

## Supplies

- For Bowl - Braided Cotton Clothesline, 5-6mm, yardage depends on size of project
- For Rug – Braided Polypropylene Cord, 6 mm, 100 yards makes doormat size rug. (I found this on both Amazon and eBay under the label of Maxi cord! The color doesn't matter as it will be covered with fabric.)
- Scraps of lightweight fabric cut in  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" strips (bias cut or straight cut), yardage depends on size of project but a fat quarter covers enough cord for a small-medium size bowl
- Glue Stick or White Glue and spreader such as a coffee stirrer
- Baby Lock Metal Open Toe Foot (BLSY-OT) or similar
- Wonder Clips
- All Purpose Sewing Thread or 12 wt. Decorative Thread for construction
- Embroidery Thread and Embroidery Bobbin Thread
- Machine Needle – 75/11 Sharp or Topstitch (titanium coating optional)
- Extension table for machine is especially helpful when making rugs and large bowls
- Floriani Wet N Gone Tacky stabilizer



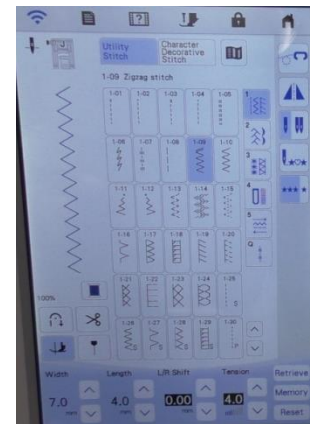
## Instructions

### *Create the Rope Center or Base*

Sew cording together using a zigzag stitch much like creating a coiled pot. Use clothesline for structural items like bowls and use the softer polypropylene cord for flat items like rugs or placemats. Braided cords are easier to sew than twisted cords. If desired, wrap the cord with strips of fabric before sewing the cord together. Wrap using about a 45-degree angle with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" strips of lightweight fabric. Secure the first strip with a dab of glue to secure it to the cord. The clothesline is firm enough to wrap easily, but the soft polypropylene cord wraps easier when the unwrapped end is secure and the cord is held taut. To join additional strips, place glue on the wrong side and overlap strips. Carefully cover the join with wrapping and secure with a Wonder Clip. Bias cut strips create a smoother covered cord, but straight cut strips also cover the cord effectively.



Wrap several yards of cord to create a base for the bowl or the center of the rug. Additional cord can be easily wrapped during the sewing process. Set the machine up with a sharp or topstitch needle size 75/11. Sewing through the thick cord can create friction on the needle. A machine needle with an antifriction coating such as titanium would reduce friction. Use an extension table to create a large flat surface around the needle. Choose a zigzag stitch; widen the stitch to 7.0mm and increase the length to 4.5mm. To create a design with color, wrap a solid color of fabric on the cord and overwrap color strips while sewing.



To begin, coil cord into a tight, flat 1" circle to create a circular bowl or rug. Place the coil under the needle with the working cord toward you on the right. Stitch across the circle and

stop needle down just short of the edge. Turn the circle so the work is to the left of the needle. Stitch the cords together using the zigzag stitch keeping the work flat as you stitch. Hold the cord tightly against the center coil and continue to stitch around the center. If you notice a “miss” stop and stitch over the hole right away. The hole will be difficult to fix after the project becomes larger and larger. To create an oval bowl or rug, start by bending the cord and lay the cord and stitch side by side for a few inches before starting to stitch around the center. The length of the center depends on the finished dimensions of the project.

Remember that as the sides of the base oval become larger, the ends also become larger. For the rug in the video, the center was 8” long. Create the base of the bowl or rug slightly larger than the embroidery design and no larger than the largest hoop available for the embroidery machine. Leave the cord attached to continue creating the project after embroidery.

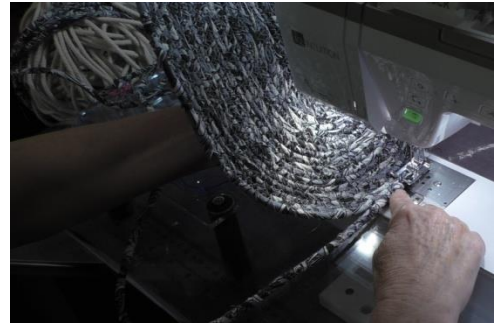
### *Embroider the Base of the Bowl or Center of the Rug*

*The embroidery designs used in the video are “Charlotte’s Flowers” by Anita Goodesign*

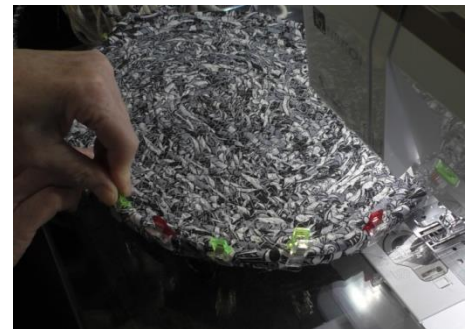
Choose an embroidery design that will work well and show up on the cord. Very dense designs or very light designs will not work well. Reduce the density of the design if possible to reduce the stitch count. Use the same sharp, anti-friction needle when embroidering. Hoop the Floriani Wet N Gone Tacky stabilizer with the paper side up. Score and remove the paper to expose the tacky side. Press the base of the bowl or rug centered in the hoop. Hoop so the working un-stitched coil is off to the back of the machine. Using the placement features of the machine, center the design on the hooped base. The coil should be secure with the Tacky stabilizer, but consider hand basting the coil to the stabilizer if it seems loose. Slow the machine to the slowest embroidery speed. Check the height of the foot. Thicker cord is not recommended, however the embroidery foot can be raised to accommodate thick items.

### *Finish the Bowl or Rug*

After embroidery is finished, remove the base from the hoop. Tear away stabilizer. The remaining stabilizer will be removed **after the project is finished** by soaking for several hours in warm water. Change machine to sewing. When creating a bowl, choose a foot with a narrow profile to the left of the foot. To create the lip of the bowl, lift the base on the left of the needle while still keeping the cord tight against the previous coil. This cord will join to the previous coil more to the top of the cord instead of directly to the side.



The sides of the bowl will gently flare out. To create a sharp cornered bowl with straight sides, remove the bowl from the machine and clip the next round of sewing to the previous round using wonder clips. The goal for a sharp turn is to have an equal length of cord stitched to the previous round. Remove the clips as you sew and place the next round the same way. After a few rounds of clipping,



the sides of the bowl should be controlled enough to continuously sew the sides. To create a bowl that curves inward, clip the sides before stitching as with the sharp corner but use a slightly shorter length of cord for the subsequent few rounds. Be aware that a bowl that curves inward will become increasingly challenging to fit around the head of the machine.

To finish off the top, coil the cord back on itself and zigzag in place. To create a straight finish, reduce the end of the cord by pulling out the core or twisting fabric alone at the end. Continue stitching around the top edge with the swing of the needle off the right side of the cord to hold the wrapped fabric in place.

The top edge is easily embellished by creating a scalloped edge or handles. To create a scalloped edge or handle, stop sewing and tie off the zigzag stitch along the edge at the beginning edge of the scallop. Start sewing again after pulling a loop of cord away. Measure the circumference of the top edge to place the scallops or handles evenly. Continue stitching at least a second round to strengthen the scalloped edge.



Other options include creating a loop handle, not wrapping the clothesline at all, wrapping the last round with a narrow ribbon or yarn, or tying a knot in the cord before sewing it down.

