

Coiled for Spring Basket

This pretty and functional basket takes awhile to put together, but if you use nontraditional Easter colors it can easily work with your décor throughout the year.

Crafter level: Advanced

Time needed: 15 to 20 hours

What you'll need

- About 50 ft. of ¼-in. cotton clothesline rope
- Fabric dye in color of your choice (we used gray)
- Embroidery floss (we used 4 skeins in deepening shades of orange for an ombré effect)
- Tapestry needle
- Scissors
- Fabric glue (optional)
- 5 yd. twine for handle



How to make it

1. Dye the clothesline by following the manufacturer's instructions on the dye packaging. Rinse and let dry overnight.
2. Thread the tapestry needle with a long piece of floss. Take your clothesline and form a loop with 1 end of it. This will create the center of the basket.
3. Wrap the end of the floss in the needle around the loop of clothesline tightly and tie a knot. Then, stick the needle inside the center hole and around the clothesline loop until the center loop is covered with stitches. These threads will form the base for your blanket stitches later and keep the end of the clothesline from fraying.
4. Now begin making blanket stitches around the loop. When you've gone around the loop once with blanket stitches, begin wrapping the clothesline around the loop an inch at a time, and continue to make blanket stitches. The tighter and closer together your stitches are, the stronger the basket will be. As you make the blanket stitches along the next round, use the needle to catch the threads of the blanket stitches made on the previous round to hold the coil together as you work. Continue to make blanket stitches around the clothesline (see Diagram 1), forming a larger and larger flat coil.
5. As you run out of floss or want to change the colors of the floss, tie the end with a new piece of floss and hide the knot between the coil layers. Continue forming the flat coil with the clothesline and cording until the coil is about 6 inches in diameter.
Tip: You can make the basket as large as you want, but keep in mind that a larger basket will require more clothesline and floss than listed in the materials.



Diagram 1

Hallmark



6. Now that you have the base, begin wrapping the next coil of clothesline above last coil instead of on the outside of it. Continue wrapping the coil and using blanket stitches to secure it to the previous coil until the sides are as high as you want them.
7. Cut off the end of the clothesline about 16 inches from the last blanket stitch.
8. To make the handle, cut 2 more pieces of clothesline, each about 18 inches long. Add a little fabric glue to all the cut clothesline ends to keep from fraying and let dry (optional).
9. Poke the ends of the 2 cut pieces into the basket below where the long piece of clothesline comes up from the coil. Poke each piece through a different layer of coil to the inside of the basket. Pinch their ends together. Cut about a yard of twine and wrap the twine around the ends of the 2 pieces to secure them together.
10. Twist the 2 cut pieces around the 1 piece still attached to the basket. Poke the end of each piece into the basket on the opposite side, near each other but at different layers of the coil (for more stability). Pinch ends of all 3 pieces together and wrap ends with another piece of twine.
11. To finish the handle, wrap the center of it with the remaining twine and bury the ends with the tapestry needle or use a little more fabric glue.

