

“Rope Bowls!” Class

Instructor Leslie Kennedy

Location In person

Class Description

Create your own unique bowls using cotton rope! During this class, you will learn how to make the bowl’s base, build up the sides, finish the top edge, and add embellishments as you go. Once you master these techniques, the sky is the limit in terms of what you can create.

During this 3-hour class, you will have time to complete 2-3 small-to-medium sized bowls, selecting from a variety of features:

- Shape of base: Round or oval
- Height of sides: Flat (like a trivet), shallow or deep
- Angle of sides: Tapered or Steep
- Embellishments: Ribbon, fabric, contrasting thread colors, yarns, cork, leather, buttons, beads
- Top edge Finishing: loops, tassels, swirls, handles, knots and more

Note that this class will not involve any machine embroidery, and therefore you should have plenty of time to mix and match the above features to create your own one-of-a-kind masterpieces!

Skill Level

Beginner. Participant should have basic sewing experience. We will be using straight line and zig-zag stitches to make the rope bowls.

Please complete before the class:

- Gather your supplies
- Get inspired by checking out online references to get ideas on what you want to create (e.g., search on Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest for “rope bowls” and “rope baskets”). You can also see some Rope Bowl class samples at Treelotta.
- Be ready to have some fun!

Supply List

Required Project Supplies:

- 100 feet of 3/16” diameter 100% cotton solid braid rope or 100% cotton “clothesline” rope. Note that twisted macrame rope is not recommended for this class.

- Polyester Thread or strong cotton thread for sewing the bowl's base and sides. Thread color should closely match the color of the rope.
- Sewing needles: Jeans needles (100/16 or 90/14) or 80/12 Sharp needles. Bring extra needles just in case of needle breakage.

Optional Project Embellishment Supplies

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

- Thread – to use as an accent color when building your bowl. This can be sewing threads, variegated threads, embroidery threads, etc.
- Ribbon (~1/4"-1/2" wide, ~18" long)
- Fabric strips (~1/4"-1/2" wide, ~6- 36" long)
- Small leather scrap (~1"x2") – to use as a decorative feature to secure the rope end along top rim of bowl.
- Fabric glue (Tacky Glue or glue stick) - to secure start/end of embellishments
- The instructor will have some other unique embellishment supplies for you to see and use: Ladder Yarn, Deco Flex Tubing.

Required Sewing Supplies:

- Sewing machine in good working order (with power cord and foot pedal)
- 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 or Open Toe presser foot that can accommodate a wide Zig-Zag stitch (~5-7mm). (For my Bernina, I prefer using the acrylic #34D foot to allow good visibility when stitching the bowl.)
- Stitch Plate: Must have a wide slot for Zig-Zag
- Erasable Fabric marker: Friction Pen, Sewline Air Erasable or other fabric marking tool.
- Ruler (small, e.g., 1"x6")
- 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 lever to raise your presser foot (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., WonderClips) – just because they are always handy!