

Rope Bowls Class Materials

A sewing machine you're familiar with, that has a zig-zag stitch option, and a couple of new sewing needles (universal, Microtex, or heavy/denim)

Complementary thread (white or preferably off-white, for cotton clothesline, or the color of your cord)

Bobbins, in a neutral or complementary color – have several ready! This project goes through a lot of thread!

Scrap of medium-weight cotton fabric for testing stitches

Rope: for your first bowls, I recommend cotton clothesline from the hardware store, or Ribbon Jar. I use 5mm/1/4"/7/32" range. You'll need about 25'/8 yards for a medium, 6"-7" bowl, and double that for a larger one, so a 100' skein makes 4 medium bowls or 2 larger ones. If you're buying it in person and there are different options, choose the rope that's not tightly woven or hard to the touch. This will sew into bowls, but is harder on your needles and sewing machine.

Optional and beautiful, colorful 5mm Japanese acrylic cord from Ribbon Jar or other options – marine rope or other multicolor weaves.

3/4"-1" (18-25mm) wide strips of lightweight to medium weight fabrics, or silk ribbons (Ribbon Jar has beautiful options) for wrapping rope to create "ring" designs in your bowls. I recommend a small scale or abstract print, since the wrapping will break any design and remix it – a wonderful effect, but not predictable! Hand-dyed or shot cottons are also lovely. Plain solids work fine to create a strong "ring" but don't have as much texture and movement. Use scraps from other projects or trim strips off favorite yardage.

Optional: fabric paint, dye, or other color applications (we'll talk about this in class!)

Julie of Ribbon Jar (ribbonjar.com) sells beautiful cotton and acrylic cord, herringbone, and silk ribbons that are perfect for making rope bowls. She's offering all students 20% off all cords with a special coupon code – you can shop before or after class! She ships very quickly and all of her products are high quality and lovely.