Embroidered Rope Bowl

Instructor: Leslie Kennedy

Location: In-person (and online)

Class Description

Create a rope bowl with an embroidered base. Build as you go!

We have seen these cute rope bowls popping up everywhere and can't wait to make them. The whole idea of these seems crazy, so of course we want to do it. Choose a design that will look good on a circular bowl base, and come to class to learn how to make it happen. See below for tips on embroidery design features that will work best for this project.

We will be switching the setup of your machine a couple times during the class, starting with sewing mode to create the base of the bowl (zig-zag and straight stitching), then on to embroidery mode to stitch your design onto the base, and back to sewing mode to build up the sides of the bowl and add embellishments (fabric or ribbon accents) and other options for finishing touches (loops, tassels, handles, knots, rope wraps, braids).

Skill Level

Participant should have basic sewing experience (we will be using straight line and zig-zag stitches). Participant should also be familiar with using machine embroidery designs, hooping stabilizer, centering the design onto their project piece (in this case, the base of the bowl), and stitching out the design.

Guidelines for Selecting Your Embroidery Design for a Rope Bowl

To help ensure good progress on completing a rope bowl within the 3-hour class, and to have a successful stitch-out on your rope bowl, please follow these guidelines when selecting your embroidery design.

- Design Size - less than 6x6"

- Design Shape - something that will look good to you on a circular base. The design does not necessarily need to be round. You may want to avoid a design with complete circles, because the circles could be slightly distorted if some of the stitches land in the "valley" of the rope bowl base.

- Design Style - Designs with a running stitch and some open fills (e.g., no more than 2 layers of stitching).

  - IMPORTANT: Stitch Density - Avoid designs with solid fills or several layers of stitching. Your needle, stabilizer and/or machine motor will likely not be able to support the density of these designs when stitching through the rope base.

- Stitch Count - less than 7,500 stitches.

- Number of Thread Changes - 6 or fewer color changes.

- Stitching Time - less than 30 minutes when running your embroidery machine at a slow sped (e.g., ~25% of max speed).

Machine Embroidery

- Some sources for Embroidery Designs:
  - Your sewing machine may have come with pre-loaded embroidery designs (such as the butterfly design I used for my class sample).
  - Search online embroidery design sites for "linework," "redwork," or "watercolor" to view possible designs. Some popular design sites are:
    - Embroidery Online (OESD and Scissortails) - www.embroideryonline.com
    - Urban Threads - www.urbanthreads.com
    - Embroidery library - www.emblibrary.com

Please complete before class:

- Gather your supplies.
- Select your embroidery design following the guidelines provided above.
- Pre-load your design onto your USB or directly onto your machine memory in the file format that is needed for your machine (e.g. "EXP").
- Suggested: Do a test run of your design on a piece of fabric at a slow speed (e.g. ~30% of max speed) to confirm that the design meets the guidelines and takes <30 minutes to stitch.

Required Supplies

- Project Supplies
  - 50 feet of 3/16" diameter 100% cotton solid braid rope (e.g. "The Mountain Thread Co." rope available at Treelotta). Note: avoid cotton rope that has a poly core, with is described as "stretch resistant."
  - Machine Embroidery Design, per guidelines provided above.
  - Embroidery Thread and Bobbin Thread - for stitching out your design.
  - Embroidery Stabilizer: Medium Tearaway stabilizer is recommended. Note: The base of the rope bowl will be "floated" in the hoop and held in place with either sticky-back stabilizer or with temporary spray adhesive.
  - Temporary fabric spray adhesive (such as 505), if not using sticky-back stabilizer.
  - Embroidery Topper - this is optional but may help to keep the design stitches from sinking into the rope.
  - Polyester Thread - for sewing the basket base and sides. Thread color should closely match the color of the rope. Note that a strong cotton thread (such as Aurifil) can also be used but may not be as durable as polyester.
  - Sewing needles for Zig-Zag: Jenas needle (100/16 or 90/14).
  - Embroidery needles: 75/11, 80/12, 90/14 Sharps (previously unused). My preference is 80/12. Bring extra needles in case of needle breakage.
- Required Sewing Supplies
  - Sewing machine and Embroidery Module in good working order (with power cord and foot pedal).
  - Embroidery hoop that is at least 2" larger than the design you have selected.

Machine Embroidery

- Extension table for your machine to provide a flat surface when zig-zag stitching the bowl. For purposes of this class, the slide-on table that comes with most sewing machines will work for the size of bowl that we will be making.

- Extra Bobbins -zig zagging the bowl together uses a lot of thread!

- Regular presser foot that can accommodate a wide Zig-Zag stitch (~5.5mm). (For my Bernina, I prefer using the acrylic #34D foot to allow good visibility when stitching the bowl.)

- Embroidery presser foot (for my Bernina, I use the #26 foot).

- 2 Stitch Plates - 1 with the wide slot for Zig-Zag, 1 with the single hole slot for embroidery.

- Erasable fabric marker: Frixion Pen, Sewline Air Erasable or other fabric marking tool.

- Ruler (small, e.g. 1x6").

- Scissors for cutting rope.

- Snips for trimming threads.

- ~10 sturdy sewing pins - to hold the beginning of the rope coil, and to "fashion" the rope along the top rim of the bowl (handles, loops, etc.).

- Optional Sewing Supplies (not required, but nice to have)

  - Sewing machine knee lift (if your machine is equipped with one) - especially helpful when sewing the center of the base of the bowl where tight turns are needed.

  - Stiletto - to help guide the beginning of the rope coil for the base.

  - Matte Finish Magic Scotch Tape - to minimize the rope from fraying at the start of your base. Instructor will have this available for students to use in class.

  - Clips (e.g. Wonder Clips) - just because they are always handy!

- Optional Embellishment Supplies

  - Add additional color to your bowl with ribbon or fabric, or maybe a leather tab to secure the rope at the top rim of the bowl.

  - Ribbon (~1/4-1/2" wide, ~ 18" long).

  - Fabric strips (~1/4-1/2" wide, ~6-36" long).

  - Small leather scrap (~1x2") a decorative feature to secure the rope end along top rim of bowl.

  - Fabric glue (Tacky Glue of glue stick) - to secure start/end of embellishments.

Machine Embroidery

We are a fragrance-free shop

As a courtesy to individuals who may be sensitive to fragrances, we would like to ask that you refrain from wearing any perfumes, scented lotions or body sprays, or strong scents. Thank you.

Class cancellation

Classes fill up quickly and we often have a waiting list. If you cannot make it to class, please let us know at least three days in advance to receive store credit. Cancellations less than three days or no-shows will be charged full price.

Please do not come to class if you are sick or if you are experiencing any fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other flu/Covid-like symptoms. Call us at 303-997-4372.

Classes with registration with fewer than three participants three days prior to class date may be cancelled by the instructor.

In the event of inclement weather, the instructor will have the discretion to cancel class.

Classes start on time. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to get set up. Please note, if this class is scheduled when the shop is closed, we will lock the doors about 10-15 minutes after class begins. If you are running late, please give us a call at **303-997-4372** so we can let you in.

Parking

Parking is available in back. For after hours or weekend parking, you may also park in the Malley Senior Rec Center lot. Please do not park in this lot during the weekday/9-5 as you will be ticketed.

Guests

Please leave children, pets and friends at home. If you need special accommodations, please let us know.