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# Mock Braided Rug

BY ANN BROWN

*Easy machine  
technique duplicates  
the look of a  
purchased rug.*





## MATERIALS FOR

### 24" x 29" OVAL RUG:

- 45"-wide cotton fabrics:
  - 1 yd. of desired print
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  yd. each of 2 coordinating solids
- Sewing thread to match fabrics
- Monofilament thread
- 40 yds. #4 cotton cording
- #4 Fasturn cylinder from Crowning Touch
- Fray Check by Dritz
- Liquid Starch by Dritz
- 32" piece of heavy-duty string
- Masking tape or cellophane tape
- Sewing machine with zigzag feature

## INSTRUCTIONS

**1.** Cut each fabric into  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " bias strips.

**2.** Set machine for a slight zigzag between 0 and 1. This will help prevent the thread from breaking when turning and stuffing the fabric tubes.

**3.** Allow  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for seams. Depending on the thickness of the fabric you are using, the seam allowance may need to be a bit smaller. Test stitch a few inches and fit the tube on the turning cylinder. A one to two-yard length of fabric tube can be put on the cylinder at one time. The heavier the fabric or the tighter the fit of the fabric tube on the cylinder, the less yardage you can place on the cylinder.

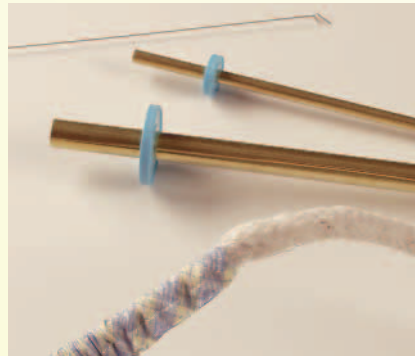
**4.** For the first section of tube, stitch the ends of two matching color bias strips together. Fold the bias strip in half lengthwise right sides together. Stitch across one end and side of folded strip.

**5.** Cover one end of 40-yd. length of cording with tape. Run the 32" string through the taped end and knot to secure.

**6.** Insert turning cylinder inside the fabric tube and gather tube on cylinder.

**7.** Insert turning wire through the cylinder and catch closed end of the

fabric tube with coiled end of the wire. Pull about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of closed end into cylinder. Insert the untaped end of cording into the tube (photo 7a).



Without twisting the handle, pull the wire straight back through cylinder, drawing the fabric tube and cording through.

**8.** Remove the coiled end of the turning wire. Glue the raw edge of the fabric tube to the cording with the Liquid Stitch. Allow to dry.

**9.** For remaining fabric tubes, stitch the bias strips together in 1-2 yard lengths. Turn tubes right side out. Trim one end of each tube at an angle and apply Fray Check. Allow to dry.

**10.** With the untrimmed end first, insert the cylinder inside a turned fabric tube. Drop string on opposite end of filler cord through the cylinder. Being careful to match the seam along the side of the fabric tubes, pull the string, bringing the cord through so the end of the cylinder overlaps the end of the first section of fabric tube.

**11.** Slide the end that has been sealed with Fray Check off the cylinder and glue it in place with Liquid Stitch. Allow to set. Pull cylinder off the cording, sliding the fabric onto the cording. Repeat until the entire length of cording has been covered.

**12.** Turn the raw edge at the end of the last fabric tube inside and sew closed to seal the cording inside.

**13.** Set the machine's zigzag width to 3-4 and the length to 3. Thread the needle and bobbin with nylon thread.

**14.** In order to sew this large of a

project, position the cording so it feeds up to the needle on the right side of the presser foot as you stitch. This allows you to keep the rug flat. If not, you will have to roll the fabric under the frame of the sewing machine and as the rug gets larger, it will become distorted and curl up.

**15.** As you stitch be careful not to stretch the cording. This will also cause the rug to curl up. As you stitch around the curved ends, ease the cording very slightly.

**16.** Fold one end of the covered cording over about 7" (If making a larger rug, fold 8" to 10" at this point). Place the folded cording on the machine with the 7" end to the left of the needle and the remaining length to the right of the needle (photo 16b).



**17.** Stitch across, catching each edge of the cording as you go. Continue stitching, curving the cording around the ends in a spiral (photo 17c). To



finish the end and secure it, tuck the tail of the covered cording under the edge and stitch past it. ♦



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