**

ACE hardware carries it in 100 foot and 50 foot bundles. It has a cotton outer layer with a core of soft synthetic fibers to help prevent stretching. 100 feet makes 2 or 3 medium bowls. This weight of clothesline fits under a regular zigzag foot or walking foot, and can be stitched by machine. Other cords may be too stiff and may break the needle.

**FABRIC STRIPS** - cut crosswise or lengthwise from fat quarters, yardage or leftover strips. Width approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ". (I like  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " because the leftovers are not too small for other projects.) You can overlap strips as you add them on. Really short pieces can be sewn together first if you want, but don't make really long strips -they are harder to wrap around the cord.

## *Coiled Fabric Bowls, cont'd*

**NEEDLE** - #100 jeans needle or equivalent

**SAFETY PINS, SCISSORS, TAPESTRY NEEDLE** (to conceal end of last strip)

**THREAD** -12 to 40 weight cotton or polyester on top. Heavier threads seem to help bowl hold its shape better, but bobbin refills are a nuisance, so use 50 wt. in bobbin.

**STITCH** -Multiple-stitch zigzag, regular zigzag, or other decorative stitch which can be set to a width of about 5, and length about 2 to 2.5. The stitch needs to go back and forth into both of the coils as you push them snugly together.

### **METHOD -**

Begin by unrolling clothesline carefully from its bundle, while winding it into a large ball. Place the ball in a basket, and unroll gradually as you wrap and sew the coils.

Trim end of clothesline to remove fluff. Fold about 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the first strip over the end, pinch closely and begin wrapping the strip over the clothesline, from right to left. Snugly overlap each wrap about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " so it completely covers the clothesline. Secure temporarily with a safety pin at the beginning and wherever a new strip overlaps the last one. Wrap several feet of clothesline at a time, keeping the loose end of fabric strip unwound as you go. Alternate wrapping with sewing, a few rounds at a time.

For a round bowl, begin by folding about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the end to the **left** (or, for an oval bowl, fold about 2-3" of the end to the **left**). Use toothpicks to push the two pieces together under the presser foot. Start sewing at the **inner fold**. Lockstitch, then sew forward, winding the coil clockwise while sewing the two coils very closely together. Keep coils flat until a big enough base has been formed. The bulk of the base must be to the **left** of the presser foot, in order to later build the sides.

When the base is big enough, begin curving up the sides by holding the base up vertically with your left hand while sewing the coils. Pull the loose cord slightly toward you with your right hand while holding the base vertically and pushing it slightly away from you with your left hand. Keep a consistent angle and pressure while you sew up the sides.

When sides are tall enough, cut cord off at an angle, wind strip to end, then cut strip leaving about 3" loose beyond end of cord. Twist the loose end, estimate where it can be concealed and use a tapestry needle to bury the end, pulling the needle completely out just before you stitch over the concealed end.

Stitch one more round completely around the bowl, to finish the top edge.